

BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 8 November

***Please cascade information where appropriate
to your workforce and care providers***

What Happened This Week...

With parliament dissolved ahead of the general election, civil servants, local government officials and others (such as the NHS) are subject to purdah guidelines for the next few weeks. To find out more about how your organisation may be impacted, please see the [UK](#), [Welsh Government](#), and [LGA](#) guidance links.

The National Assembly's External Affairs and Additional Legislation (EAAL) Committee [published their final report](#) on how the end of free movement will impact Wales. The report made 5 conclusions and 12 recommendations which supported many of the [issues raised](#) by us when responding to the inquiry into the future immigration system including: the reduction of the proposed £30,000 salary threshold, additional support and advice to EU nationals in Wales, and to establish a Welsh-specific Shortage Occupation List. In [response](#), we welcomed this report which recognises the views of our members around the impact the current proposals for a post-Brexit immigration system could have on future recruitment across health and social care.

This week we submitted a call for evidence to the [Migration Advisory](#)

[Committee's commission](#) to reduce the salary threshold and possible implications of a points-based immigration system, with a report due back by the end of January 2020. We also attended the Health and Trade Symposium hosted by Public Health Wales.

Next week I'm due to attend an oral evidence session with the [EAAL Committee on Monday](#), where I will be discussing how our sector is preparing for Brexit as well as the implications of the [Auditor General for Wales' report on preparedness](#) and [trade deal implications](#) for the NHS in Wales.

If you have any questions about the Brexit process, please see our [FAQs](#) page for more details which have been updated today, or email any questions to brexitfaqs@welshconfed.org. Please visit [our website](#) for more information and resources on current developments.

Nesta Lloyd-Jones,
Assistant Director, Welsh NHS Confederation




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@WelshConfed



The NHS in Wales values the contribution EU/EEA nationals and staff members from around the world make to our health and social care system, not just because of the vital expertise they provide, but the value they add to our communities.



EAAL Committee @SeneddEAAL · 4h

 **ANNOUNCENMENT** : It's publication day, and we've released our report 'Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit – implications for Wales'.

 Be the first, and read the full report here: ow.ly/IQW030pR5Ws

[Show this thread](#)



Welsh Government News and Guidance

For further information, please see the [Preparing Wales for a no-deal Brexit](#) website and [click here](#) for more information on Health and Social Care sector planning for a no-deal Brexit.

National Assembly News

[Brexit Update](#)

By Senedd Research on Wednesday 6 November 2019

Senedd Research publishes a fortnightly Brexit update, for the Assembly's External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee, on the latest government, parliament, EU and other relevant announcements and reports on Brexit.

[Brexit: Significant concerns for EU citizens living and working in Wales](#)

The National Assembly for Wales' External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee, which focuses on the implications of Brexit for Wales, published a report today looking at the impact of changes to 'freedom of movement' after Brexit. As well as the impact on services and employers, the Committee has looked at the effect on individual EU citizens currently living and working in Wales - there are currently an estimated 80,000.

The Committee heard evidence from a range of health professionals, employers and individuals who would be affected by the proposals to change the immigration system after Brexit.

[External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee](#) – Monday,
November 4

Scrutiny Session – Counsel General and Brexit Minister

Brexit

AMs held a scrutiny session with Jeremy Miles. Mr Miles said the general election campaign has prevented Brexit from significantly developing any further, also highlighting that his daily meetings with UK Ministers have stopped. The Counsel General and Brexit Minister stated that the Welsh Government's 'ideal scenario' would be that an incoming UK Government seeks a Brexit extension to carry out a second referendum. The committee also took evidence on Brexit preparedness from the ports, transport, food and farming sectors.

Brexit preparedness – evidence session with ports and transport sectors

Ports

AMs took evidence on border port arrangements in the event of differing Brexit scenarios. Sally Gilson, of the Freight Transport Association, said a transition period is vital if Brexit occurs. She said her main concern was over the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland border due to the interconnectedness of their food sectors, but she said Wales was unlikely to be impacted heavily by this. Richard Ballantyne, from Welsh Ports Group, said the extension was welcomed, but clarity on the UK's trading future is needed as there was too much uncertainty towards the end of October as issues such as custom controls and their enforcement have not been solved. Mr Ballantyne said arrangements such as temporary insurance and custom permits could work, but issues such as long-term infrastructure and the use of non-existent software causes considerable concern. Calling for a longer transition period, he said the creation of a limited number of free ports by the UK Government could have investment implications for manufacturing firms away from traditional areas and Welsh ports would need to bid to become free ports to attract the investment.

Brexit preparedness – evidence session with farming sector

Food and Farming

Nick Fenwick, head of policy at the Farmers' Union of Wales, welcomed Welsh Government support to date. However, he warned that support in terms of formulating contingency plans was late. NFU Cymru's head of policy, Dylan Morgan, questioned whether the government has looked at a broad enough range of potential impacts for the sector. Gwyn Howells, the chief executive of Hybu Cig Cymru, raised concern about "*fatigue*" in the industry after multiple Brexit deadlines. He welcomed support from the Welsh Government, particularly in terms of key developing markets in the Middle East, Japan and North America. Dr Fenwick warned that the "*barrage*" of Welsh Government domestic proposals for farming has fuelled uncertainty, describing proposed reforms as dangerously ambitious.

