



GRASSROOTS FOR EUROPE

Brexit Transition Extension advocates

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Version r16 09/06/2020 20:30

Now available online at : <https://ukpen.eu/reference/brexit-transition-extension-advocates/>

See also this major campaign resource site: <http://www.onecrisisatatime.co.uk/>

About this document

This document is intended to provide an up to date listing, with key quotes, of all significant English-language public statements available online containing evidence or arguments in favour of the extension of the Brexit Transition period. Some emphases have been added to some quotes.

There is a table of contents listing each item by principals named source(s) – persons and/or organizations.

The most recently added items (since 30th May) are listed at the front of this document, in approximate reverse order by date. (Some recently added items are not new.):

[NEW: Since 30 May 2020](#)

NEW IN THIS VERSION

Today's update contains several major new contributions:

- Two open letters to Boris Johnson: one from the **Brexit Civil Society Alliance of 55 civil society organizations**, delivering *front-line services and national projects across the UK*;
- the other, published in *Yorkshire Bylines*, from 13 **pro-European local campaign groups in Yorkshire**.
- a report published today by **the major academic think-tank UK in a Changing Europe**, with comments by its director **Prof. Anand Menon**, stressing the *necessity of an extension to the transition in order to obtain a good UK/EU trade deal*, and
- a recent report from the **Institute of Government** on *key business risk issues with the Brexit protocol for Northern Ireland*.
- a strongly worded report from the powerful **House of Commons Public Accounts Committee**, with comments from its chair **Meg Hillier MP**, warning that *the*

government lacks the communications capability to handle COVID-19 in parallel with the scheduled exit from the Transition Period.

- From local media we report statement by **a campaign group in Swindon** on *local business risks in the event of no deal*, and
- a letter from a **concerned citizen in Gateshead**, on the *no deal threat to the Nissan works*.

The section of recent items is followed by a complete listing of all items to date, classified into four sections:

1. [International, government, politics, law, faiths](#)
2. [Business, Industry and Civil Society](#)
3. [Experts and commentators](#)
4. [Campaigns, polls and petitions.](#)

The document will continue to be updated frequently during coming weeks.

Additional materials, contributions and corrections will be most gratefully received. Our thanks to all those who have assisted so far.

We will be particularly happy to receive and include statements from local and regional organizations, businesses and citizens.

This compilation is intended for the use of campaigners, researchers, media, and all citizens and stakeholders with a potential interest in speaking out on the need to extend the Brexit transition period and avert the threatened disaster of a no-deal Brexit on top of the ongoing disaster of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The polling evidence also documented here confirms that a broad majority of the UK public now accepts the urgent necessity of transition extension in a world transformed by the pandemic, and that this majority now includes a large section of Conservative and Leave voters.

The document currently references well over 100 public media sources and this number is growing briskly day by day. Some have already been widely reported, others less so. The voices recorded here span the political and Brexit-related opinion spectrums and wide sectors of government, business and civil society, both UK and international.

The scope of the document is limited to the testimonies of those who have so far spoken out explicitly in public on this issue. Many others who hold equally strong views have remained silent in public but are likely be communicating their views via private channels, and may be considering a public statement as time gets shorter and the stakes rise.

Charles Grant, Director of the Centre for European Reform, tweeted recently:

<<Recently spoke to a group of senior business leaders. All believed that not extending Brexit transition would be v bad for their businesses and the economy. But none was willing to speak out in public, for fear of punishment by No 10. Not a healthy way to run UK.>>

https://twitter.com/CER_Grant/status/1266832207760502786

This is one of the reasons our country is in a bad place today.

[**Postscript 08/06/2020.** Mr Michael Gove was today reported by the logistics industry website *Loadstar* as telling Commons Committee chair Hilary Benn that “Businesses are exaggerating their concerns about the additional customs declarations needed after the UK ends the Brexit transition period on 31 December”.

<https://theloadstar.com/businesses-exaggerating-concerns-about-post-brexit-customs-claims-gove/>]

Since 2016, businesses have been under various forms of coercion by government and Brexiter forces to remain silent about the business costs and risks of Brexit. The COVID-19 pandemic now places businesses under a severe existential threat such that their need for government aid and favour can act as a further powerful cause of intimidation. For people in the arts, science, academia and public life, similar pressures are known to apply.

We hope this compilation will help encourage more key actors and voices to speak out before it is too late, for the sake of our economy, our society and our democracy.

[Background information on the transition period.](#)

Please see the following useful sources:

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/brexit-transition-period>

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/events/extending-brexit-transition-period>

[08/04/2020]

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/implementing-brexit-securing-more-time>

[30 /05/2020]

For a recent overview of the debate (and business concerns) see

<https://chrisgreybrexitblog.blogspot.com/2020/06/extension-is-brexiteers-chance-to-show.html>

On June 2nd, the House of Commons Library issued a Briefing Paper by Stefano Fella, “**UK-EU future relationship negotiating timetable: extending the transition**”. It commented: “This briefing sets out the timetable for the UK-EU future relationship negotiations. It provides an overview of the debate on whether the post-Brexit transition period should be extended, and explains the process for extending this period.”

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NEW: Since 30 May 2020

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| Liberal Democrats | Liberal Democrats tweet: <<By pushing the UK into a no-deal Brexit, the Conservatives could be putting more lives and more jobs at risk. The government must put national interest ahead of Brexit ideology and extend the transition period. >> https://twitter.com/LibDems/status/1270365134238756865 09/06/2020 |
| Nourish Scotland | Nourish Scotland. << Through the looking glass by Pete Ritchie <<Last week, the Scottish Government published a detailed analysis of the damage a no-deal Brexit would do in the context of Covid-19. Full of arguments, case studies and facts, it makes for a concerning read. And it's not just Scotland. Two-thirds of the UK public support an extension. Last week we joined the Human Rights Consortium and the Brexit Civil Society Alliance in a letter asking the Prime Minister to extend the transition period beyond 31 st December 2020. We need to step out of this looking glass world, where the people's will is not the people's will; and risking the security and prosperity of millions of people as we start recovering from Covid-19 is the core business of government. >> http://www.nourishscotland.org/through-the-looking-glass/ |
| UK in a Changing Europe | << UK in a Changing Europe. The Brexit Negotiations: A Stocktake, <i>“Extension is needed to ensure a comprehensive UK-EU deal, new academic report finds.</i> It is hard to see how the sort of comprehensive deal the UK and EU say they want can be agreed without an extension, a new report by academic think tank UK in a Changing Europe finds. Professor Anand Menon , director of the UK in a Changing Europe, said: “It is little surprise the talks last week did not make any real progress. “If the Government sticks to its guns and refuses to ask for an extension to transition, it is hard to see either how a deal can be agreed, or how the necessary preparations for either deal or no deal can be carried out by either the government or businesses”. Professor Jonathan Portes , senior fellow, UK in a Changing Europe, said: “Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit are major shocks for the UK economy. The interaction of the two is complex and unpredictable, with the potential to amplify some impacts while moderating others. “On balance, the pandemic probably does make the economic risks of exiting transition on January 2021 without a trade deal larger, but considerable uncertainties remain.” Professor Catherine Barnard , senior fellow, UK in a Changing Europe, said “The Withdrawal Agreement provides a legally simple route to extension of the transition period. If that route is not taken, there is serious legal trouble ahead |

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| | <p>if both sides decide they need more time.”</p> <p>09/06/2020</p> <p>https://ukandeu.ac.uk/extension-is-needed-to-ensure-a-comprehensive-uk-eu-deal-new-academic-report-finds/</p> <p>https://ukandeu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/The-Brexit-Negotiations-A-Stocktake-1.pdf</p> <p>https://www.verdict.co.uk/brexit-deal-extension/</p> |
| <p>Swindon for Europe [via Swindon Advertiser]</p> | <p><<Brexit negotiations: Group urges government to consider extension as deadline looms</p> <p>A Swindon group is urging the government to extend the Brexit transition period as the June 30 deadline looms.</p> <p>Swindon for Europe members fear a no deal Brexit could cause chaos and inflict serious damage on the British economy.</p> <p>Steve Rouse said: “People are worried about the damage to jobs and livelihoods the perfect storm that no deal and the pandemic could bring.</p> <p>“Swindon, with its reliance on manufacturing and finance industries is already extremely vulnerable to the effects of Brexit.</p> <p>“Achieving a trade deal was always going to be ambitious within an eleven-month transition period but doing so in the midst of a worldwide pandemic injects massive challenge to the task. Many parliamentarians of all parties voted against a no-deal Brexit last year and right now our government should not create chaos but avoid it.”</p> <p>Britain can request an extension of up to two years, if agreed by both parties. The group has asked the by78update its Swindon Brexit report, assessing the risk and identifying the threats and opportunities in various areas including the town’s economy and workforce.>></p> <p>https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/18504623.brexit-negotiations-group-urges-government-consider-extension-deadline-approaches/</p> |
| <p>Yorkshire Bylines</p> | <p><<Yorkshire campaign groups call on MPs to extend Brexit transition. The chairs of 13 pro-European campaign groups from across Yorkshire have written to our region’s MPs to call for the Brexit transition period to be extended.</p> <p>In their open letter to the Yorkshire MPs, the groups stress that this is, “not an attempt to thwart Brexit. We simply want to avoid creating a cliff edge that risks shortages of both food and medicines as well as further increasing unemployment when as a nation we will be fighting for every job.”</p> <p>They have joined a growing number of businesses, trade bodies and national organisations in making this urgent request, including over 50 civil society organisations. The deadline to agree an extension to the transition period is 1 July, just over three weeks away. Last week it became clear that no progress has been made in the negotiations with the EU, and Boris Johnson is now rolling back on the commitments he made in the the political declaration that the UK and 27 other EU member states signed in October 2019</p> <p>Richard Wilson, vice-chair of the European Movement UK and chair of Leeds for Europe said:</p> |

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| | <p>“Meeting the shortened deadline for completing the UK’s exit from the European Union was always going to be a challenge, but the havoc wreaked by Covid-19 has made the mammoth task of renegotiating hundreds of expiring agreements between the UK and the EU an intolerable distraction at a time of national crisis when the attention of UK and European governments is, quite rightly, focused on tackling the pandemic.</p> <p>“There simply isn’t sufficient time for businesses, government and citizens to prepare for another shock to the system in less than seven months’ time. An extension to the Brexit transition is the only sensible course of action.”</p> <p>>></p> <p>https://yorkshirebylines.co.uk/yorkshire-campaign-groups-call-on-mps-to-extend-brexit-transition/</p> |
| <p>Jessica Simor QC</p> | <p>Tweet: <<There is a connection between the disastrous approach to Covid19 in the UK and the Brexit issue. The connection is the people - the same people made and are making the policy decisions. We must extend transition now - in reality only three weeks left. #extendtransition>></p> <p>08/06/2020</p> <p>https://twitter.com/JMPSimor/status/1267451907867639809</p> |
| <p>Institute of Government/ EUobserver</p> | <p>EUobserver: By Andrew Rettman.</p> <p><u><<EU and UK stumbling into Irish border crisis</u></p> <p>The looming collapse of the Irish border deal, threatening security, is the elephant in the room in Brexit talks, a top UK <u>think-tank</u> has warned.</p> <p>"Against the background of a global pandemic, it is very difficult to see how preparations to implement the [Irish] protocol can be completed before the end of the year," the Institute for Government said in a report on Saturday (23 May).>></p> <p>25/05/2020</p> <p>https://euobserver.com/brexit/148439</p> <p>Institute for Government</p> <p><<Implementing Brexit. The Northern Ireland protocol by Jess Sargeant, Alex Stojanovic, Haydon Etherington and James Kane</p> <p>“The UK’s decision to leave the EU posed unique challenges for Northern Ireland. As the only part of the country to have a land border with a remaining member state and with a troubled history of violent conflict, changes to the UK–EU relationship would present particular problems for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>This report looks at the implementation of the Northern Ireland protocol. It outlines what it says, how it might work and the challenges of ensuring it is operational before the end of the transition period.</p> <p>It also looks at the long-term consequences of applying future EU law in Northern Ireland and for politics and policy making in the whole of the UK”</p> <p>“Against the background of a global pandemic, it is very difficult to see how preparations to implement the protocol can be completed before the end of the year – given the scale of both the decisions and practical work still required.</p> |

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| | <p>The UK and the EU should extend the transition period or agree a separate longer implementation period for the Withdrawal Agreement. ”>></p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/implementing-brexit-northern-ireland-protocol</p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/implementing-brexit-northern-ireland-protocol.pdf</p> |
| <p>Public Accounts Committee, House of Commons. Meg Hillier MP (chair)</p> | <p>Public Accounts Committee, House of Commons <<In a report published today, Wednesday 3 June 2020, the Commons Public Accounts Committee says it is concerned that the Cabinet Office will not have the capability to successfully deliver campaign messages on preparations for the end of the Brexit transition period at the same time as delivering the major public health campaign on Covid-19, with it “likely that the Covid-19 campaign will crowd out the Brexit transition campaign.”</p> <p>Meg Hillier MP, Chair of the Committee, said:</p> <p>“The Government is taking the UK through not one but two incredible, unprecedented political and economic upheavals simultaneously, but it is business, the public and the public purse that will suffer if it gets it wrong.</p> <p>“The Government has shown it could not fully successfully deliver one such campaign, before the pandemic disaster hit - in that case with a lot of money spent on the overarching message but less success on the detail which changes behaviour. With the nation’s fortunes, livelihoods and even lives at stake, the Government must quickly give us confidence that it has learned the lessons and understands the scale of the task of running two campaigns like this, each much more complex and longer term than either the coronavirus “stay at home” or the original Brexit date messages.”>></p> <p>03/06/2020 https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmpubacc/131/13103.htm http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/29672</p> |
| <p>Louise Brown, The Northern Echo.</p> | <p>The Northern Echo. <<Letters: 'It is utter madness not to extend Brexit'</p> <p>As someone who grew up around the corner from the Nissan factory, I know just how important it is to the region.</p> <p>With the news that the plant is not sustainable in the event of a no-deal Brexit, it beggars belief that this Government is not going to ask for an extension to the transition period.</p> <p>This increases the risk of a no-deal Brexit and thus Nissan leaving our region, taking its 7,000 jobs with it (and thousands more if you include the supply chain).</p> <p>Whichever way you voted in the EU referendum, it was probably not for this scenario. In the middle of a pandemic, it is utter madness not to extend to prevent such a no-deal scenario.</p> |

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| | <p>The North-East is currently the worst affected by Covid-19 and will soon be the worst affected by a no-deal Brexit too. Please let us not revisit our economic disaster of the pit-closure past and extend the transition period to save the region from ruin.</p> <p>Louise Brown, Gateshead>></p> <p>08/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/opinion/letters/18503297.letters-it-utter-madness-not-extend-brexit/</p> |
| <p>Brexit Civil Society Alliance (55 civil society organizations); Geoff Nuttall, Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action</p> | <p>Brexit Civil Society Alliance</p> <p><<Over 50 Civil Society Organisations Call On The Prime Minister To Extend The Transition Period</p> <p>Over 50 civil society organisations have written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson urging for an extension to the transition period to be sought in light of the added pressure that has been created by the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Organisations that have joined together to call on the Government to extend the transition period comes from across the nations and regions of the UK. They include those that work in national programme delivery and those delivering front-line services.</p> <p>As the UK government is rightly consumed by the crisis, signatories warn that there will be insufficient time to negotiate, scrutinise and implement an agreement on the future relationship by the 31st December 2020.”</p> <p>[except from letter] “The capacity of the UK and the EU states to make the domestic preparations needed to exit the transition period and implement the Withdrawal Agreement has already been severely limited. It is essential therefore that the Government agrees as soon as possible with EU partners that the transition period is extended past 31 December 2020.”</p> <p>[Signatures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andrea Brown, Chief Executive (Interim), Disability Action Northern Ireland 2. Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations 3. Anne McVicker, Director, Women’s Resource and Development Agency 4. Auriol Miller, Director, Institute for Welsh Affairs 5. Barbara Drozdowicz, Chief Executive Officer, East European Resource Centre 6. Bijon Sinha, Administrator, Compton's Yard Charitable Trust 7. Brian Gormally, Director, Committee on the Administration of Justice 8. Caitlin Boswell-Jones, Project Officer (EU Citizens), Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants 9. Carol Botten, Chief Executive, Voluntary Organisations Network North East 10. Christopher Desira, Director/Solicitor, Seraphus 11. Christopher Stacey, Co-director, Unlock - for people with convictions |

12. Denise McDowell, Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
13. Dr Keith Tyrell, Director, Pesticide Action Network UK
14. Fiona Godfrey/ Jane Golding, Co-Chairs, British in Europe
15. Ele Hicks, Policy Manager, Diverse Cymru
16. Emma Ritch, Executive Director, Engender
17. Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Chief Executive, Mudiad Meithrin
18. Heather Fiskin, Head of Policy and Research Team, Inclusion Scotland
19. Helen Crickard, Co-ordinator, Reclaim the Agenda
20. Helen Swain, CEO, Cyfannol Women's Aid
21. Ilse Mogensen, Head of Advocacy and Campaigns, the3million
22. Jackie Murphy, CEO, TGP Cymru
23. Janet Fenton, Organiser, Secure Scotland
24. Janis McDonald, Chief Officer, deafscotland (Scottish Council on Deafness)
25. Jardine Simpson, Chief Executive, Scottish Recovery Consortium
26. Jennifer Ang, Director, JustRight Scotland
27. Jo Pike, CEO, Scottish Wildlife Trust
28. Julie Bishop, Director, Law Centres Network
29. Kevin Hanratty, Director, Human Rights Consortium
30. Kierra Box, Brexit Campaigner, Friends of the Earth
31. Kush Chottera, Executive Director, Europia
32. Liz O'Neill, Director, GM Freeze
33. Loraine Griffin, Manager, Community Organisations of South Tyrone & Areas Ltd
34. Lucila Granada, Chief Executive Officer, Focus on Labour Exploitation
35. Lumturi Podrimaj, Project Manager, Advice NI
36. Lynne Stafford, Chief Executive, Gaddum
37. Magda Fabianczyk and Marzena Zukowska, Co-Directors, Polish Migrants Organise for Change (POMOC)
38. Mhairi Snowden, Coordinator, Human Rights Consortium Scotland
39. Mike Shooter, CBE Chairperson, Play Wales / Chwarae Cymru
40. Nathalie Sherring, Chief Officer, Dorset Race Equality Council
41. Paddy Kelly, Director, Children's Law Centre
42. Peter Ritchie, Director, Nourish Scotland
43. Professor Ian Welsh OBE, Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
44. Professor Robert Moore, North Wales Regional Equality Network
45. Rachel Powell, Women's Sector Lobbyist, Women's Resource and Development Agency
46. Revd Dr Noel A Davies, Chair, Cytun Working Party on Wales and Europe
47. Robert CJ Allison, Manager, Equality Cards
48. Roger Casale, Secretary General & CEO, New Europeans
49. Sam Smethers, Chief Executive, Fawcett Society
50. Seamus McAleavey, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
51. Shaben Begum, Director, Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
52. Sue Lister MBE, Artistic Director, Real People Theatre
53. Susie Ventriss-Field, Chief Executive, Welsh Centre for International Affairs
54. Sylvia Ingmire, CEO, Roma Support Group

55.Tara-Grace Connolly, NIYF Treasurer & Brexit Spokesperson,
Northern Ireland Youth Forum

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08/06/2020

<https://www.brexitcivilsocietyalliance.org/news-indexpage/over-50-civil-society-organisations-call-on-the-prime-minister-to-extend-the-transition-period>

<<Civil society organisations urge government to try to extend Brexit transition period

by Andy Ricketts

A group of more than 50 civil society organisations have called on the government to extend the Brexit transition period.

A letter signed by organisations including the **Fawcett Society, Friends of the Earth and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations**, urges Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister, to ask the European Union for an extension to the transition period, which is due to expire on 31 December.

The letter says the coronavirus pandemic means there has been an understandable reduction in the capacity of the government to negotiate a trade deal with the EU and for parliament to then scrutinise any arrangement.

It warns that there remains insufficient time for agreeing and implementing a deal setting out the UK's future relationship with the EU before the end of the year.

In March, all face-to-face trade talks were cancelled, with only limited virtual trade talks resuming recently, the letter says.

"As each country across Europe increases its state of emergency, capacity to undertake the talks across the 27 member states is further reduced," it says.

"The capacity of the UK and the EU states to make the domestic preparations needed to exit the transition period and implement the withdrawal agreement has already been severely limited.

"It is essential therefore that the government agrees as soon as possible with EU partners that the transition period is extended past 31 December 2020."

Geoff Nuttall, head of policy and public affairs at the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, one of the signatories to the letter, said: "We are concerned that every effort is made to avoid adding the social and economic impacts of a no-deal Brexit to the Covid-19 crisis.

