The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.
Research Briefing
Brexit Update
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1. Introduction

This paper provides an update on the most recent developments on Brexit of relevance to Wales. It includes sections on the work of the Assembly and Welsh Government; EU; UK; and Scotland and Ireland. The period covered is 11 - 25 April 2018, although reference is made to later events where information is available at time of final drafting.

2. Developments in Wales

**National Assembly for Wales**

**External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee**

The External Affairs and Additional Legislation (EAAL) Committee is the lead Committee in the Assembly for co-ordinating the Brexit-related activities of Committees.

The EAAL Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into Wales’ Future Relationship with the EU. The Committee launched its Part 1 report on *Wales’ Future Relationship with the EU* on 27 March in Brussels. Based on the views of a wide range of stakeholders in Wales, the Report sets out the Committee’s views on what the UK and Welsh Government should prioritise in the future relationship with the EU. The Committee met with a variety of key stakeholders and organisations during its visit to Brussels including Bruegel, Open Europe, UKREP, the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU, representatives from the Office of the Bremen Government, representatives from Quebec General Delegation to Brussels and Business Europe.

The most recent session of the EAAL Committee was:

– 16 April: The Committee had a scrutiny session with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, followed by consideration of the evidence. During the session the Committee questioned the Cabinet Secretary on the EU Withdrawal Bill, Common Frameworks and the Brexit negotiations. [Transcript](#).

The Research Service’s own blogs are published on [In Brief](#). The latest Brexit blogs are [Brexit Negotiations Monitoring Report: Attorney General refers Welsh “continuity” Bill to the Supreme Court](#) and [One year to go: Brexit negotiations reach halfway point](#).

**Other**

18 April: [Plenary Statement by the Counsel General: Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill](#).

18 April: [Plenary Debate on the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee report: 'How is the Welsh Government preparing for Brexit?'](#).

25 April: [Plenary Statement by the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee: The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill—the National Assembly’s decision in relation to subordinate legislation procedures](#).

25 April: [Plenary Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance: The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill](#).

The Finance Committee has launched an inquiry into preparations for replacing EU funding for Wales. The consultation closes on 11 May 2018.
The Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee and the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee sent a joint letter to the First Minister making a series of recommendations on Equalities and Human Rights implications of Brexit.

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee is carrying out an inquiry into common UK frameworks required in the absence of EU law when we leave the EU - UK common frameworks on agriculture and environment. The Committee has also responded to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs consultation on ‘Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit’.

The Constitution and Legislative Affairs Committee publish reports on Subordinate Legislation relating to the UK’s exit from the EU. They can be found on the Committee’s webpages.

**Welsh Government**

11 April: Brexit trade deal must not damage Welsh ports - Ken Skates.

11 April: Wales secures an extra €4.3m with Welsh Universities leading the way on collaborative projects with EU partners.

13 April: Finance Secretary visits Noord-Holland to sign Declaration of Friendship and Solidarity with our Dutch neighbours.

17 April: Access to EU market vital for Flintshire jobs – Ken Skates.

18 April: Oral Statement - The Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill.

21 April: First Minister Carwyn Jones to resign (Mirror)

24 April: Welsh Government agrees deal on Brexit Bill that respects devolution.

**News**

23 April: Rushed transition to new agriculture policy will put at risk better future for food, farming and the environment (CLA)

**3. EU developments**

**European Council**

18 April: Report by President Donald Tusk to the European Parliament on March European Council meetings.

**European Commission**

The Commission has published 60 ‘Brexit preparedness notes’ on the legal and practical implications of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union - subject to any transitional arrangement that may be contained in a possible withdrawal agreement.

