Brexit: Devolved Legislature Business

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Introduction

This is a running record of substantive business concerning Brexit in the devolved legislatures in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, comprising debates, ministerial statements, and work by committees. Its purpose is to provide a single point of access for this material for research staff in the House of Commons Library. It is updated every Monday.

The document records business directly and explicitly concerned with the process of the UK exiting the EU and its consequences. Debates, etc. that include the implications/consequences of Brexit in their discussions of a policy area, but are not primarily about Brexit, are not included.

The material is listed chronologically, unless stated otherwise.

We have not included parliamentary questions in this document (with the exception of Urgent Questions, which are treated as statements) because parliamentary questions are too numerous to be usefully provided in a list format. Questions can be searched, however, on each legislatures’ website, at the following pages:

Northern Ireland Assembly Questions Search
Scottish Parliament Motions, Questions and Answers
Welsh Assembly: Assembly Business Search.

Links are provided for each item, but not reference details (e.g. column references), because the legislatures do not provide this information in the web versions of their records.

There is some variation in how the material is linked to for each legislature, because each of their websites is organised differently. For example, for Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly committee inquiries, a link is given to a dedicated page for the inquiry as a whole (where you will find details of evidence sessions, reports, etc.), but for Northern Ireland Assembly committees, links are given to individual items produced by inquiries (reports, etc.).

Each entry includes a section in italics summarising the content of the business. These are extracted as much as possible from the text of the statement, motion, etc. itself. Where the explanatory section gives the text of a motion, please note that this is an extract and not the whole motion.
1. Northern Ireland Assembly

1.1 Northern Ireland Assembly: statements

13 September 2016, Ministerial Statement by the deputy First Minister, North/South Ministerial Council: Plenary Meeting

A statement reporting on the twenty-second meeting of the North/South Ministerial Council, which focussed on EU and financial matters

13 September 2016, Ministerial Statement by the First Minister, British-Irish Council: 22 July 2016

A statement on the 27th summit meeting of the British-Irish Council, ‘convened specifically to consider the outcome of the referendum on the United Kingdom’s membership of the European Union’

12 September 2016, Ministerial Statement by the Minister of Finance, North/South Ministerial Council: Special EU Programmes

A statement on the nineteenth meeting of the North/South Ministerial Council, which included ‘a broad discussion on the implications of the EU referendum.’

1.2 Northern Ireland Assembly: debates

17 October 2016, EU Special Status for Northern Ireland (Debate on motion) Debate 12.30pm, resumed 4.00pm

Debate on a motion that ‘this Assembly […] endorses the proposal of the Irish Government and others that there should be legal recognition of the unique status of Northern Ireland and the circumstances on the island as part of the arrangements to leave the European Union; […] and calls on the British Government to fully endorse, and to negotiate for, this outcome in discussions on leaving the European Union.’

21 Nov 2016, EU Funding for the Agricultural Sector (Debate on motion) 1. Motion 2. Debate 12.45pm, resumed at 4.00pm

Debate on a motion that ‘calls on the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to outline how she intends to uphold the First Minister’s commitment that farmers can be provided for as
well as, if not better if Northern Ireland leaves the European Union, and to detail how she will develop a strategy to provide for and secure the long-term sustainability of the agricultural and agri-food sectors to ensure no loss of assistance to farmers arising from the withdrawal of existing European Union funding.

19 September 2016, ‘A Vision for Northern Ireland outside the EU’ (Debate on motion)

Debate on a motion ‘That this Assembly, in the light of the referendum decision by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, endorses and adopts the approach contained in ‘A Vision for Northern Ireland outside the EU’, published by the Ulster Unionist Party.’

27 June 2016, United Kingdom Withdrawal from the European Union (Debate on motion) Debate 12.00pm, resumed 3.30pm

Debate on a motion ‘That this Assembly notes the result of the referendum on European Union membership; and calls on the Executive to set out, in the immediate future, their response to the consequences of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.’

1.3 Northern Ireland Assembly: committee inquiries

There are no Committee inquiries on Brexit to date
2. Scottish Parliament

2.1 Scottish Parliament: statements

20 December 2016, Statement by the First Minister, Scotland’s Place in Europe
A statement on the publication of “Scotland’s Place in Europe”, ‘a paper containing detailed and practical proposals to mitigate the very real economic, social, democratic and cultural risks that Scotland faces as a result of June’s United Kingdom-wide referendum on European Union membership.’

26 October 2016, Statement by the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe, European Union Referendum (Update)
A statement ‘updating the Parliament on our actions following the EU referendum and the overwhelming vote in Scotland to remain.’

