



BREXIT AT A GLANCE...

Weekly news, views and insights from the Welsh NHS Confederation
Friday, 17 January

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

What Happened This Week...

The risk of the UK leaving the EU without a deal at the end of the month has significantly reduced. Both UK and Welsh Governments have stepped down preparations for a no deal.

If you have any questions about what the implementation period will mean for health and social care? Please refer to our [FAQs](#), which got a major update this week, or send in any questions to Brexitfaqs@welshconfed.org.

This week we participated in two events. The *Delivery in a post Brexit world* webcast highlighted what suppliers and traders will need to do if the UK cannot negotiate a trade deal with the EU at the end of the current implementation period (31 December 2020). The *Exploring the impact of Brexit on BME communities in Wales* event. The panel discussed how many of the issues and prejudices that the BME community face, pre-date Brexit. But there is substantial concerns over the increase of [reported](#) incidence of hate crime in Wales since the referendum.

Today we published a [trade briefing](#) to answer some questions about how post-

Brexit trade policies could impact the Welsh NHS. While FTAs will be negotiated by the UK Government, health policy and the delivery of services is a devolved responsibility to the Welsh Government. This briefing will start to examine how FTAs negotiated at a UK level could impact the NHS in Wales, and how the key asks may differ between national and devolved administrations.

Keeping on the subject of trade, following Public Health Wales' "Trade, Health and Well-being Symposium" in November. Public Health Network Cymru have [published](#) the presentations and discussion from the day, as well as some useful links on trade and public health.

For a more detailed delve into the issues surrounding a potential EU-UK future relationship in health, the [Brexit Health Alliance](#) has published a paper '[Protecting the health of citizens and patients across the UK and EU: Priorities for a future relationship](#)'. The publication sets out priority areas for negotiations on the future relationship between the UK and EU in order to protect the health and wellbeing of citizens and patients across the UK and Europe. In short, the alliance welcomes the broad aims of the deal that the Prime Minister negotiated with the EU prior to the general election. Its aims largely support the key interests of patients in the UK and EU. Now refining the future relationship in the second phase of negotiations will be critical to safeguard patients and the UK's health and care sector.

Please visit [our website](#) for more information and resources on current developments.

Nesta Lloyd-Jones,
Assistant Director, Welsh NHS Confederation



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Looking forward to an interesting afternoon exploring the impact of Brexit on BME communities in Wales



Welsh Government News and Guidance

[International Strategy for Wales](#)

On 14 January 2020, the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language made an [oral statement: International Strategy](#).

The strategy will build on Wales' growing international reputation for sustainability and global responsibility and establish links with the Welsh diaspora on all continents. It is being launched as the UK prepares to leave the EU and negotiate a new relationship with the European Union and trade deals with international partners around the world.

The International Strategy has 3 core ambitions over the next 5 years:

- Raise Wales' profile on the international stage
- Grow the economy by increasing exports and attracting inward investment

- Establish Wales as a globally responsible nation

It is the start of a new approach to how the Welsh Government promotes Wales internationally, identifies Wales' key global markets in a post-Brexit landscape.

This strategy emphasises the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) and is based around the three pillars of creativity, sustainability and technology. In terms of Brexit, the strategy notes the remaining levels of uncertainty, but demonstrates a commitment to European partners for trade as well as protecting human/ social/ environmental rights. EU nationals, as all immigrants, are valued and welcomed in Wales. The strategy places a strong emphasis on the need for the UK Government to consult, seek consent, and provide genuine opportunities for devolved administrations to feed in policy development and impact on devolved authorities, such as health.

Among other goals, over the next 5 years Welsh Government, in partnership with other stakeholders, will increase work to ensure EU remains strongest partner and continue a trading relationship; promote Wales as the country that inspired the NHS and holds onto its core values through being the first country in the world to have statutory health impact assessments and promote NHS values internationally.

The success of Train Work Live recruitment programme was highlighted as a case study, and the Welsh Government will continue to promote international NHS recruitment and increase the number of international students via Erasmus+ and Horizon2020.