"We believe it is vital that adequate time is given to discussions on the future UK-EU relationship, which will have profound implications for the future of our society and economy.

"The current crisis understandably makes it virtually impossible to give adequate time and attention to these discussions, so we believe an extension period is vital.">>

08/06/2020

<https://www.thirdsector.co.uk/civil-society-organisations-urge-government-try-extend-brexit-transition-period/policy-and-politics/article/1685478>

<<NICVA Calls for Brexit Extension as Lifeline for Hard Pressed Voluntary

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| | <p>and Community Organisations by Geoff Nuttall</p> <p>With only seven months of the Brexit transition period left and much for voluntary and community organisations to prepare for whilst still dealing with Covid-19, NICVA says an extension to the transition period is vital. NICVA is one of the 55 organisations in the Brexit Civil Society Alliance that have collectively written to the UK Prime Minister calling for a one-off extension to the Brexit transition period. We believe this extension is essential to give much needed time to deal with the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis and to fully understand, prepare and adapt for the changes that will arise from Brexit. >></p> <p>08/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.nicva.org/article/nicva-calls-for-brexit-extension-as-lifeline-for-hard-pressed-voluntary-and-community</p> |
| <p>The Loadstar</p> | <p><u>'If Covid-19 fails to sink UK firms, a messy Brexit could finish the job'</u> by <u>Alex Lennane</u></p> <p><<UK companies, already hit hard by the impacts of Covid-19, could face closure without further clarity on Brexit.</p> <p>Global trade finance expert Dr Kerstin Braun, president of Stenn Group, yesterday warned that the UK’s fast-shrinking economy had already hurt firms, and Brexit could do further damage.</p> <p>“A hard exit following on the heels of the Covid-19 crisis, with potential tariff increases and paperwork confusion, could prove to be a perfect storm for UK firms.</p> <p>“If Covid-19 fails to sink them, a messy Brexit could.”</p> <p>The comments came as the chief executive of Swissport UK warned the government that an aviation strategy would be critical if the UK was to overcome the challenges Brexit would throw at the country. Otherwise, he said, the UK’s aviation sector would fail, while in continental Europe it would thrive>></p> <p>22/05/2020</p> <p>https://theloadstar.com/if-covid-19-fails-to-sink-uk-firms-a-messy-brexit-could-finish-the-job/</p> |
| <p>Andrew Opie British Retail Consortium. Mark Bridgeman, Country Land and Business Association. Frances O’Grady, (TUC)</p> | <p><<Back in Westminster Andrew Opie, director of food sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, told MPs that Britain could be able to go “out of the frying pan into the fire” by bouncing from the coronavirus crisis to Brexit disruption at borders.</p> <p>If we thought [disruption during coronavirus] was a problem, I think we should starting looking forward to a disorderly Brexit in January, he told the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. If we get a disorderly Brexit we potentially face a bigger challenge to the food supply chain than was faced with Covid.</p> <p>He noted that in January “90 per cent of our lettuces and 80 per cent of our tomatoes and 70 per cent of our soft fruit” come across the channel [and] that disruption could empty shelves.</p> |

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| | <p>Other groups echoed the same warnings. Josh Hardie, deputy director-General of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), warned that many businesses were simply not ready for the no-deal being threatened.</p> <p>Progress is worryingly slow, causing deep concern to firms when resilience has rarely been more fragile, he said. The stark reality is that most businesses are understandably unprepared for a dramatic change in trading relations with our biggest partner in just six months' time. With jobs in every region of the UK and EU under pressure, the stakes are higher than ever.</p> <p>A deal that works for both sides' economies is the only way forward. Political leaders should step in urgently, change the dynamic and find solutions that protect people's livelihoods. Failure to break the deadlock only leaves a choice between an extension that the UK Government has already ruled out or worse, a deeply damaging no deal, he said.</p> <p>Mark Bridgeman, president of the Country Land and Business Association, which represents some farmers and rural businesses said the "limited progress" was hugely concerning. Make no mistake, without a quality free trade agreement thousands of farmers both in the UK and the EU would go out of business, with all the devastation to lives and communities that go with it, he said.</p> <p>We understand a degree of posturing is inevitable, but no one – on either side of the negotiating table – should forget what is at risk. We strongly encourage both sides to return to the table as quickly as possible, he said.</p> <p>Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) said: The prime minister must buckle down and get a good deal for workers' jobs and rights. The coronavirus crisis has already put hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk. The government can't allow a no-deal Brexit to put even more families' livelihoods on the line.</p> <p>Ministers must negotiate a deal with the EU that preserves our access to European markets, supporting good jobs and protecting us from dodgy trade deals with the likes of Donald Trump, she said.>></p> <p>06/06/2020 https://www.tradingandinvestmentnews.co.uk/fears-of-no-deal-brexite-rise-as-uk-eu-negotiations-end-without-progress/ https://www.reporter.am/fears-of-no-deal-in-brexite-trade-talks-rise-as-another-round-of-negotiations-ends-in-acrimony/</p> |
| <p>British Retail Consortium</p> | <p><<Brexit disruption 'could destroy some Northern Irish businesses' in wake of pandemic</p> <p>Failure to negotiate a UK-EU trade agreement would hit Northern Irish supply chains harder than Covid-19, the British Retail Consortium says. Northern Irish businesses could collapse unless they are given at least six months for the "Herculean task" of adjusting to the new UK-EU trading relationship from January because Covid-19 has hindered their ability to prepare, a retail body has warned. >></p> <p>05/06/2020 https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2020/06/05/brexit-disruption-could-destroy-northern-irish-businesses-wake/</p> |

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| <p>Delphine Strauss</p> | <p><<Coronavirus and Brexit are a poisonous combination for UK business. Delphine Strauss</p> <p>“But it would be a mistake for businesses to put any concerns about the EU/UK trade deal on the back burner. The fact is that coronavirus and Brexit are likely to prove a poisonous combination. [...] Even if the UK did secure an FTA by the end of the year and avoided a no-deal scenario, the worst impact would be in London and the south of England, the SMF found, because of their reliance on sectors such as financial services and construction that the SMF expects to be among the most severely disrupted. Without a deal, the economic impact would be worse. London and the south-east would still be hard hit but so would areas in the north-west and West Midlands that are far less resilient. If the UK did fail to secure a deal, it would probably need to rush through a stimulus package for certain industries and parts of the country, the SMF noted. Given the gaping hole that the coronavirus crisis has left in the public finances, paying for Brexit will be an even bigger struggle.”</p> <p>02/06/2020 https://www.ft.com/content/df4807ec-1fc4-46f1-8398-934e45416817</p> |
| <p>Peter Donaghy (Salmon of Data)</p> | <p>Northern Ireland is about to learn the cost of lies Peter Donaghy (Salmon of Data)</p> <p><<The disgraceful refusal of the British government to agree an extension of the transition period, combined with its callous disregard towards businesses and consumers in Northern Ireland, has now raised the very real risk of food shortages and price rises in the middle of winter during a possible peak of new infections during a global pandemic. >></p> <p>06/06/2020 https://sluggerotoole.com/2020/06/06/northern-ireland-i-about-to-learn-the-cost-of-lies</p> |
| <p>Stefano Fella</p> | <p><<House of Commons Library. UK-EU future relationship negotiating timetable: extending the transition.</p> <p>This briefing sets out the timetable for the UK-EU future relationship negotiations. It provides an overview of the debate on whether the post-Brexit transition period should be extended, and explains the process for extending this period.>></p> <p>02/06/2020 https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8929/ http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8929/CBP-8929.pdf</p> |
| <p>Andrew Opie, British Retail Consortium.</p> | <p><<No-deal Brexit will ‘cause food shortages worse than coronavirus panic buying’</p> <p>Failure to reach a Brexit deal with Europe will lead to much worse food shortages than the coronavirus panic buying crisis: this was the stark warning made to MPs today by Andrew Opie, director of food at the British Retail Consortium.</p> <p>Speaking to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the impact of coronavirus on food supply, Opie said the empty shelves and shortages seen in March were mild compared to what could happen in 2020 if government negotiators cannot secure a deal with the EU in</p> |

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| | <p>time. “If we get a disorderly Brexit we potentially face a bigger challenge than that faced from Covid. The reason I say that is that at no time did we have a problem getting food to this country during this crisis. “In fact, Italy increased its food production during the worst time. It increased pasta production and sent more to us because the borders were flowing. “If we see the border disrupted in January then we’re going to have a big problem, because then we won’t have the food in the country to move around.” >> 05/06/2020 https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/brexit/no-deal-brexit-will-cause-food-shortages-worse-than-coronavirus-panic-buying/645117.article https://yorkshirebylines.co.uk/food-retailers-disorderly-brexit-will-be-worse-than-covid/</p> |
| <p>Amber Khan, Young Fabians</p> | <p>Amber Khan IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS, BREXIT MUST BE DELAYED “It will be politically difficult for Johnson to deviate from the Brexit hymn sheet, as a delay may be untenable for large swathes of his core base of supporters. But a Brexit delay does not have to undermine our negotiating position with Brussels nor is it a vehicle to simply ‘cancel’ Brexit. A delay would instead be a prudent act that ensures when the UK does leave Europe, it does so on favourable terms and at a time that will maximise our chances of a successful exit.” 31/05/2020 http://www.youngfabians.org.uk/in_light_of_covid_19_brexit_must_be_delayed</p> |
| <p>Ed Davey MP, Liberal Democrat Acting Leader</p> | <p><<Davey: Extend EU transition now Following the latest round of Brexit negotiations, Michel Barnier today made it clear that there has been no significant progress on numerous issues including Level Playing Field commitments and fishing. Urging the government to extend the transition period, Liberal Democrat Acting Leader Ed Davey said: "Boris Johnson can no longer cross his fingers and hope no one is paying attention to the huge Brexit mess hurtling towards us. We are running out of time. "Barnier has made it clear: not enough progress has been made on negotiations. "We are now dangerously close to the extension deadline. It is time to do the right thing for our NHS, economy, and vital supplies of food and medicines. "The government must stop posturing. Johnson must extend the transition period for the maximum period possible. To entertain any other possibility would be reckless. The UK is already battling the Covid-19 pandemic and facing its biggest recession in generations. There isn't the bandwidth to cope with crashing out of the EU too.">> 05/06/2020 https://ldeg.org/en/article/2020/1363077/davey-extend-eu-transition-now</p> |
| <p>Senator Neale Richmond</p> | <p><<A LEADING Irish politician has called for the Scottish Government to work with the Northern Ireland Executive to put pressure on Boris</p> |

Johnson to seek an extension to the Brexit transition period.
 Senator Neale Richmond spoke out as the latest round of talks between the UK and EU over the future relationship ended in deadlock yesterday.
 The Fine Gael politician – a close ally of Taoiseach Leo Varadkar – **called for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to work together to lobby the Prime Minister to seek an extension** which would allow the UK to remain in the European single market and customs union. The deadline for such a request is the end of this month.
Richmond also urged the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and National Farmers’ Union (NFU) to call for an extension – saying he was surprised the two organisations had yet to do so.
 “The prospect of a No-Deal by the end of the year is now more likely than before and even if we are to achieve a deal it will be extremely narrow,” he said. “There is scope for the devolved administrations to really put the pressure on London.
 “But I think the pressure needs to be more than just political it also has to be societal. **I would continue to encourage not just Scottish political friends and colleagues but also the business sector, the agri-food sector and fishing sector to really ramp up the level of pressure on London to seek an extension.**
“The fact that organisations like the CBI and the NFU have yet to call for an extension is absolutely mind blowing when you look at what the economic effect would be on these sectors.”
The Scottish and Welsh Governments have repeatedly called for a longer transition period and, earlier this week, the Northern Irish Assembly voted for an extension on the grounds imposing checks on goods travelling across the Irish Sea would be too complex while the country is grappling with the virus’s effects.>>
 06/60/2020
<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18500299.irish-senator-urges-devolved-nations-seek-brexit-extension/>

Scottish National Party

<<SNP challenges Jackson Carlaw to join cross-party campaign to extend Brexit timetable
 [...]
 The SNP has called on **Scottish Conservative** leader Jackson Carlaw to back a cross-party campaign to extend the **Brexit** timetable and ensure a chaotic no deal is avoided.
 The Scottish Government this week **published analysis** highlighting the danger of ending the transition period in the midst of the pandemic.
 [...]
 All opposition parties – except the Tories – backed a Scottish Government’s proposal to extend the Brexit transition period and avoid the prospect of a chaotic No Deal Brexit in the middle of economic upheaval.
 Earlier this year Jackson Carlaw said he was a “pragmatist” on the question of extending transition.>>
 06/06/2020
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/snp-challenges-jackson-carlaw-join-22144959>

Copa-Cogeca, Celcaa, FoodDrinkEurope [via euroactiv.com]

<<Brexit no deal could ‘severely disrupt’ agrifood sector

By Natasha Foote

Failing to conclude a trade agreement between the EU and the UK would have serious consequences for the agrifood sector, major EU agrifood stakeholders said on Thursday (4 June).

As the fourth round of negotiations on the EU-UK future relationship draws to a close, groups working in the sector have expressed their concern, with **Farmers association Copa-Cogeca**, the **European liaison committee for agricultural and agrifood trade Celcaa**, and **FoodDrinkEurope**, saying there is a “growing risk that no agreement will be reached before the end of the current transition period.”

They stressed that a combination of ‘no agreement’ and ‘no extension’ of transitional arrangements, combined with the introduction of tariffs and the potential for regulatory divergence, would “**severely disrupt integrated supply chains**” and **agri-food trade between the EU and the UK, which amounted to €58 billion in 2019.**

Will Surman, Director of Public Affairs & Communications, told EURACTIV that the consequences of a no-deal fallout could include “a major decrease in export volumes from the EU to the UK, a significant fall in revenue, and consequential job losses.”

He added that **the impact on SMEs, farmers and agri-cooperatives would be particularly detrimental.**

“**We regret that the UK government is currently opposed to any extension of the post-Brexit transition period beyond 2020,**” the statement reads.

“**The transition should be of sufficient length for businesses to plan and prepare for any FTA arrangements, and to avoid a cliff-edge situation.**”

Pekka Pesonen, Secretary-General of Copa-Cogeca, told EURACTIV that, from the farmers’ perspective, EU farmers are on “equal footing” with their UK counterparts and that it is of “crucial importance” that we come to a mutually acceptable agreement.

05/06/2020

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/brexit-no-deal-could-severely-disrupt-agrifood-sector/>

See also: <https://www.thenews.coop/148257/sector/agriculture/no-deal-brexit-would-damage-food-industry-europes-agri-co-ops-warn/>
<https://www.farminglife.com/country-and-farming/eu-agri-food-chain-warns-growing-risk-no-uk-eu-trade-deal-2874674>

Tom Arthur MSP [SNP, Renfrewshire South]

<< Renfrewshire South MSP Tom Arthur has urged the UK Government to protect jobs in his constituency by extending the Brexit transition period in light of the coronavirus crisis.

With new analysis showing billions of pounds could be wiped from the Scottish economy, the SNP man is keen for Westminster to take action to protect local workers.

The transition arrangements currently keep the UK close to the European Union (EU) and can be extended for two years – beyond December 31 – if the

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| | <p>UK Government asks for an extension by the end of this month.</p> <p>A new study from the Scottish Government claims that, without an extension, Scotland's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) could be more than one per cent lower after two years.</p> <p>It adds that the cumulative loss of economic activity from leaving the EU would be up to £3billion over those two years – on top of the devastating effects of the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>The report also highlights that, without an extension or a free trade deal, jobs in the likes of the agriculture and manufacturing sectors will be especially badly hit. Mr Arthur, who is based in Johnstone, said: “Coronavirus is causing enormous economic disruption.</p> <p>“It would be an act of extraordinary recklessness for the UK Government to allow us to crash out of the transition period at the end of this year.</p> <p>“The SNP believe the best future for Scotland is as an independent member of the EU but, regardless of your opinion on Brexit or Independence, it makes no sense to crash out of the European single market at precisely the moment we need stability.</p> <p>“Businesses in Renfrewshire South are focused on securing their future – they simply don’t have the capacity to prepare for Brexit on top of a pandemic.</p> <p>“The UK Government must do the sensible thing and protect jobs by extending the transition period.”>></p> <p>the-gazette.co.uk/news/18497040.renfrewshire-south-msp-tom-arthur-calls-extension-brexit-transition-period-protect-jobs/</p> |
| <p>Terry Reintke MEP [Greens]</p> | <p>Europe Street news. Interview with MEP Terry Reintke: the EU-UK friendship group and why Brits should participate in EU’s future debate</p> <p>What aspects of citizens’ rights will be discussed in the negotiations on the future EU-UK relationship?</p> <p>Right now, under the circumstances we are in, I don’t see anything substantial about the future relationship that can be discussed by the end of the year and be sustainable for the future. My appeal is: please, please extend the deadline of the Brexit transition beyond 31 December. I say this constructively given the difficulties we face with the coronavirus crisis. Even Boris Johnson fell ill, so let’s focus on fighting the virus now and address negotiations later, and really put citizens’ rights at their core.</p> <p>26/04/2020</p> <p>https://europestreet.news/german-mep-says-brits-should-be-included-in-future-of-eu-debate/</p> |
| <p>Terry Reintke MEP [Greens]</p> | <p>UK needs transition extension to avoid disastrous outcome</p> <p>German Greens MEP Terry Reintke has appealed to the UK to ask for an extension to the Brexit transition period beyond 31 December amid “special circumstances”.</p> <p>Senior MEP Terry Reintke has appealed to the UK to ask the EU for an extension to the Brexit transition period beyond 31 December. Her appeal comes with the talks deadlocked and growing pessimism about a no-deal exit.</p> |

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| | <p>The two sides will conclude the fourth round of talks on Friday, with insiders saying little progress has been made on key areas such as fisheries and the so-called level playing field. If there is to be an extension both sides must agree to this by 1 July.</p> <p>As the latest round of talks draw to a close, Reintke, a German Greens deputy, told <i>The Parliament Magazine</i>, "To avoid a disastrous outcome for both sides, an extension is what is needed in these more than special circumstances."</p> <p>She continued, "My appeal is: Extend the deadline and take the time to negotiate a good deal for both sides. A no-deal scenario will put all citizens and their rights at risk."</p> <p>https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/news/uk-needs-transition-extension-avoid-disastrous-outcome</p> |
| <p>Stephen Kelly, chief executive of Manufacturing Northern Ireland</p> | <p>Business leaders demand delay to Irish Sea border checks</p> <p>Six months needed to prepare for Brexit border checks, warn Northern Ireland business groups</p> <p>Northern Ireland business groups are calling for a six month delay to Brexit checks in the Irish Sea saying that Boris Johnson's late admission that he is legally obliged to implement them has left them no time to prepare for the December cliff edge.</p> <p>They have also hit out at Downing Street secrecy, saying they are refusing to discuss the plans with the very people that needed to implement them.</p> <p>Their call for a six month "adjustment period" falls short of the extension to the transition period that the Stormont assembly unexpectedly agreed to call for earlier this week.</p> <p>But they warned Northern Ireland businesses will go to the wall unless they are given more time by the UK and the EU to set themselves up for the unprecedented changes to the way they trade with Britain.</p> <p>Responding to the government's command paper on the Northern Ireland protocol with a list of 60 unanswered questions they urged Michael Gove, who is charged with implementing the withdrawal agreement to urgently engage with them.</p> <p>"The level of engagement we have with the UK government across a raft of policy areas is really good. But when it comes to this Brexit issue, it's really locked down and controlled. There is no real defined engagement from them," said Stephen Kelly, chief executive of Manufacturing Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Aodhán Connolly, director of the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium, said businesses were realistic and knew the UK government was not looking to extend the transition period.</p> <p>Businesses were willing to help the government make the new Brexit protocol work but it was "mission critical" to involve them with just seven months to go.</p> <p>They warn that there is little capacity for planning with delays on the British side compounded by the Covid crisis. Even if they had the "bandwidth" they couldn't prepare because the government has kept them in the dark on the details of customs and regulatory checks that will be</p> |

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| | <p>imposed.</p> <p>“We had said from January that this was going to be a Herculean task to get everything done in time for 1 January, it has only gotten harder,” said Connolly.</p> <p>05/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/05/business-leaders-demand-delay-to-irish-sea-border-checks</p> |
| <p>Willie Rennie, Scottish Liberal Democrat leader</p> | <p><<Rennie welcomes SNP and Scot Labour support for Brexit transition extension</p> <p>Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Willie Rennie has today welcomed support from the SNP and Scottish Labour for an extension to the Brexit negotiations.</p> <p>On Wednesday 3rd June, Mr Rennie wrote to his fellow Scottish party leaders calling for a joint letter to the Prime Minister proposing an extension and repeated his calls in the Scottish Parliament chamber today.</p> <p>Cabinet Secretary Mike Russell for the SNP and constitution spokesperson Alex Rowley for Labour have now endorsed an extension to negotiations.</p> <p>Mr Rennie said:</p> <p>“On Wednesday I wrote to all the party leaders inviting them to send a joint letter to the UK Government calling for an extension to the Brexit negotiations.</p> <p>“So far I’ve been rejected by Jackson Carlaw. He says government can do two things at once. Yes, that’s true but Brexit is not some minor piece of legislation, it’s the biggest change to our constitutional, political and economic framework in decades and it is reckless to carry on in the middle of a global pandemic. He has obviously not spoken to anyone from the world of Scottish business for some time.</p> <p>“However it is positive that both the SNP and Scottish Labour have confirmed that they are in favour of an extension, not least because Keir Starmer has been reluctant to endorse such proposals at Westminster. It will need effective cross party pressure if we are to stave off a damaging no deal Brexit.</p> <p>“Scottish Liberal Democrats are quite clear that a no deal Brexit would be utterly unacceptable.”</p> <p>03/06/2020</p> <p>//www.scotlibdems.org.uk/rennie_welcomes_snp_and_scot_labour_support_for_brexit_transition_extension</p> |
| <p>BOSS Federation [The trade association representing the UK office supplies and services industry.]</p> | <p>BOSS Federation</p> <p><<Without an extension to the Transition Period, there is a widespread concern that businesses will not have adequate time to prepare for Brexit on WTO terms. >></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.bossfederation.com/industry-news/more/129115/brexit-bulletin-may-june-2020/</p> |
| <p>Gillian Martin</p> | <p><<UK Government must extend Brexit transition to protect rural</p> |

**MSP
[Aberdeenshire
East, SNP]**

Scotland says Gillian Martin MSP.

