

Brexit Update

Research Briefing

10 February 2020



The Assembly and

BREXIT

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.

National Assembly for Wales
Senedd Research

Brexit Update

Research Briefing

10 February 2020

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Introduction

This paper provides an update on the most recent developments on Brexit that are relevant to Wales. It covers developments in Wales, the EU, Westminster, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The period covered is 21 January – 5 February 2020, although reference is made to later events where information is available at the time of final drafting.

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 work on **International Agreements**; the **Scrutiny of Common UK policy frameworks**; the **Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's International Strategy**; and the **negotiations between the UK and EU**.

On 23 January the **Welsh Government responded** (PDF, 445KB) to the Committee's report **Common policy frameworks: Assembly scrutiny** (PDF, 313KB).

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 27 January: The Committee held a Scrutiny session with the Counsel General and Brexit Minister. The webcast can be [seen here](#); and
- 3 February: The Committee met in private.

On 27 January the Committee noted correspondence from the:

- Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee regarding the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill** - 16 January 2020 (PDF 61 KB);
- Counsel General and Brexit Minister to the Chair regarding the Welsh Government's publication of 'The Future UK/EU Relationship: Negotiating Priorities for Wales'** - 20 January 2020 (PDF 230 KB);
- Chair of the House of Lords European Union Committee regarding the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill** - 21 January 2020 (PDF 54 KB); and
- Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding Ministerial Forum for Trade** - 23 January 2020 (PDF 260 KB).

Other committees

The Legislation, Justice and Constitution (LJC) Committee publishes 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 currently carrying out an inquiry into **Wales' Changing Constitution** including consideration of the implications of Brexit for the Welsh devolution settlement. On 21 January the Committee published its report on the **Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Bill** (PDF 119 KB).

Plenary

21 January: **Legislative Consent Motion on the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill**.

22 January: **Questions to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister (in respect of his Brexit Minister responsibilities); Legislative Consent Motion on the Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Bill; Debate on the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee Report: Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit—Implications for Wales; Debate: Workforce Skills Post Brexit**.

29 January: **Debate on Departure from the European Union; Debate on Fisheries**.

5 February: **Debate on the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee Report: Common policy frameworks: Assembly scrutiny**.

Senedd Research publications

Senedd Research blog articles and research briefings are published on [In Brief / Pigion](#). The latest Brexit related publications are:

- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill – An Update**;
- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund** (PDF, 1195KB);
- Brexit Negotiations Monitoring Report**;
- UK-EU Future Relationship: What could be agreed over the next 11 months?**;

Welsh Government

21 January: **Information and certainty crucial for farmers to plan for the future - Lesley Griffiths.**

21 January: **Written Statement: Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations).**

23 January: **Written Statement: Inter-Ministerial Group Environment, Food and Rural Affairs meeting, 13 January 2020.**

29 January: **Leaving the EU.**

30 January: **Future relationship with EU crucial for aerospace industry - First Minister.**

News

23 January: **CLA President warns against rushing transition to new payments model** (Country Land and Business Association (CLA))

24 January: **Don't fall foul - EU regulations still apply after 31 January (Farmers Union of Wales** (FUW))

27 January: **Letter to Prime Minister: NFU leads charge on trade and standards asks ahead of Brexit** (National Farmers Union Cymru (NFU Cymru))

28 January: **CLA comment on Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) report** (CLA)

29 January: **Immigration policy must urgently address essential food and farming needs** (NFU Cymru)

31 January: **NFU Cymru reacts to the UK's departure from the EU** (NFU Cymru)

3 February: **The Tenant Farmers Association Briefs MPs for Agriculture Bill Debate** (Tenant Farmers Association)

3 February: **CLA respond to Prime Minister's speech on trade** (CLA)

EU developments

European Council

25 January: **Invitation letter by President Charles Michel to the members of the European Council ahead of their meeting on 20 February 2020.**

30 January: **Brexit: Council adopts decision to conclude the withdrawal agreement.**

31 January: **"A new dawn for Europe" - Op-ed article by Presidents Charles Michel, David Sassoli and Ursula von der Leyen.**

