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Research Brief: Brexit Update

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Date: 25 June 2018
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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 6 – 20 June 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 and the World: Part two and an inquiry into EU law in Wales: What happens during Transition?

The most recent session of the EAAL Committee was:

- 11 June: The Committee held an evidence session on European law and the Brexit transition. Members received a private briefing on the EU negotiations. Transcript.

David Rees attended the Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit in the House of Commons on 21 June. The Forum focussed on intergovernmental relations and common frameworks.

From 25-27 June David Rees is in Brussels, meeting representatives of Canada, Ireland, Norway, Noord Holland, Bavaria, the Basque country, the European Council, the European Parliament, and the Committee of the Regions.

On 19 June there was a debate in Plenary: The Second Anniversary of the EU Referendum.

The Research Service’s own blogs are published on In Brief. The latest Brexit blogs are Debate on the Second Anniversary on the EU Referendum; Brexit

Other

The Finance Committee has launched an inquiry into preparations for replacing EU funding for Wales. The consultation closed on 11 May 2018, and consultation responses can be views on the Committee’s webpages. On 13 June the Committee held evidence sessions as part of its inquiry with the WLGA and the Wales Programme Monitoring Committee and on 20 June the Committee took evidence from the Bevan Foundation, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, Professor Steve Fothergill, Sheffield Hallam University, Professor David Bell, University of Sterling and Professor Terry Marsden, Cardiff University.

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. 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 Committee has launched an inquiry into the Impacts of Brexit on Fisheries in Wales. The call for evidence closed on 18 June 2018.

In addition the Committee is completing work on an Environmental governance body and environmental principles post-Brexit.

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is carrying out an inquiry into the Impact of Brexit on Higher and Further Education. The Committee issued a call for evidence which closed on 8 June 2018.

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. The Committee is also undertaking an inquiry into Powers in the EU Withdrawal Bill to make subordinate legislation: operational matters.

Welsh Government

6 June: Brexit funding gap could hit Welsh colleges.

6 June: Welsh and UK Governments host key Brexit meeting with farmers, the fishing industry and business.

7 June: Don’t let Brexit chaos derail the Welsh economy - First Minister issues stark warning to the UK Government as Welsh exports continue to rise.
15 June: Letter to Home Secretary - Scottish and Welsh Ministers outline concerns over EU Exit Settlement Scheme.

18 June: Over £3m to help meat and fisheries sectors prepare for Brexit.

News

6 June: Monmouthshire NFU Cymru members have met with David Davies MP to discuss the latest developments in Brexit talks.

6 June: MPs Give Crucial Warning on Brexit Transition for Farming (CLA)

6 June: Industry calls on Government to sort out Countryside Stewardship mess (CLA)

7 June: Brexit boost for rural tourism in UK (CLA)

11 June: CLA calls on inheritance tax review to ensure system is Brexit ready.

18 June: NFU Cymru welcomes investment into red meat sector (via the Welsh Government’s EU Transition Fund)

3. EU Developments

European Council

5 June: Remarks by President Donald Tusk after his meeting with Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg - they discussed bilateral relations, co-operation in the field of security and defence, as well as further involvements in tackling environmental issues.

8 June: EU-NATO cooperation: Council welcomes progress in the implementation of the common 74 actions.

8 June: Remarks by President Donald Tusk before the G7 summit in Charlevoix, Canada.

9 June: The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué.

18 June: North Sea fisheries: Council adopts multiannual management plan.
European Commission

The Commission has published 66 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 Preferential Origin of Goods note says:

Goods exported from the EU:

To address the abovementioned consequences, EU-27 exporters and producers, intending to claim preferential tariff treatment in an EU FTA partner country as from the withdrawal date, are advised to:

- treat any United Kingdom inputs as 'non-originating' when determining the EU preferential origin of their goods; and
- take appropriate steps to be able to prove the EU preferential origin of their goods, in case of subsequent verification, without taking account of any United Kingdom inputs as 'EU content'.

