



DEBATE PACK

Number 0077, 28 March 2019

E-petition 241584, 235138 and 243319 relating to leaving the European Union

Westminster Hall

Monday 1 April 2019 at 4.30pm

Catherine McKinnell 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

1.1 Summary

The UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement (WA) and the accompanying Political Declaration (PD) on the framework for the future UK-EU relationship have been rejected twice by the House of Commons, on 15 January and 12 March 2019. On 21 March, the EU agreed to the Prime Minister's request for an extension to the Article 50 withdrawal period. Brexit would be delayed until 22 May if the WA was approved by the House of Commons by 29 March, to give time for adoption of the necessary implementing legislation. In the event of the WA not being approved, Article 50 would be extended until 12 April.

The EU has held out the possibility of a longer extension being agreed beyond 12 April if the UK comes up with an alternative plan and decides to participate in the European Parliament elections at the end of May. The EU has repeatedly said it will not re-open discussions on the WA, but is willing to consider changes to the PD. EU leaders have indicated that a longer Article 50 extension would require a new event or new political process in the UK.

On 25 March, the House of Commons approved a motion suspending precedence for Government business on 27 March and allowing for motions on indicative votes on alternative approaches to Brexit to take place. This was intended as a way of enabling a majority of MPs to coalesce around a future model for UK-EU relations that could break the current impasse. In the votes on 27 March, none of the options debated won majority support. The option that came closest to winning was a proposal for a permanent UK-EU customs union, defeated by eight votes. The indicative votes process is scheduled to be repeated on 1 April, and MPs may be given the opportunity to rank the different options debated upon as a way of reaching a compromise.

If an alternative plan is not agreed that persuades the EU to extend Article 50 further, and the WA is still not approved, then the UK will leave the EU without a deal on 12 April unless the Article 50 notice to withdraw from the EU is revoked. The EU Court of Justice has ruled that the UK could choose to revoke its Article 50 notice unilaterally in order to remain in the EU. The Government firmly rejects doing this. A motion to revoke Article 50 in order to avoid no deal if no WA has been approved two days before exit day was defeated by 293 votes to 184 in the indicative votes on 27 March.

The most likely route leading to an Article 50 revocation would be if another referendum on Brexit was held, with an option to remain in the

EU. Another referendum is backed by the Liberal Democrats, Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru, the Independent Group, the Greens and the cross-party People's Vote campaign (also including a small number of Conservative MPs). The Labour party has also indicated it would support a referendum if its alternative Brexit proposals are not adopted. In the indicative votes on 27 March, Labour whipped in favour of the defeated motion calling for a public vote on any Withdrawal Agreement/future relations framework approved by Parliament, but 27 Labour MPs voted against.

1.2 Article 50 and the Withdrawal Agreement

Article 50 (3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) provides that the EU Treaties shall cease to apply to the withdrawing Member State from the date of entry into force of the withdrawal agreement or, failing that, two years after the notification to leave was issued "unless the European Council, in agreement with the Member State concerned, unanimously decides to extend this period".¹

In the UK's case, the notice to withdraw from the EU was issued on 29 March 2017, meaning that 29 March 2019 was the default date for the UK to leave the EU. The Withdrawal Agreement (WA)² agreed by the UK and EU in November 2018 also provided for the UK to leave the EU on 29 March, meaning that this was the scheduled date of Brexit whether or not the Agreement was approved.

Under Section 13 of the *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018*, UK ratification of the WA requires that it is approved (alongside the Political Declaration setting out the framework for the future EU-UK relationship)³ by the House of Commons, and that an Act of Parliament providing for the implementation of the WA is passed.

The Government has been defeated twice in the House of Commons, on 15 January 2019 and 12 March 2019, on 'meaningful vote' motions seeking approval for the WA and PD.

The second defeat came after the Prime Minister had sought changes to the most contentious element of the WA, the Northern Ireland/Ireland backstop⁴, that would be acceptable to a majority in the House of Commons in line with the Brady amendment adopted on 29 January⁵.

¹ The Article 50 process is described in more detail in Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP7551, [Brexit: how does the Article 50 process work?](#), 16 January 2017.

² See House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8453, [The UK's EU Withdrawal Agreement](#), 1 December 2018.

³ See House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8454, [The Political Declaration on the Framework for Future EU-UK Relations](#), 3 December 2018.

⁴ For further details on what the backstop entails see House of Commons Library Insight, [The backstop explained](#), 12 December 2018. See also House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8453, [The UK's EU Withdrawal Agreement](#), 1 December 2018.

⁵ For a discussion of the outcome of the debate on 29 January 2019, see House of Commons Library Insight, [A 'Plan B' considered and two instructions given: Where next for Parliament and Brexit?](#), 30 January 2019.

EU leaders affirmed at the [December 2018 European Council](#) that the WA was “not open for renegotiation” and this position has been reiterated repeatedly since. The EU has also insisted that the backstop must remain a [credible backstop](#). However, the EU and UK Government [agreed](#) new supplementary texts on 11 March giving assurances over the EU’s commitment to negotiate a future agreement to replace the arrangement and confirming that the UK would be able to seek arbitration if the EU does not act in good faith in the negotiations.⁶ This built on previous EU reassurances to the UK in December 2018 and January 2019 regarding the intended temporary nature of the backstop should it need to come into force and over its commitment to negotiate a future relations agreement with the UK that would replace the backstop.⁷

Following the agreement of new supplementary texts on 11 March, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker [said](#) that there would be “no third chance” and “no further interpretations of the interpretations; and no further assurances of the re-assurances . . .”

1.3 The second meaningful vote and votes on Article 50 extension

The Prime Minister has repeatedly spoken [against](#) extending Article 50 and reiterated that [the UK will leave the EU on 29 March 2019](#). However, on 26 February, Theresa May committed the Government to holding a vote in the House of Commons on seeking an Article 50 extension on 14 March, if there had not been approval of the WA by the House by 12 March and if the House also rejected leaving the EU without a deal.

This came after three Cabinet Ministers called for a change of position on extension⁸, and reports that several Government Ministers and Conservative MPs were prepared to vote for a cross-party amendment to make parliamentary time for Yvette Cooper’s Private Member’s Bill legislating for similar steps to be taken.⁹

After the second ‘meaningful vote’ defeat on 12 March, a vote on declining to leave the EU without a deal was held in the Commons the next day. The Commons adopted an amended Government motion by 321 votes to 278. The Government whipped Conservative MPs to vote against the amended motion because it did not support the amendment. According to the original Government [motion](#), the House

⁶ See House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8525 [The 'Strasbourg package'](#), 13 March 2019.

⁷ For example in December 2018 European Council [conclusions](#) and the exchange of [letters](#) with the Prime Minister on 14 January 2019. See also the House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8474, [EU assurances to the UK on Brexit](#), 15 January 2019.

⁸ See joint article by David Gauke, Amber Rudd and Greg Clark see [Cabinet 'No Deal' revolt: PM facing prospect of a mass walkout after three senior ministers signal they are ready to help force a delay to Brexit](#), *Daily Mail*, 22 February 2019. The *Daily Mail* also reported that several Government ministers were prepared to resign and support the Cooper amendment on 27 February.

⁹ See House of Commons Library Insight, [Yvette Cooper’s Private Member’s Bill explained](#), 19 February 2019.

would decline to approve leaving the EU without a deal on 29 March while noting that leaving without a deal remained “the default in UK and EU law” unless the House and the EU ratify an agreement. The [amendment](#) to the motion, supported by most opposition and some Conservative MPs removed the reference to the specific date of the 29 March and the caveat about no deal being the default and simply rejected the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

The Commons then adopted a Government [motion](#) on the 14 March agreeing that the Government would seek to agree an Article 50 extension with the EU. The motion stated that if the Commons had approved the WA and PD by 20 March, then it would seek a one-off extension of Article 50 ending on 30 June 2019 for the purpose of passing the necessary EU exit legislation. Alternatively, it noted that if a resolution approving the WA and PD had not been passed by then “it is highly likely that the European Council at its meeting the following day would require a clear purpose for any extension, not least to determine its length, and that any extension beyond 30 June 2019 would require the United Kingdom to hold European Parliament elections in May 2019”. The motion was passed by [412 votes to 202](#).