Scotland’s rural industries face a “double hammer blow” if the UK government refuses to extend the Brexit transition period in light of coronavirus, the SNP has said.

Analysis by the Scottish Government has found that agriculture and fishing sectors would face some of the highest trade costs if the transition period ends this year.

In the event of a No Deal Brexit at the end of the transition – which the EU has made clear can be extended by up to two years – these sectors would also face tariffs and quotas when exporting to the EU.

SNP MSP Gillian Martin said:

“Rural Scotland cannot afford the double hammer blow of Brexit in the midst of a pandemic that is causing major economic disruption.

This new research shows that Brexit will leave our crucial agricultural and fishing sectors among the hardest hit.

Businesses here simply do not have the capacity to prepare for sky-high Brexit costs, when they are fighting to survive the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

To push ahead without extending the transition period would be a shocking dereliction of duty by the UK government, leaving Scotland’s rural economy high and dry.

An extension is available and Boris Johnson must change course before he inflicts a disastrous hard or no deal Brexit on Scotland in less than seven months’ time.”>>

04/06/2020

<https://myturriff.co.uk/2020/06/04/uk-government-must-extend-brexit-transition-to-protect-rural-scotland-says-gillian-martin-msp/>

<http://www.thehighlandtimes.com/news/2020/06/05/uk-government-must-extend-brexit-transition-to-protect-rural-scotland/>

**Scottish
Crofting
Federation**

<<**Crofting Federation backs call for Brexit extension** by Gordon Davidson. Europe's post-Brexit relationship with the UK is 'too important and affects the economic wellbeing of too many people' for the current negotiations to be rushed.

Saying that, the **Scottish Crofting Federation** has endorsed research produced by the Scottish Government which makes it clear that a Brexit extension is essential to Scotland’s economy.

“The Covid-19 pandemic is, quite rightly, absorbing considerable resources from all our national governments," said SCF chair Yvonne White. "There is no doubt that it is impossible to conclude a comprehensive trade deal with the European Union before the end of 2020. It is therefore essential that the UK government agrees a two-year extension to the transition period with the EU.

“SCF welcomes the Scottish Government’s well-researched evidence of the impact of leaving the EU too quickly and applaud their work on this," said Ms White. "We entirely support the stance taken, that the UK Government must apply for a two-year extension to the transition period. This is too important and affects the economic wellbeing of too many people for the negotiations to

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| | <p>be rushed to meet a self-imposed and arbitrary deadline.”</p> <p>05/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/18496725.crofting-federation-backs-call-brexit-extension/</p> |
| <p>Sir Vince Cable, former leader of the Liberal Democrats</p> | <p>https://www.cityam.com/debate-given-the-lack-of-progress-during-the-covid-19-crisis-should-the-transition-period-be-extended/</p> <p><<Given the lack of progress during the Covid-19 crisis, should the Brexit transition period be extended?</p> <p>Sir Vince Cable, former leader of the Liberal Democrats and former secretary of state for business, innovation and skills, says YES.</p> <p>“Extending the transition period will become critical as this government limps towards the end of June with no progress at all made in the negotiations.</p> <p>It is important for people in the UK to understand that the EU is not being bloody-minded: EU leaders are focusing on the Covid emergency, and so should we.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the country cannot afford to “crash out” of the transition period at the end of year with no new arrangement in place — it would be a huge double blow to the economy, after an already massive battering from coronavirus and the lockdown.</p> <p>An extension also opens up the prospect of a total reset in the way both sides approach the talks, since it is now clear that the EU needs to adapt to provide an “outer ring” for the non-euro countries and a stronger, more integrated core for those operating the single currency. That outer ring is something the UK should seek to shape, since we could credibly be a part of it in future.”>></p> <p>https://www.cityam.com/debate-given-the-lack-of-progress-during-the-covid-19-crisis-should-the-transition-period-be-extended/</p> |
| <p>Alex Rowley MSP [Lab] Alistair Carmichael MP [Liberal Democrat]</p> | <p>Brexit latest: Sir Keir Starmer under pressure to back extension to transition period as Scottish Labour supports delay</p> <p>The Labour leader is the only opposition boss not to have called for the transition to be extended</p> <p>By Hugo Gye</p> <p>Keir Starmer is under fresh pressure to support an extension to the Brexit transition period after Scottish Labour called for a delay to the process.</p> <p>Speaking on behalf of Scottish Labour this week, MSP Alex Rowley said: "A poor or no-deal Brexit will be devastating for Scottish businesses and Scottish jobs. That is why Scottish Labour will join with all parties who want to put the interests of Scottish businesses and Scottish jobs before the interests of a Conservative elite in Downing Street.</p> <p>"Scotland is on the brink of an economic crisis that will be devastating for families up and down Scotland. Now that the UK has left the European Union, it is crucial we get a deal that would give us access to European markets and a close alignment with the customs union. That is why Scottish Labour supports the call for the negotiation period to be extended."</p> <p>In a letter seen by i, Liberal Democrat MP Alistair Carmichael wrote to Sir Keir asking him to join his colleagues in demanding a delay. He said: "I note</p> |

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| | <p>you have so far rejected calls for the Brexit transition period to be extended. "However, at this critical moment in the negotiations, I hope you will agree with the position of the Scottish Labour party and Sadiq Khan and accept the UK Government's full focus must be stopping the immediate threat to lives and livelihoods. It would send a strong message if opposition parties in Westminster could unite in calling for an extension to the transition period until after the coronavirus crisis has been resolved."</p> <p>Michael Gove taunted Sir Keir in the Commons chamber on Thursday, saying: "The position of the Labour leader is not clear on this matter... Every party in this House has a clear position, either for or against, except for the Labour Party."</p> <p>Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, is another high-profile Labour politician backing a Brexit delay. He wrote to Mr Gove this week saying: "I urge the Government to put political ideology aside and pursue the pragmatic route of seeking an extension to the negotiations so that we and our European partners can focus on recovery from Covid-19." A source close to Mr Khan insisted he was only motivated by the interests of the capital and was not seeking to push Sir Keir into following his example. >></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/brexit/brexit-latest-sir-keir-starmer-pressure-extension-transition-period-2875085</p> |
| <p>Reuters</p> | <p><<Sterling to take a pasting if UK seeks no extension for EU trade talks - Reuters poll</p> <p>Sterling will lose recent gains against the dollar and weaken further if Britain does not ask for an extension to its Brexit transition period by a June 30 deadline to allow more time for talks on a trade deal with the EU, a Reuters poll found. "The fading prospect of an extension to the post-Brexit transition period, and the risk of supply chain disruption at the start of 2021, casts a cloud over (Britain's) GBP outlook," said James Smith at ING.>></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-forex-poll-sterling/sterling-to-take-a-pasting-if-uk-seeks-no-extension-for-eu-trade-talks-reuters-poll-idUSKBN23B04C</p> |
| <p>FTA [Freight Transport Association] British Retail Consortium and Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association</p> | <p><<Transport Body Backs Stormont Call For Brexit Extension by Richard Buckley, Editor, Business Eye</p> <p>FTA, the business group speaking for the UK logistics sector, is backing Stormont's call for additional time to be added to the Brexit transition period as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to dominate the industry's resources, and government engagement on the Northern Ireland Protocol stalls. Following his participation at the House of Lords Select Committee yesterday (3 June 2020), Seamus Leheny, Policy Manager for Northern Ireland at FTA, comments: "With less than seven months until the end of the Brexit transition period, FTA and its members in Northern Ireland are deeply concerned by the lack of government engagement on the Protocol.</p> <p>Alongside the British Retail Consortium and Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association, with whom we jointly gave evidence to the Committee yesterday, FTA is urging the government to engage with business</p> |

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| | <p>organisations urgently so logistics businesses and operators can prepare for the successful implementation of the UK’s departure from the EU, which observes the rules of the NI Protocol. [...]</p> <p>“With the COVID-19 pandemic monopolising the industry’s attention, FTA is backing Stormont’s calls for an extension to the Brexit transition period, to allow an implementation period in which all necessary preparations for EU departure can be made. Businesses need clarity on the new trading agreement so they can prepare effectively for the massive changes that will undoubtedly come.”</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Seamus Leheny reiterated these concerns at a media briefing hosted by the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium today (4 June 2020).</p> <p>FTA is one of the UK’s leading business groups, representing logistics businesses which are vital to keeping the UK trading, and more than seven million people directly employed in the making, selling and moving of goods. With COVID-19, Brexit, new technology and other disruptive forces driving change in the way goods move across borders and through the supply chain, logistics has never been more important to UK plc. FTA supports, shapes and stands up for safe and efficient logistics, and is the only business group which represents the whole industry, with members from the road, rail, sea and air industries, as well as the buyers of freight services such as retailers and manufacturers whose businesses depend on the efficient movement of goods.>></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>http://www.busesseye.co.uk/transport-body-backs-stormont-call-brexit-extension/</p> <p>https://fta.co.uk/media/press-releases/june-2020/northern-ireland-logistics-industry-needs-brexit-i</p> <p>https://www.logisticsmanager.com/brexit-implementation-period-necessary-for-logistics-to-prepare-effectively/</p> <p>https://www.hgvuk.com/ni-logistics-industry-needs-brexit-implementation-period-says-fta/</p> |
| <p>Full Fact</p> | <p><u><<Claim that extending the Brexit transition period could cost £380 billion is not credible.</u></p> <p>Claim</p> <p>It will cost the UK £378 billion to extend the transition period between the UK and the EU.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This estimate is based on a one-sided analysis which doesn’t seem to factor in any economic benefit of retaining free trade with the EU during the transition period. Most studies suggest these benefits outweigh potential gains from trade agreements and deregulation after the transition period ends.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>A report published recently by the Centre for Brexit Policy (CBP) warned that the public did not want to see an extension, and that it could cost £378 billion.</p> <p>Neither of these claims is based on credible evidence. The report presents a</p> |

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| | <p>one-sided viewpoint on the costs of transition, and most studies into the economic impacts of Brexit show leaving the customs union and single market will mean the UK economy is smaller compared to remaining.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>There’s no evidence that a majority of people oppose a transition extension</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The economic analysis is unbalanced and not aligned with other estimates</p> <p>.>></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>https://fullfact.org/europe/brexit-transition-period-economic-cost-public-opinion/</p> |
| <p>Philip Rycroft, former permanent secretary in the Department for Exiting the EU</p> | <p>Express and Star.</p> <p><<Not extending Brexit transition period ‘will add to burden on businesses’ </p> <p>Former senior civil servant Philip Rycroft told MSPs that not seeking an extension is a ‘political decision’.</p> <p>The UK Government will be adding to the burden on businesses struggling to cope with the Covid-19 crisis if it does not seek an extension to its Brexit transition period, a former senior civil servant has said.</p> <p>Philip Rycroft, who was the permanent secretary in the Department for Exiting the EU, told a Holyrood committee that not seeking an extension is a “political decision”.</p> <p>The former Whitehall mandarin said he believes it is still possible for the UK and EU to agree a new trade deal before the transition period expires at the end of this year – but added there is a “huge amount of work still to do”.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>“It would appear to be an odd time, when you have got a choice, to be adding to the burden on businesses.”</p> <p>The new trade border with Europe will come into place “just at a time when businesses are trying to find their feet again after the coronavirus crisis,” he said.</p> <p>Mr Rycroft, who also worked for the Scottish Government during his civil service career, said: “It is a perfectly legitimate political decision to take but of course that political outlook does not necessarily coincide with the interests of a lot of UK businesses.>></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2020/06/04/not-extending-brexit-transition-period-will-add-to-burden-on-businesses/</p> <p>https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/not-extending-brexit-transition-period-will-add-to-burden-on-businesses-39260051.html</p> <p>https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/national/18496580.not-extending-brexit-transition-period-will-add-burden-businesses/</p> <p>https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/uk-news/2020/06/04/not-extending-</p> |

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| | <p>brexit-transition-period-will-add-to-burden-on-businesses/ https://eveningstandard.podbean.com/e/no-brexite-extension-will-cause-added-pain/</p> |
| <p>David Linden MP (Glasgow East, SNP)</p> | <p>House of Commons – Hansard. David Linden (Glasgow East) (SNP)</p> <p><<I rise tonight to present a petition on behalf of my east end constituents, who rightly wish to see an extension of the Brexit transition period. It is clear as day that our time as legislators is understandably being consumed by the coronavirus pandemic, but we risk the very grave danger of sleepwalking into the territory of no deal with Brussels, which I certainly cannot stand by and condone. Her Majesty’s Government therefore must extend the Brexit transition period without delay and avoid the country being plunged into further chaos.</p> <p><i>Following is the full text of the petition:</i></p> <p><i>[The petition of residents of Glasgow East constituency,</i></p> <p><i>Declares that current Coronavirus pandemic should be the primary focus of Her Majesty’s Government at this time; believes it is deeply unhelpful that the prospect of a No Deal cliff edge on 30th June remains on the negotiating table with Brussels and considers that local businesses could get through the inevitable Coronavirus recession without having extra uncertainty or new rules and red tape to get used to at the end of the year.</i></p> <p><i>The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges Her Majesty’s Government to seek an immediate extension to the Brexit transition period without delay.</i></p> <p><i>And the petitioners remain, etc.]>></i></p> <p>03/06/2020</p> <p>https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-03/debates/024466A4-A66E-48F7-B230-CAE85F9DFBCC/ExtensionOfTheBrexitTransitionPeriod</p> |
| <p>Scottish National Party</p> | <p><<Boris Johnson must extend the Brexit transition: here’s why.</p> <p>Coronavirus, coupled with a no-deal Brexit, means economic disaster... Ending the transition period will weaken our efforts to combat the virus too... Scotland has been silenced and sidelined throughout the negotiations...</p> <p>The EU has already put extension on the table – but Boris Johnson is refusing out of hand...</p> <p>It’s time for the UK government to face reality and accept an extension>></p> <p>03/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.snp.org/boris-johnson-must-extend-the-brexit-transition-heres-why/</p> |
| <p>Warwick Smith, director-general of the British Generic Manufacturers</p> | <p>The New European</p> <p><<No-deal Brexit could limit our access to medicine during a second wave of coronavirus. Jonathon Read</p> <p>A no-deal Brexit could jeopardise the UK’s access to medicine just as a second</p> |

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| <p>Association / Lib Dem MP Layla Moran</p> | <p>wave of coronavirus could hit.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Warwick Smith, director-general of the British Generic Manufacturers Association, said: “We must act quickly in the UK to ensure that we are not left behind.”</p> <p>Voices from the industry have previously stressed that a no-deal Brexit could lead to delays on imports of medicines due to possible customs delays.</p> <p>The government has already faced criticism for struggling to secure essential personal protective equipment and ventilators quickly enough at the start of the coronavirus.</p> <p>Lib Dem MP Layla Moran said it was another reason why the government must put forward for an extension to the transition period.</p> <p>She said: “A no-deal Brexit could limit our access to medicine during a second wave of coronavirus.</p> <p>“The government needs to stop putting ideology ahead of public health and extend the transition period. They cannot risk a dangerous no-deal Brexit just as we recover from the worst pandemic in living memory.</p> <p>“People and businesses have suffered enough this year, the last thing we need is a shortage of medical supplies this winter.</p> <p>“The government must also start being transparent and regularly publish figures on national stockpiles of vital drugs and medicines. The public can’t be kept in the dark about how prepared we are.”</p> <p>04/06/2020 https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/uk-could-struggle-to-get-medicine-for-coronavirus-after-brexit-1-6684477</p> <p>See also: Financial Times. Peter Foster and Sarah Neville <<</p> <p>UK drugs stockpile eroded by coronavirus ahead of Brexit</p> <p>Struggle to rebuild 6 weeks’ medical stores exacerbated by pandemic’s disruption to global production and fears of a ‘no-deal’ EU exit</p> <p>The UK government is struggling to rebuild stockpiles of drugs eroded by Covid-19 amid fears that a “no-deal” Brexit will jeopardise medicine supplies just as a second coronavirus wave hits the country. >></p> <p>03/06/2020 https://www.ft.com/content/4611bf7d-c749-4cfd-bf7c-7a5e2967f9f7</p> |
| <p>Green Party [NI] / Rachel Woods MLA [Green]</p> | <p><<GREEN PARTY SECURES SUPPORT FOR BREXIT TRANSITION EXTENSION AMENDMENT</p> <p>Green Party MLA Rachel Woods has supported an Assembly motion calling for an extension to the Brexit transition period and tabled an amendment stating that we must guard against considering the impact of Brexit in purely economic terms.</p> <p>The Assembly today debated a motion on a proposed extension to the Brexit</p> |

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| | <p>regulations, along with an amendment from the Green Party NI.</p> <p>Rachel Woods MLA said:</p> <p>“Brexit is coming our way and it has been clear for a long time that it will have a negative impact right across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>“Meanwhile, we’re still attempting to find our feet in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and a Westminster government steaming ahead with lockdown restrictions to the alarm of public health experts.</p> <p>“To push on with Brexit in the midst of a pandemic is unwise in the extreme. It’s both clear and unfortunate that this Tory government wants to implement Brexit at any cost.</p> <p>“The Green Party supports the call for an extension to the Brexit transition period. However, we want to guard against framing the impact of Brexit in purely economic terms.</p> <p>“We sought to broaden the focus of the original motion beyond that of business concerns, to acknowledge the impact that EU withdrawal will have on all sections of society, economy and the environment.</p> <p>“Brexit will cut across many aspects of our lives and society. It’s not just the economy that will suffer the negative impacts once the Westminster government defies the will of the majority of people in Northern Ireland and fully exits the EU.”</p> <p>02/06/2020 https://www.greenpartyni.org/blogs/green-party-ni/extend-brexit-transition-period-not-just-for-economic-reasons</p> |
| <p>Matthew O’Toole MLA [DLP]</p> | <p>Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland now united in demanding Brexit extension following Stormont vote</p> <p>Jack Peat</p> <p><<Northern Ireland has joined Wales and Scotland in backing an extension to the Brexit transition period.</p> <p>The Assembly passed the motion by 50 votes to 38, with only unionists opposing it.</p> <p>DLP MLA Matthew O’Toole said it was “mad and dangerous” not to extend given the current economic circumstances.</p> <p>“It is especially dangerous because we know how close we came, in recent weeks, to serious disruption to supply chains across these islands.</p> <p>“If we end this year with no trade deal and no extension to the transition, we could face the very real prospect of significant disruption to supply chains, not just between Calais and Dover but between Holyhead and Dublin – a route that is critical to the Northern Ireland market – and at Belfast and Larne.”>></p> <p>https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/northern-ireland-wales-and-scotland-now-united-in-demanding-brexit-extension-following-stormont-vote/03/06/</p> |
| <p>Northern Ireland assembly</p> | <p><<Northern Ireland assembly passes motion calling for transition period extension</p> |

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| | <p>The motion proposed [by] Matthew O’Toole, the SDLP’s Brexit spokesman, had not been expected to carry after opposition was expressed by the Democratic Unionist and the Ulster Unionist parties.</p> <p>O’Toole, a former Downing Street adviser, said London would have to take the vote seriously as the assembly was “uniquely recognised as a named party in the withdrawal agreement” and Stormont had a substantial role in the implementation of the Ireland and Northern Ireland protocol.</p> <p>He said: “This is not about rerunning the referendum, it’s about accepting that we are in the middle of the most serious public health crisis in living memory. We are also facing a significant economic recession that will put businesses and jobs at risk. This is not the moment to attempt to rupture and renegotiate our largest trading relationship.”</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>O’Toole added that the Stormont vote would “send a powerful message” to Boris Johnson in relation to his implacable opposition to extending the transition period without consent from Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The special protocol on Northern Ireland was agreed in January after a deal struck by the prime minister and his Irish counterpart, Leo Varadkar, to avoid a border on the island of Ireland.</p> <p>It involves checks on trade crossing the Irish Sea which will come into effect as soon as the transition period ends, whether there is a trade deal or not. Under the withdrawal agreement, these checks would hold for at least six years.</p> <p>Businesses have said there is simply not enough time to put IT systems for new customs arrangements, VAT and regulatory checks in place.>> [BBC]</p> <p>https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-northern-ireland-assembly-extension-leave-eu-uk-transition-period-a9545606.html</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/02/stormont-backs-calling-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period-border-checks-covid-19-coronavirus</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-52906604</p> <p>https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/brexit/stormont-backs-calling-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period/</p> <p>https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/northern-ireland-wales-and-scotland-now-united-in-demanding-brexit-extension-following-stormont-vote/03/06/s</p> <p>https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/brexit/stormont-backs-calling-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period</p> <p>https://www.irishpost.com/news/northern-ireland-assembly-votes-to-delay-brexit-further-186164</p> <p>[03/03/2020]</p> |
| <p>Scottish Government</p> | <p>Scottish Government</p> <p><<COVID-19: the case for extending the Brexit transition period</p> <p>This paper sets out why it is vital, if we are to ensure the most rapid recovery possible from the COVID-19 crisis, that the UK Government immediately seeks an extension to the Brexit transition period (scheduled to finish on 31</p> |

December 2020) for two years.

