



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-0002, 10 January 2019

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU

Westminster Hall

Monday 14 January 2019 at 4.30pm

Paul Scully MP will open the debate

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union provides that any Member State may decide to withdraw from the EU in accordance with its own constitutional arrangements and that the EU and the withdrawing state shall negotiate an agreement setting out arrangements for its withdrawal. The withdrawing Member State will cease to be a member of the EU when the withdrawal agreement comes into force, or failing that, two years after notifying the EU of its intention to leave (29 March 2019).¹

This means that if a withdrawal agreement does not come into force by 29 March, the UK will leave the EU without an agreement on that day, unless Article 50 is either revoked or extended. Leaving with no deal will mean trade between the UK and EU will be conducted under the terms of the World Trade Organisation, resulting in tariffs on UK exports to the EU and vice versa under WTO Most Favoured Nation rules. The border between the UK and the EU (including Northern Ireland and Ireland) would become a customs border. This is likely to mean more customs controls and costs and delays for business, possibly leading to checks on the Northern Ireland-Ireland border, as well as possible disruption to food and other supplies.

Once the UK leaves the EU, the UK will be a third country and the EU will conduct negotiations on future relations on this basis. However, it is likely that the EU will make progress on further negotiations dependent on settlement of issues covered by the November Withdrawal Agreement, including citizens' rights and the financial settlement.

The Government has repeatedly ruled out holding a second referendum on Brexit. If a second referendum were to be held, an Act of Parliament would be required to make provisions for it to be held, and the Electoral Commission would then be required to assess any proposed question contained in a referendum Bill. The Constitution Unit of UCL has suggested that at least 22 weeks would be required to prepare and organise a referendum following a Parliament decision to hold one. This would require an extension of Article 50 (requiring agreement by unanimity by the EU Member States) and possibly running past the European Parliament elections in May (currently planned without UK participation).

The Court of Justice of the EU ruled in December 2018 that the UK can unilaterally revoke its Article 50 notification to leave the EU, provided the decision is taken in accordance with domestic constitutional requirements. The decision should also be "unequivocal" and

“unconditional” (i.e. with the intention to actually stay in the EU rather than to buy time).

1.1 Leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement

How no deal might happen

Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union provides that any Member State may decide to withdraw from the EU in accordance with its own constitutional arrangements and that the EU and the withdrawing state shall negotiate an agreement setting out arrangements for its withdrawal. The withdrawing Member State will cease to be a member of the EU when the withdrawal agreement comes into force, or failing that, two years after notifying the EU of its intention to leave (29 March 2019).²

This means that if a withdrawal agreement does not come into force by 29 March, the UK will leave the EU without an agreement on that day, unless Article 50 is either revoked or extended (see below).

Although a Withdrawal Agreement (WA) was agreed by the UK and the EU at the European Council on 25 November it needs to be approved by both the UK (meaning approval by the House of Commons) and EU (requiring approval by both European Parliament and Council of the EU) before coming into force.

The likelihood that the WA would not be approved in the planned House of Commons vote in December 2018 prompted the Prime Minister to postpone the vote. This is now scheduled to be held on 15 January 2019.

EU leaders have indicated an unwillingness to re-open negotiations on the Withdrawal Agreement agreed by the European Council on 25 November 2018. Following the conclusion of the summit, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker [stated](#): “I am totally convinced that this is the only deal possible”. On 29 November, the EU’s chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier [told](#) the European Parliament: “Given the difficult circumstances of this negotiation and given the extreme complexity of all the issues of the British withdrawal, the treaty that is on the table is the only deal possible.” On 30 November, the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, stated that the deal agreed is “the only possible one.” Speaking at the G20 summit in Argentina, Mr Tusk [said](#): ““If this deal is rejected in the Commons we are left with, as was already stressed a few weeks ago by Prime Minister May, an alternative – no deal or no Brexit at all.”

² See House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP7551, [Brexit: how does the Article 50 process work?](#) 16 January 2017.

Both sides in the negotiations agree that 'no deal' is not what they want, but some Brexit supporters would prefer it to a 'soft' Brexit which does not end free movement, payments to the EU, membership of the Single Market and customs union, continued adherence to EU rules and the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the EU.

Once the UK leaves the EU, the UK will be a third country and the EU will conduct negotiations on future relations on this basis. The arrangements for negotiations provided for in Article 50 will cease to apply, and further negotiations will take place on a separate legal basis.³ However, if the UK leaves the EU without an agreement, it is likely that the EU will make progress on further negotiations dependent on settlement of issues covered by the November WA, including citizens' rights and the financial settlement.

EU preparations for no deal

In the absence of what the European Commission described as "functional solutions" to the Irish border issue, the EU stepped up preparations for a no-deal scenario in March 2019. These have continued, and the Commission has been drafting amendments to EU legislation to take account of the UK's exit in areas such as shipping, tariff obligations, energy, customs, aviation, health and safety, transport and citizenship. The Commission is identifying the legal acts that will have to be adapted in the context of Brexit by "preparedness acts" that will fill legislative gaps and "contingency measures to remedy negative impacts in the cliff-edge situation", which would take effect in the event of a no-deal scenario. In December the EU adopted 14 [preparedness acts](#) to address a possible no-deal Brexit.

UK preparations for no deal

Chequers statement

The UK Government has insisted that preparations for no deal are part of its overall Brexit preparation strategy. The Prime Minister's [Statement](#) on the Cabinet away day at Chequers in July 2018 included a pledge to step up preparedness for all possible outcomes to the negotiations, including no deal, and the Prime Minister assured Parliament that it was preparing for 'no deal' as well as for other scenarios.

European Union (Withdrawal) Act

Secondary legislation is being laid under the [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](#) that will preserve EU law in domestic law or convert it into UK law on exit day. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, most EU law will still apply in the UK as domestic law ('retained EU law' or EU-based UK law). But there will be no reciprocity with EU Member States. The Commons European Statutory Instruments

³ [Article 216 TFEU](#) provides a legal basis for the EU to conclude agreements with third countries.

Committee and the Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee sift proposed negative instruments and may recommend that a proposed negative should be upgraded to the affirmative procedure.

Government guidance on preparing for no deal

The Government believes a no-deal scenario could be managed in an “orderly” fashion (although this view is not necessarily shared by other stakeholders). On 23 August 2018 the Department for Exiting the EU published 25 ‘technical notices’, the first of several subsequent sets of [guidance](#) on how to prepare for Brexit if there is no deal. After the postponement of the ‘meaningful vote’ on the negotiated withdrawal agreement, the Government said on 18 December that it would implement plans for a no-deal Brexit in full and tell businesses and citizens to prepare for the risk of leaving the EU without an agreement.

No deal in practice

What would ‘no deal’ look like in practice? ‘No deal’ would mean no transition (implementation) period and no framework for future relations – let alone a full future relations agreement. The impact is still unknown overall, but in some areas it is easier to estimate the practical consequences and costs than in others.

The economy

It is difficult to pinpoint the economic impact of ‘no deal’ with certainty. Many economists expect the pound to fall in value in the event of ‘no deal’. This would mean the price of imports would rise, pushing up inflation. However, UK exports would become cheaper internationally, potentially mitigating some of the disruptive effects on trading with the EU. There might also be an opportunity for improved UK growth prospects from trade deals with other non-EU countries.

But most economic modelling in this area shows that the potential benefits of leaving the EU with no deal over the longer term do not make up for the higher trade barriers with the EU, given its importance to the UK.

Trade and customs

With no withdrawal agreement or framework for future relations, trade between the two economies would be conducted under the terms of the World Trade Organisation. Tariffs on UK exports to the EU and vice versa are expected (assuming the UK would not change its Most Favoured Nation tariffs under WTO rules). [Tariffs would be low, averaging around 3%, but for some goods they would be higher.](#) Potentially more disruptive would be non-tariff barriers, where additional paperwork, customs checks, technical requirements and regulatory standards could slow things down.

At the moment of leaving the EU customs union without a deal, the border between the UK and the EU would become a customs border. This is likely to mean more customs controls and probably increased costs and delays for business. It has been estimated, for example, that

delays caused by customs checks of trucks from the EU could cause a 17-mile queue at the port of Dover.

A hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland

The EU and the UK Government share a commitment to avoiding a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, but they have yet to work out how best to avoid checks and physical infrastructure at the border. Technology, ongoing regulatory alignment and a customs agreement have all been suggested as possible solutions. The WA contains the 'backstop' arrangement, whereby if there is no workable solution to the hard border situation, Northern Ireland would stay in the customs union and much of the Single Market on a temporary basis, pending a suitable long-term solution.

Another proposed solution to avoid disruption at the border is for the UK to waive checks and tariffs on EU goods as they entered Northern Ireland. However, many trade experts say this would trigger the Most Favoured Nation principle that applies to all WTO agreements, which would require the UK to waive its tariffs and checks on goods coming in from all other countries. The EU has said EU States would impose checks on goods entering Ireland regardless. This would cause delays and probably reduce trade, particularly in agri-foods, which make up a large proportion of cross-border trade.

There are concerns, shared by the UK Government, that if there is infrastructure on the border to enable checks on goods, it would become a target for dissident republicans. However, some commentators believe that border checks would not inspire a new wave of dissident activity, and that any infrastructure and checks can be done away from the border, which would lessen their impact. The majority of people in Northern Ireland are opposed to any form of North-South border checks.