The EU aviation safety rules notice lists the items that, without agreement, will no longer be valid, including: Certificates of airworthiness; permits to fly; certificates for personnel responsible for the release of a product, part or appliance after maintenance; pilot licences; pilot medical certificates; certificates for aero-medical centres. UK-based aircraft operators will need their own safety authorisation from the EASA. UK-certified personnel will need to be compliant with certification requirements according to EU legislation on aviation safety.
The UK’s Civil Aviation Authority has issued a statement in response to the notice: “The Government, the UK Civil Aviation Authority and the entire aviation industry have been clear that our collective preference is to remain a member of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) once the UK withdraws from the European Union (EU). The EU paper describes what the situation will be if this is both not achieved and no other agreements are in place, including an implementation period. While this a matter for government, we believe this to be a highly unlikely scenario. However, we continue to make the necessary contingency plans.”

11 April: A New Deal for Consumers: Commission strengthens EU consumer rights and enforcement.

12 April: European Commission acts to ban unfair trade practices in the food supply chain.

13 April: Programme of EU-UK Article 50 negotiations for 16-18 April 2018.


18 April: Opening remarks by Vice-President Katainen and Commissioner Malmström on the outcome of negotiations for the Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan and the trade and investment agreements with Singapore. Key elements of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. Key elements of the EU-Singapore trade and investment agreements.

21 April: EU and Mexico reach new agreement on trade.

23 April: Speech by Michel Barnier at Hannover Messe.

23 April: Special Eurobarometer: How fair do Europeans think life in the EU is?

25 April: Artificial intelligence: Commission outlines a European approach to boost investment and set ethical guidelines.

**European Parliament**

17 April: Macron defends the idea of European sovereignty.

18 April: European elections: MEPs back voting dates for 2019 - The next EU elections will be held on 23-26 May 2019.

24 April: MEPs begin work on 2018 enlargement package - Foreign affairs MEPs welcomed the positive news on EU accession talks with Albania and FYROM, but questioned the accession talks with Turkey, in a debate on Monday.

24 April: Brexit: EU and UK citizens’ rights remain EP’s key priority - EP Brexit Steering Group and MEPs from five committees in charge of citizens' rights heard representatives of the 3 million group and UK Home Office officials on Tuesday.

**News**

11 April: Brexit: ‘most difficult part is still to come’, warns Barnier (Euractiv)

11 April: Redistribution of UK’s portfolio of centrally authorised products - Assignment of new [non-UK] rapporteurs and co-rapporteurs completed (European Medicines Agency)
13 April: Chinese ambassador to EU: No UK trade talks without a Brexit deal (Politico)
11 April: Reconciling different perspectives (Open Europe)
17 April: EEA seminar attracts trade audience in Geneva (EFTA)
19 April: Francois Hollande: Reversing Brexit would be a threat to Europe (Politico)
19 April: EU rejects UK’s post-Brexit customs fixes for Northern Ireland (Politico)
20 April: EU’s Barnier says still some 25 percent of work to do on Brexit (Reuters)
23 April: Big farms set to pay the price as EU eyes subsidy cuts - Commissioner Oettinger expects farm spending will fall 6 percent in the 2021-2027 budget cycle. (Politico)
23 April: The General Court confirms the decision of the Commission not to submit a legislative proposal in the context of the European citizens’ initiative ‘One of Us’ (Court of Justice of the European Union)
24 April: MEPs not reassured on UK’s post-Brexit system for registering EU nationals (Politico)
24 April: Breaking down the EU budget - the key issues in infographics (Politico)
24 April: Commission defends ‘equivalence’ with UK for financial services (Euractiv)

4. UK developments

UK Government
13 April: Programme: EU-UK Article 50 negotiations Brussels, 16-18 April 2018.
15 April: Action on trade and inclusivity to benefit all Commonwealth citizens.
16 April: Prime Minister Theresa May spoke to members of the Commonwealth Business Forum.
17 April: Prime Minister Theresa May spoke to the Joint Plenary Forum at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018.
17 April: Devolved Brexit legislation referred to the Supreme Court (Attorney General)
18 April: Updated Information about the Withdrawal Bill.
19 April: PM’s words at opening of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. PM opening statement at first CHOGM Executive Session.
20 April: PM opening words at the CHOGM Retreat. PM speaks at Commonwealth Press Conference.
20 April: Update of Article 50 and negotiations with the EU.
21 April: Prime Minister Theresa May met Australian Prime Minister Turnbull.
24 April: Robin Walker Speech to French ex-pats at Community Outreach event.