5 June: 7th annual Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Lecture by President Jean-Claude Juncker at the Brussels Economic Forum: "Protection, prosperity, progress: A stronger euro for a stronger Europe".

6 June: EU budget: A €16 billion Space Programme to boost EU space leadership beyond 2020.

6 June: European Commission reports on the application of the Charter of fundamental rights in the EU in 2017.


7 June: GDP up by 0.4% in both euro area and EU28: +2.5% and +2.4% respectively compared with the first quarter of 2017 (Eurostat)

7 June: June infringements package: key decisions.

7 June: EU continues to top global agri-food trade.

8 June: Press statement by Michel Barnier following this week’s round of negotiations.
11 June: Fishing opportunities for 2019 under the common fisheries policy (closes 21 August).

11 June: Infographic on the EU’s backstop proposal.

11-18 June: Slides on: UK technical note on temporary customs arrangement; involvement in the EU’s space-related activities; foreign, security and defence policy; police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

12 June: Speech by First Vice-President Frans Timmermans at the European Parliament plenary session on the preparation of the European Council meeting of 28 and 29 June 2018.

14 June: Spring 2018 Standard Eurobarometer: One year ahead of the European elections, trust in the Union and optimism about the future is growing.

18 June: EU and Australia launch talks for a broad trade agreement.


19 June: Speech by Michel Barnier at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

19 June: Joint statement from the negotiators of the European Union and the United Kingdom Government on progress of negotiations under Article 50 TEU on the United Kingdom’s orderly withdrawal from the European Union.

European Parliament

5 June: Discussion at Europe House: Brexit & Food. The European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK hosted a debate in London aimed at understanding the implications of Brexit on the food industry.

13 June: The EU needs to under-promise and over-deliver, says Dutch PM.

13 June: Number of MEPs to be reduced after EU elections in 2019.

14 June: European Parliament the most trusted EU institution.
News

6 June: **Norwegian PM to UK: Why would you want our EU deal?** (Politico)

6 June: **European businesses advised to avoid using British parts ahead of Brexit** - The car industry fears a "catastrophe" as the EU warns exporters they may lose free trade access if they use UK parts post-Brexit (Sky News)

7 June: In order to decide whether there is an ‘evocation’ prohibited by EU law, the national court must determine \textbf{whether a consumer thinks directly of the protected geographical indication ‘Scotch Whisky’ when he sees a comparable product bearing the designation ‘Glen’} (Court of Justice of the European Union)

14 June: **POLITICO All-star European World Cup XI** - A team of top politicians to take on the big names in Russia this summer.

16 June: **Prime Minister Viktor Orbán’s speech at a conference held in memory of Helmut Kohl**.
4. UK Developments

UK Government

6 June: Prime Minister Theresa May hosted Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway for talks at Downing Street.

6 June: David Davis' speech on the future security partnership.

7-13 June: Framework for the UK-EU Partnership: Transport; Civil judicial cooperation; Company law (accounting and audit).

7 June: Technical note on Data Protection.

7 June: UK meeting milestones for Euratom exit.

9 June: PM statement at G7 summit.

11 June: PM statement to Parliament on G7 summit.

13 June: Global Britain: delivering on our international ambition.

13 June: PM's roundtable with the tech industry.

14 June: Scottish Secretary David Mundell has delivered a statement titled 'The Sewel Convention - EU (Withdrawal) Bill and Scotland'.

18 June: PM speech on the NHS.

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.
6 June: Scotland questions on Leaving the EU: Economic Growth; Scotch Whisky Industry; European Union (Withdrawal) Bill; Legislative Consent Motion; Common Frameworks for Business.

6 June: Prime Minister’s questions.

7 June: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs questions: Leaving the EU: Agricultural sector; Environmental standards; Fishing Industry.

