Research Briefing:
Brexit Update
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.

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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 25 April – 9 May 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 most recent session of the EAAL Committee was:

30 April: The committee had a scrutiny session with Robin Walker MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union, and Chloe Smith MP, Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform. The Committee discussed the on-going Brexit negotiations and the agreement between the UK Government and the Welsh Government on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

The Research Service’s own blogs are published on In Brief. The latest Brexit blogs are:

- The future of the EU’s environmental principles: Wales’s unique role - guest blog post
- Land management after Brexit: Cabinet Secretary to make Plenary statement
- Agreement reached on amendments to the EU (Withdrawal) Bill
Other

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.**

2 May: **Plenary Debate: The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and devolution.** The government has laid the Legislative Consent Memorandum.

The Finance Committee has launched an inquiry into **preparations for replacing EU funding for Wales.** The consultation closed 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**

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

25 April: **Written Statement - EU (Withdrawal) Bill.**

26 April: **Senior MEP - Elmer Brok – in Wales to talk Brexit.**

27 April: **£1.4m EU boost to increase skills in the advanced manufacturing sector.**

1 May: **£4.7m funding boost for Holyhead.**
1 May: £9.2m EU-backed programme to help Welsh industry reduce carbon emissions.

7 May: Lesley Griffiths sets out timetable for Basic Payment Scheme post-Brexit.

9 May: Extra £22.5m EU funds to boost skills on Europe Day.

9 May: Stop playing politics with Brexit* – First Minister Carwyn Jones.

News

26 April: Devil will be in the detail - FUW response to EU Withdrawal Bill agreement.

4 May: Three-crop rule relaxed by EU (CLA)

4 May: All aboard for Europe Day (WCVA)

9 May: NFU Cymru Defra Health and Harmony Consultation response.

9 May: NFU Cymru responds to Cabinet Secretary statement.

3. EU developments

European Council

7 May: Indicative programme - General Affairs and General Affairs (Art. 50) Councils, 14 May. General Affairs Council (Article 50) background paper

European Commission

The Commission has published 63 ‘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.

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

26 April: Speech by Michel Barnier at the Eurofi High-level Seminar 2018.

26 April: Address to Seanad Éireann by Commissioner Phil Hogan.
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30 April: **Speech by Michel Barnier at the All-Island Civic Dialogue** (Dundalk, Ireland)

2 May: EU 7-year budget proposals: **EU budget: Commission proposes a modern budget for a Union that protects, empowers and defends. Q&A.**

3 May: **Breaking down the EU budget infographics** (Politico). **There are difficult negotiations ahead on the next EU budget.**

3 May: **Commissioner Pierre Moscovici presents the 2018 Spring Economic Forecast. Expansion to continue amid new risks.**

4 May: **Topics for discussions on the future framework at forthcoming meetings.**

European Parliament

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.

30 April: **Brexit: MEPs concerned over EU citizens' registration process.**

2 May: **Discussion at Europe house: Gender & Brexit** - The European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK co-hosted a debate in London aimed at understanding the implications of Brexit on gender equality.

3 May: **Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel advocates a strong Europe that acts where it can add real value.**

4 May: **Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027: Commission proposal** - Initial comparison with the current MFF (European Parliamentary Research Service)

News

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)
6 May: Brexit is like quantum mechanics, nobody understands it (The Irish Times)

4. UK developments

UK Government


25 April: Written Ministerial Statement: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill – Agreement between the UK and Welsh governments.

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

26 April: Aberdeen has a bright future post-Brexit, ministers tell industry leaders.

26 April: PM's roundtable with the aerospace industry.

29 April: PM calls with President Macron and Chancellor Merkel.

2 May: UK Space Agency leads work on options for independent satellite system.

4 May: Topics for discussions on the Future Framework at forthcoming meetings.


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.
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.

26 April: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs questions: Agricultural Policy; Seafood; Leaving the EU: Food and Drink Industry; Fisheries White Paper; Leaving the EU: Agriculture Frameworks; Common Fisheries Policy.

1 May: Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy questions: Non-UK EU Nationals; Small Businesses.

2 May: Wales questions: UK Administrations: Co-operation; Leaving the EU: Welsh Economy.

2 May: Prime Minister’s questions.

3 May: A series of Exiting the European Union questions.

9 May: Northern Ireland questions: Leaving the EU: Border Checks; Leaving the EU.

9 May: Prime Minister’s questions.

Committees

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

25 April: Brexit: Trade in Food: Government Response to the Committee’s Third Report.


2 May: Evidence Session with George Eustace: Work of DEFRA: Health and Harmony. Transcript. Written evidence: Crop Protection Association; British Veterinary Association; Dairy UK.