Free movement

Free movement of people rights, whereby any EU national can work in, live in or provide services in any EU Member State providing they meet certain conditions, is a key citizens' right that will be affected by a no-deal Brexit.

The Government intends to implement a 'settled status' regime for EU nationals in the UK, whether there is a withdrawal agreement or not and has said the EU Settlement Scheme will open fully by 30 March 2019. EU citizens with 'settled status' or 'pre-settled status' to stay in the UK will be able to access healthcare, pensions and other benefits and services in the UK. For UK nationals in the EU it is unclear whether they could continue to access UK social security benefits and healthcare in the EU27 Member State they reside in at the time. The existing reciprocal healthcare arrangements for UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK would probably end. In this area much would depend on any negotiated arrangements between the UK and the EU and between the UK and individual EU27 States. The Government published its immigration White Paper, [The UK's future skills-based immigration system](#), on 19 December.

Food supply

Half of the UK's food and drink supply comes from within the UK, with 30% from the EU and 20% from the rest of the world. Potential disruption to food supplies immediately after a no-deal Brexit has been given regular media coverage. Former Exiting the EU Secretary Dominic Raab told the Exiting the EU Committee that the Government would "look at this issue in the round and make sure that there is adequate food supply...". The retail sector is concerned about the practicalities of stockpiling food. The chief executive of the food and drink federation [told](#) MPs on the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee that warehouses around the UK for frozen and chilled food were "for all practical purposes booked out at the moment".

Agriculture and fisheries

Trading arrangements - tariffs and standards – would be the main issue. With no alternative arrangement, the UK as a third country would be subject to tariffs, checks, registrations, certifications etc for commodities, food and feed, plant and animal-based products. Agriculture could also be impacted by the 'no deal' effects of other policies such as immigration (for seasonal, agri-food workers and vets).

Brexit means the UK will become an independent coastal state with responsibility for managing fisheries in the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 miles. It will not be bound by the Common Fisheries Policy and could deny access to EU Member States' vessels (and vice versa). But under international law States are required to minimise economic dislocation to other States whose nationals have habitually fished in a zone.

Energy

The UK and EU energy sectors are integrated through trade, legislation and inter-connection of energy supply, although EU Member States are ultimately responsible for their domestic energy supply to citizens. Aspects of the UK energy sector, such as Euratom and the Internal Energy Market (IEM), will probably be affected similarly by a deal or no-deal Brexit. The UK will leave Euratom when it leaves the EU; the Government is open to leaving the IEM and has begun preparations for leaving, but the future relations White Paper suggested a preference for future energy integration. 'No deal' could mean a less integrated relationship than the UK would like and not enough time to prepare for alternatives.

Internal security

The UK currently participates in around 40 EU measures that support and enhance internal security and police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. According to police organisations, leaving the EU without a deal could result in a loss of operational capacity and strategic influence and an increased demand on resources because of the need to compensate for these losses. They say this could have a significant impact on public safety. Both the UK and the EU have emphasised the importance of maintaining cooperation in the field of security, law

enforcement and criminal justice, but the Home Secretary has [said](#) that security should not be linked to the other aspects of the negotiations, and that the UK's proposals are unconditional.

Transport

For the International Air Transport Association (IATA), [the aviation deadline is earlier](#) than the Brexit deadline of 29 March 2019. But would planes actually stop flying between the UK and the EU27 in the event of no deal? The Government [believes](#) it might be possible to agree a 'bare bones' aviation agreement in the event of a no-deal scenario.

Research and higher education

The UK currently does disproportionately well in securing EU research funding and UK Universities are the top performers in receiving EU funds based on scientific excellence. The higher education sector and research bodies are concerned about the impact of a no-deal Brexit on access to EU research funding and collaboration in EU projects, recruitment and retention of EU staff, access to the Erasmus+ programme and the possible consequences for EU students coming to study in the UK.

For further detail on the potential consequences of the UK leaving the EU without an agreement, see House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8397, [What if there's no Brexit deal?](#) (updated 28 December 2018).

1.2 A further UK referendum?⁴

The Government has repeatedly ruled out holding a second Brexit referendum. For example, in July 2018, a Downing Street spokesman said, "The British public have voted to leave the EU. There is not going to be a second referendum in any circumstances".⁵ The Prime Minister reiterated this stance during a summit in Oslo in October 2018, saying "There will be no second referendum on Brexit".⁶ A further referendum would most likely require several months of preparation following an initial decision by Parliament to hold one. This would therefore require an extension of Article 50, which would need to be approved unanimously by the other EU 27 Member States.

Referendum legislation

The general regulatory framework for national or regional referendums is set out in the *Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000* (PPERA), as amended. This regulates general aspects such as financial regulation of the campaign, designation of lead campaigns and the statutory responsibilities of the Electoral Commission. However, a

⁴ See House of Commons Library insight, [A second Brexit referendum? The rules explained](#), 19 December 2018

⁵ *Financial Times*, Theresa May rules out second Brexit referendum, 16 July 2018

⁶ *Independent*, [Brexit, Theresa May rules out holding another referendum despite mass Final Say protest](#), 20 October 2018,

national referendum still requires separate legislation to allow for the specific poll to be held.

A Bill must be passed by Parliament and would need to include important provisions such as the franchise to be used, the question to asked in the referendum and the date of the poll.

Detailed legislation to allow for the conduct of the poll is also required. For the 2016 referendum the conduct rules were set out in a detailed statutory instrument made under powers granted in the enabling Act. This Order was made four months before the referendum.⁷ For the 2011 referendum on the voting system to be used for UK Parliamentary elections, the detailed rules were contained in a schedule to the main Act, passed three months before the poll.⁸

How quickly could a Bill be passed?

The Standing Orders of the House of Commons do not prescribe the timings of parliamentary stages of a bill and the length of time for a bill to pass through both Houses of Parliament and gain Royal Assent varies considerably.

How quickly a Government Bill proceeds through Parliament will partly depend on the length and complexity of the Bill, how many amendments are tabled, and whether the Bill has broad cross-party support or whether it is controversial.

The timings could also be affected if the Bill seeks to change the regulatory framework for referendums. There have been several reports and recommendations on improving the regulation of referendums recently. These include the report of the Independent Commission on Referendums,⁹ and reports from the Information Commissioner on personal data and campaigning.¹⁰ Trying to incorporate regulatory modifications in the Bill could make the Bill more complex and add to the time taken to scrutinise it.

Bills can be programmed in the House of Commons; the Government can control the timetable of proceedings on Bills, but this requires a programme motion to be passed by the House.

There are no equivalent programming provisions in the House of Lords and a controversial Bill could take considerably longer there. For example, the *Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011* had seventeen sessions in committee, three sessions on report in the Lords and four sessions of 'ping pong' between the Houses before being passed.

The UCL Constitution Unit issued a report in October 2018 which assessed the possible timescale between a decision to hold a second

⁷ [European Union Referendum \(Conduct\) Regulations 2016](#)

⁸ [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011](#)

⁹ [Report of the Independent Commission on Referendums](#), July 2018

¹⁰ ICO, [Democracy disrupted? Personal information and political influence](#), July 2018 and [Investigation into the use of data analytics in political campaigns](#), November 2018

referendum on Brexit and polling day.¹¹ The report concluded that if the political will existed within Parliament, then a Bill could be passed in about 11 weeks. The report also noted that there could be dangers for a Bill being rushed through Parliament:

If the referendum result is to be seen as legitimate, and to command widespread public acceptance, it could be damaging for an impression to be created that the bill had been rushed through too quickly.¹²

Question testing

The Electoral Commission has a statutory duty, under provisions in PPERA, to assess any question to be put in a referendum. The way the Commission assesses a question is not set out in legislation and it can consider the wording "in such a manner as they may determine".¹³

The Commission tests intelligibility by using focus groups and similar techniques to ensure the electorate understands the question. Its guidance states:

A referendum question should present the options clearly, simply and neutrally. So, it should:

- be easy to understand
- be to the point
- be unambiguous
- avoid encouraging voters to consider one response more favourably than another
- avoid misleading voters.¹⁴

During the passage of the *European Union Referendum Act 2015*, (the Act that enabled the 2016 referendum to take place), the question was altered on the recommendation of the Electoral Commission.

The question that had originally been included in the Bill was tested with members of the public and the Electoral Commission also sought views from other individuals and groups to make sure the question was "clear, unambiguous and to the point".¹⁵ The Commission's research showed that "some campaigners and members of the public felt the wording is not balanced and there was a perception of bias".