Welsh Government written statement on [Unaccompanied children seeking sanctuary in Wales](#)

“Last week, we wrote to the Home Secretary in support of the campaign to retain the duty to negotiate for the current refugee family reunion rights to remain in the EU Withdrawal Bill 2019.

In Wales, we do what we safely can to welcome unaccompanied asylum seeking children who arrive here with no family to go to and we have taken a range of positive actions to support them.”

Jane Hutt AM, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

Julie Morgan AM, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

For further information, please see the Preparing Wales website and [click here](#) for more information on Health and Social Care sector planning.

Press statement: [Wales’ interests must be fully considered post-Brexit – Lesley Griffiths](#)

The Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs has urged the UK Government to ensure Wales’ interests are fully considered in post-Brexit negotiations during a constructive first meeting since the UK General Election. Lesley Griffiths also stressed the importance of governments across the UK continuing to work closely together after the UK leaves the EU on 31st January.

The Minister was in London to attend the regular Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs Inter-Ministerial Group meeting involving Defra Secretary of State, Theresa Villiers, the Scottish Government’s Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing and senior officials from the Northern Ireland Executive. These quadrilateral meetings have taken place on a regular basis since the EU Referendum in 2016.

National Assembly News

Monday:

Correspondence

Jeremy Miles [responded](#) to a [letter](#) from the External Affairs Committee on

Brexit preparedness.

External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee:

- [Mark Drakeford to David Rees on Brexit preparedness](#)
- [Nicola Smith, Home Office, regarding freedom of movement after Brexit](#)
- [Proposed Welsh Government amendments to the EU the Withdrawal Agreement Bill](#)

Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee:

- [Mark Drakeford to Mick Antoniw regarding the European Union Withdrawal Agreement Bill](#)

Tuesday:

[Statement: Update on Regional Investment](#)

Shared Prosperity Fund

Jeremy Miles updated members on plans to replace current EU funding for Wales, as that funding will begin to cease at the end of this month. Mr Miles said that EU funding has funded £375m worth of projects every year and has supported vital jobs and skills training. The Brexit Minister stated that the UK Government has said that the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund will provide the same amount of funding as the EU currently gives, but that there have been few details on how this funding will be distributed to Wales. Darren Millar criticised Mr Miles' statement for not including enough new information and highlighted the UK Government's commitment to fully replacing EU funding for Wales, adding that the Conservative Party fully respects the current devolution settlement. Mr

Millar asked the Welsh Government to consider all areas of Wales when discussing the Shared Prosperity Fund with the UK Government. Jeremy Miles argued that the Welsh Government is not being listened to enough by the UK Government with regards to the Shared Prosperity Fund. David Rowlands argued that Brexit will allow the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund to be allocated in an unrestrictive way. David Rees said that EU funding has been extremely important to communities in his constituency, expressing concern about the lack of details surrounding the Shared Prosperity Funding, stating that “*the only thing we know about it is its name*”.

Wednesday:

Freedom of Movement: The Welsh Government [responded](#) to the External Affairs Committee’s [report](#) on changes to freedom of movement after Brexit, accepting all 12 recommendations outright or in principle.

[Finance Committee](#)

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21: Evidence session 7

Rhun ap Iorwerth asked for an assessment on how Brexit will impact the Welsh economy. Rebecca Evans stated that the effect of Brexit will depend on the type of Brexit deal that is finalised, as well as the future trade agreements that will come about. Mr ap Iorwerth asked if there were any contingencies present in the draft budget specifically allocated to combat potential Brexit consequences. Ms Evans said that the draft budget makes an allocation for a general contingency fund of £100m, but it is not specifically targeted to combat Brexit consequences. She added that if a ‘no-deal’ Brexit occurs, there would be no amount of Welsh Government contingencies that could counteract the extremely negative impacts on the economy.

Thursday:

Withdrawal Agreement Bill: The External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee [published](#) a report on legislative consent for the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**
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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 reflect the current positioning of the WAB and how the implementation period will impact health and care services in Wales.