[...]

The arguments in favour of an extension are that: • It would allow the economy more time to recover from COVID-19 before experiencing the additional negative impact of ending the Brexit transition; • The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented government, business and citizens from preparing adequately for what will be the most significant change to our external trade policy for half a century; and • Proper democratic and technical scrutiny and implementation of the UK's putative new relationship with the EU is simply not possible in the few months remaining before December this year – the end of the current transition period.

Ending the transition period at the end of 2020, even with the type of basic deal the UK government is pursuing, or worse still without a deal with the EU at all, will represent a significant additional downside risk to the trajectory of the economic recovery. Immediate and short-run effects will include:

- Introduction of non-tariff barriers to trade with the EU (and tariff barriers in a no deal outcome);
- Increased disruption to supply chains already experiencing challenges due to COVID-19; and
- Heightened uncertainty in some markets.

The combined impact of these effects on businesses that are already severely affected by COVID-19 could result in widespread business closures and job losses over and above those resulting from COVID-19 alone.

New economic modelling shows the impact of ending the transition period at end-2020 or, with the full two-year extension provided for by the Withdrawal Agreement, at end-2022. We also model the impact of two outcomes to the current EU-UK negotiations, either a basic Free Trade Agreement in line with the UK government's unambitious aspirations, or no deal. The lack of progress in the negotiations so far and the impact of COVID-19 on the negotiating process make no deal a real possibility. These Brexit scenarios are overlaid on two illustrative paths for the recovery of the economy from COVID-19.

[...]

Opinion polls suggest that a clear majority of the UK population would favour an extension as a result of COVID-19. Time is running out. After June 30 there will be no reliable way of extending the transition period. As a responsible administration which, notwithstanding our fundamental opposition to Brexit, is working to protect Scotland's interests in the Brexit process, we call upon the UK Government to act now to secure an extension to the end of 2022. >>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/>

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18492435.uk-government-refusal-extend-brexit-will-cost-scotland-billions/>

Scottish Government

COVID-19: The Case for Extending the Brexit Transition Period

June 2020 [61pp]

In this document, we have set out how the COVID-19 crisis has radically

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| | <p>altered the priorities for governments’ actions, across the world. When an event as important as the COP 26 climate conference later this year has had to be cancelled – an event on which literally the future of mankind and our planet depends – it is simply not credible to treat Brexit as an exception and plough on regardless.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Time is running out. As the Scottish Government our responsibility, indeed our duty, is to protect Scotland’s interests in the Brexit process. We are fully aware of the extent to which the UK government has staked reputational capital on exiting the 45 transition period at the end of 2020, but there are far more important things at stake than that. This is the time for the UK government to live up to its responsibilities and do the right thing, by securing an extension to the end of 2022. We call upon it to do so. >></p> <p>03/03/2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2020/06/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/documents/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/govscot%3Adocument/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period.pdf</p> <p>[03/06/2020]</p> |
| <p>Maree Todd MSP [SNP]</p> | <p>Highland MSP calls for Brexit extension to protect jobs</p> <p><< MSP Maree Todd has called on the UK government to extend the Brexit transition period in light of coronavirus – with new analysis showing billions of pounds could be wiped from the Scottish economy.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Ms Todd said: “Coronavirus is causing enormous economic disruption and people across the Highlands & Islands expect government to be focused on protecting public health and the Scottish economy.</p> <p>“It would be an act of extraordinary recklessness for the UK government to allow us to crash out of the transition period at the end of this year.</p> <p>“The SNP believe the best future for Scotland is as an independent member of the EU.</p> <p>“But regardless of your opinion on Brexit or independence, it makes no sense to crash out of the European single market at precisely the moment we need stability.</p> <p>“Businesses in the Highlands & Islands are focused on securing their future – they simply don’t have the capacity to prepare for Brexit on top of a pandemic.</p> <p>“The UK government must do the sensible thing, protect jobs in the Highlands & Islands and extend the transition period.”>></p> <p>https://www.strathspey-herald.co.uk/news/highlanders-call-to-suspend-brexit-201698/</p> <p>https://www.orcadian.co.uk/maree-todd-msp-calls-for-brexit-extension-to-safeguard-scots-economy/</p> |
| <p>Richard Lochhead MSP</p> | <p><<Extend Brexit transition to protect Moray jobs – Lochhead</p> |

[SNP]

MORAY's MSP has called on the UK Government to extend the Brexit transition period in light of coronavirus.

“As a Scottish Government study shows that billions could be wiped from the Scottish economy, SNP MSP Richard Lochhead says the UK Government must do the "sensible" thing to extend the transition as Moray businesses can't be expected to properly prepare for Brexit amid a pandemic.”>>

[03/06/2020]

<https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/extend-brexit-transition-to-protect-moray-jobs-lochhead-201762/>

<https://www.strathspey-herald.co.uk/news/highlanders-call-to-suspend-brexit-201698/>

Dame Caroline Fairbairn
director general, CBI

Dame Caroline Fairbairn, *director general of the Confederation of British Industry*

<<Business cannot prepare for a no-deal Brexit in the middle of a pandemic

Many firms are clinging on during the coronavirus crisis and have no capacity to to contemplate failure in talks with EU

For many firms fighting to keep their heads above water through the crisis, the idea of preparing for a chaotic change in EU trading relations in seven months is beyond them. They are not remotely prepared. Faced with the desperate challenges of the pandemic, their resilience and ability to cope is almost zero.

With 40 percent of the economy closed, 8 million people in furlough and not working, the U.K. is already in recession. Stockpiles that were built up in preparation for a no-deal outcome in March, October and December last year have been used to plug supply shortages created by the pandemic, while half of all manufacturers are having difficulty reconnecting their supply chains.

Many businesses, especially smaller ones, have burned through cash reserves they would have otherwise used for rainy days. One logistics firm would need to hire 300 new border officials starting in June to prepare for a no-trade deal Brexit, and are asking whether they should do this — and how this can possibly be a sensible use of their stretched resources.

[...]

Before COVID-19, the U.K. led the world in professional services trade, with the country’s auditors, accountants and architects landing business across the globe. But services trade has collapsed, with company surveys showing the greatest fall in all measures since records began.

Perhaps by the end of the year these companies will be climbing back onto their feet. **However, an abrupt introduction of restrictions on trade and movement with the EU at that point would be a hammer blow.**

[...]

The desire for no further delay is understandable. After all, the U.K. made its choice in the Brexit referendum nearly four years ago now, and it is not clear extending the transition period would necessarily bring a better deal in the future.

But while it may be tempting for some to down tools and accept that WTO

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| | <p>terms are the best either side can hope for, there are many livelihoods and businesses at stake. The current air of resignation surrounding the Brexit talks must be shaken off. This is why a new dynamic and determination on both sides is so essential.</p> <p>In recent months, political leaders across Europe have shown that what previously may have been thought of as impossible is not. A good deal with the EU will be just one strand of the U.K.'s national recovery from the pandemic, but it will be one of the most important for the future of our economy, jobs and livelihoods.>></p> <p>01-02/06/2020 https://www.politico.eu/article/business-cannot-prepare-for-a-no-deal-brexit-in-the-middle-of-a-pandemic/ https://www.cbi.org.uk/articles/business-cannot-prepare-for-no-deal-brexit-during-coronavirus/</p> |
| <p>Nick Cohen</p> | <p>Nick Cohen, <i>The Spectator</i>. <<The lethal combination of Brexit and Covid</p> <p>“The combination of Covid-19 and Brexit is a double whammy. The first was a haymaker that hit Britain from nowhere. The follow up will come when Britain, quite deliberately and with malice aforethought, winds up its fist and punches itself in the face. The economic impact of the virus will be accentuated by the UK leaving the EU without a deal or with a meagre free-trade agreement, warns a grim report, sponsored by the Best for Britain think tank.</p> <p>[....]</p> <p>The authors put it like this: ‘With public debt spiralling, the Government is boxing itself into a fiscal corner unless it extends the transition period and secures a trade deal at the end of the ongoing negotiations.’</p> <p>Objectively, the recommendation makes sense. If Boris Johnson were to appear at a press conference and announce that he was asking the EU for an extension to the trade talks because of the pandemic, the majority of the public would understand. The country, people would reason, had enough to cope with already without adding to its troubles.”>></p> <p>01/06/2020 spectator.co.uk/article/the-lethal-combination-of-brexit-and-covid</p> |
| <p>Rachel Sylvester, <i>The Times</i> / Best for Britain</p> | <p>Rachel Sylvester, <i>The Times</i> / Best for Britain.</p> <p><<Red Wall Tories won’t forgive a no-deal Brexit.</p> <p>Former Labour voters in the north and Midlands say the transition period should be extended to avoid economic harm.</p> <p>“Focus group research conducted last month for Best for Britain in the red wall seats showed that people’s priorities appear to have changed as a result of Covid-19. When voters in Warrington South were asked whether they thought the government should request an extension so they could concentrate on the pandemic, a 53-year-old man replied: “One million per cent. Everyone’s focus is on health and safety. One good thing about coronavirus is that we stop talking about bloody Brexit.” A 59-year-old woman in Bury South agreed that: “people’s health is so much more important than Brexit” while in Don</p> |

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| | <p>Valley one voter suggested it would be “selfish” for the new Tory MP there to oppose extending the transition period. “It’s then taking the focus off something that is killing people,” they said. “The health of the country has got to come first, the state of the NHS and the economy. . . it’s no good pumping resources into Brexit when it’s needed elsewhere. [...]</p> <p>What is more, the Tories’ new supporters in red wall seats would be among the worst affected. Already the industrial heartlands are at the sharp end of a surge in job losses, with workers being made redundant in large numbers and vacancies shrinking as a result of the lockdown. A report by the Social Market Foundation, published at the weekend, warned of the “severe economic disruption” that would face the northwest and the Midlands if the Covid-19 crisis was compounded by a no-deal Brexit. The imposition of tariffs could force up the cost of living, which would have a disproportionate impact on the lowest paid. ”>></p> <p>01/06/2020 https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/red-wall-tories-won-t-forgive-a-no-deal-brexit-spgdmt5pq</p> |
| <p>Stephen Dorrell, European Movement</p> | <p>Stephen Dorrell, campaign video tweet. “Extend the transition. Focus on COVID-19.” https://twitter.com/euromove/status/1267429437693255683</p> |
| <p>The Professional Clothing Industry Association Worldwide/ Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce</p> | <p>The Professional Clothing Industry Association Worldwide/ Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce. << UK Government has repeatedly insisted it will not ask for an extension to the transition period – and will decline any such request from the EU.</p> <p>Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce want the Government to re-think its position.</p> <p>Chief executive Paul Faulkner says the business community needs time to recover from the coronavirus pandemic before facing more disruption to trading conditions.</p> <p>He said: “While coronavirus has understandably dominated the headlines and business planning in recent months, Brexit is not over yet.</p> <p>“June is a critical month for Brexit negotiations. By the end of it, we should know how likely a deal (or not) is looking.</p> <p>[....]</p> <p>“We also know that many of the businesses hardest hit by this, such as those in the retail and automotive sectors are also the most exposed to Brexit risk due to the nature of their international supply chains and EU citizens in their workforces.</p> <p>“We urge the Government to change their narrow thinking position on refusing an extension to negotiations.</p> <p>“British business has just faced its greatest crisis since the Second World War. If a comprehensive deal cannot be agreed, the business community needs time to rebuild resilience before it faces the biggest change to the UK’s political and trading relationships for a generation too.”</p> <p>https://pciaw.org/industry-news/brexit-government-must-alter-narrow-thinking-</p> |

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| | <p>on-transition-period/ https://www.greaterbirminghamchambers.com/latest-news/news/2020/6/1/brexit-government-must-alter-narrow-thinking-on-transition-period/</p> |
| <p>Dr Philippa Whitford MP / Scottish National Party</p> | <p>Dr Philippa Whitford MP / Scottish National Party <<The SNP has warned that “time is fast running out” to secure an extension to the Brexit transition period to protect the economy, jobs, businesses, and people’s livelihoods from an “economic body blow” – with reports growing that a top-level summit in mid-June could be planned to address the deadlock in talks.</p> <p>A new report published by the Social Market Foundation today also reveals that Scotland would suffer severe economic disruption if it was dragged out of the EU without a deal at the end of this year – with key sectors facing a double economic hit due to the pandemic, putting thousands of jobs at risk.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Commenting, SNP Shadow Brexit spokesperson Dr Philippa Whitford MP said:</p> <p>"Time is now fast running out to agree an extension to the Brexit transition period to protect the economy, businesses and people’s livelihoods from another economic body blow.</p> <p>“We are in the midst of a health pandemic and businesses are already struggling to survive.</p> <p>“They simply do not have the ability to also prepare for a hard or No-Deal Brexit in just a few months’ time.</p> <p>"The new impact analysis published by the Social Market Foundation also adds to the evidence of the severe double economic hit facing Scotland's diverse sectors - including manufacturing and finance - as a result of pursuing Brexit and dealing with the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>“ ... ”</p> <p>“As the final round of talks gets underway - and with reports emerging of a top-level summit to try and break the impasse - it is vital the Prime Minister grabs the lifeline of an extension to the transition period so that efforts can be fully focussed on tackling the biggest health and economic crisis of our time.”>></p> <p>http://www.thehighlandtimes.com/news/2020/05/31/new-report-highlights-severe-impact-of-no-deal-brexit-on-scotland/</p> |
| <p>Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London</p> | <p>Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London: Letter to Michael Gove calling for an extension to the transition period. <<The pro-Remain London Mayor insisted the “last thing” the UK needs is “more chaos and uncertainty” during the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>Mr Khan said: “No one anticipated when voting for Brexit that the key negotiations would take place at a time when all governments are rightly focused on fighting a global pandemic.</p> <p>“The last thing the country needs as it tries to find a way back from the devastation wreaked by coronavirus is more chaos and uncertainty.</p> |

“I urge the Government to put political ideology aside and pursue the pragmatic route of seeking an extension to the negotiations so that we and our European partners can focus on recovery from Covid-19.”>>

Full text of letter.

<<Dear Michael,

The Covid-19 pandemic poses a grave threat to Londoners' jobs and livelihoods, with the prospect of a global recession now hanging over us.

Most Londoners will be deeply disappointed that at a time of crisis, the Government is putting dogma ahead of the national interest. No one anticipated when voting for Brexit that the key negotiations would take place at a time when all governments are rightly focussed on fighting a global pandemic.

The last thing the country needs as it tries to find a way back from the devastation wreaked by Coronavirus is more chaos and uncertainty. I urge the government to put political ideology aside and pursue the pragmatic route of seeking an extension to the negotiations so that we and our European partners can focus on recovery from Covid-19.

Covid-19 is the biggest health, social and economic emergency we have faced since the Second World War. Further disruption, in the form of tariffs, red tape and new immigration rules when we leave the single market and customs union at the end of the year, would be needless and hazardous. Close regulatory alignment with the EU has never been more vital to protect our economy and support its recovery from the impacts of Covid-19.

The government's negotiations with the EU and other countries are highly unlikely to progress towards meaningful results and agreements while the pandemic continues. An extension to the transition period is now urgently needed to give business and public services some certainty that they won't face the threat of another cliff edge in six months' time. Otherwise the Government risks undermining the unprecedented steps it has taken to protect jobs and livelihoods, by prolonging uncertainty about our economy and the terms on which future trade will be conducted.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

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01/06/2020

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| | <p>https://twitter.com/PickardJE/status/1267362471158915072</p> <p>https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1289701/Brexit-news-Sadiq-Khan-extension-letter-Michael-Gove-EU-December-31-2020</p> <p>https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-sadiq-khan-transition-extension-labour-coronavirus-a9542391.html</p> <p>https://www.ft.com/content/880ba672-3349-4b16-8bb5-013226379a1a</p> <p>https://www.cityam.com/sadiq-khan-calls-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period/</p> |
| <p>Kathryn Petrie and Amy Norman, Best for Britain/ Social Market Foundation</p> | <p>(Commissioned by) Best for Britain: <i>Assessing the economic implications of coronavirus and Brexit</i>, by Kathryn Petrie and Amy Norman (Social Market Foundation)</p> <p><< “How policymakers should respond to the picture revealed in this report is beyond our remit here. For the avoidance of doubt, this report does not take a position on which form Brexit should take or express any view on the choices that policymakers should make over Britain’s future relationship with the EU. We acknowledge that our sponsors take a clear view about those policy choices, including on the possible extension of transitional arrangements. The SMF expresses no view on that, in this report or elsewhere.”</p> <p>“Given the large increase in government expenditure as a result of coronavirus it is hard to see how the Government could afford another stimulus package in early 2021 due to failing to secure a deal without adding to already unprecedented borrowing and potentially testing the patience of gilt buyers.”>></p> <p>In considerable and regional detail, this evidence-based report shows how COVID-19 plus No Deal will break the eUK conomy beyond our ability to fix it. And leaves you to draw whatever conclusion you choose. Described by BfB CEO Naomi Smith as “a report commissioned by the Best for Britain group, warning of a profound economic impact of ending the transition period on December 31”.</p> <p>31/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.bestforbritain.org/impactassessment</p> <p>https://www.smf.co.uk/publications/assessing-the-economic-implications-of-coronavirus-and-brexit/</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/may/31/key-election-battlegrounds-face-double-hit-from-brexit-and-coronavirus</p> <p>https://leftfootforward.org/2020/06/where-the-covid-brexit-double-whammy-will-hit-hardest-new-report/</p> <p>For a hostile analysis [04/06/2020]: https://globalvisionuk.com/analysis-social-market-foundations-report-on-coronavirus-and-brexit/</p> |
| <p>Indirect Tax Matters</p> | <p><i>Indirect Tax Matters</i> May 2020</p> <p><<Is Brexit on track?</p> <p>Some significant bodies both in UK and EU have cast doubt on the current transition deadline (31 December 2020) and that an extension may be sought but more likely later in year. Vicky Price (Chief Economist/Economics & Business Research London) was recently quoted as saying “<i>The government insists that all is on track, but we all suspect NOT</i>”, while Mr. Kallum Pickering (Economist Berenberg) said “<i>we should not rule an extension out despite the official position....(UK) ministers would likely accept a 6 or 12 month delay given the circumstances</i>”. Chief at Europe and UK Signum</p> |