The Electoral Commission's recommended question was inserted to the Bill at report stage in the Commons by a Government amendment and the amendment was agreed without division.¹⁶

There have been suggestions that a second Brexit referendum question might be a multi-option or two-stage question rather than a binary

¹¹ UCL Constitution Unit, [The Mechanics of a Further Referendum on Brexit](#), October 2018

¹² Ibid, p12

¹³ Section 104 of the *Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 20*, as amended

¹⁴ Electoral Commission, [Referendum question assessment guidelines](#), November 2009

¹⁵ Electoral Commission press release, [Electoral Commission recommends change to EU Referendum question](#), 1 September 2015

¹⁶ [HC Deb 7 September 2015 c171](#)

'yes'/'no' question. The UCL report highlights that there is currently no consensus about what a second Brexit referendum question might be. The report also points out that question testing usually takes about 12 weeks and that truncating the assessment of whatever question might be included in a Bill runs similar risks to rushing through referendum legislation:

In the current polarised political environment over Brexit it is of utmost importance that that the result of any referendum should be perceived as legitimate. Integral to this is public confidence in the neutrality and intelligibility of the question. Curtailing or abandoning the normal process could jeopardise this, and risk accusations that the question was misleading or biased. Furthermore...there is a possibility that the referendum question could take a form not previously used in the UK – with the likeliest innovation being a three-option question. This would necessitate particularly careful testing. Therefore, it is likely that something similar to the usual process, albeit perhaps on a somewhat condensed timetable, will be necessary.¹⁷

The final decision on the contents of a Bill, including the question to be asked in the referendum, remains with Parliament.

Statutory pre-referendum period

There is a minimum campaign period for referendums held under the framework set out in PPERA. This must be 10 weeks and comprises three stages. The first four weeks is the four-week period for registered campaigners to apply to be the lead campaign groups. The next two weeks are the period in which the Commission assesses applications to be lead campaign groups for each possible outcome and designates those groups. In the final four weeks the designated lead campaigns can utilise the benefits of designation – which include a grant of up to £600,000 and higher spending limits than other registered campaigners.

Changes to the statutory period could be made by the legislation allowing for a referendum but any changes would be open to debate and amendment during the passage of a referendum Bill.

On designation of lead campaign groups, the UCL Constitution Unit report commented:

If there is more than one suitable applicant to be lead campaigner for one outcome, it would be difficult for the Electoral Commission to designate in less than two weeks. This choice is unavoidably controversial, and subject to potential judicial review. It must be made in a demonstrably fair and rigorous manner.¹⁸

This pre-referendum period cannot start until all other aspects of the referendum are known and the detailed conduct rules for a referendum have been put in place.

¹⁷ UCL Constitution Unit, *The Mechanics of a Further Referendum on Brexit*, October 2018, p12-3

¹⁸ Ibid, p13

Extension of Article 50

If an extension were to be requested pending the staging of another referendum, this could require an extension until May or June 2019. The [Constitution Unit](#) report outlined a possible timetable for another referendum, estimating that it would take at least 22 weeks to hold a referendum, following Parliament's initial decision. This is required for passing legislation, question testing by the Electoral Commission, and preparing and holding the campaign. An extra six weeks might be needed if a three-option question were used (i.e. the government's deal vs no deal vs remaining in the EU). If Parliament took a decision in late January to hold another referendum, according to this timetable polling day could occur at the earliest in late June for a two-option question ('deal' versus 'remain') or early August for a three-option vote. Additional time would then be needed if a renegotiation was needed under Article 50.

One complication of extending Article 50 is that European Parliament elections are due to take place on 23-26 May 2019 and current plans are based on the UK not taking part. According to [Jean-Claude Piris](#), former head of the legal service of the Council of the EU, if Article 50 was extended until the end of June 2019, then there would be no need for European Parliament elections to take place in the UK. However, if Article 50 is extended beyond this point, then the UK would need to participate in the elections (the new Parliament sits for the first time on 6 July). This could result in MEPs being elected from the UK for a short period of time before the UK then leaves the EU.

The EU has adopted [legislation](#) reallocating some of the UK's seats in the European Parliament to other Member States. However, the legislation includes a clause stating that the new distribution will only come into effect if the UK has left the EU by the time the new Parliamentary term starts. There could also be a [derogation](#) excluding the UK from the election if there was certainty that the UK would be leaving shortly after.

Following the election of the new European Parliament there will then follow a process to appoint a new President of the European Commission and other Commissioners. The new Commission will not take office until the beginning of November. This could delay things further if Article 50 negotiations go beyond June.

There were [reports](#) in early January 2019 that UK and EU officials were discussing the possibility of extending Article 50, although this appeared to be in order to give the UK Government more time to get the WA approved by Parliament and prevent the UK leaving the EU with no deal.

There has also been [speculation](#) that EU leaders would be prepared to extend Article 50 in order to re-open talks if there was a major shift in the UK position (for example in favour of a [Norway-style](#) option).

Would new legislation be required to extend Article 50?

[Section 20 of the European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](#) provides that Brexit will take place at 11.00pm on 29 March 2019. However, a Minister may by regulations amend the definition of “exit day” “to ensure that the day and time specified in the definition are the day and time that the Treaties are to cease to apply to the United Kingdom”. This means that a change in the day of exit from the EU could be made through regulations on the basis of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, but this would have to reflect a Treaty change, i.e. an agreement reached by the UK and EU to extend Article 50.

1.3 Stopping Brexit by Revoking Article 50

Article 50 is silent on what happens if a Member State changes its mind and decides it wants to withdraw its notification to leave the EU. There was considerable legal and academic debate on whether the UK would be able to revoke Article 50 without the agreement of the EU, but this was resolved by a ruling of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) on 10 December 2018.

This came following a request for a ruling from the Court of Session in Edinburgh after a case bring a ruling was brought by a cross-party group of politicians. The CJEU ruled that a Member State that had issued a notification to leave the EU under Article 50 can revoke the notification unilaterally as long as a withdrawal agreement has not come into force, and the two year period (or any extended period) following the Article 50 notification has not expired. The judgment was summarised in the CJEU’s Press Release as follows:

When a Member State has notified the European Council to withdraw from the European Union, as the UK has done, that Member State is free to revoke unilaterally that notification.

That possibility exists for as long as a withdrawal agreement concluded between the EU and that Member State has not entered into force or, if no such agreement has been concluded, for as long as the two-year period from the date of the notification of the intention to withdraw from the EU, and possibly any extension, has not expired.

The revocation must be decided following a democratic process in accordance with national constitutional requirements. This unequivocal and unconditional decision must be communicated in writing to the European Council.

Such a revocation confirms the EU membership of the Member State concerned under terms that are unchanged as regards its status as a Member State and brings the withdrawal procedure to an end.

The ruling also refers to an “unequivocal and unconditional” decision made by the Member State. This means that the goal of revocation must be to actually stay in the EU, not to alter the shape of negotiations. Hence, Article 50 cannot be revoked simply to buy time or to continue negotiations on a new membership arrangement, with the

possibility of issuing another notification to leave in the near future if the Member State doesn't get what it wants.¹⁹

Irrespective of the requirement outlined in the CJEU ruling to make a decision on revocation following a democratic process in accordance with national constitutional requirements, a decision to revoke Article 50 would most likely require an Act of Parliament to repeal the *EU (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017* which expressed Parliament's intention that a notification should be given.²⁰

¹⁹ For further analysis see House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8461 [Brexit: Article 50 TEU at the CJEU](#), 10 December 2018.

²⁰ Robert Craig, [Why an Act of Parliament Would Be Required to Revoke Notification under Article 50](#), U.K. Const. L. Blog, 16 October 2017

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU 15

2. E-petitions

[E-petition 229963 - Leave the EU without a deal in March 2019](#)

[E-petition 221747 - Leave the EU now](#)

[E-petition 235185 - Walk away now! We voted for a No Deal Brexit](#)

[E-petition 232984 - Grant a People's Vote if Parliament rejects the EU Withdrawal Agreement](#)

[E-petition 241361 - To have a second referendum on Britain leaving the EU](#)

[E-petition 226509 - STOP BREXIT](#)

[E-petition 236261- Stop Brexit if parliament rejects the deal](#)

3. Press articles

The following is a selection of news and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or the accuracy of external content.

[Jeremy Corbyn to repeat general election demand to break Brexit 'deadlock'](#)

Sky News
Greg Heffer
10 January 2019

[Brexit: May loses grip on deal after fresh Commons humiliation](#)

Guardian
Heather Stewart and Peter Walker
10 January 2019

[Labour will put forward no-confidence motion if May loses Brexit vote](#)

Politico
Zoya Sheftalovich
9 January 2019

[British parliament cannot stop Brexit: junior minister](#)

Reuters
Kate Holton and Kylie MacLellan
9 January 2019

[No-deal Brexit: Can Parliament stop it?](#)

BBC News
Chris Morris
8 January 2019

[Far from stopping a no deal Brexit, Remainers have set it up to be much more chaotic](#)

Daily Telegraph
8 January 2019

[World Bank warns of wider no-deal Brexit fallout](#)

Guardian
Phillip Inman
8 January 2019

[Brexit: 20 Tory rebels inflict no-deal defeat on government](#)

BBC News
8 January 2019

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[Sturgeon will demand a veto for Scotland in second referendum](#)
[the Times](#)

Mark McLaughlin
8 January 2019

[Theresa May urges MPs to back Brexit deal in new year message](#)
[Guardian](#)

Peter Walker
31 December 2018

[Brexit: Second referendum now most likely scenario, according to bookmaker](#)

Independent
Adam Forrest
16 December

[Theresa May fights to save Brexit deal as MPs plot leadership challenge](#)

Financial Times
Jim Pickard, Laura Hughes and Michael Peel
15 November 2018

[Final Say: Theresa May admits Brexit can be stopped by new referendum as cabinet back draft deal](#)

Independent
Joe Watts
15 November 2018

[‘If you don’t back May, Brexit might never happen,’ Hague warns](#)
[Cabinet](#)