[First Minister's Questions](#) – Tuesday, November 5

General Election and Brexit

For the Brexit Party, Mark Reckless suggested that the real reason Labour resisted having an election is that it fears it will lose and that it prefers to block Brexit in the House of Commons. Mark Drakeford said he is "*delighted*" that there is an election.

Shared Prosperity Fund

Vikki Howells and Mark Drakeford shared concerns over background papers from the Queen's Speech which suggested that the fund will be approached within the context of English devolution. Prof Drakeford stressed that there is no replacement funding for current EU programmes after January 2020 and that the UK budget for 2021 has nothing in the final quarter of that financial year to replace the lost funds.

[Brexit Questions](#) – Wednesday, November 6

Welsh Government's Position

Darren Millar urged the Brexit Minister to outline the Welsh Government's position on Brexit, accusing ministers of "*flip flopping*" in recent months. He argued that UK Labour does not have a position, "*with one foot in and one foot out on whether to leave or remain*". He told AMs that the idea of a second referendum is absurd, and Labour cannot be trusted to deliver the outcome if it has not supported the result of the first. Jeremy Miles said any version of Brexit is a worse deal for Wales than remaining part of the EU and the only way that people can get their voice heard is to vote Labour for a second referendum. He pointed out that the Conservatives campaigned against the result of the referendum on establishing the Assembly. Mr Miles told the Siambr that the only way of drawing the line under three years of "*broken promises*" is for people to have their say on Boris Johnson's withdrawal agreement.

Negotiations

Delyth Jewell asked about Labour's plans to negotiate a Brexit deal based on creating a new customs union. She asked about the Counsel General and Brexit Minister's discussions with the EU about whether they would be willing to give a further extension to Article 50 to allow time and call a referendum. She urged the Welsh Government to carry out an economic impact assessment of any deal negotiated by Jeremy Corbyn on the economy and ports in Wales. Turning to Alun Cairns' resignation as Welsh Secretary, she asked how it will affect the working relationship with the UK Government. Jeremy Miles said he made it clear that the Welsh Government is in favour of remaining members of the EU. He told AMs that he did not discuss the question of what sort of agreement the Labour Party would negotiate. However, he said the government has presented

[Securing Wales' Future](#) as a picture of the new relationship that the Welsh Government would like to see during past visits. Mr Miles said the government's approach will be evidence based. On Alun Cairns, he said the most progress has been made in direct contact with the UK Government, but "*even then it has been a significant challenge in many ways*".

Workers' Rights

Lynne Neagle and the Brexit Minister agreed that the withdrawal agreement would represent a weakening of workers' rights, with the Brexit Minister adding that the agreement makes clear that deregulation is the desired outcome. He said the work of the fair work commission will ensure the Welsh Government will take steps to ensure workers are not disadvantaged.

THE WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION
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ADSS Cymru
Yn arwain Gwasanaethau
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Leading Social Services in Wales



Managing Brexit / EU withdrawal in health and social care in Wales: Frequently asked questions

Brexit Frequently Asked Questions

We have updated our Brexit FAQs again this week to include updates for local government and social services arrangements.

Visit the [FAQs page](#) to get the latest version as it's updated and send in any questions to BrexitFAQs@welshconfed.org

UK Government & NHS England Resources

House of Commons Publications

[What is the Dublin III Regulation? Will it be affected by Brexit?](#)

Explains how the UK is able to return asylum seekers to other EU countries under Dublin III and what may happen post-Brexit

[What does the latest Brexit delay mean for the UK and EU?](#)

Discusses how the decision to extend Article 50 was reached, what was agreed, and implications for the UK's ongoing EU membership

[Parliament and the three extensions of Article 50](#)

Explains the legal and political background to the three extensions to Article 50 and Parliament's role in seeking and agreeing to extensions

Guidance

We updated our guidance today, with details of an **EU Settlement Scheme ID document scanner location in Conwy**, updated information for iPhone devices using the **EU Exit: ID Document check app and healthcare in Switzerland**.

Brexit page on [UK Government](#) providing information about EU Exit including the article 50 process, negotiations, and announcements about policy changes as a result of EU Exit, such as the [Prepare for EU Exit Campaign](#).

[NHS England](#) Preparing for EU Exit page where you can find Guidance and

correspondence, which includes [continuity of medicine supply frequently asked questions](#).

Looking Ahead

UK Parliament is dissolved until after the general election on 12 December, and the conditions of purdah apply. The National Assembly will continue to sit during this time.

Monday 11 November

- External Affairs Committee: [Brexit preparedness](#) – **Welsh NHS Confederation** to give evidence with representatives from the WLGA and Universities Wales.

Tuesday 12 November

- [First Minister Questions](#) – Tuesday, November 12

2. Mick Antoniw: What discussions has the First Minister had with the UK Government about the impact of a UK US trade deal on the **Welsh NHS**?

11. Andrew RT Davies: Will the First Minister provide an update on the **Welsh Government's Brexit position**, following the agreement reached between the UK Government and the EU in October 2019?