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| | <p>Global (a political risk advisory body), Ms Anna Rosenberg has said that the coronavirus crisis had increased the odds of an extension from 20% to 60%. >> May 2020 https://www2.deloitte.com/ie/en/pages/tax/articles/itm-is-brexit-on-track.</p> |
| Irish Times | <p>https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorial/the-irish-times-view-on-brexit-delay-is-almost-certain-1.4206256 19/03/2020</p> |
| Professor Alex de Ruyter, Director of the Centre for Brexit Studies at Birmingham City University | <p>https://www.express.co.uk/ <<Brexit warning: UK desperately needs trade deal more than EU experts believe</p> <p>Professor Alex de Ruyter, Director of the Centre for Brexit Studies at Birmingham City University, explained to Express.co.uk: “The EU holds all the advantage in the post-Brexit trade talks.</p> <p>"As the UK conducts about half of its trade with the EU, whilst the EU in total only exports about 10 percent of its products to the UK, which will be heavily concentrated in certain sectors like automotive and fall more on countries like Germany.</p> <p>"So whilst both sides would take a hit from ‘No Deal’, the effects would be far more severe for the UK.</p> <p>When asked if the UK should extend the transition period beyond December 31, 2020, Professor de Ruyter added: "Yes, for all the reasons alluded to above. COVID-19 has sapped the ability of Government to devote time and resources to this.</p> <p>"The prospect of a No Deal coming on top of the coronavirus disruption could tip many businesses over the edge and would devastate our manufacturing sector.">></p> <p>[30/06/2020]</p> <p>https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1288279/brexit-news-uk-eu-trade-deal-latest-brexit-transition-period-boris-johnson-barnier-frost</p> |
| UK Trade Policy Observatory. Prof. L. Alan Winters, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Palitha Konara. | <p>(L. Alan Winters CB is Professor of Economics and Director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO). Mattia Di Ubaldo is a Research Fellow in the Economics of European Trade Policies, and Palitha Konara is a Senior Lecturer in International Business at the University of Sussex. Both are Fellows of the UKTPO.)</p> <p><<COVID-19 will reinforce the Brexit shock.</p> <p>“COVID-19 and Brexit may appear as independent shocks but, in fact, they are interrelated. First, as the UKTPO and many others have argued, because COVID has disrupted the preparation for and conduct of negotiations on the future UK-EU trading arrangements, the UK government should ask for an extension to the transition period. This would allow the UK and EU to work out details of mutual cooperation that will be beneficial on both sides of the channel.</p> <p>Second, COVID and Brexit, in either its ‘No deal’ or its FTA form, are linked in a more direct and more harmful way – company debt. COVID is creating a mountain of debt and this will make the already difficult job of adjusting to</p> |

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| | <p>Brexit more difficult.”</p> <p>27/05/2020</p> <p>https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/2020/05/27/covid-19-will-reinforce-the-brexit-shock/</p> |
| <p>Struan Stevenson, former Tory MEP</p> | <p><<A former Tory MEP has urged Boris Johnson to extend the deadline for the Brexit transition period as he warned failing to secure a trade deal, combined with the impact of Covid-19, would be “catastrophic” for the economy.</p> <p>Struan Stevenson, who was a Conservative representative at Brussels for 15 years, insisted it “makes sense” to have longer for the transition talks because economists are already predicting “a recession to end all recessions” following the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Stevenson argued that “throwing a cliff-edge Brexit into the mix” as the economy faces the prospect of a coronavirus-related recession would be devastating.</p> <p>Writing in <i>The Herald</i> newspaper, he urged Johnson: “Grant an extension to the Brexit deadline, Boris. You know it makes sense.</p> <p>A decision on whether or not to seek an extension to the Brexit transition period must be made by July 1. It would surely be prudent and entirely understandable given the Covid-19 pandemic to ask for a six-month extension, even if that extension was ultimately found not to be needed?”</p> <p>>></p> <p>https://news.stv.tv/politics/extend-brexit-talks-or-risk-catastrophic-hit-to-economy</p> <p>https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/extend-brexit-talks-or-risk-catastrophic-hit-economy-ex-tory-mep-warns-2869569</p> <p>https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/conservative-politician-calls-on-prime-minister-to-extend-brexit-talks-1-6677557</p> |
| <p>Institute for Government</p> | <p><<Implementing Brexit: securing more time</p> <p>Time is short for the UK and the EU to agree and ratify the terms of their future relationship – and coronavirus has added to the pressure. This paper has set out five options for both sides to secure more time after the 31 December deadline. >></p> <p>30/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/implementing-brexit-securing-more-time</p> |
| <p>Chemical Business Association (CBA)</p> | <p><<CBA urges UK to consider Brexit transition period extension option.</p> <p>The UK should take the "pragmatic approach" of keeping open the option to extend the Brexit transition period, the Chemical Business Association (CBA) has said.</p> <p>In a 4 May letter to the business minister and parliamentary under secretary of state at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Nadhim Zahawi MP, the CBA said the final decision to extend should be dependent "on both Covid-19 decompression and the progress made on an UK/EU free trade</p> |

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| | <p>agreement".</p> <p>The CBA's letter, signed by chief executive Peter Newport, was made public on 28 May, ahead of round four of trade talks from 1–4 June.</p> <p>It names unresolved Brexit trading and regulatory issues, the Covid-19 pandemic and the possibility of an imminent recession as the main issues the UK's chemical supply chain is facing.</p> <p>"Together, they provide a perfect storm for the UK economy. The CBA believes their potential cumulative impact should guide the UK government's industrial strategy."</p> <p>[....]</p> <p>Rejecting an extension to the transition period "out of hand" increases the risk of a no-deal exit from the EU, it added. "Politics appears to have trumped pragmatism unless a deal can be secured within the astonishingly short time remaining." >></p> <p>28/05/2020</p> <p>https://chemicalwatch.com/121010/cba-urges-uk-to-consider-brexit-transition-period-extension-option</p> |
| <p>Philip Dunne MP, Chair, Audit Committee, House of Commons</p> | <p><<<i>Chemical Watch</i> : MPs restate post-Brexit chemicals strategy concerns after Covid-19 delay</p> <p>The new chair of a UK parliamentary committee has expressed his concerns over the government's post-Brexit chemicals strategy, after its development was suspended due to the coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In a letter to minister of state George Eustice, Environmental Audit Committee chair Philip Dunne said that given the delays already incurred, the decision to pause work on it in order to prioritise the government's response to the pandemic was "regrettable".</p> <p>[.....]</p> <p>The committee is concerned, it says, that ongoing uncertainty for the sector could damage access to vital chemicals for business after the transition period. This will expire at the end of the year, unless an extension is agreed with the EU by the end of June.</p> <p>Clelia Oziel, Europe correspondent>></p> <p>06/05/2020</p> <p>https://chemicalwatch.com/114110/mps-restate-post-brexit-chemicals-strategy-concerns-after-covid-19-delay</p> |
| <p>Institute of Export & International Trade</p> | <p><<Brexit transition extension: the two camps on either side of the argument – and in between</p> <p>[.....]</p> <p>For an extension: opposition political parties and logistics trade bodies including BIFA, the FTA and the RHA</p> <p>Who: Opposition parties are urging the government to seek an extension to the transition period, while its steadfast refusal to do so is reportedly a source of tension among civil servants within the UK's negotiating team.</p> <p>From the international trade camp, the freight forwarding sector led by its trade</p> |

association BIFA, the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association have been the most direct in calling for a delay to the transition's end.

The arguments: These boil down to the distraction of managing COVID-19 and a lack of time to secure trade deals, organise logistical changes and ensure effective legislation is in place.

Politicians in opposition parties, to whom Michel Barnier's letter was addressed this week, cite the "catastrophic economic impact" of COVID-19 as reason enough to delay full Brexit.

The RHA echoes this argument, its chief executive Richard Burnett saying COVID-19 means hauliers, while supporting Brexit, "are simply not in a position to give the complexity of future trade arrangements with the EU the necessary focus".

BIFA has said it has "great reservations" on whether the logistics industry can be ready in time for 31 December, calling no extension "risky and unwise".>>

<https://www.export.org.uk/news/509862/Brexit-transition-extension-the-two-camps-on-either-side-of-the-argument--and-in-between.htm>

1. International, government, politics, law, faiths

[See also items listed below in section 4: Campaigns, polls and petitions.]

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| Kristalina Georgieva, IMF | <p>Managing Director, International Monetary Fund.</p> <p>“The United Kingdom should ask for an extension to its post-Brexit transition period to ease uncertainty at a time when the world economy is being hammered by the coronavirus pandemic, the head of the International Monetary Fund said.</p> <p>"It is tough as it is. Let's not make it any tougher," Kristalina Georgieva told BBC radio in comments broadcast on Thursday.</p> <p>"My advice would be to seek ways in which this element of uncertainty is reduced in the interests of everybody, of the UK, of the European Union, the whole world."”</p> <p>https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/uk-time-brexit-transition-imf-200416080226131.html</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52304821</p> |
| “Government sources” | <p><<UK <u>'prepares to seek Brexit transition extension'</u> as coronavirus crisis grows. EU sources said hopes of conducting full negotiation round via videolink had been crushed by Covid-19 outbreak</p> <p>By Peter Foster, EUROPE EDITOR ; James Crisp, BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT and Asa Bennett</p> <p>Detailed <u>Brexit trade negotiations</u> planned for this week were cancelled on Monday, with Government sources indicating that the UK is preparing the ground to seek a mutually agreed extension to the talks in the coming weeks.</p> <p>As <u>the coronavirus crisis deepened</u>, senior Whitehall sources also confirmed that civil servants who had been working on Brexit "no deal" preparations were being actively redeployed into virus crisis management.>></p> <p>17/03/2020</p> <p>https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/03/17/uk-prepares-seek-eu-trade-talks-extension-coronavirus-crisis/</p> |
| “Government sources” | <p><<Brexit threat: Coronavirus could force transition extension - Officials admit delay needed</p> <p>The coronavirus outbreak gripping the world could force the UK to ask for an extension to the Brexit transition period. BILL MCLOUGHLIN</p> <p>Talks were scheduled to be held in London between EU and UK officials today. However, due to the spread of the virus, both sides confirmed talks would be cancelled. Although Dominic Raab maintained there would be no need to seek an extension to Brexit, according to The Daily Telegraph, Government sources have indicated the UK is preparing to seek an extension in the coming weeks.>></p> <p>17/03/2020</p> |

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| | <p>https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1256623/Brexit-news-coronavirus-latest-uk-extension-transition-Michel-barnier-talks</p> |
| <p>Terry Reintke MEP [Greens]</p> | <p>Europe Street news. Interview with MEP Terry Reintke: the EU-UK friendship group and why Brits should participate in EU's future debate</p> <p>What aspects of citizens' rights will be discussed in the negotiations on the future EU-UK relationship?</p> <p>Right now, under the circumstances we are in, I don't see anything substantial about the future relationship that can be discussed by the end of the year and be sustainable for the future. My appeal is: please, please extend the deadline of the Brexit transition beyond 31 December. I say this constructively given the difficulties we face with the coronavirus crisis. Even Boris Johnson fell ill, so let's focus on fighting the virus now and address negotiations later, and really put citizens' rights at their core.</p> <p>26/04/2020</p> <p>https://europastreet.news/german-mep-says-brits-should-be-included-in-future-of-eu-debate/</p> |
| <p>Terry Reintke MEP [Greens]</p> | <p>UK needs transition extension to avoid disastrous outcome</p> <p>German Greens MEP Terry Reintke has appealed to the UK to ask for an extension to the Brexit transition period beyond 31 December amid "special circumstances".</p> <p>Senior MEP Terry Reintke has appealed to the UK to ask the EU for an extension to the Brexit transition period beyond 31 December. Her appeal comes with the talks deadlocked and growing pessimism about a no-deal exit.</p> <p>The two sides will conclude the fourth round of talks on Friday, with insiders saying little progress has been made on key areas such as fisheries and the so-called level playing field. If there is to be an extension both sides must agree to this by 1 July.</p> <p>As the latest round of talks draw to a close, Reintke, a German Greens deputy, told <i>The Parliament Magazine</i>, "To avoid a disastrous outcome for both sides, an extension is what is needed in these more than special circumstances."</p> <p>She continued, "My appeal is: Extend the deadline and take the time to negotiate a good deal for both sides. A no-deal scenario will put all citizens and their rights at risk."</p> <p>https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/news/uk-needs-transition-extension-avoid-disastrous-outcome</p> |
| <p>David McAllister MEP, Christophe Hansen MEP, European People's Party</p> | <p>The EPP Group is the largest political group in the European Parliament with 187 Members from all EU Member States.</p> <p>David McAllister MEP, Chair of the UK Coordination Group in the European Parliament.</p> <p>Christophe Hansen MEP, Negotiator of the post-Brexit agreement in the European Parliament's Committee on International.</p> <p><i><<Extension of Brexit transition is the responsible thing to do</i></p> <p>"As the Coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt activities worldwide, including the negotiations between the European Union and the United</p> |

Kingdom on their future partnership, the EPP Group in the European Parliament wants to discuss an extension of the transition period beyond its current deadline at the end of this year.

“Under these extraordinary circumstances, I cannot see how the UK Government would choose to expose itself to the double whammy of the Coronavirus and the exit from the EU Single Market, which will inevitably add to the disruption, deal or no deal. I can only hope that common sense and substance will prevail over ideology. An extension of the transition period is the only responsible thing to do”, said **Christophe Hansen MEP**, negotiator of the post-Brexit agreement in the European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade, ahead of the first meeting of the EU-UK Joint Committee, a body set up to oversee the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement.

“The Coronavirus pandemic complicates the already very ambitious schedule”, said **David McAllister MEP**, Chair of the UK Coordination Group in the European Parliament. “The EU has always been open to extending the transition period. The ball is now clearly in the British court. The United Kingdom would have to submit an official request. So far, the UK government has constantly rejected such an option. Under the current circumstances, London should carefully re-examine a prolongation.”

Both MEPs clearly rejected any attempts to re-open the terms of the current Withdrawal Agreement. “The implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement is extremely important for us - we would like to see guarantees that the UK will fulfil all its commitments stemming from the Withdrawal Agreement and the Irish Protocol”, Hansen and McAllister concluded.”

<https://www.eppgroup.eu/newsroom/news/extension-of-brexit-transition-the-responsible-thing-to-do>

<https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/news/boris-johnson-asked-to-extend-transition-period-amid-coronavirus-pandemic>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/mar/30/extend-brexit-transition-by-years-over-coronavirus-uk-told>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52101096>

[Simon Coveney](#)

Tánaiste [Finance Minister], Ireland.

<<“Brexit trade talks timeline ‘virtually impossible’, says Coveney. Tanaiste Simon Coveney has urged the UK to seek an extension to its transition period.”

Mr Coveney said the Covid-19 pandemic means the UK should seek an extension and progress so far this year has been much slower than the EU had hoped for.

“Covid-19 has made what is already a very, very difficult timeline to get agreement virtually impossible,” the Tanaiste said.

[...]

“I wouldn’t be raising expectations around the British Government agreeing to seeking more time.

“If we’re going to have any chance of persuading them to take more time then we need to be careful about how we do that because demanding it from them ... almost as a concession to the EU, is certainly not the way to do it.”

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/brexit/brexit-trade-talks-timeline->

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| | <p>virtually-impossible-says-coveney-39191757.html https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/savvy-diplomacy-needed-to-achieve-brexit-talks-extension-coveney-1.4247920`</p> |
| <p>Senator Neale Richmond</p> | <p><<A LEADING Irish politician has called for the Scottish Government to work with the Northern Ireland Executive to put pressure on Boris Johnson to seek an extension to the Brexit transition period.</p> <p>Senator Neale Richmond spoke out as the latest round of talks between the UK and EU over the future relationship ended in deadlock yesterday.</p> <p>The Fine Gael politician – a close ally of Taoiseach Leo Varadkar – called for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to work together to lobby the Prime Minister to seek an extension which would allow the UK to remain in the European single market and customs union. The deadline for such a request is the end of this month.</p> <p><i>Richmond also urged the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and National Farmers’ Union (NFU) to call for an extension – saying he was surprised the two organisations had yet to do so.</i></p> <p>“The prospect of a No-Deal by the end of the year is now more likely than before and even if we are to achieve a deal it will be extremely narrow,” he said. “There is scope for the devolved administrations to really put the pressure on London.</p> <p>“But I think the pressure needs to be more than just political it also has to be societal. I would continue to encourage not just Scottish political friends and colleagues but also the business sector, the agri-food sector and fishing sector to really ramp up the level of pressure on London to seek an extension.</p> <p>“The fact that organisations like the CBI and the NFU have yet to call for an extension is absolutely mind blowing when you look at what the economic effect would be on these sectors.”</p> <p>The Scottish and Welsh Governments have repeatedly called for a longer transition period and, earlier this week, the Northern Irish Assembly voted for an extension on the grounds imposing checks on goods travelling across the Irish Sea would be too complex while the country is grappling with the virus’s effects.>></p> <p>06/60/2020 https://www.thenational.scot/news/18500299.irish-senator-urges-devolved-nations-seek-brexit-extension/</p> |
| <p>Norbert Röttgen</p> | <p>Chair of the Bundestag’s foreign affairs committee</p> <p>“Boris Johnson must extend the UK’s transition out of the EU for up to two years to avoid compounding the economic damage of the coronavirus pandemic with a hugely disruptive and disorderly Brexit, according to a close ally of Angela Merkel.</p> <p>In an interview with the Observer, Norbert Röttgen, chair of the Bundestag’s foreign affairs committee, said it was now impossible to see how the UK and other EU countries could agree even a minimal outline free trade agreement this year because the talks were so behind schedule.”</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/apr/26/brexit-want-to-leave-the-eu-youll-need-two-more-years-merkel-ally-warns-britain</p> |
| <p>Scottish Government</p> | <p>Constitution Secretary, Scottish Government</p> <p><<The UK Government is being urged to ask the European Union (EU) for the</p> |

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| <p>Michael Russell MSP</p> | <p>maximum two-year extension to the Brexit transition period.</p> <p>Constitution Secretary Michael Russell said it is essential for the UK Government to seek the full extension on offer to avoid further damage to jobs, wellbeing and the economy.</p> <p>Mr Russell said it was reckless for the UK Government to continue negotiations, pushing forward its plans for a hard Brexit, at the height of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.>></p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/news/extend-brexit-transition-during-covid-19-crisis/</p> |
| <p>Welsh Government</p> | <p>"The Brexit transition period should be extended as the UK tackles the coronavirus outbreak, the Welsh Government has said.</p> <p>A letter from Mark Drakeford to the prime minister says not doing so could cause a further "economic shock"."</p> <p>”https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-52022855</p> <p>https://twitter.com/jamswilliams85/status/1242466735774556164/photo/1</p> |
| <p>Mark Drakeford</p> | <p>Mark Drakeford, First Minister of Wales</p> <p>The Brexit transition period should be extended as the UK tackles the coronavirus outbreak, the Welsh Government has said.</p> <p>A letter from Mark Drakeford to the prime minister says not doing so could cause a further "economic shock".</p> <p>The UK plans to negotiate a deal with the European Union by the end of the transition, in December.</p> <p>Conservative assembly member Andrew RT Davies said Mr Drakeford's intervention was "bizarre".</p> <p>Full Brexit talks are currently on hold amid the outbreak.</p> <p>In his letter the first minister said it seemed "simply implausible to continue the negotiations to the timeframe originally envisaged, under these circumstances".</p> <p>24/03/2020</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-52022855</p> |
| <p>Ian Blackford MP, Sir Ed Davey MP, Liz Saville Roberts MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Stephen Farry MP, Colum Eastwood MP</p> | <p><<<“Save us, Michel! Shameless arch-Remainers launch shock Brexit plot - Barnier urged to act. ARCH-REMAINERS have launched a shock Brexit plot and have urged Michel Barnier to act to wreck Britain's exit from the EU</p> <p>Both the SNP leader at Westminster Ian Blackford and the acting Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey have signed a letter to the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier to support a Brexit delay. They told Mr Barnier there is "significant opposition" to the UK Government's refusal to consider extending the timetable for talks.</p> <p>The letter to Mr Barnier has also been signed by Plaid Cymru MP Liz Saville Roberts, Green MP Caroline Lucas, Stephen Farry, MP from the Alliance Party, as well as fellow Northern Ireland MP Colum Eastwood of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. 17/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1283251/brexit-news-brexit-trade-talks-brexit-delay-michel-barnier-ian-blackford-snp-lib-dems-ed-d</p> <p>The stalemate has prompted the SNP, Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru, the</p> |