Politico
Eddy Wax
14 November 2018

[EU says it ‘will retain all control’ under Theresa May’s agreement, leaked note shows](#)

Independent
Jon Stone
14 November 2018

[Reality Check: When is Brexit crunch time?](#)

BBC News
13 November 2018

[Brussels prepares to adopt delayed no deal Brexit contingency plan](#)

Financial Times
Mehreen Khan
13 November 2018

[May races to revive Brexit plan as pressure mounts](#)

Financial Times
Jim Pickard
12 November 2018

[Labour's Keir Starmer says Brexit can be stopped](#)

Guardian
Pippa Crerar and Peter Walker
12 November 2018

[Brexit: Cabinet ministers 'voiced doubts over PM's plan at start'](#)

BBC News
12 November 2018

[Brexit: New referendum still an option, says Emily Thornberry](#)

BBC News
11 November 2018

[Businesses call for state bailouts if UK crashes out of EU](#)

Politico
Charlie Cooper
11 November 2018

[Jo Johnson: it would be travesty not to have second Brexit vote](#)

Guardian
Damien Gayle
10 November 2018

[Reality Check: What are EU countries doing to prepare for a no-deal Brexit?](#)

BBC News
06 November 2018

[City of London concerns grow about a bad Brexit deal](#)

Financial Times
Patrick Jenkins
06 November 2018

[Michel Barnier: UK could reapply for EU membership once it is 'a third country'](#)

Politico
Eddy Wax
06 November 2018

[UK poll predicts 8-point victory for Remain in second Brexit vote](#)

Politico
Eline Schaart
05 November 2018

[UK to lose dozens of trade deals in event of 'no-deal' Brexit](#)

Politico
Tom McTague
12 October 2018

[Brexit: May humiliated by Salzburg ambush as she fights to save Chequers](#)

Guardian
Dan Sabbagh, Daniel Boffey and Pippa Crerar
21 September 2018

4. Press releases

[PM statement on European Council](#)

**Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street
17 December 2018**

Mr Speaker, with permission, I would like to make a Statement on last week's European Council.

Before turning to Brexit, let me touch on two significant conclusions from the other business of the Council.

First, we expressed our utmost concern over the escalation we have seen at the Kerch Straits and the Sea of Azov and Russia's continued violations of international law.

We agreed to roll-over economic sanctions against Russia and we stand ready to further strengthen our support, in particular, for the affected areas of Ukraine.

And second, we also agreed to work together on tackling the spread of deliberate, large-scale and systematic disinformation, including as part of hybrid warfare. On this I outlined some of the world-leading work that the UK is doing in this field.

And I was clear that after we have left the European Union, the UK will continue to work closely with our European partners to uphold the international rules based system and to keep all our people safe.

And that is why it is right that our Brexit deal includes the deepest security partnership that has ever been agreed with the EU.

Mr Speaker, at this Council I faithfully and firmly reflected the concerns of this House over the Northern Ireland backstop.

I explained the assurances we had already agreed with the EU were insufficient for this House - and that we had to go further in showing that we never want to use this backstop and, if it is used, it must be a temporary arrangement.

Some of the resulting exchanges at this Council were robust.

But I make no apology for standing up for the interests of this House and the interests of our whole United Kingdom.

In response, the EU 27 published a series of conclusions.

They made clear that it is their – and I quote – “firm determination to work speedily on a subsequent agreement that establishes by 31st December 2020 alternative arrangements, so that the backstop will not need to be triggered.”

The House will forgive me, but I think this bears repeating: “the backstop will not need to be triggered.”

They underlined that “if the backstop were nevertheless to be triggered, it would apply temporarily.”

They said that in this event the EU “would use its best endeavours to negotiate and conclude expeditiously a subsequent agreement that would replace the backstop.”

And they gave a new assurance in relation to the Future Partnership with the UK, to make it even less likely that the backstop would ever be needed by stating that the EU “stands ready to embark on preparations immediately after signature of the Withdrawal Agreement to ensure that negotiations can start as soon as possible after the UK’s withdrawal.”

Mr Speaker, in these conclusions, in their statements at the Council and in their private meetings with me, my fellow EU leaders could not have been clearer – they do not want to use this backstop. They want to agree the best possible future relationship with us. There is no plot to keep us in the backstop.

Indeed, President Macron said on Friday - “we can clarify and reassure...the backstop is not our objective, it is not a durable solution and nobody is trying to lock the UK into the backstop.”

As formal conclusions from a European Council, these commitments have legal status and should be welcomed. They go further than the EU has ever done previously in trying to address the concerns of this House.

And of course they sit on top of the commitments that we have already negotiated in relation to the backstop: including...

...ensuring the customs element is UK-wide;

...that both sides are legally committed to using best endeavours to have our new relationship in place before the end of the Implementation Period;

...that if the new relationship isn’t ready we can choose to extend the Implementation Period instead of the backstop coming into force;

...that if the backstop does come in, we can use alternative arrangements, not just the future relationship, to get out of it;

...that the treaty is clear the backstop can only ever be temporary;

...and that there is an explicit termination clause.

But Mr Speaker, I know this House is still deeply uncomfortable about the backstop.

And I understand that. And I want us to go further still in the reassurances we secure.

Discussions with my EU partners - including Presidents Tusk, Juncker and others - have shown that further clarification following the Council’s conclusions is in fact possible.

So discussions are continuing to explore further political and legal assurances.

We are also looking closely at new ways of empowering the House of Commons to ensure that any provision for a backstop has democratic

legitimacy and to enable the House to place its own obligations on the government to ensure that the backstop cannot be in place indefinitely.

But it is now only just over 14 weeks until the UK leaves the EU. And I know many Members of this House are concerned that we need to take a decision soon.

My Rt Hon Friend, the Leader of the House, will set out business on Thursday in the usual way.

But I can confirm today that we intend to return to the Meaningful Vote debate in the week commencing 7th January and hold the vote the following week.

Mr Speaker, when we have the vote, Members will need to reflect carefully on what is in the best interests of our country.

I know that there are a range of very strongly held personal views on this issue across the House. And I respect all of them.

But expressing our personal views is not what we are here to do.

We asked the British people to take this decision.

472 current Members of this House voted for the Referendum in June 2015, with just 32 voting against.

And the British people responded by instructing us to leave the European Union.

Similarly 438 current Members of this House voted to trigger Article 50, to set the process of our departure in motion, with only 85 of today's Members voting against.

Now we must honour our duty to finish the job.

I know this is not everyone's perfect deal. It is a compromise.

But if we let the perfect be the enemy of the good then we risk leaving the EU with no deal.

Of course we have prepared for no deal, and tomorrow the Cabinet will be discussing the next phase in ensuring we are ready for that scenario.

But let us not risk the jobs, services and security of the people we serve by turning our backs on an agreement with our neighbours that honours the referendum and provides for a smooth and orderly exit.

Avoiding no deal is only possible if we can reach an agreement or if we abandon Brexit entirely.

And as I said in the debate earlier this month – "do not imagine that if we vote this down, a different deal is going to miraculously appear."

If you want proof, look at the Conclusions of this Council.

As President Juncker said: "it is the best deal possible and the only deal possible"

And any proposal for the future relationship - whether Norway, Canada, or any other variety that has been mentioned - would require agreeing this Withdrawal Agreement.

The Leader of the Opposition - as well as some others - are trying to pretend they could do otherwise.

This is a fiction.

Finally let us not break faith with the British people by trying to stage another referendum.

Another vote which would do irreparable damage to the integrity of our politics, because it would say to millions who trusted in democracy, that our democracy does not deliver.

Another vote which would likely leave us no further forward than the last.

And another vote which would further divide our country at the very moment we should be working to unite it.

And let us not follow the Leader of the Opposition in thinking about what gives him the best chance of forcing a General Election.

For at this critical moment in our history, we should be thinking not about our party's interests, but about the national interest.

Let us find a way to come together and work together in the national interest to see this Brexit through.

Mr Speaker, I will work tirelessly over these new few weeks to fulfil my responsibility as Prime Minister to find a way forwards.

Over the last two weeks, I have met quite a number of colleagues and I am happy to continue to do so on this important issue so that we can fulfil our responsibilities to the British people.

So together, we can take back control of our borders, laws and money; while protecting the jobs, the security and the integrity of our precious United Kingdom.

So together we can move on to finalising the future relationship with the European Union and the trade deals with the rest of the world that can fuel our prosperity for years to come.

And so together we can get this Brexit done and shift the national focus to our domestic priorities - investing in our NHS, our schools and housing; tackling the injustices that so many still face; and building a country that truly works for everyone.

For these are the ways in which, together, this House will best serve the interests of the British people.

And I commend this Statement to the House.

[PM statement on Brexit negotiations: 15 November 2018](#)

Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street

15 November 2018

With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to update the House on our negotiations to leave the European Union.

First, I want to pay tribute to my Rt Hon Friends the Members for Esher and Walton and Tatton.

Delivering Brexit involves difficult choices for all of us.

We do not agree on all of those choices but I respect their views and thank them sincerely for all that they have done.

Mr Speaker, yesterday we agreed the provisional terms of our exit from the European Union, set out in the Draft Withdrawal Agreement.

We also agreed the broad terms of our future relationship, in an Outline Political Declaration.