31 January: **Remarks by President Charles Michel on the future of Europe.**

European Commission

10-21 January: The Commission has published slides headed "Internal EU27 preparatory discussions on the future relationship":

- **Personal data protection (adequacy decisions); Cooperation and equivalence in financial services** (PDF 2.1 MB);
- **Free trade agreement** (PDF 2MB);
- **Level playing field and sustainability** (PDF 1,019 KB);
- **Fisheries** (PDF 909 KB);
- **Transport** (PDF 689 KB);
- **Energy** (PDF 574 KB);
- **Law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters** (PDF 2.9 MB);
- **Foreign policy, security and defence** (PDF 876 KB);
- **UK participation in Union programmes** (PDF 731 KB);
- **Mobility of persons** (PDF 2,460 KB);
- **Governance** (PDF 526 KB); and
- **Architecture and legal nature of the partnership** (PDF 616 KB).

22 January: **Keynote speech by President von der Leyen at the World Economic Forum.**

24 January: **Questions and Answers on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020.**

24 January: **Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement.**

27 January: **Speech by Michel Barnier at the William J. Clinton Leadership Institute.**

29 January: **Speech by President von der Leyen in the Plenary of the European Parliament at the debate on the Withdrawal Agreement.**

29 January: **European Commission 2020 Work Programme: An ambitious roadmap for a Union that strives for more.**

31 January: **Template of the Note Verbale sent to international partners after signature of the Withdrawal Agreement** (PDF 153.7KB)

31 January: **We have to stand up for Europe** – Ursula von der Layen on German television (Tagesschau - machine translation)

31 January: **Trade: First year of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement shows growth in EU exports.**

31 January: **Joint press statement by President von der Leyen with President Sassoli and President Michel on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.**

31 January: **A new dawn for Europe: Joint op-ed by President von der Leyen, President Michel and President Sassoli.**

3 February: **Doorstep by President von der Leyen following her meeting with a group of British European Commission staff including remarks on the draft negotiating directives adopted today.**

3 February: **Draft negotiating directives** and **Questions & Answers** for a new partnership with the United Kingdom..

3 February: **Statement by Michel Barnier at the presentation of the**

Commission's proposal for a Council recommendation on directives for the negotiation of a new partnership with the UK.

3 February: **Slides used by M. Barnier on occasion of the presentation of the Commission's proposal for a Council recommendation on directives for the negotiation of a new partnership with the UK** (PDF 219.1KB)

European Parliament

23 January: **Brexit: the Withdrawal Agreement passes the first European Parliament test.**

29 January: **Brexit deal approved by the European Parliament.**

31 January: **Redistribution of seats in the European Parliament after Brexit.**

News

23 January: **EU issues a warning to Boris Johnson over goods checks on Irish Sea** (Belfast Telegraph)

31 January: **Consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union for the Court of Justice of the European Union** (Court of Justice of the European Union) (PDF 229 KB)

31 January: **'Thank you to the people of Europe' - EU members understood Brexit fears and took our hopes into their own hearts** (Taoiseach Leo Varadkar writing in the Irish Times)

1 February: **A letter to the UK from the French President** (Emmanuel Macron writing on Facebook)

UK developments

UK Government

28 January: Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) report: **[A Points-Based System and Salary Thresholds for Immigration](#)** (PDF, 4.02MB); **[Annexes](#)** (PDF, 1.88MB); and **[The fiscal contribution of EU migrants - update and scenario analysis](#)** (PDF, 759KB)

28 January: **[UK and EEA EFTA States sign Separation Agreement](#)**.

29 January: **[International Agreements with Third Countries during the Transition Period](#)**.

31 January: **[Prime Minister's address to the nation](#)**.

3 February: **[Prime Minister's speech in Greenwich](#)**.

3 February: Written statement to Parliament: **[The Future Relationship between the UK and the EU](#)**.

4 February: **[UK statement to the WTO on the Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation](#)**. The government also published a **[note to WTO members](#)** (PDF, 202KB)

House of Commons

21 January: Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy questions: **[Leaving the EU: Businesses in Scotland](#)**.