11 June: Defence questions: Leaving the EU: Aerospace Industry; Defence Policy.

11 June: Statement and questions on the G7.

11 June: Westminster Hall debate: Leaving the EU: Parliamentary Vote.


13 June: Wales questions: Leaving the EU: Benefits for Wales.

13 June: Prime Minister’s questions.

13 June: Debate on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill - Consideration of Lords amendments.

14 June: A series of questions to the Department for Exiting the European Union.

14 June: Urgent question on the Galileo Programme.


14 June: Application for emergency debate on the Sewel Convention.

14 June: Westminster Hall debate: The Select Committee on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs report “Brexit: Trade in Food”.

18 June: Debate on the Sewel Convention.
Committees

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport:

4 June: Brexit impact on creative industries: Committee publishes Government response.


Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:


6 June: Greg Hands questioned on EU tariff quotas, trade deals and sugar industry. Transcript.

13 June: Michael Gove questioned on work of DEFRA. Transcript.

European Scrutiny:

6 June: Meeting Summary.

6 June: Documents considered by the Committee.

6 June: Evidence session on EU Withdrawal. Transcript.

13 June: Evidence session on EU Withdrawal. Transcript.

13 June: Documents considered by the Committee on 13 June.


27 June: Evidence Session on EU Withdrawal.

Exiting the EU:


6 June: Citizens’ rights and Brexit examined. Transcript.

20 June: Guy Verhofstadt questioned on European Parliament’s priorities.
Foreign Affairs:


14 June: Global Britain: FCO Skills inquiry launched.

Home Affairs:

6 June: Letter to Sajid Javid regarding the Tier 2 visa cap.

12 June: Post-Brexit migration policy. Transcript, including from Sir Ivan Rogers.

13 June: Post-Brexit migration policy - call for written evidence.

20 June: Guy Verhofstadt questioned on post-Brexit migration.

International Trade:

6 June: Trade and the Commonwealth: developing countries examined. Transcript.

20 June: Trade and the Commonwealth and UK trade policy examined.

Northern Ireland:

6 June: Challenges and opportunities facing Northern Ireland agricultural sector examined. Transcript. Written Evidence submitted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

13 June: Evidence Session on Brexit and Northern Ireland: Agriculture.


15 June: Government responds to land border report.

20 June: Northern Ireland’s livestock and dairy sector examined.

Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs:

4 June: Evidence Session with Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, on Devolution and Exiting the EU. Transcript.

20 June: Evidence Session with David Lidington on Devolution and Exiting the EU.

26 June: Evidence Session on Devolution and Exiting the EU.
Science and Technology:

12 June: Written evidence on ‘An immigration system that works for science and innovation’: UK Research and Innovation (UKRI); Johnson Matthey PLC.

19 June: Immigration rules that support science and innovation examined. Written evidence: Wellcome; GARNet Advisory Committee.

26 June: Evidence Session on Galileo.

Scottish Affairs:

5 June: International trade policy experts discuss Scotland’s trade priorities. Transcript.

Transport:

4 June: Freight and Brexit inquiry written evidence: CargoLogicAir Ltd.; Port of Tilbury.

11 June: Freight and Brexit inquiry written evidence: Department for Transport; Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics (CILT).

18 June: Freight and Brexit inquiry written evidence: Heathrow Airport; UK Transport in Europe (UKTiE).

Treasury:

5 June: Session on The UK’s economic relationship with the European Union with evidence from the ports of Calais and Zeebrugge, Getlink (Eurotunnel) and HMRC. Transcript. Written evidence: HMRC; Port of Zeebrugge; Fresh Produce Consortium; Getlink.