25 April: UK and Welsh governments reach agreement on EU Withdrawal Bill.

25 April: Aviation industry welcomes Brexit roundtable.

**House of Commons**

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill as amended in committee.

The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill 2017-19: Summary of Commons Committee Stage – House of Commons Library.

The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill: clause 7 “the correcting power” – House of Commons Library.

Brexit: 'sufficient progress' to move to phase 2 – House of Commons Library.

Brexit: the exit bill - House of Commons Library.

17 April: Westminster Hall debate: Leaving the EU: Tourism and the Creative Industries.

17 April: Westminster Hall debate: Leaving the EU: Future Trade Remedies.

18 April: Prime Minister’s questions.

18 April: Urgent question: Leaving the EU: Scotland and Wales Continuity Bills.

18 April: Westminster Hall debate: Council of Europe.


19 April: Transport questions: Leaving the EU: Aviation Industry.

24 April: Justice questions: Leaving the EU: UK Legal System.

25 April: Scotland questions: Leaving the EU: Scottish Exports; Leaving the EU: Effect on Scotland; Leaving the EU: Scottish Economy.

25 April: Prime Minister’s questions.

**Committees**

**Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy:**

22 April: Brexit: free trade agreement with EU crucial for UK food and drink industry - The Committee says the Government is almost out of time to negotiate an orderly trade system after the Brexit transition, risking a significant impact on consumers, businesses and workers in the processed food and drink sector. Report: The impact of Brexit on the processed food and drink sector.
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee:

13 April: Legal opinion on EU referendum campaign spending published.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:


Environmental Audit:


26 April: Secretary of State responds to Committee request for Brexit workstreams.

European Scrutiny:

24 April: UK can be excluded from Galileo Public Regulated Service – Report: Documents considered by the Committee on 18 April 2018.

25 April: The European Scrutiny has published the Prime Minister’s response to the Committee’s letter on the disapplication of primary legislation by the courts under the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

Exiting the EU:

19 April: Implications of Brexit for financial services examined. Transcript.

25 April: David Davis questioned on progress of EU withdrawal negotiation.

Home Affairs:

18 April: Chair of the Migration Advisory Committee questioned on post-Brexit immigration. Transcript.

International Trade:

24 April: Evidence Session on The economic effects of trade policy. Transcript.

Northern Ireland:

16 April: Letter from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland regarding the political situation in Northern Ireland and EU Exit.

18 April: Northern Ireland fishing industry post-Brexit examined. Transcript.

25 April: Fish Producer Organisations discuss regulation after Brexit.

2 May: Evidence Session on Brexit and Northern Ireland: Fisheries.

Public Accounts


23 April: Evidence Session on Implementing EU Exit: the financial settlement. Transcript.
25 April: FCO faces challenge to complete Brexit tasks on time – Chair.


Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs:

30 April: Devolution and Brexit discussion in Edinburgh.

Transport:

26 April: Freight and Brexit inquiry launched.

Treasuty:

20 April: Government’s estimate of withdrawal payment is "shrouded in uncertainty" - National Audit Office: Exiting the EU: financial settlement.

24 April: Evidence Session on The economic effects of trade policy.

24 April: Evidence Session on the UK's economic relationship with the European Union. Transcript.

25 April: Evidence Session on the Work of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Welsh Affairs:

1 May: Evidence Session on Brexit: Agriculture, Trade and the repatriation of powers with George Eustace.

House of Lords

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill: Lords Committee Stage. (House of Lords Library briefing)

16 April: Questions on Worldwide Free Trade.

16 April: Questions on Brexit: Transition Period.

16 April: Debate on the UK Convergence Programme.

17 April: Report Stage debate on the Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Bill.

18 April: Debate on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

23 April: 2nd day of Report Stage on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

24 April: 3rd Reading of the Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Bill, Bill passed and sent to the Commons.