The Government indicated that it intended to bring another ‘meaningful vote’ to the House prior to the European Council meeting of 21-22 March. However, in a [statement](#) on 18 March the House of Commons speaker John Bercow cited parliamentary convention set out in *Erskine May* that “a motion or an amendment which is the same, in substance, as a question which has been decided during a session may not be brought forward again during that same session”. Accordingly, the Government could “not legitimately . . . resubmit to the House the same proposition or substantially the same proposition” as that of the previous week.

1.4 The EU agrees to extend Article 50

In her letter to Donald Tusk on 20 March, Theresa May requested an Article 50 extension until 30 June 2019. She said she intended to hold another Commons’ vote on the Withdrawal Agreement as soon as possible and that the extension would be required to pass legislation to implement it.

Mrs May asked that ahead of the next ‘meaningful vote’ the European Council approve the documents agreed by her and President Juncker in Strasbourg on 11 March, “putting the Government in a position to bring these agreements to the House and confirming the changes to the Government’s proposition to Parliament”. She said that she also intended to bring forward further domestic proposals to confirm her previous commitments to protect the UK internal market “given the concerns expressed about the backstop”.¹⁰

¹⁰ This would involve the whole of the UK and not just Northern Ireland remaining aligned with EU rules necessary to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland, thus preventing a divergence in the regulatory framework between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

During the Commons' debate on 14 March, the Government indicated that if the WA had not been approved by 20 March, there would be the prospect of [seeking a longer extension](#) requiring UK participation in the European Parliament elections. Mrs May's letter to President Tusk on 20 March however asserted that she did "not believe that it would be in either of our interests for the UK to hold European Parliament elections". The letter did not include a request for a longer extension if the WA was not approved.

The European Council [Conclusions](#) on 21 March, explained that the EU27 leaders (meeting without the UK) agreed to extend Article 50 until 22 May 2019, provided that the WA was approved in the next week. In the event of the WA not being approved, the European Council agreed to an extension until 12 April, by which point it said it expects the UK, "to indicate a way forward before this date for consideration by the European Council." This followed [advice](#) from the European Commission that the UK needed to leave before the date of the European Parliament (EP) elections rather than the date of the first sitting of the new EP (2 July) in order to ensure legal certainty. The European Council also agreed to the request to approve the supplementary texts agreed on 11 March.

In his remarks following the European Council, President Tusk held out the possibility of a longer extension being agreed beyond 12 April if the WA had not been approved and the UK decided to participate in the EP elections. He said the UK Government will then have, "[a choice of a deal, no-deal, a long extension or revoking Article 50.](#)" EU leaders have previously stated that a longer Article 50 extension would require a [new event, new political process](#) or [deep political change](#) in the UK. While the EU will not re-open the WA, it has indicated it would consider making changes to the PD that would provide a more specific outline of the future UK-EU relationship¹¹.

In her statement following the European Council meeting, Theresa May said that if the Withdrawal Agreement was not agreed, the UK "would either leave with no deal, or put forward an alternative plan"¹².

1.5 The Commons agrees to move to indicative votes

A proposal to hold indicative votes in the House of Commons in order to test whether there is a majority in the House for a particular course of action in the Brexit process and on negotiating a future relationship with the EU has been discussed since January¹³. Amendments in favour

¹¹ See for example the [speech to the European Parliament](#) by the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier on 16 January 2019.

¹² See House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8496, [Extending Article 50: could Brexit be delayed?](#), 19 March 2019 and Library Briefing Paper CBP8533, [Brexit delayed: the European Council Conclusions on extending Article 50](#), 22 March 2019.

¹³ For example this proposal was put forward in a report by the House of Commons Committee on Exiting the EU, [Response to the vote on the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration: Options for Parliament](#), on 16 January 2019.

of this approach were defeated in the House of Commons on 29 January and 14 March.

On 25 March, an amendment in favour of indicative votes [tabled by Oliver Letwin](#), with the support of a cross-party group of MPs was approved by a majority of 329 votes to 302. It suspended House of Commons Standing Order No.14 (which provides that government business shall have precedence at every sitting save as provided in that order) on 27 March, allowing motions on indicative votes to take precedence.

Eight different motions proposing alternative approaches to Brexit¹⁴ and the future relationship with the EU were debated and voted upon on 27 March. None of the motions was approved. The [votes](#) were as follows:

- For a permanent and comprehensive UK-EU customs union. Defeated by 272 votes to 264.
- Labour party's plan for a permanent customs union, close alignment with the EU Single Market and dynamic alignment with the EU on rights and protections. Defeated by 307 votes to 237.
- For the Common Market 2.0 proposal, involving the UK negotiating membership of the European Economic Area through the European Free Trade Association (enabling continued EU Single Market membership) and entering a customs union with the EU (until alternative arrangements to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland can be agreed). Defeated by 283 votes to 188.
- Applying to join EFTA and seeking to remain in the EEA, while declining to enter into a customs union with the EU. Defeated by 377 votes to 65.
- Revocation of Article 50 in order to avoid no deal if no Withdrawal Agreement has been approved two days before exit day. Defeated by 293 votes to 184.
- A referendum to be held on any Withdrawal Agreement/future relations framework approved by Parliament. Defeated by 295 votes to 268.
- To immediately seek to agree a trade agreement and other preferential agreements with the EU if the Withdrawal Agreement is not implemented. Defeated by 422 votes to 139.
- Leaving the EU without a deal on 12 April. Defeated by 400 votes to 160.

The [Business of the House motion](#) adopted before the debate set aside a second day, 1 April 2019, to debate and vote on some of these options again. Speaking in the Commons chamber following the announcement of the vote results, Mr Letwin said that

. . . those of us who put this proposal forward as a way of proceeding predicted that we would not this evening reach a majority, and indeed, for that very reason, put forward a business

¹⁴ See House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8483 [Brexit: Proposals for the future UK-EU relationship](#), 26 March 2019.

of the House motion designed to allow the House to reconsider these matters on Monday.

The voting system to be used on 1 April may give MPs the opportunity to rank the different options as a way of reaching a compromise.

1.6 No Deal

Although the Commons voted to reject leaving the EU without a deal on 13 March, and leaving without a deal was again rejected in the vote on 27 March, it remains the case that if a Withdrawal Agreement is not approved by the House of Commons and no alternative plan emerges leading to an agreement to extend Article 50 further beyond 12 April, then the UK will leave the EU without a deal on that day. This is unless the Government chooses to revoke Article 50 (see below).

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 WA provides for a transition period whereby EU Single Market rules will continue to apply to the UK and the UK will also remain a member of the EU Customs Union until the end of 2020 (or to the end of 2022 if the parties agree to extend transition). This is intended to provide some certainty following the UK's exit from the EU and during the transition period following withdrawal, when the detailed arrangements for a new UK-EU relationship will be negotiated.

Leaving the EU without an agreement will mean there will be no transition period and the Treaty arrangements currently regulating the relationship between the UK and the EU will simply cease to apply.

Where the UK's relationships with third countries are regulated via EU international agreements (e.g. the EU's numerous Free Trade Agreements with third countries), these will also cease to apply unless the UK can get replacement deals in place with these countries. The Government has so far signed some replacement agreements with third countries, but discussions to replace the EU trade arrangements remain ongoing for most of the countries covered.

With regards to trade with the EU, the UK would fall back on World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, one outcome of which would be the imposition of tariffs on trade between the UK and the EU. The UK could forgo tariffs on imports from the EU, but if it did this, WTO Most Favoured Nation (MFN) rules mean that it would also need to lift tariffs on non-EU countries.¹⁵ On average these tariffs are low, averaging around 3%, but for some goods, such as many agricultural products, they are considerably higher.¹⁶ The Government [announced its temporary no-deal tariffs](#) on 13 March 2019: the UK will unilaterally remove tariffs on 87% of imports (measured by value). 82% of imports from the EU will be tariff-free under no deal (compared with 100%

¹⁵ MFN rules mean that a WTO Member State cannot discriminate between one country and another in its tariffs unless it has negotiated a free trade agreement with that country or in the case of countries giving preferential market access to developing countries.

¹⁶ WTO, [European Union tariff profile](#) [accessed 17 August 2018]

now). 92% of imports from non-EU countries will be tariff-free (compared with 56% now)¹⁷.

Potentially more important in a WTO scenario would be the increase in non-tariff barriers in trade between the UK and EU. Customs declarations alone would add an estimated £13 billion a year in costs on businesses. Industries with supply chains integrated within the EU would face additional costs and burdens. The cumulative impact of a “no deal” scenario in Northern Ireland would be more severe than in Great Britain. There are also concerns that this would eventually lead to checks at the border with Ireland, increasing the risk of sectarian violence.