Environmental Audit:

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

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.


8 May: Uncertainty continues over possible EU travel visas post-Brexit – Report: Documents considered by the Committee on 2 May 2018.

Exiting the EU:

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

2 May: Process of leaving the EU discussed. Transcript.

9 May: Brexit's implications for data and Galileo project investigated.

International Trade:


2 May: Sugar industry representatives questioned on trade with developing Commonwealth countries. Transcript.

2 May: UK's investment policy inquiry launched.

9 May: Committee hears from fresh produce importers.

Northern Ireland:

25 April: Fish Producer Organisations discuss regulation after Brexit. Transcript.

1 May: Letter to David Davis regarding the future of the land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

2 May: Proposals for sustainable fisheries management system examined. Transcript.

16 May: Evidence session with George Eustace on Brexit and Northern Ireland: Fisheries.

Public Accounts:

25 April: FCO faces challenge to complete Brexit tasks on time – Chair.


30 April: Letter from the Department for Exiting the European Union relating to EU exit workstreams.

3 May: Correspondence from the Chair of the Committee to the Department for Exiting the European Union.

4 May: Departments have no clear plan in face of impossible challenge – Report: Exiting the European Union: The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Department for International Trade.

Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs:

30 April: Devolution and Brexit discussion in Edinburgh. Transcript.

1 May: Cabinet Office Minister discusses Civil Service effectiveness. Transcript.

Science and Technology:


Transport:

26 April: Freight and Brexit Inquiry launched.

Treasury:

27 April: Correspondence from the Economic Secretary to the Treasury relating to a Technical Working Group on Risk Management relating to financial services post-Brexit.

Welsh Affairs:

1 May: Evidence Session on Brexit: Agriculture, Trade and the repatriation of powers with George Eustace. Transcript. Written evidence from Hybu Cig Cymru.

8 May: Young farmers' views on agriculture after Brexit examined.

House of Lords

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

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

26 April: Questions on Brexit: Food Standards Agency.

26 April: Questions on Brexit: Galileo Space Project.

30 April: Questions on Secretary of State for International Trade: Visits.

30 April: 4th day of Report Stage on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

2 May: 5th day of Report Stage on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.


8 May: 6th day of Report Stage on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

Committees

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform:

EU Select:

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

27 April: Letter from Robin Walker MP about Brexit: Gibraltar.

30 April: Committee discusses post-Brexit UK-EU relations with MEPs Hannan and Kirton-Darling. Transcript.

1 May: David Davis questioned on the progress of Brexit negotiations. Transcript.

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: The Sub-Committee has written again to Michael Gove to ask about the impact of a 'no deal' Brexit on those working in the environment, food and rural affairs sectors, and the preparations his Department has made for this scenario. 25 April Letter to Secretary of State. The letter replies to Michael Gove’s letter of 3 April: Letter from the Secretary of State on EU Notices to Stakeholders.

2 May: The Sub-Committee hears evidence on the potential impact of Brexit on the UK’s biosecurity. Transcript.

9 May: The Sub-Committee asks senior Government officials about the potential impact of Brexit on the UK’s plant and animal biosecurity.

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

EU External Affairs Sub-Committee:

17 May: Evidence Session on Brexit: customs arrangements.

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:

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: Senior law enforcement officials discuss the proposed UK-EU security treaty.

9 May: Legal experts discuss the proposed UK-EU security treaty.

EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:

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).

27 April: Government reply on Brexit: trade in non-financial services.

27 April: Letter to the Minister on Brexit: Competition and State aid.

EU Justice Sub-Committee:

3 May: The Sub-Committee calls on the Government to propose an effective system for dispute resolution and enforcement in respect of both the proposed withdrawal agreement and the future UK-EU relationship in its report ‘Dispute resolution and enforcement after Brexit’ – Report: Dispute resolution and enforcement after Brexit.


International Relations:

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

9 May: Evidence Session: Foreign policy in changed world conditions.

Liaison:

25 April: Institute for Government and Constitution Unit, UCL give evidence to committee.

News

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

28 April: The CBI warns Liam Fox’s Brexit trade plans could bankrupt British companies (Business Insider)
3 May: **Post-Brexit port checks could disrupt fresh food supplies, say freight bosses**

- Safety inspections on foods such as tomatoes and beef seen as bigger issue than customs checks (Guardian)

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

## 5. Scotland

### Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: **27 April**


2 May: Finance and Constitution Committee - European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

3 May: Finance and Constitution Committee - European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

3 May: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee - Article 50: United Kingdom Common Frameworks.

3 May: Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee - European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.


