

Easy read

Brexit and Disability

Some questions and answers about how Brexit might affect disabled people in Wales



This is an easy read version of: **Brexit and Disability Frequently Asked Questions**. This document was written by the **Brexit Forum Project** in partnership with **Disability Wales**.

November 2019

How to use this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.



You may need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. They have been explained in a box below the word.

If the hard word is used again it is in **normal blue writing**. You can check what all the words in blue mean on page 31.



Where the document says **we**, this means the **Brexit Forum Project**. For more information contact:

Website: www.brexitforumwales.org

E-mail: whitmorecd@cardiff.ac.uk



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

Contents

	Page
How to use this document.....	2
Introduction.....	4
About this document.....	5
Questions about medicine and assistive technology.....	7
Questions about people from the EU.....	12
Questions about accessibility.....	14
Questions about benefits.....	16
Questions about the Law.....	18
Questions about travel after Brexit.....	21
Questions about money.....	24
Questions about support for organisations and communities.....	29
Hard words.....	31



Introduction

We are the **Brexit Forum Project and Disability Wales**. The **Brexit Forum Project** is run by:



- **Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)**



- **Cardiff University**



We get money from the **Legal Education Foundation** to run the Brexit Forum Project.



Disability Wales and the **Forum** have worked in partnership to write this document.



Our aim is to help organisations like charities and community groups.



We want to help them understand and be involved in decisions about **Brexit**.



Brexit is the name used for Britain leaving the **European Union** or **EU** for short.

The **European Union** is a group of countries whose governments work together.

About this document



This document is about how **Brexit** might affect disabled people.



We held an event and spoke to a lot of people about how **Brexit** might affect disabled people.



This document answers the questions that we collected during that event.



At the moment our politicians are trying to sort out how they can make **Brexit** happen. They are trying to get a good deal.



This is mainly to do with making agreements for buying and selling goods with the **EU**.



And making agreements for people from the **EU** being allowed to come and live in the UK.



A no deal **Brexit** will mean we do not have any agreements.



People from the **EU** will not be able to come and live here. But it will be harder to buy and sell goods with the **EU**.

Questions about medicine and assistive technology



Assistive technology is equipment that can help make life easier for disabled people.

1. Will I still be able to get my medicine after Brexit?



There could be shortages of some types of medicine.



The Government has put plans in place to help stop this from happening.



But some people are still worried they have not done enough.



And some believe that certain medicines cannot be kept in stock.



Please check with your pharmacy if you are worried.

2. Will I have to pay for medicine?

Brexit should not cause people to have to pay for medicine.



It is not likely that the NHS will change straight after **Brexit**. But people are worried that there may be changes in the future.



People from the **EU** who live in the UK will still be able to use the NHS for free.



But this may change for people visiting the UK from the **EU**.

3. Will the cost of medicine be higher for the NHS?

The cost of some medicine has been higher for the NHS.



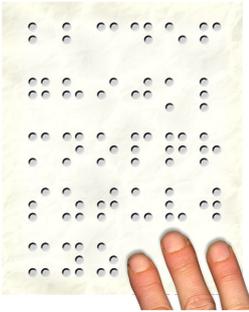
This is because the value of UK money has dropped since the **Brexit** vote.

4. Will the NHS have to use cheaper medicine after Brexit? And will this make people's health worse?



We do not know right now. But costs have gone up since the [Brexit](#) vote.

5. Will there still be braille on medicine labels?



[Braille](#) is a way of giving people information who have difficulties seeing things.



There will still be [braille](#) on medicine.

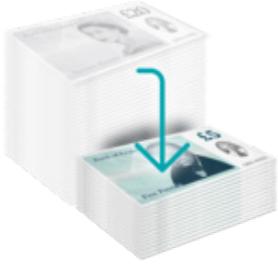


The [EU](#) is doing more work to make sure people can understand medicine labels better.



But the UK will probably not be part of this after [Brexit](#).

6. Will there be fewer NHS services after Brexit?



Experts think that the UK will have less money after [Brexit](#). They think this will be worse if we have a no deal [Brexit](#).



But we do not know how this will affect services.

7. Will Brexit mean people will need private health insurance?



We have no reason to think this. Some people are worried this might happen.