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| | <p>SDLP, Greens and Alliance Party to write a joint letter to Mr Barnier to voice their “deep concern at the lack of progress”.</p> <p>“Leaving the EU with a bad deal – or no deal – this year would be catastrophic for many businesses already struggling to survive,” the parties state. “With only weeks left, it is critical that this scenario does not come to pass.”</p> <p>The letter argues that “a consensus is taking shape” and expresses the hope that “the UK government will soon recognise reality”, asking Mr Barnier to “prioritise this issue in the final round of negotiations”.</p> <p>17/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/clamour-brexite-delay-trade-talks-brink-collapse-2855417</p> <p>https://www.thenational.scot/news/18454987.snp-among-six-parties-urging-barnier-prioritise-brexite-extension/</p> |
| <p>Philip Dunne MP, Chair, Audit Committee, House of Commons</p> | <p><<<i>Chemical Watch</i> : MPs restate post-Brexit chemicals strategy concerns after Covid-19 delay</p> <p>The new chair of a UK parliamentary committee has expressed his concerns over the government's post-Brexit chemicals strategy, after its development was suspended due to the coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In a letter to minister of state George Eustice, Environmental Audit Committee chair Philip Dunne said that given the delays already incurred, the decision to pause work on it in order to prioritise the government's response to the pandemic was "regrettable".</p> <p>[.....]</p> <p>The committee is concerned, it says, that ongoing uncertainty for the sector could damage access to vital chemicals for business after the transition period. This will expire at the end of the year, unless an extension is agreed with the EU by the end of June.</p> <p>Clelia Oziel, Europe correspondent>></p> <p>06/05/2020</p> <p>https://chemicalwatch.com/114110/mps-restate-post-brexit-chemicals-strategy-concerns-after-covid-19-delay</p> |
| <p>House of Commons, Early Day Motion</p> | <p><<Extension of EU transition period</p> <p>Tabled 18 May 2020</p> <p>That this House notes with concern the UK Government’s stated position to stick rigidly to its timeline of ending the EU transition period in December 2020; recognises that this significantly increases the risk of a no-deal exit; further recognises that it will be impossible for the vast majority of businesses and communities to prepare for life outside the single market and customs union while coping with the effect of the covid-19 pandemic at the same time; notes that the devolved Governments did not give their consent to the Government’s EU Withdrawal Agreement legislation; concludes that the only realistic and reasonable approach is for the Government to revise its timeline for negotiation; further notes that Article 132 of the Withdrawal Agreement contains provisions for the UK-EU Joint Committee to adopt a single decision extending the transition for up to one or two years; calls on the Government to</p> |

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| | <p>request a two-year extension to the transition period.>> Blackford, Ian, Scottish National Party Thewliss, Alison. Scottish National Party MacAskill, Kenny, Scottish National Party Brock, Deidre, Scottish National Party Farry, Stephen, Alliance Eastwood, Colum, Social Democratic & Labour Party Saville Roberts, Liz, Plaid Cymru Williams, Hywel, Plaid Cymru Lake, Ben, Plaid Cymru Edwards, Jonathan, Plaid Cymru Lucas, Caroline, Green Party Davey, Sir Edward, Liberal Democrat Gibson, Patricia, Scottish National Party Grady, Patrick, Scottish National Party Callaghan, Amy, Scottish National Party Law, Chris, Scottish National Party Hendry, Drew, Scottish National Party Bardell, Hannah, Scottish National Party Dorans, Allan, Scottish National Party Smith, Alyn, Scottish National Party 26/05/2020 https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/56990/extension-of-eu-transition-period</p> |
| <p>David Linden (Glasgow East) (SNP)</p> | <p>House of Commons – Hansard. David Linden (Glasgow East) (SNP) <<I rise tonight to present a petition on behalf of my east end constituents, who rightly wish to see an extension of the Brexit transition period. It is clear as day that our time as legislators is understandably being consumed by the coronavirus pandemic, but we risk the very grave danger of sleepwalking into the territory of no deal with Brussels, which I certainly cannot stand by and condone. Her Majesty’s Government therefore must extend the Brexit transition period without delay and avoid the country being plunged into further chaos. <i>Following is the full text of the petition:</i> <i>[The petition of residents of Glasgow East constituency,</i> <i>Declares that current Coronavirus pandemic should be the primary focus of Her Majesty’s Government at this time; believes it is deeply unhelpful that the</i></p> |

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| | <p><i>prospect of a No Deal cliff edge on 30th June remains on the negotiating table with Brussels and considers that local businesses could get through the inevitable Coronavirus recession without having extra uncertainty or new rules and red tape to get used to at the end of the year.</i></p> <p><i>The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges Her Majesty's Government to seek an immediate extension to the Brexit transition period without delay.</i></p> <p><i>And the petitioners remain, etc.]>></i></p> <p>03/06/2020</p> <p>https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-03/debates/024466A4-A66E-48F7-B230-CAE85F9DFBCC/ExtensionOfTheBrexitTransitionPeriod</p> |
| Richard Corbett | <p>Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party, from 2017 to 2020.</p> <p>"We cannot let the Tories force a no-deal Brexit amid a pandemic"</p> <p>https://labourlist.org/2020/05/we-cannot-let-the-tories-force-a-no-deal-brexit-amid-a-pandemic/</p> |
| Sir Vince Cable, former leader of the Liberal Democrats | <p>https://www.cityam.com/debate-given-the-lack-of-progress-during-the-covid-19-crisis-should-the-transition-period-be-extended/</p> <p><<Given the lack of progress during the Covid-19 crisis, should the Brexit transition period be extended?</p> <p>Sir Vince Cable, former leader of the Liberal Democrats and former secretary of state for business, innovation and skills, says YES.</p> <p>"Extending the transition period will become critical as this government limps towards the end of June with no progress at all made in the negotiations.</p> <p>It is important for people in the UK to understand that the EU is not being bloody-minded: EU leaders are focusing on the Covid emergency, and so should we.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the country cannot afford to "crash out" of the transition period at the end of year with no new arrangement in place — it would be a huge double blow to the economy, after an already massive battering from coronavirus and the lockdown.</p> <p>An extension also opens up the prospect of a total reset in the way both sides approach the talks, since it is now clear that the EU needs to adapt to provide an "outer ring" for the non-euro countries and a stronger, more integrated core for those operating the single currency. That outer ring is something the UK should seek to shape, since we could credibly be a part of it in future.">></p> <p>https://www.cityam.com/debate-given-the-lack-of-progress-during-the-covid-19-crisis-should-the-transition-period-be-extended/</p> |
| Colum Eastwood MP [SDLP, Foyle] | <p>"Mr. Eastwood said there was a serious risk of the United Kingdom abruptly leaving the European Union's data-sharing regime if a new legal framework is not worked out by December.</p> <p>Speaking during Prime Minister's questions at Westminster Mr. Eastwood said: "In Ireland, both jurisdictions are working hard to organise contact tracing on a north-south basis, but the Prime Minister's obsession with avoiding a Brexit transition extension means we risk crashing out without a data-sharing framework, which will critically undermine our ability to protect people from</p> |

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| | <p>COVID-19.”” 21/05/2020 Derry Journal. ”https://www.derryjournal.com/news/politics/derry-mp-colum-eastwood-says-boris-johnsons-obsession-avoiding-brexit-extension-risks-covid-19-contact-tracing-data-cliff-edge-2860195</p> |
| <p>Liberal Democrat European Group</p> | <p>Acting Leader of the Liberal Democrats Ed Davey has today called on the Government to extend the transition period and reverse damaging immigration polices because of the impact of the coronavirus crisis on business.</p> <p>The call comes in response to figures released by the ONS today which reveal 61% of businesses reported a decrease in turnover outside of normal range in England, compared with 66% in Wales, 65% in Scotland and 63% in Northern Ireland between 20 April and 3 May 2020.</p> <p>Acting Leader of the Liberal Democrats Ed Davey said:</p> <p>"A quick recovery by the end of 2020 is a pipe dream. Businesses will likely continue to struggle next year as both a result of the coronavirus crisis and a possible no-deal Brexit with our closest trading partners in the EU.</p> <p>"The end to free movement across Europe will make it increasingly hard for business to hire the workers they need. To add insult to injury, the Government has now made attracting workers from across the world even harder with its immigration points system.</p> <p>"Coronavirus is the biggest danger to business since the financial crisis and the Government only seeks to compound their difficulties by cutting off access both to workers and markets across Europe.</p> <p>"If we are to support business all the way through to the end of this pandemic, we must extend the transition period with the EU and reverse the damaging immigration polices this Government is pursuing."</p> <p>21/05/2020 https://ldeg.org/en/article/2020/1361462/davey-fall-in-business-turnover-demands-longer-eu-transition-period</p> |
| <p>The Liberal Democrats</p> | <p>“The Liberal Democrats are to take the first steps to try to force the government’s hand to seek a Brexit transition period extension. The opposition party will seek to put forward a bill in the House of Commons next month requiring the government to seek a two-year extension of the Brexit implementation period from Brussels.” 20/05/2020 https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/lib-dems-ed-davey-on-brexit-transition-period-during-coronavirus-outbreak-1-6662333</p> |
| <p>Liberal Democrats</p> | <p>Liberal Democrats tweet: <<By pushing the UK into a no-deal Brexit, the Conservatives could be putting more lives and more jobs at risk. The government must put national interest ahead of Brexit ideology and extend the transition period. >>https://twitter.com/LibDems/status/1270365134238756865 09/06/2020</p> |
| <p>Ed Davey MP, Liberal</p> | <p><<Davey: Extend EU transition now Following the latest round of Brexit negotiations, Michel Barnier today made it</p> |

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| <p>Democrat Acting Leader</p> | <p>clear that there has been no significant progress on numerous issues including Level Playing Field commitments and fishing.</p> <p>Urging the government to extend the transition period, Liberal Democrat Acting Leader Ed Davey said:</p> <p>"Boris Johnson can no longer cross his fingers and hope no one is paying attention to the huge Brexit mess hurtling towards us. We are running out of time.</p> <p>"Barnier has made it clear: not enough progress has been made on negotiations. "We are now dangerously close to the extension deadline. It is time to do the right thing for our NHS, economy, and vital supplies of food and medicines. "The government must stop posturing. Johnson must extend the transition period for the maximum period possible. To entertain any other possibility would be reckless. The UK is already battling the Covid-19 pandemic and facing its biggest recession in generations. There isn't the bandwidth to cope with crashing out of the EU too.">></p> <p>05/06/2020 https://ld.org/en/article/2020/1363077/davey-extend-eu-transition-now</p> |
| <p>Sir Vince Cable, former leader of the Liberal Democrats</p> | <p>https://www.cityam.com/debate-given-the-lack-of-progress-during-the-covid-19-crisis-should-the-transition-period-be-extended/</p> <p><<Given the lack of progress during the Covid-19 crisis, should the Brexit transition period be extended?</p> <p>Sir Vince Cable, former leader of the Liberal Democrats and former secretary of state for business, innovation and skills, says YES.</p> <p>“Extending the transition period will become critical as this government limps towards the end of June with no progress at all made in the negotiations.</p> <p>It is important for people in the UK to understand that the EU is not being bloody-minded: EU leaders are focusing on the Covid emergency, and so should we.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the country cannot afford to “crash out” of the transition period at the end of year with no new arrangement in place — it would be a huge double blow to the economy, after an already massive battering from coronavirus and the lockdown.</p> <p>An extension also opens up the prospect of a total reset in the way both sides approach the talks, since it is now clear that the EU needs to adapt to provide an “outer ring” for the non-euro countries and a stronger, more integrated core for those operating the single currency. That outer ring is something the UK should seek to shape, since we could credibly be a part of it in future.”>></p> <p>https://www.cityam.com/debate-given-the-lack-of-progress-during-the-covid-19-crisis-should-the-transition-period-be-extended/</p> |
| <p>Scottish National Party</p> | <p><<Boris Johnson must extend the Brexit transition: here’s why.</p> <p>Coronavirus, coupled with a no-deal Brexit, means economic disaster... Ending the transition period will weaken our efforts to combat the virus too... Scotland has been silenced and sidelined throughout the negotiations...</p> <p>The EU has already put extension on the table – but Boris Johnson is refusing out of hand...</p> <p>It’s time for the UK government to face reality and accept an extension>></p> |

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| | <p>03/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.snp.org/boris-johnson-must-extend-the-brexit-transition-heres-why/</p> |
| <p>Rachel Reeves MP</p> | <p>'Labour has renewed calls for the Brexit transition period to be extended past the end of 2020 if no trade deal is agreed with the EU, to stop the UK "crashing out".</p> <p>Shadow Cabinet Office minister Rachel Reeves urged negotiators not to "rush" https://news.sky.com/story/brexit-labour-renews-calls-to-avoid-no-deal-drop-off-from-eu-11989936 and to "take the time that is necessary".' 17/05/2020</p> |
| <p>Scottish National Party</p> | <p><<SNP challenges Jackson Carlaw to join cross-party campaign to extend Brexit timetable</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The SNP has called on Scottish Conservative leader Jackson Carlaw to back a cross-party campaign to extend the Brexit timetable and ensure a chaotic no deal is avoided.</p> <p>The Scottish Government this week published analysis highlighting the danger of ending the transition period in the midst of the pandemic.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>All opposition parties – except the Tories – backed a Scottish Government’s proposal to extend the Brexit transition period and avoid the prospect of a chaotic No Deal Brexit in the middle of economic upheaval.</p> <p>Earlier this year Jackson Carlaw said he was a “pragmatist” on the question of extending transition.>></p> <p>06/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/snp-challenges-jackson-carlaw-join-22144959</p> |
| <p>Willie Rennie, Scottish Liberal Democrat leader</p> | <p><<Rennie welcomes SNP and Scot Labour support for Brexit transition extension</p> <p>Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Willie Rennie has today welcomed support from the SNP and Scottish Labour for an extension to the Brexit negotiations.</p> <p>On Wednesday 3rd June, Mr Rennie wrote to his fellow Scottish party leaders calling for a joint letter to the Prime Minister proposing an extension and repeated his calls in the Scottish Parliament chamber today.</p> <p>Cabinet Secretary Mike Russell for the SNP and constitution spokesperson Alex Rowley for Labour have now endorsed an extension to negotiations.</p> <p>Mr Rennie said:</p> <p>“On Wednesday I wrote to all the party leaders inviting them to send a joint letter to the UK Government calling for an extension to the Brexit negotiations.</p> <p>“So far I’ve been rejected by Jackson Carlaw. He says government can do two things at once. Yes, that’s true but Brexit is not some minor piece of legislation, it’s the biggest change to our constitutional, political and economic framework in decades and it is reckless to carry on in the middle of a global pandemic. He</p> |

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| | <p>has obviously not spoken to anyone from the world of Scottish business for some time.</p> <p>“However it is positive that both the SNP and Scottish Labour have confirmed that they are in favour of an extension, not least because Keir Starmer has been reluctant to endorse such proposals at Westminster. It will need effective cross party pressure if we are to stave off a damaging no deal Brexit.</p> <p>“Scottish Liberal Democrats are quite clear that a no deal Brexit would be utterly unacceptable.”</p> <p>03/06/2020</p> <p>//www.scotlibdems.org.uk/rennie_welcomes_snp_and_sco_t_labour_support_for_brexit_transition_extension</p> |
| <p>Tom Arthur MSP [SNP, Renfrewshire South]</p> | <p><< Renfrewshire South MSP Tom Arthur has urged the UK Government to protect jobs in his constituency by extending the Brexit transition period in light of the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>With new analysis showing billions of pounds could be wiped from the Scottish economy, the SNP man is keen for Westminster to take action to protect local workers.</p> <p>The transition arrangements currently keep the UK close to the European Union (EU) and can be extended for two years – beyond December 31 – if the UK Government asks for an extension by the end of this month.</p> <p>A new study from the Scottish Government claims that, without an extension, Scotland's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) could be more than one per cent lower after two years.</p> <p>It adds that the cumulative loss of economic activity from leaving the EU would be up to £3billion over those two years – on top of the devastating effects of the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>The report also highlights that, without an extension or a free trade deal, jobs in the likes of the agriculture and manufacturing sectors will be especially badly hit. Mr Arthur, who is based in Johnstone, said: “Coronavirus is causing enormous economic disruption.</p> <p>“It would be an act of extraordinary recklessness for the UK Government to allow us to crash out of the transition period at the end of this year.</p> <p>“The SNP believe the best future for Scotland is as an independent member of the EU but, regardless of your opinion on Brexit or Independence, it makes no sense to crash out of the European single market at precisely the moment we need stability.</p> <p>“Businesses in Renfrewshire South are focused on securing their future – they simply don't have the capacity to prepare for Brexit on top of a pandemic.</p> <p>“The UK Government must do the sensible thing and protect jobs by extending the transition period.”>></p> <p>the-gazette.co.uk/news/18497040.renfrewshire-south-msp-tom-arthur-calls-extension-brexit-transition-period-protect-jobs/</p> |
| <p>Gillian Martin MSP [Aberdeenshire]</p> | <p><<UK Government must extend Brexit transition to protect rural Scotland says Gillian Martin MSP.</p> <p>Scotland's rural industries face a “double hammer blow” if the UK government</p> |

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| <p>East, SNP]</p> | <p>refuses to extend the Brexit transition period in light of coronavirus, the SNP has said.</p> <p>Analysis by the Scottish Government has found that agriculture and fishing sectors would face some of the highest trade costs if the transition period ends this year.</p> <p>In the event of a No Deal Brexit at the end of the transition – which the EU has made clear can be extended by up to two years – these sectors would also face tariffs and quotas when exporting to the EU.</p> <p>SNP MSP Gillian Martin said:</p> <p>“Rural Scotland cannot afford the double hammer blow of Brexit in the midst of a pandemic that is causing major economic disruption.</p> <p>This new research shows that Brexit will leave our crucial agricultural and fishing sectors among the hardest hit.</p> <p>Businesses here simply do not have the capacity to prepare for sky-high Brexit costs, when they are fighting to survive the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>To push ahead without extending the transition period would be a shocking dereliction of duty by the UK government, leaving Scotland’s rural economy high and dry.</p> <p>An extension is available and Boris Johnson must change course before he inflicts a disastrous hard or no deal Brexit on Scotland in less than seven months’ time.”>></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>https://myturriff.co.uk/2020/06/04/uk-government-must-extend-brexit-transition-to-protect-rural-scotland-says-gillian-martin-msp/</p> <p>http://www.thehighlandtimes.com/news/2020/06/05/uk-government-must-extend-brexit-transition-to-protect-rural-scotland/</p> |
| <p>Nick de Bois</p> | <p>Former Tory MP and chief of staff to Dominic Raab as Brexit Secretary.</p> <p><<It’s heresy in some circles to even whisper the possibility of delaying the Brexit trade negotiation talks with the EU and extending the transition period. Yet it is increasingly likely that they will have to be delayed, not least because it takes two to negotiate. Even if the UK persisted in insisting it can manage the coronavirus pandemic and complete trade talks by the end of this year, the EU may not. [...] A Focaldata poll published last week in The Sunday Times shows a majority of the public, interestingly across every age group, would be support a delay. It would be far better for the country to seize the initiative to delay, rather than be at the mercy of events during this pandemic.>></p> <p>https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/yes-johnson-should-delay-brexit-trade-negotiations-80czx7qfx</p> <p>https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dominic-raab-ally-calls-for-delay-to-brexit-talks-r5g90rvgn</p> |
| <p>Kirsten Oswald MP</p> | <p>Scottish National Party</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/mar/14/calls-to-extend-eu-transition-period-as-europe-fights-coronavirus</p> <p>https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2020/05/13/minister-rejects-renewed-calls-for-brexit-transition-extension/</p> |

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| | <p>https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/minister-rejects-renewed-calls-for-brexit-transition-extension/13/05/</p> |
| <p>Caroline Voaden</p> | <p>Former MEP and leader of the Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament</p> <p>https://www.libdemvoice.org/a-longer-read-for-the-weekend-the-case-for-an-extension-to-the-brexit-transition-period-64362.html</p> |
| <p>Struan Stevenson, former Tory MEP</p> | <p><<A former Tory MEP has urged Boris Johnson to extend the deadline for the Brexit transition period as he warned failing to secure a trade deal, combined with the impact of Covid-19, would be “catastrophic” for the economy.</p> <p>Struan Stevenson, who was a Conservative representative at Brussels for 15 years, insisted it “makes sense” to have longer for the transition talks because economists are already predicting “a recession to end all recessions” following the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Stevenson argued that “throwing a cliff-edge Brexit into the mix” as the economy faces the prospect of a coronavirus-related recession would be devastating.</p> <p>Writing in <i>The Herald</i> newspaper, he urged Johnson: “Grant an extension to the Brexit deadline, Boris. You know it makes sense.</p> <p>A decision on whether or not to seek an extension to the Brexit transition period must be made by July 1. It would surely be prudent and entirely understandable given the Covid-19 pandemic to ask for a six-month extension, even if that extension was ultimately found not to be needed?”</p> <p>>></p> <p>https://news.stv.tv/politics/extend-brexit-talks-or-risk-catastrophic-hit-to-economy</p> <p>https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/extend-brexit-talks-or-risk-catastrophic-hit-economy-ex-tory-mep-warns-2869569</p> <p>https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/conservative-politician-calls-on-prime-minister-to-extend-brexit-talks-1-6677557</p> |
| <p>Sir David Liddington</p> | <p>Former Deputy Prime Minister</p> <p>“The UK should extend the Brexit transition period so the Government can focus all of its efforts on fighting the coronavirus, according to Theresa May’s former deputy.</p> <p>Sir David Lidington said there is not enough “bandwidth” in Whitehall to thrash out a trade deal with Brussels while also dealing with the health emergency.</p> <p>And he said it was “inevitable” that the UK would have to try to shift the 31 December expiry date.”</p> <p>22/04/2020</p> <p>https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-ex-deputy-pm-david-lidington-calls-for-brexit-transition-period-extension-11976818</p> |
| <p>Gus O’Donnell</p> | <p>Former Head of the Home Civil Service</p> <p><<Bob Kerslake, former head of the home civil service and later Labour Party adviser, agreed—as did Gus O’Donnell, Kerslake’s predecessor, who said</p> |