President Juncker has now written to the President of the European Council to recommend that “decisive progress has been made in the negotiations.”

And a special European Council will be called for Sunday 25th November.

This puts us close to a Brexit deal.

Mr Speaker, what we agreed yesterday was not the final deal.

It is a draft treaty that means we will leave the EU in a smooth and orderly way on 29 March 2019 and which sets the framework for a future relationship that delivers in our national interest.

It takes back control of our borders, laws and money.

It protects jobs, security and the integrity of the United Kingdom.

And it delivers in ways that many said could simply not be done.

We were told that we had a binary choice between the model of Norway or the model of Canada. That we could not have a bespoke deal.

But the Outline Political Declaration sets out an arrangement that is better for our country than both of these - a more ambitious free trade agreement than the EU has with any other country.

And we were told we would be treated like any other third country on security co-operation.

But the Outline Political Declaration sets out a breadth and depth of co-operation beyond anything the EU has agreed with any other country.

So let me take the House through the details.

First, on the Withdrawal Agreement, the full legal text has now been agreed in principle.

It sets out the terms on which the UK will leave the EU in 134 days’ time on 29th March 2019.

We have secured the rights of the more than three million EU citizens living in the UK, and around one million UK nationals living in the EU.

We have agreed a time-limited implementation period that ensures businesses only have to plan for one set of changes.

We have agreed Protocols to ensure Gibraltar and the Sovereign Base Areas are covered by the Withdrawal Agreement.

And we have agreed a fair financial settlement - far lower than the figures many mentioned at the start of this process.

Mr Speaker, since the start of this process I have been committed to ensuring that our exit from the EU deals with the issue of the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

I believe this issue can best be solved through our future relationship with the EU. But the withdrawal agreement sets out an insurance policy should that new relationship not be ready in time at the end of the implementation period.

I do not pretend that this has been a comfortable process – or that either we or the EU are entirely happy with all of the arrangements that have been included within it.

Of course this is the case – this is an arrangement that we have both said we never want to have to use.

But while some people might pretend otherwise, there is no deal which delivers the Brexit the British people voted for which does not involve this insurance policy.

Not Canada ++++. Not Norway for Now. Not our own White Paper.

The EU will not negotiate any future partnership without it.

As the House knows, the original proposal from the EU was not acceptable as it would have meant creating a customs border down the Irish Sea and breaking up the integrity of our United Kingdom.

So last month, I set out for the House the four steps we needed to take.

This is what we have now done and it has seen the EU make a number of concessions towards our position.

First, the EU proposal for a Northern-Ireland only customs solution has been dropped and replaced by a new UK-wide temporary customs arrangement that protects the integrity of our precious Union.

Second, we have created an option for a single time-limited extension of the Implementation Period as an alternative to bringing in the backstop.

As I have said many times, I do not want to extend the Implementation Period and I do not believe we will need to do so. This is about an insurance policy.

But if it happens that at the end of 2020 our future relationship is not quite ready - the UK will be able to make a choice between the UK-wide temporary customs arrangement or a short extension of the Implementation Period.

Third, the Withdrawal Agreement commits both parties to use best endeavours to ensure this insurance policy is never used.

And in the unlikely event that it is needed, if we choose the backstop, the Withdrawal Agreement is explicit that it is temporary and that the Article 50 legal base cannot provide for a permanent relationship. And there is also a mechanism by which the backstop can be terminated.

Finally, we have ensured full continued access for Northern Ireland's businesses to the whole of the UK internal market.

Mr Speaker, the Brexit talks are about acting in the national interest - and that means making what I believe to be the right choices, not the easy ones.

I know there are some who have said I should simply rip-up the UK's commitment to a backstop.

But this would have been an entirely irresponsible course of action.

It would have meant renegeing on a promise made to the people of Northern Ireland during the Referendum campaign and afterwards that under no circumstances would Brexit lead to a return to the borders of the past.

And it would have made it impossible to deliver a Withdrawal Agreement.

As Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, I have a responsibility to people in every part of our country and I intend to honour that promise.

Mr Speaker, by resolving this issue, we are now able to move on to finalising the details of an ambitious future partnership.

The Outline Political Declaration we have agreed sets out the basis for these negotiations and we will negotiate intensively ahead of the European Council to turn this into a full future framework.

The Declaration will end free movement once and for all.

Instead we will have our own new, skills-based, immigration system - based not on the country people come from, but on what they can contribute to the UK.

The Declaration agrees the creation of a free trade area for goods, with zero tariffs, no fees, charges or quantitative restrictions across all goods sectors.

No other major advanced economy has such an arrangement with the EU. And at the same time, we will also be free to strike new trade deals with other partners around the world.

We have also reached common ground on a close relationship on services and investment, including financial services which go well beyond WTO commitments.

The Declaration ensures we will be leaving the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.

So we will decide how best to sustain and support our farms and our environment, and the UK will become an independent coastal state once again.

We have also reached agreement on key elements of our future security partnership to keep our people safe.

This includes swift and effective extradition arrangements as well as arrangements for effective data exchange on Passenger Name Records, DNA, fingerprints and vehicle registration data.

And we have agreed a close and flexible partnership on foreign, security and defence policy.

Mr Speaker, when I first became Prime Minister in 2016 there was no ready-made blueprint for Brexit.

Many people said it could simply not be done.

I have never accepted that. I have been committed day and night to delivering on the result of the referendum and ensuring the UK leaves the EU absolutely and on time.

But I also said at the very start that withdrawing from EU membership after 40 years, and establishing a wholly new relationship that will endure for decades to come, would be complex and require hard work.

I know it's been a frustrating process – it has forced us to confront some very difficult issues.

But a good Brexit. A Brexit which is in the national interest is possible.

We have persevered and have made a decisive breakthrough.

Once a final deal is agreed, I will bring it to Parliament and I will ask MPs to consider the national interest and give it their backing.

Voting against a deal would take us all back to square one.

It would mean more uncertainty, more division, and a failure to deliver on the decision of the British people that we should leave the EU.

If we get behind a deal, we can bring our country back together and seize the opportunities that lie ahead.

Mr Speaker, the British people want us to get this done. And to get on with addressing the other issues they care about.

Creating more good jobs in every part of the UK and doing more to help families with the cost of living.

Helping our NHS to provide first class care and our schools to give every child a great start in life.

And focusing every ounce of our energy on building a brighter future for our country.

So Mr Speaker, the choice is clear.

We can choose to leave with no deal.

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU 27

We can risk no Brexit at all.

Or we can choose to unite and support the best deal that can be negotiated. This deal.

A deal that ends free movement...

...takes back control of our borders, laws and money...

...delivers a free trade area for goods with zero tariffs...

...leaves the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy...

...delivers an independent foreign and defence policy, while retaining the continued security co-operation to keep our people safe...

...maintains shared commitments to high standards...

...protects jobs...

...honours the integrity of our United Kingdom...

...and delivers the Brexit the British people voted for.

I choose to deliver for the British people.

I choose to do what is in our national interest.

And I commend this Statement to the House.

5. PQs

[Free Movement of People](#)

07 Jan 2019 | HL12188

Asked by: Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of ending freedom of movement on UK citizens after Brexit.

Answering member: Lord Callanan | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The Government has been clear that freedom of movement will end when the UK leaves the EU. In future, it will be for the UK Government and Parliament to determine the domestic immigration rules that will apply. The White Paper The UK's future skills-based immigration system sets out the foundation for a single immigration system, where it is workers' skills that matter, not where they come from. In line with the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation, we will focus on the highly skilled, and prioritise those migrants who bring most benefit to the UK to maximise the benefits of immigration. This represents a sensible, balanced package which will support the economy and enable us to take control of immigration. The Home Office is launching a year-long engagement process to enable businesses and other stakeholders to shape the details of policy and processes.

Recognising the depth of the UK-EU relationship, the UK has made a sovereign choice to seek reciprocal mobility arrangements with the EU in a defined number of areas, for example to allow business professionals to move to provide services, or tourists to continue to travel visa-free. This is reflected in the political declaration on our future relationship and the detail will be discussed in the next phase of negotiations. Our future immigration system will be flexible to incorporate any mobility arrangements from trade deals we do around the world, including with the EU.

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](#)

07 Jan 2019 | HL12393

Asked by: Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contingency arrangements they are putting in place to amend, repeal or revoke the European Union Withdrawal Act 2018 and delegated legislation made under that Act in the event that the UK does not leave the EU on 29 March 2019.

Answering member: Lord Callanan | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The Government is committed to leaving the European Union on the 29 March 2019, and delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the Government's top priority.

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU 29

Brexit

07 Jan 2019 | 203923

Asked by: Jo Stevens

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much has been allocated to the devolved administrations to help them prepare for the possibility that the UK does not agree a Withdrawal Agreement with the EU.

Answering member: Elizabeth Truss | Department: Treasury

The Government is making additional funding available so that departments and the devolved administrations can prepare effectively for EU Exit. More than £4.2 billion has been provided since 2016, including over £2 billion for core Brexit activity in 2019-20 for deal and no deal scenarios.

The 2019-20 allocations were announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on 18 December 2018. The devolved administrations received their full share of additional funding in devolved areas through the Barnett Formula, with the Scottish Government allocated £54.7m, the Welsh Government allocated £31.1m, and the Northern Ireland administration allocated £20.4m. The Police Service Northern Ireland has received a further £16.5m to reflect the specific and unique circumstances in Northern Ireland.