People from the UK could be affected when they are visiting the [EU](#).



At the moment people from the UK can get free treatment in the [EU](#).



So if this changes it is important that people get insurance when they travel to the [EU](#). And to check the insurance covers health issues.

8. Will we still be able to bring medical items into the UK from the EU.



Yes but this may cost more. And we may not have as many rights as we used to.

Questions about people from the EU

9. Will people from the EU who live in the UK still get free healthcare?



Yes. But people visiting may need to get insurance.

10. Is there help for disabled EU citizens to get the EU Settlement Scheme?



This is a scheme for people who are from the **EU** who want to stay living in the UK.



Yes. You can get more information about this on the **EU Citizens Immigration Advice Service** website:

www.eusswales.com



There is also lots of information on the **UK Government** website:

www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

11. Will Brexit affect how many staff we have to support disabled people?



It is difficult to know what will happen.



But some information shows **Brexit** could make it harder to get staff.

12. How will Brexit affect personal assistants from EU countries?



People from the **EU** who are already doing this job will be able to apply and stay in the UK.



The UK is changing the law so it might be harder for people from the **EU** to work here in the future.

Questions about accessibility



Accessibility means making something easier for people to use. For example, making information into Easy Read.

13. Will bus passes be stopped because of Brexit?



They will not be stopped because of **Brexit**.



But there are worries that the UK will have less money. So will have less to spend on public services.

14. What will happen to Blue Badges if there is a no deal Brexit?



It will not change how blue badges are used in the UK.



But we do not know if blue badges will still be able to be used in the EU.

15. Will Brexit affect laws about accessibility?



We do not know.



The [EU](#) is going to have new laws that will make [accessibility](#) better.



But the UK and Welsh Government will need to decide whether to follow this or not.



Some people are worried that there will be so much work to do after [Brexit](#), that disability issues will not be given enough importance.

Questions about benefits

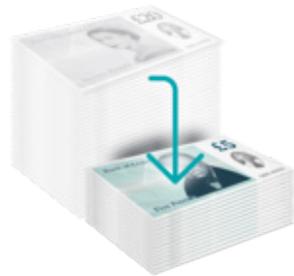
16. Will cuts to public service and benefits get worse with Brexit?



We do not know.



It has always been up to the UK Government how much money to put into things like benefits.



But a lot of people think the UK is going to have less money after [Brexit](#).



People from the [EU](#) will still be able to claim benefits. But there may be some changes to how they do this.



The **Citizens Advice Bureau** has information on their website about this:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/benefits/claiming-benefits-if-youre-from-the-EU/before-you-apply/check-if-you-can-pass-the-habitual-residence-test/



Anyone who claims benefits and is worried about **Brexit** should speak to their local council or charities for advice.

Questions about the Law

17. Will UK citizens still be able to use some of the Courts in the EU?



We will no longer be able to use the Court called Court of Justice of the **European Union**.



This is unless we have an agreement with the **European Union** that says we can use it in some situations.



We will still be able to use the **European Court of Human Rights**. This is not a **European Union** court.

18. What can we do to protect disability rights in Wales?



The Welsh Government is looking into this. 1 idea is to make laws like the ones in the EU.

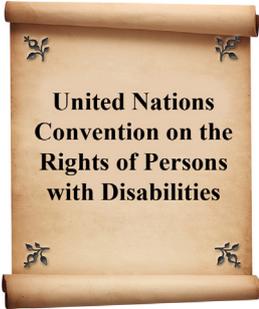


Organisations need to check that people do not lose any rights after **Brexit**.



19. Will we still have the law called European Convention on Human Rights?

Yes. But it is possible this could change.



We will also still be part of a law called: **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCRDP)**.



Some people are worried that they won't have as many rights after [Brexit](#) though.

20. Could the UK end up having less rights about disability than the EU?



Yes this could happen.



The UK will be able to choose what to do.



Some people are worried that over time the UK rights will not be as good as [EU](#) rights.

21. What is the Welsh Government doing to make sure we still follow good ideas in the EU about accessibility?



The Welsh Government is looking into this.

Questions about travel after Brexit

22. Will going on holiday be more expensive for disabled people after Brexit?



It might be. It will depend what is agreed with different countries.