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| | <p>“More time could lead to a better outcome for both sides.” “Clearly there has been much less time for negotiation than could ever have been anticipated.”>> 22/04/2020 https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/civil-service-whitehall-brexit-transition-extension-covid-19-coronavirus</p> |
| Bob Kerslake | <p>Former Head of the Home Civil Service</p> <p><<Bob Kerslake, former head of the home civil service and later Labour Party adviser, agreed—as did Gus O’Donnell, Kerslake’s predecessor, who said “More time could lead to a better outcome for both sides.” “Clearly there has been much less time for negotiation than could ever have been anticipated.” “The timetable for delivering a trade deal was already extremely ambitious. The lost time as a consequence of Covid-19 has moved this from being ambitious to almost impossible,” said Kerslake. >> 22/04/2020 https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/civil-service-whitehall-brexit-transition-extension-covid-19-coronavirus</p> |
| Philip Rycroft | <p>Former chief civil servant in the Brexit Department 22/04/2020</p> <p><<According to Philip Rycroft, former chief civil servant in the Brexit department, “it is simple common sense to ask for an extension of the transition period.” When you factor in “the huge economic uncertainties caused by the coronavirus pandemic,” a postponement is essential.>> 22/04/2020 https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/civil-service-whitehall-brexit-transition-extension-covid-19-coronavirus https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/apr/24/who-and-what-uk-and-eu-resume-interrupted-brexit-talks-future-relationship</p> |
| Philip Rycroft, former permanent secretary in the Department for Exiting the EU | <p>Express and Star.</p> <p><<Not extending Brexit transition period ‘will add to burden on businesses’>> Former senior civil servant Philip Rycroft told MSPs that not seeking an extension is a ‘political decision’. The UK Government will be adding to the burden on businesses struggling to cope with the Covid-19 crisis if it does not seek an extension to its Brexit transition period, a former senior civil servant has said.</p> <p>Philip Rycroft, who was the permanent secretary in the Department for Exiting the EU, told a Holyrood committee that not seeking an extension is a “political decision”.</p> <p>The former Whitehall mandarin said he believes it is still possible for the UK and EU to agree a new trade deal before the transition period expires at the end of this year – but added there is a “huge amount of work still to do”.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>“It would appear to be an odd time, when you have got a choice, to be adding to the burden on businesses.”</p> <p>The new trade border with Europe will come into place “just at a time when</p> |

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| | <p>businesses are trying to find their feet again after the coronavirus crisis,” he said.</p> <p>Mr Rycroft, who also worked for the Scottish Government during his civil service career, said: “It is a perfectly legitimate political decision to take but of course that political outlook does not necessarily coincide with the interests of a lot of UK businesses.>></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2020/06/04/not-extending-brex-it-transition-period-will-add-to-burden-on-businesses/</p> <p>https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/not-extending-brex-it-transition-period-will-add-to-burden-on-businesses-39260051.html</p> |
| <p>Ivan Rogers</p> | <p>Former Permanent UK Representative in Brussels</p> <p><<The last former government official I sounded out was Rogers, who famously resigned in protest and is now one of our leading Brexit commentators. He said we should not expect a change in policy, adding that, owing to the unlikelihood of a deal being struck, “HMG is in reality forcing firms which are facing an existential crisis over Covid-19 right now—and for the next several months—to prepare simultaneously for a no-deal exit at year end.”</p> <p>This “carries risks of seriously exacerbating a very difficult economic position at that point, and of disrupting supply chains across the channel at a time they may be critical for the UK.” The most problematic outcome would be impact on medical supplies, especially when essential equipment is reportedly running low and countries around the world are imposing export restrictions.>></p> <p>22/04/2020</p> <p>https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/civil-service-whitehall-brex-it-transition-extension-covid-19-coronavirus</p> |
| <p>Alexander Temerko</p> | <p>Conservative Party donor</p> <p><<Boris Johnson's government "lost time" in the first stage of fighting coronavirus and must lift the lockdown next week for many small businesses - including restaurants and construction, a Conservative Party donor has said.</p> <p>The effort to tackle coronavirus is being hampered by a "resistant" civil service who do not want business involved at the heart of the recovery, said Alexander Temerko.</p> <p>The Ukrainian-born British businessman, who has given £1.3m to the Conservatives, said that Mr Johnson should also extend the Brexit transition period for a further year, and rethink the party's immigration policy.</p> <p>>></p> <p>01/05/2020</p> <p>https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-pm-must-lift-lockdown-and-extend-brex-it-transition-says-conservative-party-donor-11981789</p> |
| <p>Prof. John Bell</p> | <p>John Bell, Professor of Law at Cambridge University.</p> <p><<A tale of two crises – Will COVID-19 force the UK Government to extend the transition period? <i>European Law Blog</i></p> <p>"Whilst the EU would welcome an extension, the UK Government remains adamantly against the idea, even making it unlawful. I argue that this is</p> |

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| | <p>imprudent and reckless. [...] Brexit and COVID-19 is a tale of two crises. Both are pressing, but the latter is undoubtedly the priority. Therefore, it is logical for the UK Government to accept the need to extend the transition period and enable energy to be focused on the COVID-19 pandemic. It is regrettable that the UK Government has stuck to its inflexible mantra on refusing to extend. Although contributions to the EU Budget and continued application of EU law are political hard sells for a government which was elected to ‘Get Brexit Done’, we are not living politics as usual. Now is not the time for short-sightedness or ideological purity, but pragmatism. In the context of COVID-19, I argue that the prohibition in UK law on a Minister from agreeing in the Joint Committee to an extension to the transition period breaches the good faith provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement as it jeopardises the objective of the Withdrawal Agreement to negotiate a future EU-UK relationship.">></p> <p>16/04/2020</p> <p>https://europeanlawblog.eu/2020/04/16/a-tale-of-two-crises-will-covid-19-force-the-uk-government-to-extend-the-transition-period/</p> |
| <p>Dr Philippa Whitford MP / Scottish National Party</p> | <p>Dr Philippa Whitford MP / Scottish National Party</p> <p><<The SNP has warned that “time is fast running out” to secure an extension to the Brexit transition period to protect the economy, jobs, businesses, and people’s livelihoods from an “economic body blow” – with reports growing that a top-level summit in mid-June could be planned to address the deadlock in talks.</p> <p>A new report published by the Social Market Foundation today also reveals that Scotland would suffer severe economic disruption if it was dragged out of the EU without a deal at the end of this year – with key sectors facing a double economic hit due to the pandemic, putting thousands of jobs at risk.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Commenting, SNP Shadow Brexit spokesperson Dr Philippa Whitford MP said:</p> <p>"Time is now fast running out to agree an extension to the Brexit transition period to protect the economy, businesses and people’s livelihoods from another economic body blow.</p> <p>“We are in the midst of a health pandemic and businesses are already struggling to survive.</p> <p>“They simply do not have the ability to also prepare for a hard or No-Deal Brexit in just a few months’ time.</p> <p>"The new impact analysis published by the Social Market Foundation also adds to the evidence of the severe double economic hit facing Scotland's diverse sectors - including manufacturing and finance - as a result of pursuing Brexit and dealing with the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>“ ... ”</p> <p>“As the final round of talks gets underway - and with reports emerging of a top-level summit to try and break the impasse - it is vital the Prime Minister grabs the lifeline of an extension to the transition period so that efforts can be fully focussed on tackling the biggest health and economic crisis of our time.">></p> |

<http://www.thehighlandtimes.com/news/2020/05/31/new-report-highlights-severe-impact-of-no-deal-brex-it-on-scotland/>

**Sadiq Khan,
Mayor of
London**

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London: Letter to Michael Gove calling for an extension to the transition period.

<<The pro-Remain London Mayor insisted the “last thing” the UK needs is “more chaos and uncertainty” during the coronavirus crisis.

Mr Khan said: “No one anticipated when voting for Brexit that the key negotiations would take place at a time when all governments are rightly focused on fighting a global pandemic.

“The last thing the country needs as it tries to find a way back from the devastation wreaked by coronavirus is more chaos and uncertainty.

“I urge the Government to put political ideology aside and pursue the pragmatic route of seeking an extension to the negotiations so that we and our European partners can focus on recovery from Covid-19.”>>

Full text of letter.

<<Dear Michael,

The Covid-19 pandemic poses a grave threat to Londoners' jobs and livelihoods, with the prospect of a global recession now hanging over us.

Most Londoners will be deeply disappointed that at a time of crisis, the Government is putting dogma ahead of the national interest. No one anticipated when voting for Brexit that the key negotiations would take place at a time when all governments are rightly focussed on fighting a global pandemic.

The last thing the country needs as it tries to find a way back from the devastation wreaked by Coronavirus is more chaos and uncertainty. I urge the government to put political ideology aside and pursue the pragmatic route of seeking an extension to the negotiations so that we and our European partners can focus on recovery from Covid-19.

Covid-19 is the biggest health, social and economic emergency we have faced since the Second World War. Further disruption, in the form of tariffs, red tape and new immigration rules when we leave the single market and customs union at the end of the year, would be needless and hazardous. Close regulatory alignment with the EU has never been more vital to protect our economy and support its recovery from the impacts of Covid-19.

The government's negotiations with the EU and other countries are highly unlikely to progress towards meaningful results and agreements while the pandemic continues. An extension to the transition period is now urgently needed to give business and public services some certainty that they won't face the threat of another cliff edge in six months' time. Otherwise the Government risks undermining the unprecedented steps it has taken to protect jobs and livelihoods, by prolonging uncertainty about our economy and the terms on

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| | <p>which future trade will be conducted.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Sadiq Khan Mayor of London >></p> <p>01/06/2020</p> <p>https://twitter.com/PickardJE/status/1267362471158915072</p> <p>https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1289701/Brexit-news-Sadiq-Khan-extension-letter-Michael-Gove-EU-December-31-2020</p> <p>https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-sadiq-khan-transition-extension-labour-coronavirus-a9542391.html</p> <p>https://www.ft.com/content/880ba672-3349-4b16-8bb5-013226379a1a</p> <p>https://www.cityam.com/sadiq-khan-calls-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period/</p> |
| <p>Green Party [NI] / Rachel Woods MLA [Green]</p> | <p><<GREEN PARTY SECURES SUPPORT FOR BREXIT TRANSITION EXTENSION AMENDMENT</p> <p>Green Party MLA Rachel Woods has supported an Assembly motion calling for an extension to the Brexit transition period and tabled an amendment stating that we must guard against considering the impact of Brexit in purely economic terms.</p> <p>The Assembly today debated a motion on a proposed extension to the Brexit regulations, along with an amendment from the Green Party NI.</p> <p>Rachel Woods MLA said:</p> <p>“Brexit is coming our way and it has been clear for a long time that it will have a negative impact right across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>“Meanwhile, we’re still attempting to find our feet in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and a Westminster government steaming ahead with lockdown restrictions to the alarm of public health experts.</p> <p>“To push on with Brexit in the midst of a pandemic is unwise in the extreme. It’s both clear and unfortunate that this Tory government wants to implement Brexit at any cost.</p> <p>“The Green Party supports the call for an extension to the Brexit transition period. However, we want to guard against framing the impact of Brexit in purely economic terms.</p> <p>“We sought to broaden the focus of the original motion beyond that of business concerns, to acknowledge the impact that EU withdrawal will have on all sections of society, economy and the environment.</p> <p>“Brexit will cut across many aspects of our lives and society. It’s not just the economy that will suffer the negative impacts once the Westminster government defies the will of the majority of people in Northern Ireland and fully exits the EU.”</p> |

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| | <p>02/06/2020 https://www.greenparty.org/blogs/green-party-ni/extend-brexit-transition-period-not-just-for-economic-reasons</p> |
| <p>Matthew O’Toole MLA [DLP]</p> | <p>Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland now united in demanding Brexit extension following Stormont vote</p> <p>Jack Peat</p> <p><<Northern Ireland has joined Wales and Scotland in backing an extension to the Brexit transition period.</p> <p>The Assembly passed the motion by 50 votes to 38, with only unionists opposing it.</p> <p>DLP MLA Matthew O’Toole said it was “mad and dangerous” not to extend given the current economic circumstances.</p> <p>“It is especially dangerous because we know how close we came, in recent weeks, to serious disruption to supply chains across these islands.</p> <p>“If we end this year with no trade deal and no extension to the transition, we could face the very real prospect of significant disruption to supply chains, not just between Calais and Dover but between Holyhead and Dublin – a route that is critical to the Northern Ireland market – and at Belfast and Larne.”>></p> <p>https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/northern-ireland-wales-and-scotland-now-united-in-demanding-brexit-extension-following-stormont-vote/03/06/</p> |
| <p>Northern Ireland assembly</p> | <p><<Northern Ireland assembly passes motion calling for transition period extension</p> <p>The motion proposed [by] Matthew O’Toole, the SDLP’s Brexit spokesman, had not been expected to carry after opposition was expressed by the Democratic Unionist and the Ulster Unionist parties.</p> <p>O’Toole, a former Downing Street adviser, said London would have to take the vote seriously as the assembly was “uniquely recognised as a named party in the withdrawal agreement” and Stormont had a substantial role in the implementation of the Ireland and Northern Ireland protocol.</p> <p>He said: “This is not about rerunning the referendum, it’s about accepting that we are in the middle of the most serious public health crisis in living memory. We are also facing a significant economic recession that will put businesses and jobs at risk. This is not the moment to attempt to rupture and renegotiate our largest trading relationship.”</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>O’Toole added that the Stormont vote would “send a powerful message” to Boris Johnson in relation to his implacable opposition to extending the transition period without consent from Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The special protocol on Northern Ireland was agreed in January after a deal struck by the prime minister and his Irish counterpart, Leo Varadkar, to avoid a border on the island of Ireland.</p> <p>It involves checks on trade crossing the Irish Sea which will come into effect as soon as the transition period ends, whether there is a trade deal or not. Under</p> |

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| | <p>the withdrawal agreement, these checks would hold for at least six years.</p> <p>Businesses have said there is simply not enough time to put IT systems for new customs arrangements, VAT and regulatory checks in place.>> [BBC]</p> <p>https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-northern-ireland-assembly-extension-leave-eu-uk-transition-period-a9545606.html</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/02/stormont-backs-calling-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period-border-checks-covid-19-coronavirus</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-52906604</p> <p>https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/brexit/stormont-backs-calling-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period/</p> <p>https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/northern-ireland-wales-and-scotland-now-united-in-demanding-brexit-extension-following-stormont-vote/03/06/s</p> <p>https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/brexit/stormont-backs-calling-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period</p> <p>https://www.irishpost.com/news/northern-ireland-assembly-votes-to-delay-brexit-further-186164</p> <p>[03/03/2020]</p> |
| <p>Scottish Government COVID-19: the case for extending the Brexit transition period</p> | <p>Scottish Government</p> <p><<COVID-19: the case for extending the Brexit transition period</p> <p>This paper sets out why it is vital, if we are to ensure the most rapid recovery possible from the COVID-19 crisis, that the UK Government immediately seeks an extension to the Brexit transition period (scheduled to finish on 31 December 2020) for two years.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The arguments in favour of an extension are that: • It would allow the economy more time to recover from COVID-19 before experiencing the additional negative impact of ending the Brexit transition; • The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented government, business and citizens from preparing adequately for what will be the most significant change to our external trade policy for half a century; and • Proper democratic and technical scrutiny and implementation of the UK’s putative new relationship with the EU is simply not possible in the few months remaining before December this year – the end of the current transition period.</p> <p>Ending the transition period at the end of 2020, even with the type of basic deal the UK government is pursuing, or worse still without a deal with the EU at all, will represent a significant additional downside risk to the trajectory of the economic recovery. Immediate and short-run effects will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of non-tariff barriers to trade with the EU (and tariff barriers in a no deal outcome); • Increased disruption to supply chains already experiencing challenges due to COVID-19; and • Heightened uncertainty in some markets. <p>The combined impact of these effects on businesses that are already severely affected by COVID-19 could result in widespread business closures and job</p> |

losses over and above those resulting from COVID-19 alone.

New economic modelling shows the impact of ending the transition period at end-2020 or, with the full two-year extension provided for by the Withdrawal Agreement, at end-2022. We also model the impact of two outcomes to the current EU-UK negotiations, either a basic Free Trade Agreement in line with the UK government's unambitious aspirations, or no deal. The lack of progress in the negotiations so far and the impact of COVID-19 on the negotiating process make no deal a real possibility. These Brexit scenarios are overlaid on two illustrative paths for the recovery of the economy from COVID-19.

[...]

Opinion polls suggest that a clear majority of the UK population would favour an extension as a result of COVID-19. Time is running out. After June 30 there will be no reliable way of extending the transition period. As a responsible administration which, notwithstanding our fundamental opposition to Brexit, is working to protect Scotland's interests in the Brexit process, we call upon the UK Government to act now to secure an extension to the end of 2022. >>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/>

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18492435.uk-government-refusal-extend-brexit-will-cost-scotland-billions/>

Scottish Government

COVID-19: The Case for Extending the Brexit Transition Period

June 2020 [61pp]

In this document, we have set out how the COVID-19 crisis has radically altered the priorities for governments' actions, across the world. When an event as important as the COP 26 climate conference later this year has had to be cancelled – an event on which literally the future of mankind and our planet depends – it is simply not credible to treat Brexit as an exception and plough on regardless.

[...]