This follows 2018-19 Barnett-based allocations from a £1.5 billion fund, which provided the Scottish Government with £37.3m, the Welsh Government with £21.4m, and the Northern Ireland administration with £15.2m.

Drugs

07 Jan 2019 | 203449

Asked by: Luciana Berger

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will list the drugs his Department is stockpiling for the UK leaving the EU; and how much his Department has spent to date on stockpiling those drugs.

Answering member: Stephen Hammond | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

On 23 August 2018, the Department wrote to all pharmaceutical companies that supply prescription only medicines and pharmacy medicines to the UK that come from, or via, the European Union or European Economic Area asking them to ensure a minimum of 42 days additional supply in the United Kingdom, over and above existing business-as-usual buffer stocks, by 29 March 2019.

The Department does not hold information about the value of the medicines that will be stockpiled in either refrigerated or non-refrigerated storage. The medicines will remain the property of the suppliers who would hold that information. Since then we have received very good engagement from industry who share our aims of ensuring continuity of medicines supply for patients is maintained and able to cope with any potential delays at the border that may arise in the short term in the event of a 'no deal' EU exit.

In the light of this engagement the Department is currently considering how best it may support industry taking part in the contingency planning.

In October, a tender process to secure the provision of additional warehouse space for stockpiled medicines covering ambient, cold chain and controlled drug storage was undertaken. Contract agreements for the procurement of storage, including refrigerated storage have recently been signed. The sum total cost of additional warehouse is expected to cost the Government in the low tens of millions of pounds.

We have agreed funding on the condition that the additional medicine warehousing capacity is in place in time to accommodate stockpiled medicines by the beginning of February 2019. The storage space needs to be available for 12 months to allow for stock build and stock wind down.

To reassure participating companies, we have committed to treating all information received confidentially, securely and to using it only for the purposes of the Department's programme. That means not introducing information about a company or a specific medicine into the public domain.

Brexit

20 Dec 2018 | HL12298

Asked by: Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider the Draft Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, published on 14 November, to be binding on future UK governments.

Answering member: Lord Callanan | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

Both the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration have now been agreed and endorsed by leaders of the 27 Member States. The Prime Minister's agreement to the deal on behalf of the Government is a firm commitment, subject to ratification.

Once the vote on the final deal has taken place, the UK and the EU will then formally sign the Withdrawal Agreement which, after ratification on both sides, will enter into force as a legally binding international treaty. The UK has always been a country which honours its international obligations.

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU 31

Department for Transport: Brexit

20 Dec 2018 | 202873

Asked by: Stephen Gethins

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will make an estimate of the (a) cost to the public purse of and (b) money spent on the infrastructure required to prepare for the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Answering member: Chris Grayling | Department: Department for Transport

My Department spent a total of £6.6m between 2016/17 and 2017/18 preparing for all EU Exit scenarios. In this financial year we are forecasting to spend up to £75.8m for all scenarios.

EU External Trade: Trade Agreements

19 Dec 2018 | HL12205

Asked by: Lord Teverson

To ask Her Majesty's Government which nations that have trade agreements with the EU have (1) agreed, and (2) refused to allow the UK to continue to benefit from those agreements during the implementation period.

Answering member: Baroness Fairhead | Department: Department for International Trade

Discussions with all partner countries have demonstrated a commitment to finding a pragmatic way to ensure continuity of our existing international agreements.

Alongside the Withdrawal Agreement, the EU agreed to notify its treaty partners that the UK is to be treated as a Member State for the purposes of EU international agreements during the IP. This includes trade agreements.

A number (including Canada, Chile, Israel, Switzerland, and groupings such as the Southern African Customs Union and Eastern and Southern Africa EPA States) have already publicly welcomed this approach (Library deposit of 13 September DEP2018-0926 provides a list of countries). Others are, understandably, waiting for the notification to be issued before responding formally. We are working closely with our trading partners to ensure that there would be no disruption to trade as we move into the Implementation Period.

Notwithstanding our expectation that there will be an Implementation Period, the government will continue to do the responsible thing and prepare for all eventualities with partner countries, including a 'no deal' scenario.

[Food: Imports](#)

19 Dec 2018 | HL12094

Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of a reduction in ferry services between Dover and Calais on the import of perishable goods, including food supplies in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Answering member: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Extensive work to prepare for a 'no deal' scenario has been under way for almost two years and we are taking necessary steps to ensure trade flows continue to operate smoothly from the day we leave the EU. We want to see cross-Channel trade continue to move as freely as possible but it is right that as a responsible government we also work on a range of contingency plans to deal with any disruption.

Department for Transport is working closely with the Border Delivery Group to ensure a joint understanding of the possible impacts on ports and airports throughout the country of the UK's departure from the EU in a number of scenarios. This work is informing local resilience planning and involving national Government bodies where needed.

The Government has well established ways of working with the food industry to mitigate disruption, and we will be using these to support preparations for leaving the EU. Consumers will continue to have access to a range of different products.

[Brexit: Referendums](#)

13 Dec 2018 | HL11861

Asked by: Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support a second referendum on Brexit.

Answering member: Lord Callanan Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

After a period of sustained public debate, a clear majority of the electorate voted to leave the EU in June 2016 with the highest number of votes cast for anything in UK electoral history. We must respect both the will of the British people, and the democratic process which delivered this result. As such, it is a matter of Government policy that there will not be a second referendum on our exit from the EU.

[Transport: EU Countries](#)

12 Dec 2018 | 199394

Asked by: Catherine McKinnell

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to prepare the UK for leaving the EU without a deal in terms of (a) EU exit statutory instruments and (b) the continuity of goods and services through the Channel Tunnel.

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU 33

Answering member: Chris Grayling | Department: Department for Transport

The Department for Transport (DfT) began laying EU Exit statutory instruments (SIs) in July 2018, almost as soon as the EU (Withdrawal) Act received Royal Assent. DfT is ranked among the top three departments for delivery, having since laid in draft over 30 of our EU Exit SIs. Recognising that we have a significant number to lay, the Department continues to work at pace to ensure delivery, while adhering to the prescribed processes. The laying of the remaining SIs that we consider crucial to be in place for exit day will be spread between now and February.

In relation to services through the Channel Tunnel the Government continues to work closely with a range of partners, including the relevant governments and Eurotunnel, on contingency plans to ensure that trade can continue to move as freely as possible between the UK and Europe, including in the event of no deal.

Trade: Northern Ireland

12 Dec 2018 | 195488

Asked by: Gregory Campbell

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what recent steps he taken to advise cross-border traders in Northern Ireland on the arrangements they need to put in place after the UK leaves the EU.

Answering member: Robin Walker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The Government reached an agreement with the EU that guarantees no hard border on the island of Ireland. Under this Protocol Northern Ireland businesses will continue to be able to trade freely across the Irish border. The government will continue to engage with Northern Ireland businesses.

The British Irish Chamber of Commerce has come out in support of the Withdrawal Agreement, stating "It is clear that businesses recognise the huge efforts made by the Prime Minister and across government to reach this milestone – and it is NI Chamber's opinion that any deal is better than no deal for business".

Brexit

11 Dec 2018 | 196652

Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment he has made of the (a) legislative requirements and (b) timetable required to hold a second referendum on the UK leaving the EU.

Answering member: Chloe Smith | Department: Cabinet Office

An Act of Parliament is required before any UK-wide referendum can be held. It is for Parliament to debate and agree the terms under which any referendum would take place, including provisions for setting the date, franchise and the question that would appear on the ballot paper. Processes to hold any referendum must, in addition, incorporate adequate time to prepare for the poll and a minimum campaigning period. The Electoral Commission recommends that legislation relating to a poll should be clear at least six months before it is required to be implemented or complied with.

A majority of the electorate voted to leave the EU in June 2016. The British people made their choice and they want their Government to deliver on that choice. It is a matter of Government policy that there will not be a second referendum on our exit from the EU.

[Brexit](#)

10 Dec 2018 | 198170

Asked by: Jim Cunningham

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what contingency plans his Department has made in the event that the (a) EU withdrawal agreement and (b) Political Declaration are not approved by Parliament.

Answering member: Chris Heaton-Harris | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The government has successfully reached a deal with the EU and delivering the deal is its top priority.

The final deal that Parliament will be voting on means that we will leave the EU in a smooth and orderly way on 29 March 2019. It sets the framework for a future relationship that delivers in our national interest. It takes back control of our borders, laws and money, it protects jobs, security and the integrity of the United Kingdom, and it delivers in ways that many said could simply not be done.

Anything other than straightforward approval of the deal will bring with it huge uncertainty for business, consumers and citizens.

However, as a responsible government we have undertaken extensive work over the past two years to prepare for a potential no deal scenario.

We have published 106 technical notices to help businesses and citizens to prepare for March 2019 in the unlikely event that we leave the EU without a deal. In addition to these technical notices, we have already successfully passed critical legislation, signed international agreements, recruited additional staff and guaranteed certain EU funding in preparation for a no deal scenario.

