

## BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation  
Friday, 20 December

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

### **What Happened This Week...**

The dust is now starting to settle after the results of the General Election last week. The new Conservative majority UK Government have officially taken their seats, and after the result of the Election the Conservative Party now have a strong mandate for their legislative agenda for the next five years. Following a [letter](#) from the UK Government to devolved administrations, the Withdrawal Agreement Bill will be voted on today which changes domestic law to meet obligations in the EU Withdrawal Agreement. We will continue to work with our members and stakeholders to ensure that [Brexit will not negatively impact on peoples health and wellbeing](#) .

Before the Election we attended the Wales Governance Centre's annual lecture, Brexit, Devolution and the General Election. Former Permanent Secretary at the Department for Exiting the EU and head of the UK Governance Group in the Cabinet Office, Philip Rycroft, spoke about the impact of Brexit on inter-governmental relations within the UK and what Brexit means for the future of devolution. We also participated in a Brexit Health Alliance meeting where we discussed the next steps forward when negotiating future trade agreements and relationship with the EU.

Last week, new [statistics](#) were released on the EU Settled Status Scheme. It showed that over 2.5 million people have applied across the UK, and over half of the EU nationals estimated to live in Wales (41,500 / 80,000) have applied. We value all European Union /European Economic Area (EU/EEA) nationals working in the health service and the contribution they make, not just as professionals, but to the communities they live in.

Due to Wales' demographics, EU nationals are a vital to the health and social care sector in Wales and their contribution cannot be understated. We want them to stay, and we would like an environment where they are encouraged to work and live in Wales. We want to encourage and support EU nationals working in health and social care to apply for the [settled status scheme](#), which is free to apply. For complex cases the EUSS Wales website, [www.eusswales.com](http://www.eusswales.com), details a range of third sector organisations that can provide free assistance.

Today we published an update to our [Brexit Glossary](#), which demystifies some of the most common acronyms and terms used when discussing how Brexit impacts the health and care system 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](mailto:brexitfaqs@welshconfed.org). Please visit [our website](#) for more information and resources on current developments.

The next edition of this newsletter will be sent on Friday January 10<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, I and the rest of the Welsh NHS Confederation team wish you all a happy holiday period!

Nesta Lloyd-Jones,

Assistant Director, Welsh NHS Confederation



## 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

[First Minister's Questions](#) – Tuesday, December 10

### Brexit

Mark Reckless asked about the Labour Party's policy on a second referendum between a "*credible*" Leave option and Remain. He urged the First Minister to confirm what he describes as a "*credible*" Leave option

means remaining in the single market and customs union as well as subject to freedom of movement rules. The Brexit Party group leader derided such as choice as a “*rigged*” referendum between Remain and Remain, and he accused the Welsh Labour government of trying to block Brexit. Mr Reckless also accused the Welsh Government of attempting to “*rig*” the franchise after losing its majority 2016’s Assembly election, asking if 16-year-olds, EU nationals and prisoners would be allowed to vote in a second Brexit referendum.

Mark Drakeford told AMs that Mr Reckless changes his mind “*with significant regularity*” yet believes that no one else has the right to do so. The First Minister said the only way that people in Wales will get a second referendum is by voting Labour on Thursday, adding that a viable Leave option will be offered, which would see the UK leave the EU’s political institutions. Prof Drakeford reiterated that the Welsh Government would campaign for Remain in a second referendum. He argued that 16-year-olds should be able to vote in another referendum “*because it is their future and the future of young people that would be at stake*”.

### **External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee**

**Common Frameworks:** The External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee [published](#) its report on Assembly scrutiny of UK common policy frameworks, in which it made 20 recommendations.

[Finance Committee](#) – Wednesday, December 18

**Evidence session with Rebecca Evans, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd**

### **Consequences of Brexit**

Rhun ap Iorwerth asked how much money is being allocated to prepare

for Brexit that could otherwise be spent on other priorities. Ms Evans responded that over £46m of the £50m EU Transition Fund has been allocated and has gone towards investing in business resilience and upskilling the workforce. The Finance Minister stated that while some consequential money has come in from the UK Government, Brexit has forced the Welsh Government to re-prioritise its spending and it has diverted funds that could have been invested in public services. Andrew Jeffreys said that Brexit has also led to uncertainty surrounding funding which currently comes from the EU, but that the Welsh Treasury is expecting that this money will be fully replaced by the UK Government.

THE WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION  
CONFFEDERASIWN GIG CYMRU



ADSS Cymru  
Yn arwain Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol yng Nghymru  
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 this week to reflect the direction of the new UK Government. Visit the [FAQs page](#) to get the latest version as it's updated and send in any questions to [BrexitFAQs@welshconfed.org](mailto:BrexitFAQs@welshconfed.org).

## UK Government & NHS England Resources

Overview from Westminster

- The general election held on 12 December, resulting in a Conservative majority UK Government.
- The [Queens speech](#) was held on 19 December and outlined 7 Brexit related bills including immigration and agriculture, and an emphasis on more funding for the NHS.
- The Withdrawal Agreement Bill will be voted on today, with an amendment which would block any extension of the transition period beyond December 2020.

### **House of Commons Briefings:**

#### [How might Brexit affect human rights in the UK?](#)

Could Brexit affect the protection of human rights in the UK after the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights stops having affect?

#### [How will Brexit affect the Union?](#)

The devolution settlements in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are now 21 years old. The implications of Brexit for the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly were a feature of the last Parliament, with many of the challenges and tensions as yet unresolved. These overlap with ongoing debates about reforming inter-governmental relations, devolving more power to Wales and restoring power-sharing institutions in Northern Ireland, and with the independence debate in Scotland.

#### [Letters to the Devolved Administrations on the Withdrawal Agreement Bill](#)

Letters from the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union to the Scottish and Welsh Governments on the Withdrawal Agreement Bill.

The NHS Confederation's [Guidance Annex](#) has also been updated to include information on the EU Settlement Scheme Assisted Digital Service and Caseworker Guidance as well as privacy information notice, exporting active

substance for medicines after Brexit

### [Migration Advisory Committee meeting minutes 2019](#)

Minutes of meetings held by the Migration Advisory Committee in 2019, where the committee discussed the salary threshold commission and the points-based immigration system after the end of free movement.

The Brexit page on [UK Government](#) provides 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](#).

### **Settled Status:**

### [EU Settlement Scheme statistics, November 2019](#)

- The total number of applications **received** up to 30 November 2019 was nearly 2.6 million (2,592,800). The total number of applications that have been concluded, as of 30 November 2019, was more than 2.2 million (2,230,900)
- Of the concluded applications, **59% were granted settled status**, 41% were granted pre-settled status.
- In total, as of 30 November 2019, the majority of applications were received from England (2,372,700), with an additional 127,900 from Scotland, 42,000 from Northern Ireland and **41,500 from Wales**.

Please see the [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**

Both the UK Parliament and the National Assembly are breaking for their  
Christmas recess.

The next edition of this newsletter will be in three weeks, Friday January  
10<sup>th</sup>.



---

*Copyright © 2019 Welsh NHS Confederation, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in to receive communications from the Welsh NHS  
Confederation.

**Our mailing address is:**

Welsh NHS Confederation  
8  
Cathedral Road  
Cardiff, Wales CF11 9JL  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)