7 September 2016, Statement by the First Minister, Scotland’s Place in Europe
A statement reminding MSPs that the Scottish Parliament ‘gave the Scottish Government a mandate to explore all options to protect Scotland’s relationship with the European Union,’ and providing ‘further information on our work and priorities, and on how we intend to involve Parliament as we move forward.’

28 June 2016, Statement by the First Minister, European Union Referendum (Implications for Scotland)
A statement in response to the EU Referendum result.

2.2 Scottish Parliament: debates

17 January 2017, Scotland’s future relationship with Europe (Debate on motion)
Debate ‘on protecting Scotland’s interests in negotiating our future relationship with Europe.’
10 January 2017, *Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Union)* (Debate on motion)

*Debate on ‘Scotland’s place in the European Union—protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.’*

29 November 2016, *Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism (European Union Referendum)* (Debate on motion)

*A debate ‘on the implications for culture, the creative industries and tourism following the European Union referendum.’*

15 November 2016, *Single market and trade (European Union referendum)* (Debate on motion)

*A debate ‘on the single market and trade and the European Union referendum.’*

8 November 2016, *Health and Social Care (European Union Workforce)* (Debate on motion)

*A debate on: ‘Scotland values its European Union workforce and its contribution to health and social care.’*

1 November 2016, *UK Referendum on EU Membership: Justice and Security* (Debate on motion)

*A debate on: ‘the United Kingdom referendum on European Union membership: impacts on justice and security in Scotland.’*

27 October 2016, *Environment and Climate Change (European Union Referendum)* (Debate on motion)

*A debate on: ‘the environment and climate change—European Union referendum.’*

4 October 2016, *Higher Education and Further Education (European Union Referendum)* (Debate on motion)

*A debate ‘on the implications of the European Union referendum for higher and further education.’*

27 September 2016, *Rural Economy (European Union Referendum)* (Debate on motion)

*A debate ‘on securing the interests of Scotland’s rural economy following the European Union referendum.’*
20 September 2016, Economy (EU Referendum) (Debate on motion)
A debate on: ‘Scotland’s economy: responding to the European Union referendum.’

14 September 2016, European Union Referendum (Debate on motion)
A debate on: ‘the implications of the European Union referendum result and the United Kingdom’s negotiated position.’

28 June 2016, European Union Referendum (Implications for Scotland) (Debate on motion)
A debate on a motion that the Scottish Parliament ‘mandates the Scottish Government to have discussions with the UK Government, other devolved administrations, the EU institutions and member states to explore options for protecting Scotland’s relationship with the EU, Scotland’s place in the single market and the social, employment and economic benefits that come from that, and instructs the Scottish Government to report back regularly to parliamentarians, to the European and External Relations Committee and the Parliament on the progress of those discussions and to seek Parliament’s approval of the outcome of that process.’

2.3 Scottish Parliament: committee inquiries
Scottish Parliament committee inquiries are listed alphabetically by committee, because they do not always provide a clear launch date. The dates in brackets are approximate dates for when the inquiry began, but should not be taken as official. Each item links to the inquiries’ page on the Scottish Parliament website, from where you can find further material.

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee, Inquiry: The EU referendum and its implications for Scotland

Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee, Inquiry: Economic Impact of Leaving the European Union

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee’s work in relation to Europe and the European Union
Local Government and Communities Committee, *Inquiry: Implications for Scottish Local Government of the United Kingdom Leaving the European Union*
3. National Assembly for Wales

3.1 National Assembly for Wales: statements

10 January 2017 Written Statement by the First Minister: Visit to Norway, 4-6 January 2017

A Written Statement on the First Minister’s visit to Norway ‘to better understand how [its relationship with the EU] works and to gain insight into the advantages and disadvantages of this model.’

13 December 2016, Written Statement by the First Minister: Visit to Brussels on 7 December

A Written Statement on the First Minister’s visit to Brussels ‘for meetings about the EU’s possible future relations with Wales and the wider UK and about current EU-related activities.’

29 November 2016, Urgent Question: The European Economic Area Agreement, answered by the Counsel General

An Urgent Question: ‘Will the Counsel General outline his assessment of the potential legal implications of the planned litigation against the UK Government in relation to Article 127 of the European Economic Area Agreement?’

25 November 2016, Written Statement by the Counsel General: Counsel General’s written submissions to the Supreme Court – the Article 50 litigation

A Written Statement on the filing of the Counsel General’s ‘printed case with the Supreme Court […] including a copy of that case.’