21 January: Second Reading of the **[Direct Payments to Farmers \(Legislative Continuity\) Bill](#)**.

22 January: Cabinet Office questions: **[Leaving the EU: Departmental Preparedness](#)**.

22 January: **[Prime Minister's questions](#)**.

22 January: Consideration of Lords amendments: **[European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#)**.

22 January: Westminster Hall debate: **[Commission on Justice in Wales](#)**.

23 January: International Trade questions: **[Global Free Trade; Free Ports; Most Favoured Nation Tariffs; EU Bilateral Trade](#)**.

23 January: Women and Equalities questions: **[EU Withdrawal Agreement](#)**.

27 January: Written statement on **[Exiting the European Union](#)**.

28 January: Committee Stage and Third Reading of the **[Direct Payments to Farmers \(Legislative Continuity\) Bill](#)**.

29 January: **[Prime Minister's questions](#)**.

30 January: Debate on **[Global Britain](#)**.

30 January: Westminster Hall debate on **[Scotch whisky: US tariffs](#)**.

3 February: Foreign Secretary's statement on **[Global Britain](#)**.

3 February: Second Reading of the **[Agriculture Bill](#)**.

4 February: Foreign and Commonwealth Office questions: **[Leaving the EU: Human Rights](#)**.

House of Lords

21 January: **[Second Report Day of the European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#)**, and **[continued](#)**, and **[Third Reading](#)**.

22 January: Motions on Commons Amendments to the **[European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#)**.

23 January: Motion on European Union Committee Report: **[Fisheries: EU Landing Obligation](#)**.

27 January: Question on **[Horizon 2020](#)**.

27 January: Question on **[Agriculture Bill: Food Production](#)**.

29 January: Question on the **[Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission](#)**.

29 January: Second Reading (and remaining stages) of the **[Direct Payments to Farmers \(Legislative Continuity\) Bill](#)**.

30 January: Question on [European Union: Trading Arrangements](#).

3 February: Question on [Net Migration](#).

3 February: Statement on [Global Britain](#).

Committees

EU Select

22 January: [Committee publishes its eighteenth treaty report](#) – Report: [Scrutiny of international agreements; treaties considered on 21 January 2020](#).

30 January: [Committee publishes its nineteenth treaty report](#) – Report: [Scrutiny of international agreements; treaties considered on 29 January 2020](#).

31 January 2020 - [Letter to Stephen Barclay, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, ref consideration of items retained under scrutiny by the European Union Committee](#) (PDF 154KB)

11 February: [Evidence Session on the Protocol on Northern Ireland / Ireland](#).

EU Energy and Environment Sub Committee

12 February: [Evidence Session on Access to UK fisheries post-Brexit](#).

EU Financial Affairs Sub Committee

20 January: [Government response](#) (PDF, 755KB) to the sub-committee's report [Brexit: the Financial Settlement](#).

23 January: [UK infrastructure bank may be needed after Brexit](#) – A [follow-up letter to the Treasury](#) (PDF, 59KB) to the sub-committee's report [Brexit: the European Investment Bank](#).

29 January: [Academics questioned on financial services after Brexit](#). [Transcript](#).

5 February: [City experts questioned on financial regulation after Brexit](#).

12 February: [Evidence Session on Financial services post Brexit](#).

EU Home Affairs Sub Committee

23 January: [Letter to Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP on the European Criminal Records Information System and the Schengen Information System](#) (PDF 101.6 KB)

29 January: [Representatives from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland discuss refugee resettlement](#).