These changes will be made:



- From 2021 if you want to travel to the **EU** you will need to apply to the **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)**. This will cost about 7 euros.



- You will need private travel insurance.



- If you are driving abroad you will need an **International Driving Permit**.

23. Will disabled people who live in the EU need to move back to the UK?



People living in EU countries will need to get something called permanent resident rights.



There is information about each country at this Government website:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-living-in-guides



There is also information at this website:

<https://britishineurope.org/>

And you can also contact us or Disability Wales for support:



Brexit Project Forum: www.brexitforumwales.org



Disability Wales: www.disabilitywales.org/

24. Will we still be able to use European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC) after Brexit?



If there is a no deal [Brexit](#) it is likely that we will not be able to use **EHIC** cards anymore. You will need private travel insurance.



Please check that the insurance covers your health issues.

Questions about money

25. Will there be less funding for organisations that support people with a disability after Brexit?



Some services get money to run through the [EU](#).

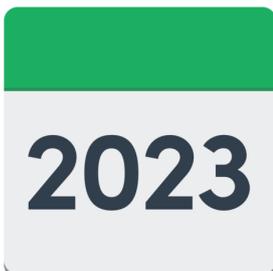


UK Government says it will replace these funds. The new UK fund will be called the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**.



But there is not much information about this. Some people think funding will be used for different things. And also that there might not be as much funding.

26. What will happen to projects that are funded by the EU now?



Projects that already get funded by the [EU](#) will get funding up until 2023. Or when they are due to end if this is before 2023.



Projects starting after **Brexit** will not be able to get **EU** funding.



After **Brexit** projects would need to get funding from the new UK fund. The new UK fund is called the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**.

27. How can we make sure disabled people have a say about this new fund?



There will be a consultation about it.

People will be able to speak to:



- Organisations that support disabled people.

- Assembly Members.



- Members of Parliament.

28. Will Brexit cause a recession?



A **recession** is a period of time when a country makes less money.



We do not know. But a lot of people think there will be less money after **Brexit**.



And it will be worse if there is a no deal **Brexit**.

29. Will there be cuts to services after Brexit?



We do not know.



The UK Government has tried to spend more money to stop this happening.



But it is possible we will have less money after **Brexit** which could affect services.

30. Will there be fewer chances for disabled people to find work after Brexit?



We do not know.



The **EU** has done a lot to help make it easier for disabled people to work.



Organisations need to keep working hard to make sure people get their rights.

31. Will there be more cuts to funding for charities after Brexit?



Some people are worried charities will be worse off after **Brexit**. Because the UK may have less money.



It might also cost more money to buy things like food. This could affect a lot of people.



Charities need to make plans to prepare for **Brexit**.



The UK and Welsh Governments have made funding available to help.



There is also a fund called the **Brexit Readiness fund**. More information is at this website:

www.gov.uk/government/news/business-secretary-launches-10-million-brexit-readiness-fund-for-business-organisations

Questions about support for organisations and communities

32. Where can we get good information about Brexit?



Information can be found at these websites:

Wales Civil Society Forum on Brexit:
www.brexitforumwales.org/introduction

The UK in a Changing EU:
ukandeu.ac.uk/

The Institute for Government:
www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/our-work/brexit

The Brexit Civil Society Alliance:
www.brexitcivilsocietyalliance.org

Public Health Wales:
<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/brexit>

Wales NHS Confederation:
www.nhsconfed.org/supporting-members/brexit

Welsh Government's Preparing Wales website:
<https://gov.wales/preparing-wales>

The Welsh Government's Support for the EU Settlement in Wales Scheme:
<http://www.eusswales.com>

33. How can we make sure the Welsh and UK Government's keep working hard on disability rights?



People need to keep talking about disability issues. And keep speaking to organisations about their worries.

Hard words

Accessibility

Accessibility means making something easier for people to use. For example, making information into Easy Read.

Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology is equipment that can help make life easier for disabled people.

Braille

Braille is a way of giving people information who have difficulties seeing things.

Brexit

Brexit is the name used for Britain leaving the European Union or EU for short.

European Union

The European Union is a group of countries whose governments work together.

Recession

A recession is when a country makes less money.