25 April: 3rd day of Report Stage on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

Committees

Constitution:

10 April: Government response to the Committee's report on the Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Bill.
11 April: Government response to the Committee's report on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.


Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform:


EU Select:

26 March: Letter from Karen Bradley ref Brexit: UK-Irish relations follow-up.

17 April: Committee starts taking evidence on post-Brexit UK-EU relations. Transcript.

18 April: Letter to Karen Bradley ref Brexit: UK-Irish relations follow-up.

19 April: Letter to David Davis ref Government responses.

19 April: Letter from David Davis ref Withdrawal Agreement.

24 April: CBI, TUC and City of London give evidence on Post-Brexit UK-EU relations.

30 April: Evidence Session on Post-Brexit UK-EU relations.

1 May: Evidence Session on Scrutiny of UK withdrawal from the EU.

EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee:


25 April: Written evidence published on Brexit: plant and animal biosecurity: Welsh Government; National Pig Association; National Farmers Union; Woodland Trust.

25 April: Evidence Session on Brexit: plant and animal biosecurity.

2 May: Evidence Session on Brexit: plant and animal biosecurity.

9 May: Evidence Session on Brexit: plant and animal biosecurity.

EU External Affairs Sub-Committee:

17 April: Inquiry launched on Brexit: customs arrangements.

19 April: Freight Transport Association questioned on Brexit: customs arrangements. Transcript.

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:

18 April: Post-Brexit extradition and proposed UK-EU security treaty discussed by experts.

25 April: Advocacy organisations discuss proposed UK-EU security treaty.

25 April: Brexit: the proposed UK-EU security treaty – call for evidence launched.
2 May: Evidence Session on Brexit: the proposed UK-EU security treaty.

**EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:**

23 April: Letter to the Minister about Brexit: Space.

26 April: The EU Internal Market Sub-Committee hosts a roundtable discussion on the implications of Brexit for UK small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

**EU Justice Sub-Committee:**

27 March Corrected transcript: Brexit: enforcement and dispute resolution.

**International Relations:**

25 April: Evidence Session: Foreign policy in changed world conditions.

**News**

11 April: Smooth Operations - an A-Z of the EU rules that matter for the economy (CBI report)

12 April: Justin Trudeau: UK-Canada trade talks can begin ‘day after Brexit’ (Politico)

12 April: UK Environmental Policy Post-Brexit: A Risk Analysis (Friends of the Earth)

17 April: Fishing industry warning over future of small boats before Brexit (BBC)

18 April: Too high a price? The cost of Brexit – what the public thinks (Global Future)

18 April: MiFid II author warns Brexit could undo years of financial reform - ‘All the work we’ve done over the last decade is in danger of being lost,’ says MEP Kay Swinburne (Financial News (£))

19 April: UK chemicals industry sees progress, but Brexit ‘clock ticking furiously’ (Chemical Watch)

22 April: Japan ambassador’s Brexit warning: there won’t be a deal better than the single market (Interview in the Guardian)

23 April: Rolls-Royce mulls European move as Brexit deal worries grow - Rolls-Royce is preparing to relocate the “signing off” of British-made airliner engines to Europe, as the EU aviation authority will hold the right to certify they are safe to fly in the event of a hard Brexit. (The Telegraph)

23 April: Britain hails new optimism about Brexit deal for financial services (Reuters)

23 April: Union Disappointment at Customs Union Statement (NFU Scotland)

25 April: New NMC figures continue to highlight major concern as more EU nurses leave the UK (Nursing and Midwifery Council)

22 May: The Good Friday Agreement at 20 – Institute for Government event.
5. Scotland

Scottish Parliament
Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: 19 April.

18 April Finance and Constitution Committee: The Trade Bill.

24 April: Negotiations on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

Scottish Government
11 April: Global campaign takes Scotland to the world.

17 April: Continuity Bill - Comment on referral to Supreme Court.

24 April: Further progress needed to protect devolution - Way forward proposed to ensure no restriction on the Scottish Parliament.

