



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Securing Wales' Future

Moving from the European Union
to a new relationship with Europe



Young people's summary

Introduction

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In June 2016 there was a vote:

Do we want to stay part of the European Union (EU) or leave?

A majority of people in the UK voted 'leave'.

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The EU is a group of 28 European countries who work together and share some of the same rules.

Britain leaving the EU is sometimes called Brexit.

As part of the UK, people in Wales voted too. A majority voted the same way – to leave the EU. The Welsh Government understands this and respects the decision.

Leaving isn't going to be easy.

There are lots of things that need to be worked out and talked about.

That's why the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru are working together to find the best solutions for Wales.

We need to make sure the way we leave the EU protects Wales.



Working together

We can't do this alone.

We have to work with the UK Government in London and there will need to be negotiations with the EU.

We want the best possible outcome for the people of Wales.

We need to look after our businesses and communities. We also want to protect the funding we get and how we trade with Europe and the world.

There could be opportunities to grow and develop, but there are also risks.

To help us understand the issues we're working with:

- our European Advisory Group
- experts in agriculture and the environment
- experts in education and other public services
- businesses
- trade unions
- organisations and charities

We're also working with the governments in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

This booklet is about securing Wales' future. It sets out the important issues we need to think about as the UK gets ready to leave the EU.

There are 6 key issues we have identified:

- 1. The Single Market**
- 2. Moving to Wales**
- 3. Funding**
- 4. Welsh Government powers**
- 5. Protections for people and the environment**
- 6. Avoiding disruption.**



1. The Single Market

Having a Single Market makes buying and selling (trading) between EU countries much easier.

Trading can be in:

- **goods** – like cars, clothes or Welsh food
- **services** – like banking, media, transport or technology
- **capital** – like business investment or funding.

The Single Market also allows people to move freely between EU countries for jobs or studying.

In Wales, the Single Market is a part of daily life.

We trade all kinds of things with EU countries.

We think leaving the Single Market would be bad for Wales and our standard of living. It might make goods and services cost more. Welsh businesses might also find it harder to sell their products to EU countries.

We want to participate in the Single Market and keep growing.

We want the UK Government to take action. They need to promote continued participation in the Single Market.



2. Moving to Wales

People move between EU countries for work and study.

We have many people who legally live and work in Wales who are from EU countries – they make a positive contribution to our economy, communities and public services.

There are also many Welsh people who legally live and work in EU countries.

It's important everyone is respected and their right to stay is made clear. We need the UK Government and the EU to make this clear.

We understand as we leave the EU some changes will have to happen.

This could mean that you need a job to come and live in Wales.

People need to be given certainty that they will be able to stay in the community and country they currently live.



3. Funding

Countries pay to be a member of the EU and also receive funding from the EU.

We get about £680 million in EU funding each year.

The amount of funding Wales gets from the EU is more than we pay in.

This funding makes a real difference to people's lives. It's used to:

- support businesses
- create more jobs
- train people with new skills
- help farming, and the countryside
- improve communities.