The Government released an [impact assessment](#) of implications for business and trade of a no deal exit on 26 February 2019. It referred to its previously released analysis that estimated that the UK economy would be 6.3% to 9% smaller in fifteen years’ time than it otherwise would be compared to present arrangements. It also gave details of significant negative impacts on trade and business, with the availability of goods impacted by customs administration and delays at the border¹⁸.

1.7 Government view on revoking Article 50

The Prime Minister has been clear that she intends to deliver on the 2016 referendum result and to ensure that the UK leaves the EU.

Although Article 50 of the TEU did not specify a procedure for a Member State which had changed its mind on leaving the EU and wanted to revoke Article 50, the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) on 10 December 2018 [ruled](#) that a Member State can revoke the Article 50 notification “unilaterally” provided the revocation takes place before a withdrawal agreement enters into force and 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 decision to revoke “must be decided following a democratic process in accordance with national constitutional requirements”.

The ruling did not speculate as to what these ‘national constitutional requirements’ might be and left it for the Member State to define the necessary ‘democratic process’ leading to a revocation. Constitutional [law experts](#) have argued that a revocation of Article 50 would require an Act of Parliament. This was also the view in the earlier (non-binding) [opinion](#) of the CJEU Advocate General on 4 December 2018.

The CJEU ruling on 10 December 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

¹⁷ See House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP 8518 [Brexit: trade tariffs if there is no deal](#), 13 March 2019

¹⁸ See section 7 of House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8483 [Brexit: Proposals for the future UK-EU relationship](#), 26 March 2019, and Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8397, [What if there's no Brexit deal?](#), 8 February 2019.

arrangement, with the possibility of issuing another notification to leave in the near future if the Member State doesn't get what it wants. It would also not be possible to revoke Article 50 in order to call another referendum if there was a possibility that this could lead to the UK then issuing another Article 50 notification should the referendum result in a decision to restart the withdrawal process.¹⁹

In response to the judgement, the Brexit Secretary Steve Barclay gave a [statement](#) to the House of Commons on 10 December 2018. He said the Government noted the judgement but that this did not change the Government approach in that it has no intention of revoking Article 50 and that it intends to honour the 2016 referendum result.

1.8 Holding another referendum

The most likely scenario leading to Article 50 being revoked would be if there was another referendum resulting in a vote to remain in the EU (presuming that this option was on the ballot paper). Holding another referendum, including an option to remain in the EU, is favoured by the Liberal Democrats, Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru, the Green party and the cross-party [People's Vote](#) campaign, also including some Labour MPs and a small number of Conservative MPs.

The Government opposes holding another referendum on EU membership. Official Labour party [policy](#) has been that the option should be left on the table, should Parliament vote down the Government's deal and it is not possible to hold a General Election. After the Labour party's alternative approach to Brexit set out in its amendment to the Government's motion on 27 February was defeated, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn [said](#) that Labour would "back a public vote in order to prevent a damaging Tory Brexit or a disastrous no deal outcome" while also continuing "to push for the other available options to prevent those outcomes, including a close economic relationship based on our credible alternative plan or a general election." However, significant numbers of Labour MPs [oppose](#) holding another referendum.

An amendment to the Government's motion on extending Article 50 which requested that the extension be sufficient to legislate for and conduct a second referendum with the option of remaining in the EU was defeated by [334 votes to 85](#) on 14 March. The Labour party was whipped to abstain but 25 Labour MPs voted for the amendment and 18 against. The Shadow Brexit Secretary Sir Keir Starmer said it was [not the right time](#) for such an amendment. This was also the line taken by spokespersons for the People's Vote campaign.

For the indicative votes in the House of Commons on 27 March, the Labour party whipped in favour of the motion from Dame Margaret Beckett that a referendum be held on any Withdrawal Agreement/future relations framework approved by Parliament. The motion was also supported by the Scottish National Party, Liberal Democrats, Independent Group, Plaid Cymru, the Green Party and 8

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

Conservative MPs. It was opposed by 254 Conservative MPs, 27 Labour MPs, 4 independents and the 10 DUP MPs. Cabinet Ministers were asked to abstain on all votes.

2. E-petitions

[E-petition 241584](#)

Revoke Article 50 and remain in the EU.

The government repeatedly claims exiting the EU is 'the will of the people'. We need to put a stop to this claim by proving the strength of public support now, for remaining in the EU. A People's Vote may not happen - so vote now.

Government Response

This Government will not revoke Article 50. We will honour the result of the 2016 referendum and work with Parliament to deliver a deal that ensures we leave the European Union.

It remains the Government's firm policy not to revoke Article 50. We will honour the outcome of the 2016 referendum and work to deliver an exit which benefits everyone, whether they voted to Leave or to Remain.

Revoking Article 50, and thereby remaining in the European Union, would undermine both our democracy and the trust that millions of voters have placed in Government.

The Government acknowledges the considerable number of people who have signed this petition. However, close to three quarters of the electorate took part in the 2016 referendum, trusting that the result would be respected. This Government wrote to every household prior to the referendum, promising that the outcome of the referendum would be implemented. 17.4 million people then voted to leave the European Union, providing the biggest democratic mandate for any course of action ever directed at UK Government.

British people cast their votes once again in the 2017 General Election where over 80% of those who voted, voted for parties, including the Opposition, who committed in their manifestos to upholding the result of the referendum.

This Government stands by this commitment.

Revoking Article 50 would break the promises made by Government to the British people, disrespect the clear instruction from a democratic vote, and in turn, reduce confidence in our democracy. As the Prime Minister has said, failing to deliver Brexit would cause "potentially irreparable damage to public trust", and it is imperative that people can trust their Government to respect their votes and deliver the best outcome for them.

Department for Exiting the European Union.

[E-petition 243319](#)

Parliament must honour the Referendum result. Leave deal or no deal 29/03/19.

The UK voted in a referendum in 2016 to Leave the EU....this wasn't dependent on a " deal"but rather just "Leave"

we are now demanding that all mp's honour this result .conservative and labour mp's also agreed to leave on 29/03/19..... deal or no deal as part of their gen election campaign.

Government Response

Awaiting response.

[E-petition 235138](#)

Hold a second referendum on EU membership.

The Brexit process has been a failure. At the end of two years, our ruling party is bitterly divided, the main opposition not a viable replacement for it, and the deal we have negotiated is almost universally opposed.

No one voted for this to happen.

Whether you voted leave or remain, you didn't vote for us to leave the EU in disarray, with no deal, putting many peoples livelihoods and living situations at risk.

We must hold a second referendum, now we can all see what 'Leave' really means for this country and Europe. We must hold a vote between the following two options:

- Take the Deal negotiated by Theresa May
- Cancel Brexit and remain in the EU

No deal is not an option.

Government Response

The Government remains clear that we will respect the result of the 2016 referendum, and we therefore will not hold a second referendum.

The Government is clear that we will not have a second referendum; it's mandate is to implement the result of the previous referendum.

The 2016 referendum delivered a very clear instruction to Government - to withdraw from the European Union. Since then, this Government has remained committed to honouring that instruction, given to us through 17.4 million votes to leave the European Union - the highest number of votes cast for anything in UK electoral history.

That result was reinforced not only by Parliament's passing of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill with clear and convincing majorities; but also in the 2017 General Election, where over 80% of people also voted for parties committed to respecting the result

of the referendum. In fact, both major parties stood for election on a stated policy to respect the decision of the people. The Government is clear that it is now its duty to implement the will expressed by voters in the referendum - respecting both the will of the British people, and the democratic process which delivered the referendum result.

The British people must be able to trust in its Government both to effect their will, and to deliver the best outcome for them. As the Prime Minister has said: "This is about more than the decision to leave the EU; it is about whether the public can trust their politicians to put in place the decision they took."

The Government therefore remains committed to delivering on the instruction and the mandate given to us by the British people - to withdraw from the European Union. We continue to work to reach consensus on the deal we have negotiated, to enable a smooth and orderly exit, and deliver an outcome which betters the lives of British people - whether they voted to Leave or to Remain.

Department for Exiting the European Union.

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.