Welsh Affairs:

7 June: Evidence Session on Brexit: agriculture, trade and the repatriation of powers. At the National Assembly for Wales, with Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs. Transcript.
House of Lords

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

5 June: Questions on Brexit: Science and Research Funding.

6 June: Questions on the Brexit negotiations.

6 June: Consideration of Commons amendment to the Nuclear Safeguards Bill.


14 June: Statement and questions on Scotland: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill (the Sewel Convention)

18 June: Debate on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill - Commons Reasons and Amendments.


Committees

EU Select:

24 May: Letter from Ministers re Joint Ministerial Councils.

8 June: UK and EU need to compromise for a fruitful post-Brexit relationship - UK-EU relations after Brexit.

18 June: Ministers questioned about Ireland / Northern Ireland Brexit backstop, with Robin Walker.

EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee:

24 May: Letter from Michael Gove on EU Notices to Stakeholders.
Research Brief: Brexit Update

31 May: Letter from Richard Harrington on post-Brexit nuclear safeguards.

6 June: Letter from Claire Perry on EU Notice to Stakeholders.

13 June: UK Government’s breach of EU air quality limits investigated.

13 June: Brexit: plant and animal biosecurity – DEFRA written evidence.

27 June: Evidence Session on The Future of REACH regulations post-Brexit.

EU External Affairs Sub-Committee:

14 June: Written evidence on: Brexit: customs arrangements Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders; Turkish Industry & Business Association (TÜSİAD).

5 July: Evidence Session on Brexit: customs arrangements.

EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee:

14 June: Letter to Economic Secretary to the Treasury about contractual continuity and data sharing.

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee:


14 June: Committee hears from EU Commissioner for the Security Union.


EU Internal Market Sub-Committee:

14 June: Lords visit Cambridge start-ups.

21 June: Evidence Session on Brexit: start-ups and scale-ups.

EU Justice Sub-Committee:


International Relations:

6 June: How is the UK viewed in the current international environment? - Evidence from former Australian Foreign Minister. Transcript.
Research Brief: Brexit Update

20 June: Evidence Session on Foreign policy in changed world conditions.

Science and Technology:

19 June: Government Chief Scientific Adviser gives evidence.

News

5 June: Brexit Britain on the road to nowhere (Freight Transport Association)

5 June: Department for International Trade must drastically up its game to achieve ‘Global Britain’ ambitions (Maritime UK)

5 June: Britain asks to join WTO procurement deal in latest Brexit step (Reuters)

7 June: Letter from ADS group and the General Aviation Manufacturers Association to Michel Barnier UK and EU27 need to allow technical planning conversations between EASA and the CAA.

11 June: The reality of foreign investment in Europe in 2017 - The UK leads though Brexit fears bite, Germany is a close second and FDI into France surges (EY)

12 June: Brexit to make UK a "second-hand dealer" in car safety - The UNECE supervises the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, which sets regulations for vehicle type approval. Ward points out that “54 governments are parties to an international agreement for ‘type approval’ regulations”, with 38 of them “typically” attending meetings. As 28 of these countries are members of the EU and block vote, Ward says “it is EU decision-making that underpins the adoption of UNECE regulations and not the other way around.” (Autoexpress)

12 June: Brexit: the customs implications and solutions (Business Europe report)

13 June: CBI chief: Car firms face Brexit extinction (BBC)

13 June: Protecting the public’s health across Europe after Brexit (Brexit Health Alliance)

14 June: Why we’re backing a People’s Vote (Royal College of Midwives)

14 June: Bankers to ask May why they should stay in London after Brexit (RTÉ)

18 June: The voyage of the Liam Fox Enterprise is set for Brexit mission failure (opinion piece by Geraint Davies MP in the Guardian)
5. Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: 8 June; 15 June.


6 June: Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee: Evidence session on Implications of the Outcome of the European Union Referendum (Agriculture and Fisheries).

7 June: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee: Presidency of the Council of the European Union with H.E. Konstantin Dimitrov (Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Kingdom)

13 June: Finance and Constitution Committee: evidence session on European Union Competences (Funding).

18 June: Finance & Constitution Committee begins next phase of its constitutional scrutiny: Common UK frameworks.

19 June: Statement by Michael Russell on progress in European Union exit negotiations.

Scottish Government

5 June: EU markets access ‘essential’ - Research shows Brexit could be harmful to seafood industries’ trade.

6 June: UK Government “reluctance to meet” Scottish representatives - Minister says EU Withdrawal Bill must be amended to respect devolution.

