

Brexit Update

Research Briefing

3 December 2019



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

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Copies of this document can also be obtained in accessible formats including Braille, large print, audio or hard copy from:

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Tel: **0300 200 6565**

Email: Nigel.Barwise@Assembly.Wales

Twitter: [@SeneddResearch](https://twitter.com/SeneddResearch)

Blog: SeneddResearch.blog

LinkedIn: [Senedd Research, National Assembly for Wales](#)

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Introduction

This paper provides an update on the most recent developments on Brexit of relevance to Wales. It covers developments in Wales, the EU, Westminster, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The period covered is 12 – 26 November 2019, although reference is made to later events where information is available at 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, Scrutiny of Common Frameworks, Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's International Strategy** and **Follow-up work on Brexit preparedness**.

The EAAL Committee published its latest report **Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit: the implications for Wales on 8 November**. The report makes 12 recommendations about actions that should be taken on this issue.

The most recent session of the EAAL Committee was:

- 18 November: The Committee held a scrutiny session with the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language. Find the **transcript here**.

On 18 November the Committee noted letters from:

- The First Minister regarding a request to reschedule scrutiny session** – 8 November 2019.
- The Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding timetable for publication of international strategy** - 12 November 2019.

Other Committees

The Constitutional 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 currently carrying out an inquiry on **Wales' Changing Constitution** including consideration of the implications of Brexit for the Welsh devolution settlement.

Blogs

The Research Service's own blogs are published on **In Brief**. The latest Brexit blog is:

- Changing of the guard: the new EU Commission and Wales**

Welsh Government

14 November: **We want EU to stay - Jeremy Miles**.

20 November: Written Statement: **Inter-Ministerial Group Environment, Food and Rural Affairs meeting, 10 October 2019**.

21 November: Written Statement: **33rd Meeting of the British Irish Council** (15 November, Dublin). A **joint communiqué was issued** after the meeting.

22 November: Written Statement: **Consultation Response to the Draft International Strategy for Wales**.

25 November: **Lesley Griffiths confirms intention to continue Basic Payment Scheme in 2021**.

News

25 November: **FUW outlines key ask of next UK Government in manifesto** (Farmers Union of Wales)

25 November: **NFU Cymru sets out its General Election asks** (National Farmers Union Cymru)

EU Developments

European Council

13 November: **Keynote speech by President Donald Tusk at the opening ceremony of the 2019/2020 academic year at the College of Europe.**

18 November: **2020 EU budget: Council and Parliament reach agreement.**

19 November: **Conclusions of the 52nd meeting of the EEA Council.**

20 November: **“Common sense, common Europe”, speech by President-elect Charles Michel at the University of Amsterdam.**

25 November: **EU budget for 2020: Council endorses deal with Parliament.**

European Commission

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

14 November: **European Commission launches infringement proceedings against the UK following its failure to name a candidate for EU Commissioner.**

20 November: **Speech by Michel Barnier at the Congress of the European People’s Party, Zagreb.**

21 November: **EU-Singapore trade agreement enters into force.**

27 November: **Speech by President-elect von der Leyen in the European Parliament Plenary on the occasion of the presentation of her College of Commissioners and their programme.**

European Parliament

12 November: **Brexit: Citizens’ rights remain a key priority for MEPs.**

18 November: **EU Budget 2020 deal: Investing more in climate action, youth and research.**

27 November: **Parliament elects the von der Leyen Commission.**

27 November: **EU budget 2020 approved: investing more in climate, jobs and the young.**

UK Developments

The UK Parliament is in dissolution until after the General Election on 12 December 2019. A Privy Council notice says that the **first sitting of the new parliament** will be on 17 December. The UK government has said that 'should this Prime Minister return' the **Queen's Speech** will be on 19 December.

News

13 November: **Tesla Gigafactory Europe to be built in Germany, not UK, as Elon Musk blames Brexit uncertainty** (Auto Express)

13 November: **Industry publishes business manifesto for post Brexit economy** (Make UK)

15 November: **Australia and others ask for Brexit trade compensation** (BBC)

17 November: **CBI unveils business manifesto ahead of Annual Conference** (Confederation of British Industry (CBI))

21-24 November: CBI response to parties' manifestos: **Labour; Liberal Democrat; Conservative** (CBI)

25 November: **Access questions dodged - Minister won't say yes or no on Brexit access question** (Fishing News)

25 November: **The Ghost of Christmas yet to come** (Sir Ivan Rogers' speech at Glasgow University)

Scotland

Scottish Parliament

12 November: Debate on **European Union Citizens' Rights**.

Scottish Government

15 November: **First Minister leads Scottish delegation to British-Irish Council**.

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.

UK-Ireland relations

12 November: Dáil question on **[Brexit Issues - future EU-UK trade agreement](#)**.

19 November: Dáil question: **[EU meetings](#)**.

15 November: **[Taoiseach hosts 33rd British-Irish Council Summit at Farmleigh](#)**.

Reports published

UK in a Changing Europe

Has Brexit really divided Britain?

What should happen to immigration policy after Brexit?

What to watch for in the parties' manifestos

An inflexible Brussels is damaging its own interests over Brexit

It's not all humbug: the toxification of British politics

The Conversation

Brexit poses a dilemma for Northern Ireland's nationalists

LSE Brexit

EU migration through the lens of inequality: how Britain shaped the unequal Europe it wants to leave

Economic consequences of Brexit are overwhelmingly negative

Other

What would a 'No Deal' after the transition period look like? (Open Europe)