[Theresa May's Brexit deal dead as DUP says it will not back agreement 'under any circumstances'](#)

Independent
Rob Merrick
28 March 2019

[Brexit consensus still possible after Commons deadlock, says Letwin](#)

Guardian
Peter Walker
28 March 2019

[Theresa May looks to unblock Brexit by cutting deal in half](#)

Financial Times
George Parker and Jim Pickard
27 March 2019

[MPs prepare for votes in bid to break deadlock](#)

BBC News
27 March 2019

[Government rejects Brexit petition to revoke article 50 signed by 5.8 million people](#)

Guardian
27 March 2019

[Petition to revoke Article 50 to be debated next week](#)

BBC News
26 March 2019

[People's Vote £1m donor now believes second referendum will happen](#)

Sky News
John-Paul Ford Rojas
26 March 2019

[Second referendum or revoking Article 50 'on the table', resigning Conservative minister admits](#)

Independent
Ashley Cowburn
26 March 2019

MPs likely to back soft Brexit or second vote, says minister who quit

Guardian
Jessica Elgot
26 March 2019

Brexit march: Million joined Brexit protest, organisers say

BBC News
23 March 2019

May gets two-week Brexit reprieve from impatient EU

Reuters
Gabriela Baczynska and Elizabeth Piper
20 March 2019

UK urged to table 'acceptable' backstop remedies

BBC News
07 March 2019

Brexit: Theresa May suffers humiliating Lords defeat as peers demand UK stays in a customs union

Independent
Lizzy Buchan
07 March 2019

Brexit latest: EU negotiators give UK 48-hour deadline to come up with new plan for Irish backstop

Independent
Jon Stone
07 March 2019

Brexit: UK should offer new proposal, France's Europe minister says

Guardian
Angelique Chrisafis
07 March 2019

No-deal Brexit could push UK into recession, think tank warns

Independent
Caitlin Morrison
06 March 2019

Brexit meaningful vote will go ahead, says No 10, despite talks stalling

Guardian
Daniel Boffey and Heather Stewart
06 March 2019

[Spain is blocking a Brexit compromise as part of a 'land grab' for Gibraltar, ministers told](#)

Daily Telegraph
Steven Swinford
06 March 2019

[Brexit threat to Northern Ireland jobs revealed by civil service chief](#)

Guardian
Lisa O'Carroll
06 March 2019

[UK may slash trade tariffs under a no-deal Brexit](#)

BBC News
06 March 2019

[DUP won't back Brexit without guarantees on backstop, says MP](#)

Guardian
Peter Walker
06 March 2019

[Brexit: David Sterling Northern Ireland's chief civil servant warns of 'grave' no-deal consequences](#)

BBC News
06 March 2019

[Brexiteer: Extend Article 50 by a longer period to maintain influence in Europe](#)

New European
Jonathon Read
04 March 2019

[Brexit delay: France would block Article 50 extension 'without a clear objective', Macron says](#)

Independent
Jon Stone
28 February 2019

[Any extension of article 50 must be a one-off, Brussels to insist](#)

Guardian
Daniel Boffey
28 February 2019

[Will EU resistance to extending Article 50 push MPs into voting for May's deal?](#)

New Statesman
Stephen Bush
28 February 2019

[Brexit vote: How can Article 50 be extended?](#)

BBC News
26 February 2019

[Why extending Article 50 looks inevitable - and the consequences of delaying Brexit](#)

Daily Telegraph
Asa Bennett
26 February 2019

[Irish prime minister Varadkar backs 'long extension' to Article 50](#)

Independent
Jon Stone
25 February 2019

[Brexit: What preparations are being made for a no-deal?](#)

BBC News
19 February 2019

[France triggers 'hard Brexit' plan and warns that no deal is 'less and less unlikely'](#)

Daily Telegraph
Henry Samuel
17 February 2019

[What is a No Deal Brexit? 21 ways you'll be affected if UK leaves EU with no deal](#)

Mirror
Dan Bloom
11 February 2019

[Labour: only 'sensible' option to delay Brexit by extending article 50](#)

Guardian
Peter Walker
06 February 2019

[EU unveils minimal Brexit safety net for no deal](#)

Politico
David M. Herszenhorn
19 December 2018

[I drafted Article 50. We can and must delay Brexit for a referendum by Lord Kerr](#)

Guardian
Lord Kerr
06 December 2018

4. PQs

Borders: France

27 Mar 2019 | 235773

Asked by: Stephen Doughty

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions he has had with this counterpart in the French Government on (a) travel and transport delays caused by recent industrial action at the French border and (b) how many additional customs officials on Eurostar services will be needed after the UK leaves the EU to avoid delays.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Home Office

The Home Office has been working with the cross-government Border Delivery Group to engage with authorities, port users and operators domestically and across the EU to understand what the synergies and constraints are in different locations, and to discuss how to ensure locations are operationally ready to meet with Government requirements when the UK leaves the EU.

The Government wants to see cross-Channel traffic and goods continue to move as freely as possible, in any scenario both deal or no deal.

As the application of additional customs checks by the EU is outside of our control, the Government has undertaken a range of preparatory measures to mitigate potential impacts and ensure that goods can continue to flow into and out of the UK as freely as possible.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

27 Mar 2019 | 234088

Asked by: David Davis

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure reciprocal healthcare arrangements are in place with EU countries after the UK's leaves the EU.

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

On 19 March 2019 I laid a written statement ([HCWS1429](#)) on the Department's plans for the continuity of reciprocal healthcare arrangements in the event we exit the European Union without a deal.

This statement sets out that subject to Parliament ratifying the Withdrawal Agreement, in a deal scenario current reciprocal healthcare rights will continue during the implementation period until 31 December 2020. The Withdrawal Agreement and European Free Trade Area (EFTA) Agreements also give longer-term reciprocal healthcare rights to those who are living in or previously worked in the other country on exit day. This will include access to healthcare through the European Health Insurance Card scheme.

The reciprocal healthcare system requires reciprocity from the EU or individual Member States and cannot be protected unilaterally. That is why we have proposed to EU Member States and EFTA states that we

should agree arrangements that maintain the existing healthcare arrangements in a 'no deal' scenario until 31 December 2020, with the aim of minimising disruption to United Kingdom nationals' and EU and EFTA state citizens' healthcare provision. This would mean that we will continue to pay healthcare costs for current or former UK residents for whom the UK has responsibility and who are living or working in or visiting the EU, and that EU and EFTA states can fund healthcare for their citizens in the UK. We are hopeful that we will reach such agreements.

We have published guidance profiles at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-living-in-guides>

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/healthcare-when-travelling-abroad/travelling-in-the-european-economic-area-eea-and-switzerland/>

We will update the guidance with further developments. Whenever travelling abroad, individuals are always responsible for ensuring they have travel insurance. It is already the case that we advise people to obtain comprehensive travel insurance when working, studying or travelling to the EU and the rest of the world. This will remain our advice in all circumstances.

Borders: Northern Ireland

26 Mar 2019 | HL14446

Asked by: Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 March (HL13966), of which part of the internal discussions on avoiding a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is it not in the public interest to disclose details; and what assessment they have made of the relationship between any decision not to disclose those details and the Prime Minister having identified the issue as that which prevents a deal being agreed with the EU on Brexit.

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

On 13 March we published details of our plans to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland in a no deal scenario. We have confirmed a temporary, unilateral approach to checks, processes and tariffs to do all we can to achieve this. The UK Government would not introduce any new checks or controls on goods crossing from Ireland to Northern Ireland, including any new customs declarations. The UK temporary tariff regime would therefore not apply to goods crossing from Ireland into Northern Ireland.

As these are unilateral measures, they only mitigate the impacts from exit that are within the UK Government's control. These measures do not set out the position in respect of tariffs or processes to be applied to goods moving from Northern Ireland to Ireland. We also recognise that there are challenges and risks for maintaining control of our borders and for the competitiveness of businesses in Northern Ireland. That is why we are clear that this approach would be strictly temporary.

A negotiated settlement is the only means of sustainably guaranteeing no hard border and protecting businesses in Northern Ireland. In a no

deal scenario, we are therefore committed to entering into discussions urgently with the European Commission and the Irish Government to jointly agree long-term measures to avoid a hard border.

Full guidance on the no deal Northern Ireland policy can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-exit-avoiding-a-hard-border-in-northern-ireland-in-a-no-deal-scenario>.

Agricultural Products: Import Duties

26 Mar 2019 | HL14403

Asked by: Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the UK's revised World Trade Organization tariff schedule relating to agricultural imports will come into effect.

Answering member: Baroness Fairhead | Department for International Trade

In the event of a 'no-deal' exit from the EU, the UK's tariff schedule for all goods will come into effect at the point that the UK leaves.

The UK will implement this temporary tariff regime for up to 12 months whilst a full consultation and review on a permanent approach is undertaken.

