

# Brexit Update

## Research Briefing

27 January 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**

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# Brexit Update

## Research Briefing

27 January 2020

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The Assembly and

BREXIT

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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 7 - 21 January 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, Scrutiny of Common Frameworks, Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's International Strategy](#) and [the negotiations between the UK and EU](#).

The Committee published its report [European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill: Legislative consent](#) (PDF 284 KB) on 16 January.

On 20 January the Committee published its report [The Withdrawal Agreement Implications for Wales \(January 2020\)](#) (PDF 298 KB).

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 13 January: After noting papers the Committee met in private. The webcast can be [seen here](#); and
- 20 January: After noting papers the Committee met in private. The webcast can be [seen here](#).

On 13 January the Committee noted correspondence from the:

[First Minister regarding Brexit preparedness](#) - 6 December 2019 (PDF 270 KB);

[Home Office regarding the Committee's report on changes to freedom of movement after Brexit - implications for Wales](#) - 10 December 2019 (PDF 2 MB);

[Counsel General and Brexit Minister regarding Brexit preparedness](#) - 7 January 2020 (PDF 504 KB); and

[First Minister regarding the European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#) - 8 January 2020 (PDF 27 KB).

On 20 January the Committee noted letters from the:

- [Counsel General and Brexit Minister in response to the Committee's report on freedom of movement after Brexit - the implications for Wales](#) - 20 December 2019 (PDF 637 KB);
- [First Minister regarding the EU \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#) - 13 January 2020 (PDF 381 KB); and
- [Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding the Government's international strategy](#) - 14 January 2020 (PDF 160 KB)

#### Other Committees

The Constitutional and Legislative Affairs (CLA) 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 17 January the Committee published its report [The Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#) (PDF 164 KB)

#### Plenary

7 January: [Statement by the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language: Update on Trade Policy](#).

8 January: [Questions to the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language](#).

14 January: [Statement by the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language: International Strategy; and Statement by the Counsel General and Brexit Minister: Update on Regional Investment in Wales](#).

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](#).

## Senedd Research publications

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

- [Wales and the Queen's Speech;](#)
- [Assembly to debate giving consent to the UK Direct Payments to Farmers Bill;](#)
- [What will the UK's new immigration system mean for Wales?;](#) and
- [European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill - An Update.](#)

## Welsh Government

7 January: [Oral Statement: Update on Trade Policy.](#)

10 January: [Another boost for Welsh manufacturing thanks to EU funds.](#)

13 January: [Wales' interests must be fully considered post-Brexit - Lesley Griffiths.](#)

14 January: [A new International Strategy for Wales.](#)

14 January: [Written Statement: Direct Payments to Farmers \(Legislative Continuity\) Bill.](#)

16 January: [Written Statement: UK Agriculture Bill.](#)

17 January: [New funding to support disabled people after Brexit.](#)

20 January: [Written Statement: The Future UK/EU Relationship: Negotiating Priorities for Wales.](#)

21 January: [Information and certainty crucial for farmers to plan for the future - Lesley Griffiths.](#)

21 January: [Written Statement: Joint Ministerial Committee \(EU Negotiations\).](#)

## News

13 January: [New Agriculture Bill Must Not Leave Tenant Farmers Out in the Cold](#) (Tenant Farmers Association (TFA)).

17 January: [NFU Cymru responds to the publication of the UK Government's Agriculture Bill](#) (National Farmers Union Cymru).

20 January: [New Agriculture Bill in Better Shape Than Its Predecessor](#) (TFA).

## EU developments

### European Council

9 January: **Remarks by President Charles Michel after his meeting with Prime Minister of Croatia Andrej Plenković.**

### European Commission

8 January: **Speech by President von der Leyen at the London School of Economics on ‘Old friends, new beginnings: building another future for the EU-UK partnership’.**

8 January: **Readout of the meeting between President Ursula von der Leyen and Prime Minister Boris Johnson.**

9 January: **Remarks by Michel Barnier at the European Commission Representation in Sweden.**

14 January: **Trade/WTO: EU, U.S. and Japan agree on new ways to strengthen global rules on industrial subsidies.** The parties issued a **joint statement**.

15 January: **Remarks by President von der Leyen at the joint press point with Leo Varadkar, Taoiseach of Ireland.**

15 January: **Speech by President von der Leyen at the dinner hosted by Leo Varadkar, Taoiseach of Ireland.**

15 January: **Von der Leyen in Ireland: Our mutual solidarity is here to stay.**

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).

20 January: **Opening speech by President von der Leyen at the World Economic Forum.**

### European Parliament

16 January: **Brexit: MEPs concerned about citizens’ rights.**

16 January: **Number of members in Parliament’s committees to change after Brexit.**

### News

15 January: **EU chief vows ‘day and night’ talks on post-Brexit trade deal** (RTÉ)

24 January: **EU, China, 15 Others Form Alliance to Settle Trade Disputes** (SwissInfo)

## UK developments

### UK Government

7 January: **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill: Regulatory Policy Committee opinion.**

8 January: **A vision for future farming - Theresa Villiers' speech to Oxford Farming Conference.**

16 January: **Agriculture Bill to boost environment and food production.** Text of the **Agriculture Bill**, and the **explanatory memorandum**.

20 January: **Letters to the Devolved Administrations on the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill** - Letter to **Jeremy Miles**; letter to **Mike Russell**.