[UK Trade with EU: Borders](#)

05 Nov 2018 | 185716

Asked by: Helen Hayes

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress his Department has made on developing the necessary (a) border infrastructure and (b) alternative customs systems needed in the case of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Answering member: Mel Stride | Department: Treasury

HMRC has well-developed plans to ensure that on day one of a no deal scenario there will be a functioning customs, VAT and excise system.

HMRC is already having extensive engagement with ports, airports and rail terminals on what would need to be in place at March 2019 and in the longer term. We are currently developing specific requirements around the physical infrastructure needed in each of the exit scenarios. In a no deal scenario, HMRC's plans will allow for the border to operate without new infrastructure on day 1, and it is not placing new requirements on ports and airports to have infrastructure in place by day 1.

[Ports](#)

01 Nov 2018 | 183208

Asked by: John Redwood

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he plans to publish the details of arrangements for clearing goods quickly through UK ports after 29 March 2019.

Answering member: Mel Stride | Department: Treasury

Government ministers and officials have been engaging extensively with key UK ports to discuss the challenges that the introduction of customs declarations would pose Roll-on Roll-off (RoRo) port environment as well as potential mitigations for Day 1 of a 'no deal'.

We have also begun communicating targeted technical delivery critical messages and actions to groups of impacted stakeholders and businesses, for example on RoRo, Excise and VAT software, through our technical notices. By the end of the year, HMRC will provide more information on what people can do should they wish to make preparations and when they should do this.

[Immigration Controls](#)

29 Oct 2018 | 907314

Asked by: Philip Hollobone

What plans his Department has to change passport control procedures at ports and airports in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

The Government remains of the view that a deal between the UK and the EU is in the best interests of both sides, and we are continuing to work to reach an agreement.

At the same time, we are obviously taking a responsible approach and are preparing plans for all outcomes.

Import Duties

29 Oct 2018 | 183215

Asked by: John Redwood

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he plans to announce the rate of customs levies charged on the UK for 30 March 2019 as part of the planning for the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Answering member: Mel Stride | Department: Treasury

We are focused on negotiating an ambitious future relationship with the EU, which secures frictionless access at the border to each other's markets for goods.

However, in the event of a "no deal" the Government will determine and publish these new UK duty rates before we leave the EU.

Brexit

26 Oct 2018 | 182667

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, pursuant to the Answer of 17 October to Question 175802 on Brexit, whether the Government has held any discussions with EU member states on the potential extension of Article 50.

Answering member: Chris Heaton-Harris | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The Government's policy remains that Article 50 will not be extended. We will be leaving the EU on 29 March 2019 and are negotiating to that timeline. We are confident of reaching a deal which is in the best interests of both the UK and the EU.

Second EU Referendum

25 Oct 2018 | 648 c428

Asked by: Barry Sheerman

When are this Government going to wake up to the madness of where we are? There is no deal I can see coming from Europe that will look after my constituents better than remaining in the EU. Whether it is through reasserting parliamentary sovereignty or having a second referendum —yes, I was out on the march in Parliament Square on

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU 37

Saturday—can we please have a Government who wake up to their responsibilities and look after the future of this nation?

Answered by: Suella Braverman | Department: Exiting the European Union

Looking after the future of this nation means respecting the democratic voice of this nation. Yes, 700,000 people marched on Saturday, but 17.4 million people voted to leave, and we do not simply ignore their voices just because we do not like what they said. I ask the hon. Gentleman, who obviously supports a second referendum and, worse still, one that would have remain as an option, to take a long, hard look in the mirror and ask himself whether he can truly call himself a democrat.

[Second EU Referendum](#)

25 Oct 2018 | 648 c428

Asked by: Graham Stringer

Does the Minister agree that, if the 2016 referendum is not honoured, a second referendum would have no credibility whatsoever?

Answered by: Suella Braverman | Department: Exiting the European Union

The hon. Gentleman is absolutely right. This is not the best of three. It is not about, “You keep trying until you get the result you want.” This was a historic vote, when millions of people put their faith in democracy. To do anything other than revere that vote would undermine democracy and cause a collapse in that faith.

[EU Countries](#)

25 Oct 2018 | 907262

Asked by: Mike Wood

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what steps the Government has taken to cooperate with other EU states on those countries' preparations for the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Answering member: Chris Heaton-Harris | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

We are committed to negotiating a successful exit. As a responsible Government we are also preparing for the unlikely scenario in which we leave without a deal. This includes cooperating with Member States to minimise disruption to citizens and businesses. We will continue to impress upon Member States our joint responsibility to work together.

The European Commission have also made clear Member States should take the steps necessary to prepare for this scenario.

[Ports: Infrastructure](#)

25 Oct 2018 | 182304

Asked by: Martyn Day

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what (a) financial and (b) technical support the Government has made available for port operators to put in place the required infrastructure for when the UK leaves the EU.

Answering member: Mel Stride | Department: Treasury

The Government remains confident we will agree a mutually advantageous deal with the EU, and is committed to ensuring that trade is as frictionless as possible through UK ports.

HMG is working together with key industry partners, and, in particular the ports, to plan for all possible scenarios and take account of industry views on what is deliverable and practicable, including with respect to infrastructure and IT.

[British Overseas Territories: Brexit](#)

24 Oct 2018 | 176039

Asked by: Helen Goodman

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the British overseas territories of (a) the UK leaving the EU without a deal and (b) the EU accepting the Chequers proposals.

Answering member: Chris Heaton-Harris | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The UK Government regularly engages with the Overseas Territories as we exit the EU to ensure they are prepared for all exit scenarios and that their interests and priorities are properly taken into account. The UK - Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council on EU Negotiations provides a mechanism for dialogue between the Overseas Territories and the Government. It ensures representatives can share their assessments about the potential effects of EU Exit scenarios on their Territories. Gibraltar, as the only Overseas Territory in the EU, has its own Joint Ministerial Council (Gibraltar EU Negotiations). In all these meetings, Ministers have discussed a variety of issues including contingency planning and the UK's proposals for our future relationship with the EU.

[Ports](#)

23 Oct 2018 | House of Lords | HL10561

Asked by: Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the impact of Brexit on the productivity of the UK's ports, and (2) the likely impact on the UK's ports of a no-deal Brexit.

Answering member: Baroness Sugg | Department: Department for Transport

Her Majesty's Government is seeking to negotiate arrangements whereby trade will flow as frictionlessly as possible, facilitating continuing growth in unit load traffic and port productivity. In the event of a no-deal outcome, the aim is to ensure that UK border controls at the frontier enable traffic to continue to flow efficiently through our ports.

EU Countries: British Nationals Abroad
23 Oct 2018 | 181353

Asked by: Jo Stevens

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what discussions his Department has had with his counterparts in other EU member states on (a) the right to work, (b) access to social security and (c) accessing UK based pensions in the EU if the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement.

Answering member: Chris Heaton-Harris | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The Prime Minister has been clear that in the unlikely event that we reach March 2019 without agreeing a deal, we want EU citizens to stay in the UK and their rights will be protected.

Ministers and Ambassadors have been engaging with their counterparts across the EU to stress that we would expect the same treatment for UK nationals in the EU, in the unlikely event we do not reach an agreement with the EU. Most recently Minister Robin Walker stressed this in his engagements in France and Spain.

UK Trade with EU: Exports
22 Oct 2018 | 179314

Asked by: Jared O'Mara

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what plans his Department has to support businesses that export to the EU in the event that that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Answering member: Graham Stuart | Department: Department for International Trade

The Department for International Trade has carried out significant preparations for a 'no deal' scenario, and alongside other Departments has published technical notices to guide businesses on preparing for this eventuality. Our technical notices cover trade remedies, export control regulation, and trade agreement continuity, as well as a further technical notice on tariffs which we published jointly with HMRC and HMT. We are also preparing the Department to provide business-friendly answers to EU Exit enquiries on areas within our competence. Together with other Departments we are ensuring that businesses can access Government information on EU Exit online.

Businesses, including current exporters to the EU, will benefit from the Department for International Trade's strong offer regardless of the outcome of Brexit negotiations. This offer includes impartial export advice from International Trade Advisors, our overseas network with a presence in 108 countries, and access to digital services that sit on our great.gov.uk platform.

Food: Shortages

16 Oct 2018 | 176559

Asked by: Hugh Gaffney

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential for food shortages in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Answering member: David Rutley | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

A responsible government should prepare for all potential outcomes, including the unlikely scenario in which no mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached and that is what we are doing.

Defra is working closely with all relevant Government departments on food sector issues relating to leaving the EU, including BEIS, DfT, HMRC, Department for Exiting the EU, Department for International Trade, the FSA and others. Defra is also working closely with industry to support preparations for leaving the EU.

Food is one of the UK's 13 critical infrastructure sectors and Defra produces an annual sector security and resilience plan as lead Government Department. These plans identify potential risks and set out a programme of measures to improve resilience where necessary.

Driving: EU Law

15 Oct 2018 | 174688

Asked by: Grahame Morris

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether drivers of goods vehicles who hold UK driving licenses will be required to purchase an International Driving Permit to travel to EU member states after the UK leaves the EU.

Answering member: Jesse Norman | Department: Department for Transport

The Government is seeking to ensure that UK motorists can continue to drive in the EU after we have left. The treatment of driving licences will depend on the outcome of the final agreement.

If there is no deal with the EU, both private and professional drivers may need an International Driving Permit, as well as their UK driving licence, to drive in the EU after the UK leaves.