6. Northern Ireland

The Assembly publishes a ‘Brexit Brief’ newsletter and Brexit information.

The Assembly’s Research and Information Services has a Brexit Hub with information and links to resources on the subject of Brexit and Northern Ireland.

7. UK-Ireland relations

16 April: State warns explicitly of need for Brexit talks progress on Border (Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney reported in the Irish Times).

18 April: Northern Ireland and 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement: Statements.

20 April: Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister Creed meet Fishing Industry on Brexit.

8. Reports published

House of Commons Library
Brexit and transport.

Brexit: new guidelines on the framework for future EU-UK relations.

Leaving the EU: Local Government Consultation After Withdrawal.

Other
Brexit: Parliament’s Five Transition Tasks (Hansard Society)

Voting on Brexit - Parliament's consideration of the withdrawal deal and future framework (Institute for Government)

Brexit Roundup: Where Are We Heading? (Scottish Centre on European Relations)
The Future of Europe [What Think Tanks are thinking] (European Parliamentary Research Service blog)

Is there an escape from ‘Ever Closer Union’? (Egmont Institute)

Scotland and Wales wait for the Supreme Court referee on Brexit (LSE Brexit)

Post-Brexit trade deals will expose the myth of ‘taking back control’ (The Conversation)

The EU citizens at risk of failing to secure ‘settled status’ after Brexit (Migration Observatory in The Conversation)

Why Brexit can’t transform Commonwealth trade (The Conversation)

Commonwealth: Brexit poses a pressing trade problem for smaller nations (The Conversation)

Windrush generation is not alone – children of EU-born citizens could be next (The Conversation)

Article 50 one year on: environment; devolution; higher education; parliament; developments in public opinion; the Brexit endgame; EU Withdrawal Bill; the trade bill and rolled over agreements; financial services; transition; regional and sectoral impacts of Brexit; aviation in the Brexit negotiations (UK in a Changing Europe)

Modesty is the best policy for a UK footloose in the world (UK in a Changing Europe)

Will Brexit improve relationships between the four nations of the United Kingdom? (Bernard Jenkins MP in UK in a Changing Europe)

Have attitudes towards a second referendum reached a ‘turning point’? (UK in a Changing Europe)

Good Friday Agreement: why it matters in Brexit (UK in a Changing Europe)

EU students at UK universities: patterns and trends (LSE Brexit)

Majority (mis)rule and the problem with naturalisation for UK citizens in the EU (LSE Brexit)

Who really cares about Northern Ireland? (LSE Brexit)

The UK political system has been stirred by the Brexit process (LSE Brexit)

What government has to do in order to get its Brexit deal through Parliament (LSE Brexit)

The EU referendum was more a vote for re-regulation than for de-regulation (LSE Brexit)

Good Friday Agreement two decades on: how not to fix the Irish border problem (LSE Brexit)

The Commonwealth advantage: trading with the bloc offers buoyant economic prospects (LSE Brexit)

LSE Continental Breakfast 7: the business consequences of a breakdown in exit negotiations (LSE Brexit)

Examining Barnier’s latest comments - the UK could change its mind on membership of the Single Market and the Customs Union during the Brexit transition (UK in a Changing Europe)
British-Irish relations show signs of Brexit strain (UK in a Changing Europe)

What the British public think about free trade, and why we should be worried (UK in a Changing Europe)

Could Brexit spell the end for “just-in-time” production? (UK in a Changing Europe)

GE2017: May’s great strategic blunder…? (UK in a Changing Europe)

Brexit and fishing: a complex negotiation jigsaw (UK in a Changing Europe)

How will Brexit affect the social security rights and protections of EU migrants in the UK? (LSE Brexit)

What will happen to health and social care for British pensioners living in the EU27? (LSE Brexit)

UK influence after Brexit: the Commonwealth should be seen as a network, not as an excuse (LSE Brexit)

Could Britain establish closer relations with China following Brexit? (LSE Brexit)