In the event of a deal being secured the UK will continue to apply the EU's Common External Tariff during any implementation period. The UK would seek to negotiate a Future Economic Partnership with the EU during this time and publish a revised applied tariff schedule at the end of the implementation period.

Airports

25 Mar 2019 | 234074

Asked by: Gareth Thomas

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to tackle the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU without a deal on UK airports.

Answering member: Chris Grayling | Department for Transport

Leaving the EU with a deal remains the Government's top priority. The Government has accelerated no deal preparations to ensure the country is prepared for every eventuality. It is the responsible thing to do. The EU has adopted a Regulation, giving UK airlines the rights to fly to and from the EU for 12 months in a no deal scenario, and the UK Government will provide at least equivalent rights to EU airlines. UK airports will continue under the same aviation security regime as they do now. The Government works closely with the aviation sector, including UK airports, and will continue to do so.

Brexit

21 Mar 2019 | HL14601

Asked by: Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of

whether the proposed Brexit deal (1) fulfils, and (2) is consistent with the spirit of, Article 50(1) of the Treaty on European Union.

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

Article 50 (1) of the TFEU states that any Member State may decide to withdraw from the EU in accordance with its own constitutional requirements. The decision to permit the Prime Minister to notify (under Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union) of the United Kingdom's intention to withdraw from the EU, was approved overwhelmingly by Parliament through the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017.

Under the terms of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the withdrawal agreement may be ratified only if the negotiated withdrawal agreement and the framework for the future relationship have been approved by a resolution of the House of Commons.

Brexit: Statutory Instruments

21 Mar 2019 | 233500

Asked by: Valerie Vaz

To ask the Leader of the House, how many Statutory Instruments in relation to the UK leaving the EU deprioritised by the Government and will not be approved by Parliament in advance of 29 March 2019.

Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Leader of the House

The Government's objective has always been to have a functioning statute book in place by Exit Day. As I have said previously in correspondence to the Procedure Committee and the European Statutory Instrument Committee, departments have taken steps to prioritise the statutory instruments (SIs) that were essential to achieving this. These considerations and assessments made by individual departments have meant that we have been able to lay over 90% of the secondary legislation required before we exit the EU. SIs that Departments deem to be non-essential, or where alternative powers already exist, have been deprioritised. Any SIs that fall into this category and are still required but not before Exit Day, will be laid before Parliament and Members will have the opportunity to scrutinise them in the normal way.

Brexit

21 Mar 2019 | 231383

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what estimate he has made of the amount the UK would pay to the EU in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

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

As part of the Withdrawal Agreement, we have reached a fair financial settlement with the EU, honouring commitments we made during our

period of membership, and ensuring a fair deal for UK taxpayers. In the event that we leave the EU without a deal, the financial settlement as set out in the Withdrawal Agreement would no longer apply. The Government recognises that the UK has obligations to the EU, and the EU obligations to the UK, that will survive the UK's withdrawal—and that these need to be resolved. But in a no deal scenario we would need to determine how to do so.

[Trade Agreements](#)

18 Mar 2019 | 231476

Asked by: Seema Malhotra

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what recent steps he has taken to prepare companies that trade with countries under EU free trade agreements (FTA) where the provisions of those FTAs have not been replicated.

Answering member: George Hollingbery | Department for International Trade

Our priority is securing a deal with the European Union as this will avoid disruption to our global trading relationships. However, we must prepare for all eventualities.

The Government has published advice to businesses on trade continuity in a no deal, including a highly cautious list of those agreements that will not be in place, in order that businesses and individuals ensure that they are prepared for every eventuality.

Should replacement agreements not be ready in time for 29 March 2019, the Government is considering a range of options to ensure that its continuity agreements can be brought into force as soon as possible.

[Borders: Irish Sea](#)

15 Mar 2019 | HL14116

Asked by: Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what physical arrangements would be necessary to provide a border between the EU and the UK in the Irish Sea.

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

The UK and the EU have been clear in the Political Declaration that we will seek to negotiate an ambitious economic partnership, including a free trade area for goods that facilitates trade through a new customs arrangement, deep regulatory cooperation, and avoids any tariffs or quotas.

The Declaration recognises that the application of checks and controls between the EU and the UK would depend on the UK's commitments, including in relation to the level of alignment with EU rules. Obviously we will need to agree the balance as part of the future negotiations. The Government has been clear, in all circumstances, we seek to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland and we stand by all our

commitments including the safeguarding of the constitutional and economic integrity of the United Kingdom.

Import Duties

14 Mar 2019 | HL14119

Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help UK businesses which trade with the EU to prepare for the effects of introducing tariffs in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Answering member: Baroness Fairhead | Department for International Trade

The Government has set out what the arrangements will be for tariffs on imports into the UK in a no deal scenario. It is a balanced tariff policy which aims to minimise costs to business and mitigate price impacts on consumers, while also supporting UK producers as far as possible. The Government has set out extensive information through the gov.uk website about what this policy will mean for businesses and the public, including the legal classification and applied rate of duty for all products being imported into the UK. Businesses can communicate through existing business and trade helplines (details available through gov.uk). The EU Exit Business Campaign has also been launched on gov.uk to help businesses prepare for no deal.

Borders: Northern Ireland

13 Mar 2019 | HL13778

Asked by: Lord Dobbs

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 13 February (HL13385), which characteristics beyond infrastructure in their view constitute a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

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

From the outset of the negotiations the Prime Minister has been clear that there should be no return to the borders of the past, and that maintaining an open, seamless border has been the cornerstone for the success of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. That is why the December Joint Report made clear that the UK would avoid a hard border, including any physical infrastructure or related checks and controls.

Last week, the Government published a Written Ministerial Statement noting that joint UK-EU work on alternative arrangements will be an important strand of the next phase of negotiations. In anticipation of this, and to ensure that the UK is ready to move at pace in the next phase, the Government is putting in place the UK's arrangements to support this work, with a team drawing in all the relevant departments including DExEU, HMT, HMRC, BEIS, DEFRA, Home Office, and the NIO. This will report directly to the UK's negotiating team.

[Common Travel Area](#)

13 Mar 2019 | 230084

Asked by: Conor McGinn

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, pursuant to the Answer of 19 June 2018 to Question 153188 on Common Travel Area, what further areas of reciprocal rights will be included within the Common Travel area in addition to the six areas listed in that Answer.

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

The UK Government is firmly committed to maintaining the Common Travel Area (CTA), ensuring that UK and Irish nationals continue to have the same reciprocal rights when in each other's state as they do now.

As noted in the answer to the question 153188 of 19 June 2018 on Common Travel Area, these reciprocal rights include:

- the right to enter and reside in each others' state without being subject to a requirement to obtain permission;
- the right to work without being subject to a requirement to obtain permission;
- the right to study;
- access to social welfare entitlements and benefits, including pensions;
- access to health services; and
- the right to vote in local and parliamentary elections.

Further information can also be found on the CTA section of gov.uk.

[Free Movement of People](#)

11 Mar 2019 | 228559

Asked by: Sir Edward Davey

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether the Prime Minister has entered into correspondence with the European Council on changing the mandate of the European Commission to allow for the adoption of part two of the Withdrawal Agreement on citizens' rights under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

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

From the very beginning the Prime Minister has been clear that safeguarding the rights of EU citizens living in the UK and UK nationals living in the EU was her first priority for negotiations. The best way to guarantee those rights, both for UK nationals in the EU and EU citizens in the UK, is through the Withdrawal Agreement.

On 27 February, the House of Commons supported a proposal by Alberto Costa MP which requires the Government to seek a joint UK/EU commitment to preserve the citizens' rights section of the Withdrawal Agreement, whatever the outcome of negotiations.

The Secretary of State Steve Barclay has now written to the EU's lead Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, on ring-fencing the Citizens' Rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement. This letter has also been copied to Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator and shared with the Secretary-General. Copies of the letter have been

placed in the libraries of both Houses and it has been published online at gov.uk.

[Brexit: Statutory Instruments](#)

11 Mar 2019 | 228535

Asked by: Dominic Grieve

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what estimate the Government has made of the number of EU-exit related statutory instruments that are required to be approved by 29 March.

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

The Government expects to make up to 600 statutory instruments by exit day.

[Brexit: Statutory Instruments](#)

11 Mar 2019 | 228534

Asked by: Dominic Grieve

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many EU-exit related statutory instruments have been approved.