8 June: Preparing Business for Brexit - New grants to help SMEs get ready for Brexit.

10 June: An “unprecedented constitutional position” - FM - First Minister urges House of Commons to amend EU Withdrawal Bill.

12 June: Withdrawal Bill decision “dark day for devolution” - Russell.

14 June: Brexit impact on cross-border crime co-operation.
14 June: **Change needed to protect Scotland in trade deals** - Minister calls for greater role for devolved administrations.

15 June: **Letter to Home Secretary** - Scottish and Welsh Ministers outline concerns over EU Exit Settlement Scheme.

### 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

7 June: [An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar visits Northern Ireland](#).

11 June: [Taoiseach launches Global Ireland: Ireland’s Global Footprint to 2025](#).

12 June: [Joint Committee on European Union Affairs: Multi-Annual Financial Framework after 2020: European Commission](#).

12 June: [The Taoiseach answered questions on Brexit](#).

### 8. Reports published

*House of Commons Library*

- The European Economic Area
- Brexit: ‘Global Britain’ - reading list
- Brexit: Negotiations Update (March-June 2018)
- Brexit divisions - Commons votes on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill
- Brexit and air quality

- EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

*Other*

- The effects of Brexit on UK growth and inflation (Breugel)
Research Brief: Brexit Update

Brexit and Energy Policy - Testimony before the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (Breugel)

Financial services after Brexit – what path for the EU27 and the UK? (Breugel)

Striking a Balance: A blueprint for the future UK-EU economic partnership (Open Europe)

First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones: Brexit and the UK Government White Paper – speech at King’s College London on 14 June (UK in a Changing Europe)

‘Backstop’ option for Irish border after Brexit – the difference between EU and UK proposals explained (The Conversation)

How Westminster raised the stakes on Scottish devolution with the Brexit bill (The Conversation)

Britain must address its linguaphobia now to survive post-Brexit (The Conversation)

Britain must commit to upholding civil liberties if the EU is to agree on security co-operation after Brexit (The Conversation)

Misunderestimating migration (UK in a Changing Europe)

Both the Tories and Labour are trying to sell us Brexit unicorns (UK in a Changing Europe)

Five things you need to know about the customs union (UK in a Changing Europe)

Environmental governance in Scotland: accountable to whom, and how? (UK in a Changing Europe)

Migrants are key to productivity gains for countries (LSE Brexit blogs)

Populism fed pro-Leave sentiment, but what kind of populism? (LSE Brexit blogs)

Powerless to resist: Canute, Brexit and the tides of political pressure (LSE Brexit blogs)

Brexit at the Border: What Brexit looks like for those living beside the Irish border (LSE Brexit blogs)

The Brexit battle on Facebook: assessing echo chambers and polarisation (LSE Brexit blogs)
Europe’s Brexit: a successful outcome of negotiations for all? (LSE Brexit blogs)

Mission impossible: calculating the economic costs of Brexit (LSE Brexit blogs)

Britain continues to make a mess of Brexit, but the EU has mishandled it too (LSE Brexit blogs)

Book Review: Brexit and Beyond: Rethinking the Futures of Europe edited by Benjamin Martill and Uta Staiger (LSE Brexit blogs)

Understanding populism: What role do crises play in the growth of Euroscepticism? (LSE Brexit blogs)

Europe’s Brexit: a successful outcome of negotiations for all? (LSE Brexit blogs)

Keeping zero tariffs is good economics, but the EU’s political interest matters too (LSE Brexit blogs)

Clean break? Why the Sanitary and Phytosanitary framework matters (LSE Brexit blogs)

"Read my lips": no Brexit dividend (LSE Brexit blogs)

Latin America is a natural fit for Britain’s post-Brexit trade (LSE Brexit blogs)

People’s vote: what would a serious Brexit referendum look like? (LSE Brexit blogs)