EU Justice Sub Committee

4 February: Evidence session on [Is the EU Settlement Scheme working for children in care?](#)

11 February: [Evidence Session on Brexit: consumer protection rights](#).

News

21 January: [Vital logistics workers should be excluded from restrictive immigration policy](#) (Freight Transport Association (FTA))

23 January: [Keep trucks moving freely across borders, RHA urges the prime minister ahead of Brexit negotiations](#) (Road Haulage Association)

24 January: [BCC joins leading business organisations to offer support for design of new immigration system](#) (British Chambers of Commerce)

27 January: [UK unshackled from CFP](#) (Fishing News)

28 January: [Our response to Migration Advisory Committee report](#) (Confederation of British Industry (CBI))

28 January: [Logistics needs access to migrant workers to Keep Britain Trading](#) (FTA)

30 January: [UK car output falls as industry targets world-class FTA that keeps Auto building for Britain](#) (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT))

31 January: [PM must deliver trade deals that protect jobs and workers' rights](#) (Trades Union Congress)

3 February: [ADS Statement on Prime Minister Brexit Speech](#) (ADS)

3 February: [CBI responds to PM speech on future UK/EU relationship](#) (CBI)

Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Brexit Update: **30 January**.

Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) publications: **[Brexit – your questions answered](#)** (PDF 1,141 KB).

20 January: SPICe launched its **[post-Brexit hub](#)**. The hub is a one-stop-shop for information on arrangements in the UK post-Brexit, including common frameworks, inter-governmental relations and key Brexit-related legislation.

23 January: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee: **[Evidence session on Article 50 \(Withdrawal Agreement and Negotiation of Future Relationship\)](#)**

29 January: Debate on **[Recognising Scotland in Europe](#)**.

29 January: Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee: Discussion about the **[Direct Payments to Farmers \(Legislative Continuity\) Bill 2020](#)**.

30 January: Statement on **[European Union Exit](#)**.

Scottish Government

26 January: **[Most vulnerable at risk from Brexit](#)**.

27 January: **[Plan for Scottish Visa](#)**.

30 January: **[Cabinet Secretary’s message to EU: ‘Leave a light on for Scotland’](#)**.

31 January: **[Scotland’s commitment to the EU](#)** – Document: **[The European Union’s Strategic Agenda 2020-2024: Scotland’s Perspective](#)**.

31 January: **[EU citizens encouraged to stay in Scotland](#)**.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Assembly

The Assembly’s Research and Information Services has a **[Brexit Hub](#)** with information and links to resources on Brexit and Northern Ireland, and also has published the **[January 2020 Brexit Brief](#)**.

27 January: **[Direct Payments to Farmers \(Legislative Continuity\) Bill: Legislative Consent Motion](#)**.

3 February: Debate on **[European Union Withdrawal](#)**.

UK-Ireland relations

27 January: [Taoiseach meeting European Commission Negotiator Michel Barnier in Dublin.](#)

8 February: General Election in Ireland.

Reports published

[Houses of Parliament libraries](#)

[Brexit next steps: Farm funding in 2020](#)

[Brexit next steps: The transition period](#)

[Brexit next steps: Replacing the UK's MEPs](#)

[Brexit and UK Defence: An Explainer](#)

[UK in a Changing Europe](#)

[Trade diversion and Brexit uncertainties](#)

[The Irish 2020 election and Brexit](#)

[Brexit strains for UK and devolved institutions](#)

[Agriculture Bill: what it means for farming and the environment post Brexit](#)

[Brexit day: view from Ireland](#)

[Business: working with the EU from the outside](#)

[Government faces a number of tough choices in next stage of Brexit, new academic report finds](#) - Report: [Brexit: what next?](#) (PDF 3.6MB)

[LSE Brexit](#)

[The Agriculture Bill is radical, but it may not be enough to sustain smaller British farms](#)

[Brexit is done? Brexit has only just begun](#)

The Conversation

America has a unique 300 year old view of free trade - UK must recognise this to strike a deal

Post-Brexit trade: public prioritises deal with EU and is most concerned about food

Brexit: research from Wales shows creative industry's concern at leaving EU

Other

Agreement on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU (European Parliamentary Research Service Blog)

More Brexit battles ahead as the EU and UK set out future relationship priorities (Institute for Government)

Britain faces a triple contradiction (Bruegel)

Realpolitik of the day after Brexit (Bruegel)