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

Over 480 exit related statutory instruments (80% of the up to 600 expected by exit day) have been laid. [Votes and Proceedings](#) provides the lists of SIs that have been approved by the House.

[Gibraltar](#)

08 Mar 2019 | 227985

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether the status of Gibraltar remains a red line for the UK in its negotiations on leaving the EU.

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

British sovereignty over Gibraltar is not negotiable and the Government is negotiating a deal that works for the whole UK family, including Gibraltar. We will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their wishes, nor enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content. We are proud that Gibraltar is British and our position on sovereignty has not, and will not, change.

[NHS: Drugs](#)

08 Mar 2019 | 227166

Asked by: Damien Moore

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the merits of stockpiling drugs

so that patients can continue to have access to those drugs in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

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

Leaving the European Union with a deal remains the Government's top priority. However, as a responsible Government we must plan for every possible outcome, including 'no deal'. The Department has published guidance to industry and the health and care system to allow them to make informed plans and preparations. This is available on GOV.UK.

The Department has put in place a multi-layered approach to minimise any disruption to the supply of medicines. In August 2018, the Department wrote to all pharmaceutical companies that supply prescription-only and pharmacy medicines to the United Kingdom that come from or via the EU/European Economic Area asking them to ensure a minimum of six weeks' additional supply in the UK, over and above existing business-as-usual buffer stocks, by 29 March 2019.

The response from industry has been hugely positive. The vast majority of companies have confirmed stockpiling plans are in place and medicines continue to arrive to deliver on these plans. We are confident that if everyone does what they need to do, the supply of medicines and other medical products will be uninterrupted.

[Food Supply](#)

06 Mar 2019 | HL14068

Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that a no-deal Brexit could have on the UK's food supplies.

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

As a responsible Government, we are preparing for all eventualities including that of leaving the EU without a deal. Extensive work to prepare for a no deal scenario has been under way for the last two years to ensure the country continues to operate as smoothly as possible from the day we leave.

The UK has a high degree of food security, built on access to a range of sources including strong domestic production and imports from other countries. This will continue to be the case whether we leave the EU with or without a deal.

The Government has well established ways of working with the food industry on food supply chain issues. This includes working with Defra's long established Food Chain Emergency Liaison Group, which allows Government and industry to work together to plan for and respond to any food supply disruption.

This industry group's membership is drawn from across the agri-food chain sector and includes other relevant Government departments, devolved administrations and agencies. Defra will continue to work closely with food industry stakeholders on the potential impacts of a no deal scenario on the food and drink industry, as well as the contingency planning measures being taken by industry.

[Brexit](#)

06 Mar 2019 | 226611

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of negotiating a series of bilateral agreements on citizens' rights and other potential areas of common understanding with the EU in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

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

The Government has set out a unilateral offer to protect the rights of EU citizens living in the UK in all scenarios, and has been urging all Member States to do the same for UK nationals living in their countries.

Despite the welcome progress made by some Member States to protect the rights of UK nationals in their countries, there are other areas where the offer to UK nationals falls short, particularly in relation to healthcare. This is why the Government supported the objective of the Costa amendment on the 27 February, as a ring-fenced agreement would achieve our aim of providing certainty to citizens whatever the outcome of negotiations. The Government is now writing to the EU institutions seeking clarity on their position in regards to ring-fencing the citizens' rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement.

If a joint UK-EU commitment to ring-fence citizens cannot be achieved, protecting the rights of UK nationals in the EU would, in a no deal, ultimately be a matter for the EU and individual Member States. We are urging them to take all necessary measures to do so. The Foreign Secretary has written to all of his counterparts, and the Government is holding further urgent discussions with Member States to seek assurances on the rights of UK nationals in the EU.

[Business](#)

05 Mar 2019 | HL14015

Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of a statement from the Institute of Directors regarding the impact of Brexit uncertainty on consumption and investment in UK businesses.

Answering member: Lord Henley | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Leaving the EU with a deal is the Government's top priority. However, the Government is accelerating no deal preparations to ensure the country is prepared for every eventuality; this is the responsible thing to do.

On 26 February the Government published its latest assessment of the implications for business and international trade in the UK, if it leaves the EU without a deal on 29 March. The paper is available on GOV.UK. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is in regular contact with many businesses and representative organisations,

including the Institute of Directors, to ensure we understand their concerns and can help them to prepare.

[Brexit: Referendums](#)

05 Mar 2019 | 227039

Asked by: Jim Cunningham

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate his Department has made of the potential cost to the public purse of holding a second referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

Answering member: David Lidington | Cabinet Office

No such estimate has been made. The Government has no plans to hold another referendum on EU membership. The Government remains committed to delivering on the result of the 2016 EU referendum by leaving the EU.

[NHS: Drugs and Medical Equipment](#)

04 Mar 2019 | 226661

Asked by: Luciana Berger

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the article entitled, How will Brexit affect health services in the UK? An updated evaluation, published on 27 February 2019, whether his Department's stockpiling contingency plans will ensure medicinal supplies are secured in the long term after the UK leaves the EU.

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

The Department is working closely with trade bodies, product suppliers, the health and care system in England, the devolved administrations and Crown Dependencies, to make detailed plans to ensure the continuation of the supply of medical products to the whole of the United Kingdom in the event of a 'no deal' European Union exit.

We have also assessed contract risks associated with potential EU exit in the broader National Health Service and within the devolved administrations, and are working with suppliers to ensure adequate mitigations are in place for non-clinical goods and services (e.g. hospital food, laundry, IT contracts etc).

The key risk to supply is reduced traffic flow at the short straits crossing (i.e. between Calais and Dover or Folkestone), which is where the majority of medicines and other medical products imported from the EU/European Economic Area (EEA) come from. Many companies across all sectors, have already taken measures to protect their own supply chain to avoid the possible delays at the Dover Straits. The Department for Transport has also procured additional 'roll on roll off' freight capacity equivalent of around an extra 2,200 heavy goods vehicle per week to help companies in importing medicines and medical products into the UK.

The Government recognises the vital importance of medicines and medical products, including insulin, and is working to ensure that there is sufficient roll-on, roll-off freight capacity to enable these vital products to continue to move freely in to the UK.

The Government has agreed that medicines and medical products will be prioritised on these alternative routes to ensure that the flow of all these products will continue unimpeded after 29 March 2019.

In August 2018, the Department asked suppliers to confirm arrangements in respect of prescription-only and pharmacy medicines that come from or via the EU/EEEA. Company responses have provided the Department with an indication of industry's ability and preparedness to stockpile six weeks' worth of additional supply of each of the in-scope medicines in the UK ahead of 29 March 2019.

Since then, we have continued to receive very good engagement and are working closely with industry on a product-by-product basis. Companies 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.

[Brexit](#)

07 Mar 2019 | 226615

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if his Department will make a comparative assessment of the cost of extending the date for the UK leaving the EU from 29 March 2019 to 30 December 2021.

Answering member: Elizabeth Truss | Treasury

We reached a fair financial settlement with the EU, honouring commitments we made during our period of membership, as set out in the draft Withdrawal Agreement in November 2018. As the Prime Minister said in her statement to Parliament, we do not want to see Article 50 extended. By far the best way forward is for Parliament to agree to leave with a deal when we bring the Meaningful Vote back. If Article 50 were to be extended, any adjustments to the financial settlement would be subject to future negotiations.

[Brexit](#)

28 Feb 2019 | 909509

Asked by: Sir Henry Bellingham

What steps the Government is taking to prepare contingency plans for the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

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

Leaving the EU with a deal remains the Government's top priority. Our no deal preparations will ensure the country is prepared for every eventuality. Extensive preparations have been underway for over two years and these are continuing.

We have passed critical legislation, signed international agreements, recruited additional staff and guaranteed certain EU funding in a no deal scenario. Border Force is recruiting c.600 additional Border Force officers and HMRC have already hired over 2,300 extra staff for Brexit, including additional operational staff, like customs inspectors.

In September 2018, and again in December and February, HMRC sent letters to the 145,000 VAT registered businesses who currently trade with the EU advising them what action they need to take on customs in the event of no deal.

We have also published and updated 106 specific technical notices to help businesses, citizens and consumers prepare for a no-deal scenario.

[Trade](#)

27 Feb 2019 | HL13708

Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of a no-deal Brexit on future global trade.

Answering member: Baroness Fairhead | Department for International Trade

Our priority remains getting approval for the deal we have negotiated with our European partners. Alongside this, the Government will continue to do the responsible thing and prepare for all eventualities with partner countries, including a 'no deal' scenario. Details of these preparations can be found in the Government paper "Implications for business and trade of a No Deal exit on 29 March" published on the 26 February.