### House of Commons

7 January: **First Committee day of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.**

8 January: **Prime Ministers questions.**

8 January: **Second Committee day of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.**

8 January: **European Union (Withdrawal) Acts motion.**

9 January: A series of Exiting the European Union questions, starting with **Marking Exit Day.**

9 January: **Third Reading of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.**

13 January: Debate on **Britain in the World.**

15 January: Wales questions: **Shared Prosperity Fund.**

15 January: **Prime Ministers questions, Constitutional Reform, and further questions.**

16 January: Digital, Culture, Media and Sport questions: **Leaving the EU: Creative Industries.**

16 January: Attorney General questions: **Leaving the EU: Human Rights.**

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 Ministers questions.**

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

22 January: Westminster Hall debate: **Commission on Justice in Wales.**

### House of Lords

7 January: Question on **British Citizens: Working Abroad.**

7 January: Debate on the **Queen's Speech** and **continued.**

8 January: Debate on the **Queen's Speech.**

8 January: **Motion on the European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019.**

8 January: **Motion on the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.**

9 January: Debate on the **Queen's Speech.**

9 January: **First Reading of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.**

13 January: **Second Reading of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.**

14 January: **First Committee day of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill, and continued.**

15 January: **Second Committee day of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill, and continued.**

16 January: **Third Committee day of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill, and continued.**



20 January: **First Report Day of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.**

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**.

## Committees

### Constitution

10 January: **Letter from Lord Callanan, Minister of State for Exiting the European Union, to Baroness Taylor of Bolton, on the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill** (PDF 57.48 KB).

14 January: **Report on the Withdrawal Agreement Bill** – Report: **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill**.

### Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform

9 January: Report on the **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill**.

### EU Select

10 January: **Brexit: revised Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration report published by Committee** - Report: **Brexit: the revised Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration**.

10 January 2020 - **Letter from Lord Callanan on the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill** (PDF 111 KB).

14 January: **Letter from Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the EU regarding invitation to appear before the Committee**, and the **Chair's reply**.

22 January: **Committee publishes its eighteenth treaty report** – Report: **Scrutiny of international agreements; treaties considered on 21 January 2020**.

## News

7 January: **Brexit could lead to squid war in the Falklands** (Fish and Information Services)

8 January: **CLA welcomes Environment Secretary's comments at The Oxford Farming Conference** (Country Land and Business Association (CLA))

13 January: **Brexit threat to N Ireland** (Fishing News)

16 January: **CLA President calls for more clarity on transition following release of Agriculture Bill** (CLA)

17 January: **UK Shared Prosperity Fund - What do Britain's less prosperous places need from post-Brexit funding?** (PDF 684 KB) (Industrial Communities Alliance)

18 January: **BCC responds to Chancellor's comments on post-Brexit regulation** (British Chambers of Commerce)

20 January: **Brexit trade-off danger** (Fishing News)

20 January: **Devil is in the detail on Brexit** (Freight Transport Association (FTA))

21 January: **Vital logistics workers should be excluded from restrictive immigration policy** (FTA)

## Scotland

### Scottish Parliament

Brexit Update: **10 January**.

Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) publications: **The revised (European Union) Withdrawal Agreement Bill - Implications for Scotland.**

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.

8 January: Finance and Constitution Committee: Debate on the **legislative consent memorandum for the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill**.

8 January: Debate on consent for the **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill**.

14 January: Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee: Evidence session on **European Union Exit: Environmental Principles and Governance**.

16 January: Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee: Evidence session on **Article 50 (Northern Ireland Protocol)**.

### Scottish Government

11 January: **Questionnaire on Scottish-Irish relations**.

13 January: **Simplifying CAP**.

15 January: **Protecting Scotland's standards for trade**.

20 January: **EU citizens vital to Scotland**.

## Northern Ireland

### Northern Ireland Assembly

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 Brexit and Northern Ireland.

11 January: **Appointment of the First Minister (Arlene Foster) and deputy First Minister (Michelle O'Neill)**.

20 January: Debate on consent for the **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill**.

## UK-Ireland relations

15 January: **Taoiseach welcomes EU Commission President von der Leyen on inaugural visit to Dublin.**

8 February: General Election in Ireland.

## Reports published

[Houses of Parliament libraries](#)

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**Withdrawal Agreement Bill: The financial settlement**

**The new EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill**

**European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill: Briefing for Lords Stages**

**The EU Settlement Scheme: A summary**

**Brexit and the Northern Ireland border**

**Slowing economic growth, Brexit and the productivity challenge**

**The Erasmus Programme**

[UK in a Changing Europe](#)

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**Post-Brexit trade deals: what do the public think?**

**A Brexit trade deal by December 2020 won't be much of a deal at all**

**Northern Ireland continues to face acute Brexit uncertainty**

**Trade diversion and Brexit uncertainties**

**The Irish 2020 election and Brexit**

[LSE Brexit](#)

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**Troubling and unnecessary: the problems of precedent in clause 26(1) in the Withdrawal Agreement Bill**

**The Agriculture Bill is radical, but it may not be enough to sustain smaller British farms**

## The Conversation

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**Immigration: there is a gaping hole in the debate over how it affects everyone's job prospects**

**Brexit could spell the end of globalization, and the global prosperity that came with it**

**Agriculture Bill: here's what it means for farming and the environment after Brexit**

## Institute for Government

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**Getting Brexit done: What happens now?**

**Five causes of concern about citizens' rights after Brexit - and what the government should do**