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

Overview from Westminster

- The House of Commons approved the WAB last week, and this week it went through the [House of Lords](#).
 - **Monday:** There is no Conservative majority in the Lords, and Peers questioned if the legislation was being rushed through. Amendments debated this week included changes to provisions on unaccompanied child refugees, workers rights and parliamentary scrutiny in trade negotiations with the EU.
 - **Tuesday:** Peers discussed [unaccompanied child refugees](#) and the UK's future relationship with EU. One proposed change (from a Lib Dem Lords) related to the EU Settled Status Scheme and would only require EU/EEA nationals to declare their nationality when they apply and be issued with physical proof of their right to stay in the UK. Conservatives Peers thought that any declaratory system without requiring proof might lead to another Windrush scandal. This amendment was withdrawn, but Peers indicated this might be reintroduced if Ministers didn't find a compromise.
 - **Wednesday:** Peers pressured government to reconsider their position around unaccompanied child refugees and will seek to bring this issue back again. Discussions were held about application of EU Supreme Court and case law. Simon Hart appeared at the dispatch box on Wednesday for his first Wales Questions. When asked about the proposed shared prosperity fund, Mr Hart struck a defiant tone, telling MPs that for the first time in 45 years a substantial sum of money will be distributed in Wales by politicians directly accountable to Welsh voters. The Welsh Secretary pledged that Wales will not receive a penny less, stressing that the shared prosperity fund will not damage the devolution settlement. However, Mr Hart explained that he will take a collaborative approach with the Welsh Government on the

distribution of funding, suggesting that powers will be shared between Cardiff Bay and Westminster in future.

- **Thursday:** The House of Lords debated amendments to the EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill, it was the last day of the bill's Lords committee stage. They voted to make no amendments, the Lords moves onto a final vote on the bill next week. If passed in this way, the bill goes for Royal Assent and becomes law.

Guidance

[Exporting active substances for medicines after Brexit](#)

The guidance was updated on How the 'Written Confirmation' process for active substances manufactured in the UK will be handled if there's a no-deal Brexit. There has been a change made to the uploading of updated Register of Written Confirmations for UK active substance manufacturers PDF.

House of Commons research updates

[Slowing economic growth, Brexit and the productivity challenge](#)

Looks at Brexit's impact on the slowing rate of economic growth and productivity in the UK, with this being a serious concern for future growth and wage prospects.

[The Erasmus Programme](#)

Provides information on the future of the Erasmus+ programme after Brexit with recent developments regarding how the UK might participate in the scheme in the future.

[The EU Settlement Scheme: A summary](#)

Looks at the implications for immigration that Brexit will have on EU, EEA and Swiss Citizens wanting to live in the UK.

Looking Ahead

Next week, the House of Lords will continue its scrutiny of the legislation.

Monday 20 January

- House of Lords: **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill – Report stage (day 1)**

Tuesday 21 January

- LCM on the [EU \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Bill](#)
- House of Lords: **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill – Report stage (day 2)**

Wednesday 22 January

- **Ministerial migration workshop**
- **Debate on the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee report: Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit - implications for Wales**
- **Conservative Party Debate - Workforce Skills Post-Brexit**
- External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee Debate: [Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit](#)
- [Counsel General and Brexit Minister](#) will answer the following questions:

1. Joyce Watson: What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding **regional investment** funding in Wales post-

Brexit?

2. Jenny Rathbone: What discussions has the Welsh Government had about the number of **European citizens** who have registered to remain in Wales once the UK leaves the EU?

4. Russell George: What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding the **shared prosperity fund**?

5. Rhun ap Iorwerth: Will the Minister make a statement on discussions held with the UK Government regarding the **shared prosperity fund**?

7. John Griffiths: What is the Welsh Government's assessment of the **impact of Brexit** on south-east Wales?

8. Vikki Howells; What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact of Brexit on **children's rights**?

11. Huw Irranca-Davies: What assessment has the Minister made of the **risks to the devolution arrangements** in Wales of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill?

12. Paul Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's **Brexit preparation** plans?

Thursday 23 January

- **Cavendish Coalition meeting**



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