Regardless of how we leave, for the first time in more than four decades, the UK will have an independent trade policy once we exit from the EU. We will deploy all the tools at our disposal and tailor our trade policy to the strengths and requirements of the UK economy.

The Government is preparing for an ambitious programme of trade negotiations and enhanced market access. We have consulted on our first four potential free trade agreements (FTAs), with Australia, New Zealand, the United States and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The Government has committed to publishing Scoping Assessments prior to launching negotiations on new FTAs. We will then publish an impact assessment of any concluded agreement prior to ratification.

While we are looking to forge new agreements, the Government is also seeking continuity for our existing EU trade agreements as we leave the European Union. We have made good progress, signing trade continuity agreements with Switzerland, Chile, the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) states, the Faroe Islands, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority.

[Trade Agreements](#)

25 Feb 2019 | HL13599

Asked by: Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries have free trade agreements with the EU but have not yet signed such agreements with the UK.

Answering member: Baroness Fairhead | Department for International Trade

The Government recently updated the House on our progress to achieve continuity of our existing free trade agreements, and I refer the noble

Lord to the Government's written statement published on 21 February 2019. We will continue to inform the House as soon as further agreements are signed.

You can find a list of all the EU's Free Trade Agreements here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/negotiations-and-agreements/>

UK Membership of EU

21 Feb 2019 | HL13667

Asked by: Lord Saatchi

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the proposals of the Lead Not Leave campaign, in particular to move from debating terms for leaving the EU to terms for remaining in the EU, and (2) the potential benefits of the UK remaining in the EU on the basis of guarantees of constitutional and institutional reform of the EU.

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

The Government's policy is to work with Parliament to deliver a deal that ensures we leave the European Union, as planned, on March 29th.

Revoking Article 50 would not only betray the vote of the British people in the 2016 referendum, but it would betray the mandates on which the majority of MP's were elected into Parliament.

The British people gave a clear instruction to leave and we are delivering on that instruction.

Brexit: Northern Ireland

21 Feb 2019 | 220794

Asked by: Hilary Benn

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether the Government has made an economic assessment of the Malthouse compromise proposals.

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

We have engaged with this proposal sincerely and positively, and the principle of alternative arrangements has already been accepted by the EU as a way out of the backstop. The Prime Minister and President Juncker agreed that our teams should hold further talks to find a way forward.

The Government has delivered on its commitment to provide appropriate analysis to Parliament. The analysis, published in November 2018, focuses on the long-term economic impacts after the UK's new relationship with the EU comes into effect. It does not seek to capture any short-term changes and does not account for specific factors relating to varying border arrangements. The analysis does not model the Backstop as it is an insurance policy which neither side wish to use; and if triggered, would be explicitly temporary. For the same reason it is not practical to model alternatives to the backstop.

[Immigration Controls: Republic of Ireland](#)

19 Feb 2019 | HL13453

Asked by: Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the Republic of Ireland about allowing (1) Irish, and (2) UK citizens the freedom to (a) come and go between the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and (b) seek employment and establish residence in the UK, without special formalities, both before and after Brexit.

Answering member: Baroness Williams of Trafford | Home Office

The Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangements allow British and Irish citizens to travel freely within the CTA without seeking permission from the authorities. They also provide for British citizens in Ireland and Irish citizens in the UK to be able to work in either country without any requirement to obtain permission from the authorities.

These arrangements pre-date membership of the EU. The UK and Ireland are working closely to protect these rights after the UK leaves the EU.

[Brexit](#)

19 Feb 2019 | 221782

Asked by: Emma Reynolds

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether under the Treaties of the European Union, the European Parliament must approve a withdrawal agreement between the UK and the EU; and on what date the last meeting of the European Parliament will be before elections to that Parliament.

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

As outlined in Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union, the Withdrawal Agreement shall be concluded by the Council on behalf of the EU after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament. The last sitting day of the European Parliament ahead of its elections is 18 April 2019.

[Brexit](#)

18 Feb 2019 | 219381

Asked by: Jonathan Edwards

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will publish the Government's Project After plans to improve the economy in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Answering member: David Lidington | Cabinet Office

The Government continues to prepare for a range of possible scenarios to maintain continuity of existing trading relationships, including one in which we do not reach an agreement with the EU on the terms of our withdrawal. As the Chancellor said to the Treasury Select Committee, should there be no deal, we would react to that in the usual way and

support the economy through whatever transition is needed to get to a new, appropriate equilibrium.

European Economic Area and European Free Trade Association

15 Feb 2019 | 218752

Asked by: Jim Cunningham

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the Governments of EEA and EFTA member states on the future of trade with those countries in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Answering member: George Hollingbery | Department for International Trade

As we leave the EU, the UK remains committed to continuing our close trading relationships with our EEA and EFTA partners. The Government is working to ensure there is no disruption to our trading relationships, including maintaining the effects of our existing preferential trade arrangements with Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

Most recently, the Secretary of State signed trade agreements with Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Ministers and officials in the Department for International Trade continue to work closely with counterparts in the EEA States to put in place new arrangements should the UK leaving the EU without a deal. Fully replicating the effects of the existing arrangements will be challenging if we do not reach a deal with the EU due to the high degree of alignment with the EU internal market.

World Trade Organisation: Trade Agreements

14 Feb 2019 | 218821

Asked by: Jo Stevens

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether the Government has a WTO trade schedule prepared for 29 March 2019.

Answering member: George Hollingbery | Department for International Trade

The Government has prepared and lodged at the WTO UK-only schedules for both goods and services. These were lodged on 24 July 2018 for goods and 3 December 2018 for services. Copies were placed in the House Library. Both are ready to become operational on 29 March 2019 if a Withdrawal Agreement is not agreed with the EU.

Borders: Northern Ireland

11 Feb 2019 | 217576

Asked by: Bridget Phillipson

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what proposals for alternative arrangements for the Irish backstop are being considered.

Answering member: Stephen Barclay | Department for Exiting the European Union

The Political Declaration is clear that the UK and EU should work together and exchange information on facilitative arrangements and technologies. This sits alongside the UK and the EU's existing commitment to developing alternative arrangements to replace the backstop.

The Government plans to continue discussion with members from around the House in the coming days to finalise proposals with which to go back to the EU. While technology could play a part in this, and alternative arrangements are being looked at, these must be ones that can be made to work for the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland.

[Brexit](#)

08 Feb 2019 | 216980

Asked by: Chris Ruane

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many ongoing workstreams there are throughout central Government on preparations for leaving the EU without a deal.

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

Delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the Government's top priority. However, the Government is accelerating no deal preparations to ensure the country is prepared for every eventuality, as this is the responsible thing to do. As part of this, we are monitoring over 300 projects being delivered by departments across Government.

[Brexit: Government Bills](#)

05 Feb 2019 | HL13055

Asked by: Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Callanan on 22 January (HL12635 and HL12636), how they will prioritise the remaining bills they consider need to be enacted before the UK leaves the EU on 29 March; and whether they will list them in that priority order.

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

The Government has undertaken extensive work to identify the primary legislation essential to deliver our exit from the EU in different scenarios. We are preparing for all potential outcomes and we are committed to legislate as needed to deliver our exit.

Much of this legislation is already in place, for example the Nuclear Safeguards Act and the Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act, and a number of important statutory instruments.

The remaining legislation will be prioritised appropriately to ensure the measures needed are in place before the UK leaves the EU. As is always the case, Ministers will need to explain to each House the priority which should be accorded to each Bill as it is considered.

[Brexit: Negotiations](#)

24 Jan 2019 | 795 cc803-5

Asked by: Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union that the United Kingdom can unilaterally withdraw from clauses 2 to 5 of Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, whether they will cease Brexit negotiations through the European Commission and offer European Union citizens through the Council of Ministers continuing (1) free trade under the World Trade Organization, (2) reciprocal residence for a period to be agreed, and (3) security co-operation, before they agree any financial settlement on the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union.

Answered by: Lord Callanan | Department for Exiting the European Union

My Lords, the CJEU in the case of Wightman held that a member state can unilaterally revoke its notice to withdraw under Article 50. Such a revocation must be unequivocal and unconditional. However, let me be clear that, regardless, the Government's policy has not changed, and we will not revoke the Article 50 notice. A clear majority of the electorate voted to leave the EU, and we have to respect that result.