### Scottish Government

25 April: **Withdrawal Bill amendments ‘undermine devolution’, says Minister**

1 May: Letter to Home Secretary - **Meeting requested to discuss Scotland’s unique migration needs**.

2 May: Protecting food standards - **Concerns on EU withdrawal plans raised by Food Standards Scotland**.

2 May: **Update on Brexit talks** - Minister pledges to continue to push for a solution.

9 May: **Giving communities a voice on Brexit** - £150k fund to help groups highlight their concerns.
9 May: **Not the final Europe Day** - EU countries ‘want closer engagement with Scotland’.

### 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

18 April: [*British-Irish relations show signs of Brexit strain*](#) (Open Europe)

26 April: [*Address to Seanad Éireann by Commissioner Phil Hogan*](#).

30 April: [*Tánaiste Simon Coveney, welcomes Michel Barnier and 500 participants to All-Ireland Civic Dialogue*](#).

1 May: [*Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union: Statements*](#).

### 8. Reports published

**House of Commons Library**

*Brexit: can Parliament control the outcome of the negotiations?*

*Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill 2017-19: Committee Stage report*

*Brexit: a reading list of post-EU Referendum publications by Parliament and the Devolved Assemblies*

*The Nuclear Safeguards Bill 2017-19*

*Businesses that trade with non-EU countries, by constituency*

*Brexit: the exit bill*

*Statistics on UK-EU trade*

*A UK-EU customs union***
House of Lords Library

Leaving the EU: Food Safety

Other

The future of Welsh fisheries (Welsh Brexit blogs)

Costs of leaving customs union will inevitably outweigh the benefits (Institute for Fiscal Studies)

Far more Britons live in Europe than government statistics suggest (The Conversation)

Local election stalemate, but Brexit continues to bubble away below the surface (The Conversation)

Article 50 one year on: fisheries; pharmaceuticals; the EU institutions; the UK economy – initial evidence

The Continuing Impact of Brexit on Equality Rights (UK in a Changing Europe)

Why leaving the EU and returning to the Anglosphere is a victory for the many over the few (UK in a Changing Europe)

Divided but influential? The Exiting the European Union select committee (UK in a Changing Europe)

Here’s how we should help expats through Brexit no man’s land (UK in a Changing Europe)

Constitutional power grab? The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill 2017-2019 (UK in a Changing Europe)

We must protect our human rights from being eroded by Brexit (UK in a Changing Europe)

The future UK-EU trade relationship (UK in a Changing Europe)

Rudd’s resignation and the Conservatives’ Brexit divide (UK in a Changing Europe)

What Turkey’s customs union experience can teach the UK (UK in a Changing Europe)
Keeping the balance: why every resignation is a threat to the Prime Minister (UK in a Changing Europe)

Partners no more? Scotland, Wales and the Withdrawal Bill in the House of Lords (UK in a Changing Europe)

EU professional migration to the UK is down 26 per cent (LSE Brexit)

The Lords have just raised the bar on the defence of rights and the rule of law in the Brexit process (LSE Brexit)

Demographic trends will pull British public opinion in a pro-European direction (LSE Brexit)

Baroness Jones: I’m worried about what Brexit means for our rights (LSE Brexit)

Brexit and the new localism: how to leverage the competitive advantages of UK cities (LSE Brexit)

The strong economy: how Brexit dishonesty began (LSE Brexit)

Leavers have a better understanding of Remainers’ motivations than vice versa (LSE Brexit)

The UK has a genuine interest in European security, but Brexit has reopened existential questions also regarding defence (LSE Brexit)

Leaving Spaceship Europe: British space policy after Brexit (LSE Brexit)

Galileo satellites illuminate EU-UK divorce tensions. British industry is likely to end up in a weaker position (LSE Brexit)

The Airbus case sits at the heart of the Brexit industrial equation (LSE Brexit)

Brexit may have strengthened Eurosceptic parties, but there is little prospect of other exit referendums (LSE Brexit)

Eurorealist or Eurosceptic? Assessing the future of the European Conservatives and Reformists after Brexit (LSE Brexit)

Euroscepticism is here to stay (LSE Brexit)

LSE Continental Breakfast 8: ‘follow’, ‘unfriend’ or ‘take a break’? Three Brexit scenarios envisaged (LSE Brexit)
How do tabloid journalists reconcile their own politics with their employer’s line? (LSE Brexit)

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