21 November 2016, Written Statement by the Counsel General: Grounds for the Counsel General’s application to intervene in the appeal of the Article 50 litigation before the Supreme Court

A Written Statement on the Counsel General’s grounds for making an application to intervene in the appeal of the Article 50 litigation before the Supreme Court.

8 November 2016, Statement by the Counsel General: Article 50 Intervention
A statement on the Counsel General’s proposal ‘to apply to intervene in any appeal before the Supreme Court’ regarding the Article 50 litigation.

4 November 2016, Written Statement by the Counsel General: R (Miller and others) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

A Written Statement on the Counsel General’s intention ‘to make an application to be granted permission to intervene in the proposed appeal before the Supreme Court’ regarding the Article 50 litigation.

1 November 2016, Statement by the First Minister: EU Transition

A statement ‘to keep the Assembly informed of developments [following the EU referendum] and also to provide regular opportunities for the Assembly to comment and to debate within this Chamber.’

14 October 2016, Written Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government: Summary Note of the first meeting of the European advisory group

A Written Statement on the first meeting of the European Advisory Group.

11 October 2016, Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government: EU Funding

A statement providing ‘an update on the European structural fund programmes.’

4 October 2016, Urgent Question: The EU Law Repeal Bill, answered by the First Minister

An Urgent Question: ‘Will the First Minister make a statement on the implications for Wales of the Prime Minister’s proposed EU law repeal Bill?’

28 September 2016, Written Statement by the First Minister: First meeting of European advisory group

A Written Statement on the European Advisory Group holding its first meeting.
15 September 2016, Written Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs: EU Referendum – Engagement on shaping the future direction of Environment and Rural Affairs Policy

A Written Statement on ‘a process of engagement to […] identify the full implications [of the EU referendum result] to the sectors and policy areas covered by’ the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs.

13 September 2016, Statement by the First Minister: EU Transition

A statement on progress made since the EU referendum.

9 August 2016, Written Statement by the First Minister: Work Underway to Shape Wales’ Future Relationship with Europe

A Written Statement on the establishment of the European Advisory Group and a Cabinet Sub-Committee on European Transition, and other preparations for the EU negotiations.’

12 July 2016, Statement by the First Minister: Priorities for Government

A statement on the Welsh Government’s ‘programme for government’ in the context of the EU referendum result.

6 July 2016, Written Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs: EU Referendum – impact on Environment and Rural Affairs portfolio

A Written Statement on the impact of the EU referendum result on the Welsh Government’s Environment and Rural Affairs portfolio

24 June 2016, Written Statement by the First Minister: EU Referendum

A Written Statement on the result of the EU referendum.

3.2 National Assembly for Wales: debates

11 January 2017, Membership of the European Single Market (Debate on motion)

Debate on a motion concerning the single market, immigration and trade.
16 November 2016, *Overseas Workers in the Welsh NHS* (Debate on motion)

A debate on a motion proposing that the Welsh Assembly ‘calls on the Welsh Government, through negotiation with the UK Government, to secure powers to issue work permits for overseas nationals to work in the Welsh NHS.’

12 October 2016, *Common Cause: Women, Wales and the Commonwealth—the Role of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians in the Post-Brexit Era* (Short Debate)

A debate on ‘Common Cause: Women, Wales and the Commonwealth—the Role of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians in the Post-Brexit Era’

21 September 2016, *Membership of the European Single Market* (Debate on motion)

A debate on a motion proposing that the Welsh Assembly ‘Notes the importance of full membership of the European single market to the Welsh economy.’

14 September 2016, *Brexit and the economy* (Debate on motion)

A debate on a motion proposing that the Welsh Assembly ‘Calls on the Welsh Government to work closely in a positive frame of mind to capitalise on these opportunities [provided by Brexit] and to involve all parties in the Assembly in its negotiations with the UK Government to maximise the potential benefits for Wales.’

13 July 2016, *UK withdrawal from the European Union* (Debate on motion)

A debate on a motion proposing that the Welsh Assembly ‘Notes the promises made to the people of Wales by those who campaigned for the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union’ and ‘calls on the UK Government to ensure that such promises are fulfilled following withdrawal from the EU.’

### 3.3 National Assembly for Wales: committee inquiries

*Welsh Assembly committee inquiries are listed alphabetically by committee, because they do not always provide a clear launch date. The dates in brackets are approximate dates for when the inquiry began, but*
should not be taken as official. Each item links to the inquiries’ page on the Welsh Assembly website, from where you can find further material.

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, Inquiry into the Future of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies in Wales

External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee, a committee formed ‘to examine the implications for Wales of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union and to ensure Welsh interests are safeguarded’
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