[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 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.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Debates

[Brexit](#)

25 Mar 2019 | House of Lords | 796 cc2147-817

[Article 50 Extension](#)

20 Mar 2019 | House of Commons | 656 cc1091-1173

[Article 50 Extension](#)

20 Mar 2019 | House of Commons | 656 cc1087-9

[UK's Withdrawal from the European Union](#)

14 Mar 2019 | House of Commons | 656 c654

[UK's Withdrawal from the European Union](#)

13 Mar 2019 | House of Commons | 656 cc383-471

[Further Developments in Discussions with the European Union under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union](#)

11 Mar 2019 | House of Lords | 796 cc837-864

[Further Developments in Discussions with the European Union under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union](#)

11 Mar 2019 | House of Lords | 796 cc869-906

[Leaving the European Union](#)

11 Mar 2019 | House of Commons | 656 cc1-30WH

[Further Discussions with the European Union under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union](#)

27 Feb 2019 | House of Lords | 796 cc238-292

[UK's Withdrawal from the EU](#)

27 Feb 2019 | House of Commons | 655 cc365-449

[UK's Withdrawal from the EU](#)

14 Feb 2019 | House of Commons | 654 c1160

[EU Withdrawal](#)

13 Feb 2019 | House of Lords | 795 cc1851-1936

[Leaving the European Union](#)

4 Feb 2019 | House of Commons | 654 cc1-28WH

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

29 Jan 2019 | House of Commons | 653 cc789-791

[Brexit: Parliamentary Approval of the Outcome of Negotiations with the European Union](#)

28 Jan 2019 | House of Lords | 795 cc916-982

[Brexit: Further Referendum](#)

17 Jan 2019 | House of Lords | 795 cc2109-151

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

15 Jan 2019 | House of Commons | 652 cc1019-1130

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

14 Jan 2019 | House of Lords | 795 cc11-55

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

14 Jan 2019 | House of Lords | 795 cc66-118

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

14 Jan 2019 | House of Commons | 652 cc861-979

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

11 Jan 2019 | House of Commons | 652 cc697-778

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

10 Jan 2019 | House of Lords | 794 cc2319-2370

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

10 Jan 2019 | Debates | House of Commons | 652 cc567-687

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

09 Jan 2019 | House of Lords | 794 cc2220-294

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

09 Jan 2019 | House of Commons | 652 cc385-508

[Leaving the EU: No Deal](#)

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

[EU Withdrawal Agreement](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Brexit: Negotiations](#)

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

[EU Withdrawal Agreement: Legal Advice](#)

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

[Legislating for the Withdrawal Agreement](#)

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

5.2 Early Day Motions

[People's Vote](#)

EDM 2239

27 March 2019

Anna Turley

That this House supports holding a public vote on whether or not the UK should leave the European Union on the final terms agreed between the Government and the European Union; celebrates the fact that thousands of members of the Co-operative movement and Co-operative Party joined the march of more than one million people on Saturday 23rd March 2019 in favour of a People's Vote on any Brexit deal; believes any Brexit deal must include continued access to the UK Single Market; rejects the argument that no deal is better than a bad deal; and believes Britain should not be lead down a path of greater inequality, insecurity and isolation, but one where wealth and power are shared.

[Inquiry into the handling of the first stage of negotiations for the UK leaving the EU](#)

EDM 2223

25 March 2019

Frank Field

That this House calls on the Government to establish a special commission of inquiry along the lines of the Dardanelles Inquiry, to examine the decisions and actions of the Government and others involved in the negotiations leading up to, and during, the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, and to publish its conclusions and recommendations within one year of its establishment.

[EU and Article 50](#)

EDM 2185

13 March 2019

Angus Brendan MacNeil

That this House calls for the Revocation of Article 50

[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.

[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.

5.3 Statements

[European Council](#)

25 Mar 2019 | 657 cc23-56

[Speaker's Statement](#)

18 Mar 2019 | 656 cc775-792

[Statement under Section 13\(4\) of the European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](#)

15 Mar 2019 | HCWS1421

[Exiting the European Union](#)

11 Mar 2019 | 656 cc127-154

[Exiting the European Union](#)

11 Mar 2019 | HCWS1398

[EU Exit](#)

07 Mar 2019 | HCWS1386

[Leaving the European Union](#)

26 Feb 2019 | 655 cc165-202

[EU Exit Update](#)

26 Feb 2019 | HCWS1361

[Trade Continuity under a "No Deal" scenario](#)

21 Feb 2019 | HCWS1352

[Leaving the EU](#)

12 Feb 2019 | 654 cc731-771

[Leaving the EU](#)

21 Jan 2019 | 653 cc24-67

[Leaving the EU](#)

14 Jan 2019 | 652 cc823-855

[Exiting the European Union](#)

10 Dec 2018 | 651 cc23-70

[EU Exit: Article 50](#)

10 Dec 2018 | 651 cc89-104

[EU Exit](#)

06 Dec 2018 | HCWS1152

[Leaving the EU](#)

26 Nov 2018 | 650 cc23-67

[Exiting the European Union](#)

26 Nov 2018 | HCWS1110

[Progress on EU Negotiations](#)

22 Nov 2018 | 649 cc1095-1138

6. Further reading

Government Policy Papers

[11 March Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration laid before Parliament following political agreement](#)

Department for Exiting the European Union
11 March 2019

[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 Insight articles

[The EU agrees to delay Brexit – but for how long?](#)

25 March 2019

[Extending the Article 50 Period: FAQs](#)

21 March 2019

[What is “exit day”? Dispelling misconceptions about the extension of Article 50](#)

19 March 2019

[The Brexit timetable: One promise. Two weeks. Three key votes](#)

1 March 2019

[Extending Article 50 and European Parliament elections](#)

19 February 2019

[Yvette Cooper's Private Member's Bill explained](#)

19 February 2019

[What legislation is required for a 'no deal' Brexit?](#)

15 February 2019

[No-deal Brexit and WTO: Article 24 explained](#)

4 February 2019

[A 'Plan B' considered and two instructions given: Where next for Parliament and Brexit?](#)

30 January 2019

[The 'Malthouse Compromise': What is 'Plan C'?](#)

29 January 2019

[What are the 'other' Brexit options?](#)

28 January 2019

Library Briefing Papers

[Brexit: Proposals for the future UK-EU relationship](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8483
26 March 2019

[Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7960
22 March 2019

[Extending Article 50: could Brexit be delayed?](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8496
21 March 2019

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

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8453
14 March 2019

[Further Article 50 Discussions with the EU](#)

Lords Library Note LLN-2019-0023
21 February 2019

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) \(No. 4\) Bill 2017-19](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7276
19 February 2019

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

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8397
8 February 2019

[Brexit: Proposals for the future UK-EU relationship](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8483
25 January 2019

[EU assurances to the UK on Brexit](#)

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-8474
16 January 2019

[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

Committee inquiries

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

Exiting the European Union Committee

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

Exiting the European Union Committee

Other

[**Brexit: European Council adopts decision extending the period under Article 50**](#)

European Council

March 2010

[**Response to the 12 March 2019 vote on the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration: next steps for Parliament**](#)

HC 2073

Exiting the European Union Committee

March 2019

[**Brexit votes explained**](#)

Institute for Government

March 2019

[**Impact of a 'No Deal' Brexit Across the UK**](#) (accessed 06 March 2019)

Confederation of British Industry

[**What CBI members are saying: Impact of a 'No Deal' Brexit Across the UK**](#) (accessed 06 March 2019)

Confederation of British Industry

[**Resolving the Brexit impasse**](#)

UK in a Changing Europe

February 2019

[**Response to the vote on the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration: Assessing the Options**](#)

HC 1908

Exiting the European Union Committee

January 2019

[**Response to the vote on the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration: Options for Parliament**](#)

HC 1902

Exiting the European Union Committee

January 2019

[**Can Article 50 be extended?**](#)

Institute for Government

January 2019

[**The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal - The Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration**](#)

HC 1778

Exiting the European Union Committee

December 2018

Questions and Answers: the consequences of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union without a ratified Withdrawal Agreement (no deal Brexit)

European Commission
December 2018

Options for deal or no deal

Institute for Government
October 2018

How to prepare if the UK leaves the EU with no deal

Department for Exiting the European Union
Last updated October 2018

No deal Brexit preparations

Institute for Government
October 2018

Cost of no deal revisited

The UK in a Changing Europe
September 2018

Exiting the European Union: Publications

Department for Exiting the European Union

Brexit page on GOV.UK

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