6. Other Parliamentary material

6.1 Debates

[Leaving the EU: No Deal](#)

19 Dec 2018 | Emergency debates | House of Commons | 651 cc861-906

[EU Withdrawal Agreement](#)

18 Dec 2018 | Emergency debates | House of Commons | 651 cc674-725

[Exiting the European Union: Meaningful Vote](#)

11 Dec 2018 | Emergency debates | House of Commons | 651 cc171-226

[Brexit: Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration](#)

06 Dec 2018 | Debates | House of Lords | 794 cc1118-1198

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act](#)

06 Dec 2018 | Debates | House of Commons | 650 cc1080-1212

[Brexit: Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration](#)

05 Dec 2018 | Debates | House of Lords | 794 cc1023-1108

[Brexit: Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration](#)

05 Dec 2018 | Debates | House of Lords | 794 cc977-1013

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act](#)

05 Dec 2018 | Debates | House of Commons | 650 cc898-1024

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act](#)

04 Dec 2018 | Debates | House of Commons | 650 cc745-861

[Brexit: Negotiations](#)

20 Nov 2018 | Debates | House of Lords | 794 cc158-230

[EU Withdrawal Agreement: Legal Advice](#)

13 Nov 2018 | Opposition days | House of Commons | 649 cc189-236

[Legislating for the Withdrawal Agreement](#)

10 Sep 2018 | House of Commons | 646 cc491-564

[Vote Leave Campaign: Electoral Law](#)

10 Sep 2018 | House of Commons | 646 cc205-224WH

[Leaving the EU: Negotiations](#)

10 Jul 2018 | House of Commons | 644 cc880-931

[Leaving the EU: Parliamentary Vote](#)

11 Jun 2018 | House of Commons | 642 cc245-278WH

6.2 Urgent questions

[Seaborne Freight](#)

08 Jan 2019 | Urgent questions | House of Commons | 652 cc189-203

[EU Withdrawal Agreement: Legal Changes](#)

07 Jan 2019 | Urgent questions | House of Commons | 652 cc25-47

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018: Statutory Obligations on Ministers](#)

11 Dec 2018 | Urgent questions | House of Commons | 651 cc151-167

[Leaving the EU: Meaningful Vote](#)

22 Oct 2018 | 648 cc33-45

6.3 Early Day Motions

[Voting on choices for the UK leaving the EU](#)

EDM 1937

17 December 2018

Frank Field

That this House believes the public has a right to know how Members would vote on the different choices facing the country regarding the UK leaving the EU; believes that Members should have an opportunity as soon as possible to register their vote on a range of options including a reformed Northern Irish backstop, leaving the European Union with no deal, extending Article 50, entering into a future Norway-style relationship with the European Union, entering into a future Canada-style relationship with the European Union, and holding a new referendum; notes that this course of action could act as a powerful guide to the Government during its ongoing discussions with the European Union; and calls for sufficient time to be granted for this course of action to take place.

[National Assembly for Wales rejects withdrawal agreement and political declaration](#)

EDM 1903

6 December 2018

Hywel Williams

That this House notes the historic vote in the National Assembly for Wales on 4 December 2018 to reject the UK Government's Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration; recognises that the National Assembly for Wales was the first Parliament in the UK to express that view, followed by the Scottish Parliament on 5 December 2018; further notes that the Labour Welsh Government had originally tabled its own motion but chose to support the Plaid Cymru amendment, which rejected the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration, called for

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU 43

the UK to stay in the European Single Market and Customs Union and advocated the extension of Article 50; observes that the amended motion passed by 34 votes to 16 with no abstentions; regrets the decision of the Labour Party not to support Plaid Cymru's People's Vote amendment; urges the UK Government to listen to the clear message from the National Assembly for Wales that the Brexit deal will damage the economy of Wales; and calls on the UK Government to extend Article 50, to renegotiate continued membership of the EU Single Market and Customs Union and to put those matters to a People's Vote.

[Revocability of Article 50](#)

EDM 1904

6 December 2018

Hywel Williams

That this House notes the initial opinion of the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice, Campos Sanchez-Bordona, that the UK has the right unilaterally to revoke Article 50 and to stay in the EU before its planned departure date on 29 March 2019; further notes that the European Court of Justice will give its final judgment on the case at 8am on Monday 11 December; urges the Prime Minister to use this opportunity to seek a sensible solution to the chaos caused by Brexit; and calls on the UK Government to hold a People's Vote deciding between the Prime Minister's negotiated Brexit deal and maintaining the UK's current membership of the EU Single Market and Customs Union.

[People's Vote March](#)

EDM 1745 (Session 2017-19)

23 October 2018

Tom Brake

That this House celebrates the fact that over 700,000 people marched on 20 October 2018 in favour of a People's Vote on the Government's Brexit deal; congratulates the People's Vote campaign and other cross-party movements which helped organise the march; notes that the march was the largest march held in the UK since the Iraq War protests in 2003; praises all who marched for standing up for the futures of younger generations who do not want to see life opportunities blighted by the UK leaving the EU; emphasises that the People's Vote campaign is a cross-party and non-party movement which has united many different groups; and calls on the Government and Official Opposition to support a People's Vote on Brexit, including the option to remain in the EU.

6.4 Statements

[Haulage Update](#)

07 Jan 2019 | Written statements | House of Commons |

HCWS1233

[Exiting the European Union](#)

10 Dec 2018 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 651
cc23-70

[EU Exit: Article 50](#)

10 Dec 2018 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 651
cc89-104

[EU Exit](#)

06 Dec 2018 | Written statements | House of Commons |
HCWS1152

[Exiting the EU: Publication of Legal Advice](#)

05 Dec 2018 | Written statements | House of Commons |
HCWS1142

[Withdrawal Agreement: Legal Position](#)

03 Dec 2018 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 650
cc545-581

[Exiting the European Union: publications](#)

03 Dec 2018 | Written statements | House of Commons |
HCWS1131

[Leaving the EU](#)

26 Nov 2018 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 650
cc23-67

[Exiting the European Union](#)

26 Nov 2018 | Written statements | House of Commons |
HCWS1110

[Progress on EU Negotiations](#)

22 Nov 2018 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 649
cc1095-1138

[October EU Council](#)

22 Oct 2018 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 648
cc45-78

[EU Exit Negotiations](#)

09 Oct 2018 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 647
cc51-73

[Brexit Negotiations and No Deal Contingency Planning](#)

04 Sep 2018 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 646
cc49-72

7. Further reading

Government Policy Papers

[Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration](#)

Department for Exiting the European Union
25 November 2018

[Progress on the UK's exit from, and future relationship with, the European Union](#)

Department for Exiting the European Union
14 November 2018

Library Briefing Papers

[What if there's no Brexit deal?](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8397
28 December 2018

[The Political Declaration on the Framework for Future EU-UK Relations](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8454
21 December 2018

[Could the Withdrawal Agreement be terminated under international law?](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8463
20 December 2018

[A second Brexit referendum? The rules explained](#)

Library Insight article
19 December 2018

[The UK's EU Withdrawal Agreement](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8453
4 December 2018

[A User's Guide to the Meaningful Vote](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8424
25 October 2018

[Brexit Unknowns \(update\)](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8408
26 September 2018

[Brexit: What would 'no deal' look like?](#)

Library Insight article
10 September 2018

Committee inquiry

[The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal inquiry](#)

Exiting the European Union Committee

Other

[How would a second referendum on Brexit happen?](#)

Institute for Government
21 December 2018

[Options for deal or no deal](#)

Institute for Government
30 October 2018

[Understanding the economic impact of Brexit](#)

Institute for Government
19 October 2018

[The Mechanics of a Further Referendum on Brexit](#)

University College London
October 2018

[Three things you might want to know about the government's preparations for a No Deal Brexit](#)

Full Fact blog
13 September 2018

[The view from Brussels: How are the EU27 preparing for a 'No Deal' Brexit?](#)

Open Europe
30 August 2018

[IEA launches a series of 'no deal' Brexit Fear-Checkers to help separate Project Fear from Project Fact](#)

Institute of Economic Affairs
27 August 2018

[How to prepare if the UK leaves the EU with no deal](#)

Department for Exiting the European Union
Last updated 12 October 2018

[No deal Brexit preparations](#)

Institute for Government
October 2018

[No Deal: The economic consequences and how they could be mitigated](#)

Open Europe
October 2018

[The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal \(June to September 2018\)](#)

HC 1554
Exiting the European Union Committee,
18 September 2018

[Cost of no deal revisited](#)

The UK in a Changing Europe
September 2018

E-petitions 229963, 221747 and 235185, relating to leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, 232984 and 241361 relating to holding a further referendum on leaving the EU, and 226509 and 236261 relating to not leaving the EU 47

[Do voters still want to leave the EU? how they view the Brexit process two years on](#)

The UK in a Changing Europe and NatCen
September 2018

[The future relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union](#)

Cm 9593
Department for Exiting the European Union
July 2018

[Government Response to Brexit: deal or no deal](#)

Department for Exiting the European Union
26 February 2018

[Brexit: deal or no deal](#)

HL Paper 46
European Union Committee
7 December 2017

[Exiting the European Union: Publications](#)

Department for Exiting the European Union

[Brexit](#) page on GOV.UK

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