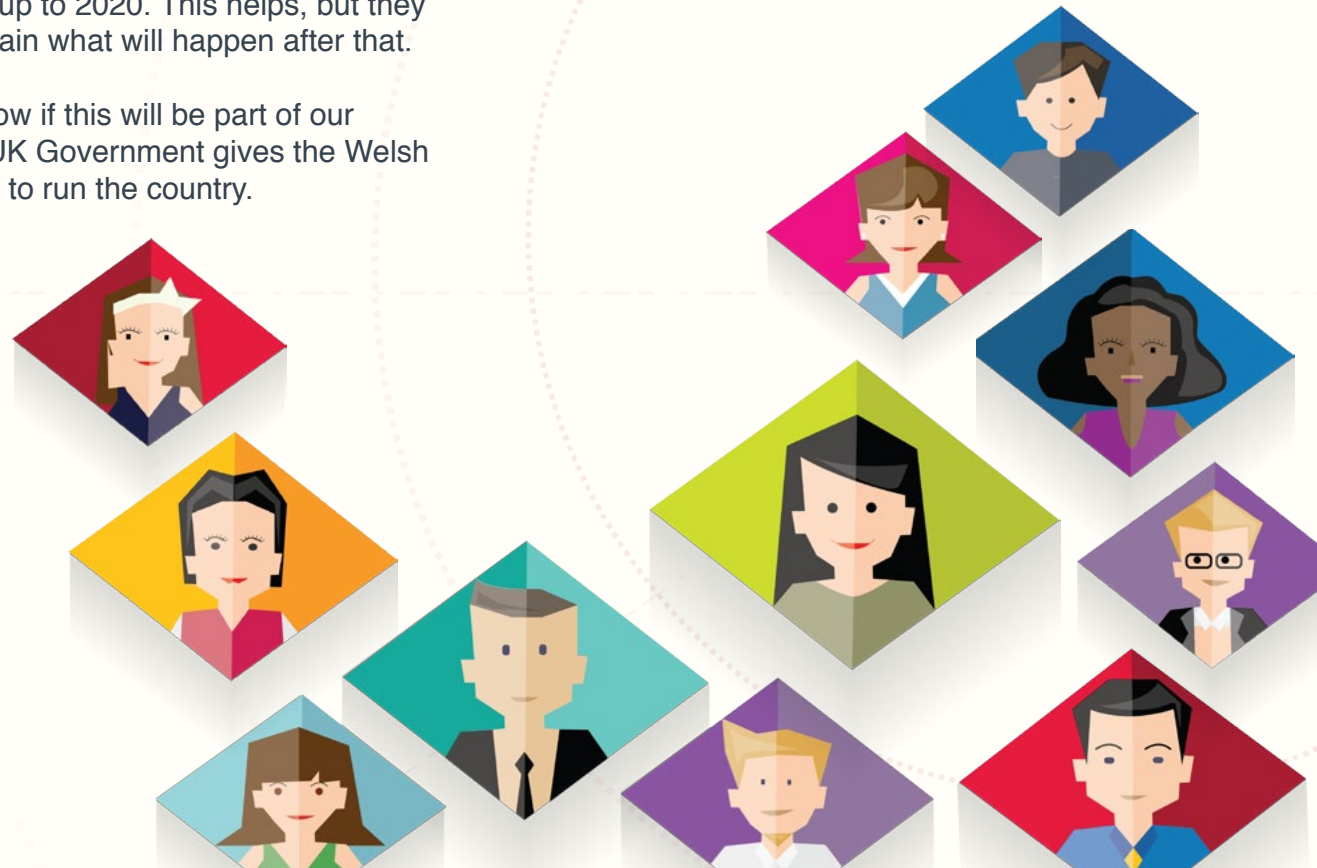
Some politicians promised that Wales wouldn't be worse off out of the EU.

The UK Government agreed to keep funding EU projects up to 2020. This helps, but they need to explain what will happen after that.

We must know if this will be part of our budget the UK Government gives the Welsh Government to run the country.

We want to keep on being part of some EU programmes. Programmes like ERASMUS+ that help students study in other EU countries. Or Horizon 2020 that funds new research and innovation.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) gives loans to Wales that help us grow and invest. We want the UK to stay part of this too.



4. Welsh Government powers

Wales has its own government. We work to improve the lives of people in Wales.

We use laws to support:

- businesses
- the environment
- public services
- agriculture
- fisheries
- and more.

Leaving the EU changes this and how we work. It also changes things for the UK Government.

How the UK Government works with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland needs to change.

We need to work together in a different way when we leave the EU.

We need to make sure that Wales' powers are protected.

5. Protections for people and the environment

The UK has been part of the EU for more than 40 years.

There are lots of laws and policies that have been good for Wales.

Being part of the EU has:

- **Protected the environment** – we have cleaner air, water and beaches because of some of these laws
- **Protected people** – we have more rights, safer workplaces and stronger employment laws
- **Made goods and products safer** – the things sold in our shops are safer and laws give us the right to return things.

We need to make sure we don't lose these when we leave the EU.



6. Avoiding disruption

Leaving the EU isn't simple.

There's a part of EU law called Article 50.

It gives any EU country the right to leave.

It also sets out how to leave.



Now that we've voted to leave, the UK Government needs to use Article 50. Then we have 2 years to work out a deal with the EU.

There are some difficult issues to work out and we need to avoid big problems after the 2 years.

We think the UK Government needs to agree a time for transition after we leave the EU.



Next steps



We're going to keep you updated on our plans to leave the EU.

We're part of Europe. Leaving the EU won't change that.

We want to keep working together, learning from each other, travelling and trading together.

There's a lot to sort out but we're determined to get the best deal for people in Wales.

Thanks for reading this.

If you want more information:

gov.wales/brexit