Time is running out. As the Scottish Government our responsibility, indeed our duty, is to protect Scotland's interests in the Brexit process. We are fully aware of the extent to which the UK government has staked reputational capital on exiting the 45 transition period at the end of 2020, but there are far more important things at stake than that. This is the time for the UK government to live up to its responsibilities and do the right thing, by securing an extension to the end of 2022. We call upon it to do so. >>

03/03/2020

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2020/06/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/documents/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period/govscot%3Adocument/covid-19-case-extending-brexit-transition-period.pdf>

[03/06/2020]

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| <p>Maree Todd MSP</p> | <p>Highland MSP calls for Brexit extension to protect jobs</p> <p><< MSP Maree Todd has called on the UK government to extend the Brexit transition period in light of coronavirus – with new analysis showing billions of pounds could be wiped from the Scottish economy. [...]</p> <p>Ms Todd said: “Coronavirus is causing enormous economic disruption and people across the Highlands & Islands expect government to be focused on protecting public health and the Scottish economy.</p> <p>“It would be an act of extraordinary recklessness for the UK government to allow us to crash out of the transition period at the end of this year.</p> <p>“The SNP believe the best future for Scotland is as an independent member of the EU.</p> <p>“But regardless of your opinion on Brexit or independence, it makes no sense to crash out of the European single market at precisely the moment we need stability.</p> <p>“Businesses in the Highlands & Islands are focused on securing their future – they simply don’t have the capacity to prepare for Brexit on top of a pandemic.</p> <p>“The UK government must do the sensible thing, protect jobs in the Highlands & Islands and extend the transition period.”>></p> <p>https://www.strathspey-herald.co.uk/news/highlanders-call-to-suspend-brexit-201698/</p> <p>https://www.orcadian.co.uk/maree-todd-msp-calls-for-brexit-extension-to-safeguard-scots-economy/</p> |
| <p>Richard Lochhead MSP [SNP]</p> | <p><<Extend Brexit transition to protect Moray jobs – Lochhead</p> <p>MORAY's MSP has called on the UK Government to extend the Brexit transition period in light of coronavirus.</p> <p>“As a Scottish Government study shows that billions could be wiped from the Scottish economy, SNP MSP Richard Lochhead says the UK Government must do the "sensible" thing to extend the transition as Moray businesses can't be expected to properly prepare for Brexit amid a pandemic.”>></p> <p>[03/06/2020]</p> <p>https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/extend-brexit-transition-to-protect-moray-jobs-lochhead-201762/</p> <p>https://www.strathspey-herald.co.uk/news/highlanders-call-to-suspend-brexit-201698/</p> |
| <p>Dr Robert Innes, Bishop for Europe</p> | <p><i>Church Times</i> <<UK leaves, but love and warmth remain, says Bishop in Europe</p> <p><<It is time to move on from “division and discord”, the Bishop in Europe, Dr Robert Innes has said, marking the UK’s departure from the European Union on Friday night.</p> <p>Dr Innes said: “The challenges ahead of us in Europe following Brexit are huge and unprecedented; and they go to the heart of how we sustain enduring future relationships rooted in the peace, prosperity, and friendship with all nations that are our Christian calling.”</p> |

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| | <p>[....]</p> <p>Dr Innes earlier called on the Government not to rule out an extension of that transition period (News, 3 January) >></p> <p>01/02/2020</p> <p>https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2020/7-february/news/uk/uk-leaves-but-love-and-warmth-remain-says-bishop-in-europe</p> |
| <p>Stefano Fella</p> | <p><<House of Commons Library. UK-EU future relationship negotiating timetable: extending the transition.</p> <p>This briefing sets out the timetable for the UK-EU future relationship negotiations. It provides an overview of the debate on whether the post-Brexit transition period should be extended, and explains the process for extending this period.>></p> <p>02/06/2020</p> <p>https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8929/ http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8929/CBP-8929.pdf</p> |
| <p>Public Accounts Committee, House of Commons</p> | <p>Public Accounts Committee, House of Commons</p> <p><<In a report published today, Wednesday 3 June 2020, the Commons Public Accounts Committee says it is concerned that the Cabinet Office will not have the capability to successfully deliver campaign messages on preparations for the end of the Brexit transition period at the same time as delivering the major public health campaign on Covid-19, with it “likely that the Covid-19 campaign will crowd out the Brexit transition campaign.”</p> <p>Meg Hillier MP, Chair of the Committee, said:</p> <p>“The Government is taking the UK through not one but two incredible, unprecedented political and economic upheavals simultaneously, but it is business, the public and the public purse that will suffer if it gets it wrong.</p> <p>“The Government has shown it could not fully successfully deliver one such campaign, before the pandemic disaster hit - in that case with a lot of money spent on the overarching message but less success on the detail which changes behaviour. With the nation’s fortunes, livelihoods and even lives at stake, the Government must quickly give us confidence that it has learned the lessons and understands the scale of the task of running two campaigns like this, each much more complex and longer term than either the coronavirus “stay at home” or the original Brexit date messages.”>></p> <p>03/06/2020</p> <p>https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmpubacc/131/13103.htm http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/29672</p> |

2. Business, Industry and Civil Society

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| CAOBISCO | <p>“CAOBISCO, the Association of the Chocolate, Biscuits & Confectionery Industries of Europe, has called on the EU and UK authorities to extend free trade agreement (FTA) talks fearing a balanced trade agreement could be jeopardised because of the COVID-19 crisis.”</p> <p>21/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.confectionerynews.com/Article/2020/05/21/CAOBISCO-calls-on-EU-and-UK-to-extend-FTA-talks</p> <p><<May 22,2020 - CAOBISCO Statement on EU-UK FTA Negotiations</p> <p>CAOBISCO is highly concerned that considering the current advancement of the negotiations and the COVI-19 crisis, a thought through, balanced trade agreement could be jeopardised. Thus, we call on the EU and UK authorities to extend the transition agreement as long as it is necessary.</p> <p>The social and economic impact the COVID-19 crisis has on the chocolate, biscuits and confectionery sectors will have to be measured but the cost will be high. In this context, it makes sense to provide our industries with elements of certainty in a volatile time and thus, extend the transition period.</p> <p>A no-deal BREXIT or a bad deal as of 2021 would be hugely detrimental to our industry, and the whole food supply chain with a significant decrease in EU exports and revenue coupled with more important job losses.</p> <p>We are hopeful that in order to preserve business activities between the EU and the UK, a balanced and ambitious trade agreement with appropriate product-specific rules of origin, will be implemented as of day ONE of the end of the transition period.>></p> <p>22/05/2020</p> <p>http://caobisco.eu/caobisco-chocolate-biscuits-confectionery-europe-news-141-CAOBISCO-Statement-on-EU-UK-FTA-Negotiations.html#.Xs98g0RKjIU</p> |
| Helen Brocklebank, Walpole | <p>Chief Executive Officer of Walpole.</p> <p>https://www.thewalpole.co.uk/news/brexit-time-act-now/</p> <p>“Everyone is hoping for an extension,” said Helen Brocklebank, chief executive officer of Walpole, which represents the U.K.’s luxury sector.</p> <p>“Brexit is very much taking a back seat at the moment as companies fight to survive.”</p> <p>02/04/2020</p> <p>https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/wheres-brexit-canceled-whitehall-meetings-say-delay-inevitable</p> |
| Peter Hardwick, British Meat Processors Association | <p>“Brexit planning has fallen off a cliff,” said Peter Hardwick, a trade policy adviser at the British Meat Processors Association. “All operational staff at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have been diverted to Covid-19 work.”</p> <p>02/04/2020</p> <p>https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/wheres-brexit-canceled-</p> |

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| | <p>whitehall-meetings-say-delay-inevitable</p> |
| <p>Deborah Annetts, the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM)</p> | <p>NEW ISM REPORT: The music sector will not survive COVID-19 and Brexit without an extension to the transition period.</p> <p>https://www.ism.org/images/files/ISM_Fifth-Brexit-Report_May-2020_A4_Online.pdf</p> <p>Deborah Annetts, Chief Executive of the Incorporated Society of Musicians said:</p> <p>‘The UK music sector, which contributes £5.2bn to the economy each year, is facing ruin from the dual threats of COVID-19 and Brexit. For many years, the ISM has been highlighting how essential it is for professional musicians to work easily across the EU. In this time of great uncertainty, musicians need to know that their livelihoods will be protected.</p> <p>Going straight from COVID-19 to the end of the transition period without ensuring enough time to negotiate new trading agreements will be devastating for the music profession and the wider music and creative industries.</p> <p>Therefore, to avoid irreversible damage, we call for the Government to recover some of the time lost to COVID-19 by requesting an extension to the transition period.’</p> <p>Based on the findings of this report, the ISM calls for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government to negotiate an extension of the transition period for two years beyond 31 December 2020. [...] <p>https://www.ism.org/news/new-ism-report-brexit-transition-period-extension</p> |
| <p>Bob Sanguinetti, U.K. Chamber of Shipping</p> | <p>One of the biggest issues in Brexit planning is a lack of time and information to build new infrastructure at ports to handle border checks on U.K.-EU trade, plus prepare complex new IT systems, said, chief executive officer of the U.K. Chamber of Shipping.</p> <p>“Those were huge projects for U.K. government before the coronavirus pandemic,” Sanguinetti said. “Day by day, its increasingly difficult to see how the original time-lines can be achieved.”</p> <p>02/04/2020</p> <p>https://business.financialpost.com/pmnbusiness-pmn/wheres-brexit-canceled-whitehall-meetings-say-delay-inevitable</p> |
| <p>Richard Burnett / Road Haulage Association (RHA)</p> | <p><<Give hauliers a Brexit break says RHA</p> <p>RHA chief executive Richard Burnett has written to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP to call for an extension to the UK’s transition period for leaving the EU.</p> <p>Commenting, he said: “As things stand right now, the Coronavirus outbreak means that we are simply not in a position to give the complexity of future trade arrangements with the EU the necessary focus.</p> <p>“We have always maintained a neutral stance as regards our relationship with the EU and this request is not trying to prolong the government’s plans – which we fully endorse.”</p> <p>The UK’s road transport industry must be completely focused on supporting the unprecedented demand that has been placed on the supply chain and</p> |

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| | <p>ensuring that the flow of critical goods – food and medical supplies – are maintained throughout this crisis.”</p> <p>Concluding, Richard Burnett said: “Preparing for our exit on 1st January 2021 was always going to be a challenge for government, operators and stakeholders. The current climate makes the ability to negotiate, agree and manage new trading arrangements impossible”.>> 24/03/2020 https://www.rha.uk.net/news/press-releases/2020-03-march/give-hauliers-a-brexite-break-says-rha</p> |
| Elizabeth de Jong, Freight Transport Association | <p>Elizabeth de Jong, Policy Director, Freight Transport Association. “Logistics needs transition extension to counter COVID-19 challenge, says FTA”.</p> <p>“Our industry needs the support of government, not to be broken by it.” [25/03/2020]</p> <p>https://fta.co.uk/media/press-releases/2020/march/logistics-needs-transition-extension-to-counter-co https://www.cityam.com/logistics-industry-calls-on-government-to-extend-brexite-transition-period-to-ease-pressure-on-sector/ https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-hauliers-demand-uk-boris-johnson-extends-brexite-transition-period-2020-3?r=US&IR=T</p> |
| Pauline Bastidon, Freight Transport Association | <p>“There’s absolutely no bandwidth for anything other than Covid-19,” Pauline Bastidon, Head of European policy at the Freight Transport Association, who said her meetings to discuss issues including a shortage of customs agents were postponed. “There’s no time, energy, money or interest at the moment to focus on Brexit.”</p> <p>02/04/2020</p> <p>https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/wheres-brexite-canceled-whitehall-meetings-say-delay-inevitable</p> |
| Rod McKenzie, Road Haulage Association. | <p>Managing Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Road Haulage Association. ““If the recession is going to be shortened and lessened, supply chains will be crucial. If the link breaks because of coronavirus and Brexit, that’ll be a cocktail of disaster beyond belief,” Rod said.</p> <p>The RHA is calling for an extension to the transition period to allow hauliers to prepare for new trading arrangements between the UK and the EU, and for the UK government to secure a trade to ensure fluid trade.”</p> <p>14/05/2020 https://news.rha.uk.net/2020/05/14/rha-calls-for-fluid-trade-agreement-to-avoid-disaster/content.html</p> <p>“The transition period simply must be extended.”</p> <p>11/05/20 https://news.rha.uk.net/2020/05/11/give-hauliers-clarity-on-new-trade-agreements/content.html20 <<Hauliers: Transition period “must be extended”>> https://yorkshirebylines.co.uk/hauliers-transition-period-must-be-extended/</p> |
| Robert Keen, British | <p>Robert Keen, Director General of the British International Freight Association (BIFA).</p> |

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| <p>International Freight Association (BIFA)</p> | <p><<The director general of the British International Freight Association (BIFA) says that it in light of the massive disruption to supply chains being caused by the coronavirus crisis, it would be irresponsible of the UK government to try to abide by the timetable for ending its Brexit transition period.</p> <p>Robert Keen, Director General of the British International Freight Association (BIFA) says that with negotiations between the EU and UK now stalled, he believes that if the UK does not seek to extend the transition period, it will not have the time to negotiate a deal that covers anything more than the bare minimum of trade arrangements.</p> <p>“Now in these very difficult times, it is important that the government listens to the freight transport sector, puts politics to one side and seeks an extension to the transition period.” [March 2020] https://www.bifa.org/news/articles/2020/mar/refusing-to-ask-for-an-extension-of-brexit-transition-amid-coronavirus-crisis-would-be-irresponsible-say-freight-forwarding-chief https://www.aircargonews.net/trending/brexit/bifa-urges-brexit-transition-extension-amid-covid-19-disruption/</p> <p>“In light of the huge issues involved with a sharp change in trading conditions at the start of 2021, particularly if that were to coincide with another Covid-19 outbreak, we think an extension looks increasingly likely.”</p> <p>“We believe that refusing to even consider extending the transition period is very risky and together with a growing chorus of Brexit commentators, think an extension to the transition period remains likely, and it is really only a question of ‘when’. ”>> [April 2020] https://www.bifa.org/news/articles/2020/apr/freight-association-believes-extension-of-brexit-transition-period-still-seems-likely</p> |
| <p>British International Freight Association (BIFA)</p> | <p><< Following a survey of its members, the British International Freight Association (BIFA) reports that the majority of respondents believe that an extension to the transition period is desirable, if no trade deal is agreed by December 31st 2020 and UK trade with the EU is conducted on WTO terms.</p> <p>The trade association that represents companies that are on the front line in the management of the UK’s visible imports and exports conducted the survey in response to the UK government’s insistence that it will not ask to extend the transition period.</p> <p>BIFA Director General, Robert Keen comments: “This is not a political comment from our members. They are a pragmatic group. They understand that the UK has left the EU.</p> <p>“It is a clear message to Government that BIFA members and the clients that they serve have great reservations over whether they will have the capacity to handle the major changes to the UK’s trading relationship at the start of 2021, such as new customs documentation and procedures.”</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>In a recent letter to the parliamentary committee responsible for the UK’s future relationship with the EU, BIFA raised ongoing concerns over potentially misleading and ambiguous comments from politicians and government regarding Customs matters. >></p> |

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| | <p>26/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/freight-forwarders-call-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period/</p> <p>https://www.bifa.org/news/articles/2020/may/freight-forwarders-call-for-extension-to-brexit-transition-period</p> <p>https://theloadstar.com/bifa-calls-for-extension-to-brexit-deadline-forwarders-wont-be-ready/</p> |
| <p>Alex Veitch, Freight Trade Association. Liam Smyth, British Chambers of Commerce</p> | <p>Firms 'won't be ready for EU customs exit'</p> <p>By Sebastien Ash</p> <p><<Downing Street has said that any extension would keep the UK bound by EU rules when it instead "needs flexibility" to deal with coronavirus.</p> <p>But Alex Veitch, head of international policy at the Alex Veitch, said planning for an exit from EU rules at the same time as navigating the coronavirus crisis was "not possible".</p> <p>The kinds of jobs being furloughed "are those which are crucial to managing Brexit," he added.</p> <p>"It is the same people wrestling with the international freight challenge who would be the ones planning the Brexit challenge."</p> <p>Asking for an extension was a "reasonable" demand, he added, and his organisation would not have done so "before the coronavirus crisis hit".</p> <p>Liam Smyth, director of international trade at the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Whilst traders are focussed on survival and working out how to deal with the impact of coronavirus, the problem of making 250 million more customs declarations at the end of the transition period has not gone away.</p> <p>"Big challenges need big solutions. Cargo will grind to a halt if goods can't be cleared by our customs system.</p> <p>"The funding the government has announced so far isn't enough.</p> <p>"If the government is serious they should invest more to employ and train the huge number of people needed to keep the UK trading beyond transition."</p> <p>>></p> <p>17/04/2020</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52287926</p> |
| <p>European Automotive Manufacturers Association (ACEA)</p> | <p>“With this interdependence in mind, it is essential that tariff-free trade and an open flow of goods and services are a cornerstone of the ongoing negotiations between the EU and the UK,” stated ACEA’s director general, Eric-Mark Huitema. ‘Any future trade agreement must, therefore, combine zero tariffs, workable rules of origin, simplified customs requirements and ensure the absence of technical barriers to trade...</p> <p>The clock is ticking for these complex negotiations, and we are very concerned that the time remaining under the transitional arrangement is insufficient, especially given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis,’ warned Huitema. The unintended consequence of this could be a no-deal scenario. In terms of tariffs</p> |

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| | <p>alone, this would have a massive impact, with some €6 billion being added to the cost of doing cross-channel trade.</p> <p>‘Such an outcome would be catastrophic to the automotive sector, and the European economy in general, and should be avoided at all reasonable cost.’</p> <p>“Brexit negotiations have been impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The EU’s chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, and the UK’s negotiator David Frost have both been in self-isolation after testing positive for the virus. At the same time, there are questions about how far talks can progress at present...</p> <p>Therefore, it may be necessary to delay talks, and extend the deadline beyond 31 December. The UK Government originally intended to have a deal in place by June, stating it would walk away if nothing had been agreed - a move that is now almost certainly untenable. With resources focused on navigating through the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit is almost forgotten about, and without an extension, the UK risks crashing out of the EU without a deal at the end of the transition period.”https://autovistagroup.com/news-and-insights/acea-calls-brexite-deal-take-account-special-automotive-industry</p> |
| <p>CLEPA – European Association of Automotive Suppliers</p> | <p>CLEPA Position Paper on EU-UK FTA: For an integrated and competitive European automotive industry</p> <p>“If necessary, an extension of the transition period should be considered to avoid a cliff edge scenario or the completion of an FTA too limited in scope.</p> <p>CLEPA understands that the UK’s departure from the EU is the outcome of a democratic process and automotive suppliers respect this. At the same time, the international competitiveness of the automotive sector – a shared European and British industrial asset – should not be sacrificed in an attempt to deliver political objectives in an extraordinarily short timeframe in the form of an FTA too limited in scope. A failure in the negotiations to address the economic needs of the automotive sector would negatively impact many regions across the UK and EU. The jobs, livelihoods and communities of hundreds of thousands of people are at stake.”</p> <p>27/02/2020</p> <p>https://clepa.eu/mediaroom/clepa-position-paper-on-eu-uk-fta-for-an-integrated-and-competitive-european-automotive-industry/</p> |
| <p>British Irish Chamber of Commerce</p> | <p><<Chamber warns window to agree extension to transition period is rapidly closing</p> <p>“Paul Lynam, Director of Policy, British Irish Chamber of Commerce, said: “The new tariff regime unveiled by the UK Government today provides a stark reminder of the trade barriers potentially facing Irish and EU businesses from January 1st. Ireland’s agri-food sector is most at risk with new tariffs on products such as lamb, beef and poultry likely to undermine the viability of many food producers across the country. Combined with the existential threat posed by the COVID-19 crisis, businesses face a perfect storm.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>“We would urge both UK and EU negotiators not to get side-tracked and to instead make every effort to agree a mutually beneficial extension of the transition period. Businesses in the agri-food sector and beyond want to see a strong EU-UK trade partnership put in place. If a comprehensive free trade</p> |

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| | <p>agreement cannot be negotiated, firms will need extended time to implement Brexit contingency plans and supports to avoid significant job losses on both Islands”>></p> <p>20/05/20 https://www.britishirishchamber.com/2020/05/20/new-uk-global-tariff-provides-stark-reminder-of-future-trade-barriers-facing-irish-business/</p> <p><<The British Irish Chamber of Commerce has today called on the UK Government to begin preparations to formally seek an extension to the Brexit transition period in advance of the EU-UK Summit in June. >></p> <p>14/05/2020 https://www.britishirishchamber.com/2020/05/14/british-irish-chamber-calls-for-extension-of-brexit-transition-period/</p> |
| <p>Customs Support Group</p> | <p><<With all eyes on the coronavirus, you would almost forget the United Kingdom is leaving the European Customs Union at the end of this year. The British Chamber of Commerce now says that they <i>fear that many UK businesses will not be ready in time.</i></p> <p>When the United Kingdom leaves the EU Customs Union there will be a lot of new processes in place at the borders between the European Union and the United Kingdom. There are new procedures, there are new documents that need to be filled out. The British Chamber of Commerce has said that they <i>believe the UK government hasn't invested enough in training for companies on these new documents and procedures.</i></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The call for an extension of the transition period has been heard from representatives of the EU, but also from within the UK. According to a recent poll, two-thirds of the British public is in favour of extending the transition period. The same goes for various trade groups, and <i>essentially the British Chamber of Commerce is now saying the same.</i>>></p> <p>24/04/20 https://www.customssupport.com/will-british-companies-be-ready-for-brexit-we-sure-are/</p> |
| <p>Chemical Business Association (CBA)</p> | <p><<CBA urges UK to consider Brexit transition period extension option.</p> <p>The UK should take the "pragmatic approach" of keeping open the option to extend the Brexit transition period, the Chemical Business Association (CBA) has said.</p> <p>In a 4 May letter to the business minister and parliamentary under secretary of state at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Nadhim Zahawi MP, the CBA said the final decision to extend should be dependent "on both Covid-19 decompression and the progress made on an UK/EU free trade agreement".</p> <p>The CBA's letter, signed by chief executive Peter Newport, was made public on 28 May, ahead of round four of trade talks from 1–4 June.</p> <p>It names unresolved Brexit trading and regulatory issues, the Covid-19 pandemic and the possibility of an imminent recession as the main issues the</p> |

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| | <p>UK's chemical supply chain is facing.</p> <p>"Together, they provide a perfect storm for the UK economy. The CBA believes their potential cumulative impact should guide the UK government's industrial strategy." [....]</p> <p>Rejecting an extension to the transition period "out of hand" increases the risk of a no-deal exit from the EU, it added. "Politics appears to have trumped pragmatism unless a deal can be secured within the astonishingly short time remaining." >></p> <p>28/05/2020</p> <p>https://chemicalwatch.com/121010/cba-urges-uk-to-consider-brexit-transition-period-extension-option</p> |
| <p>Institute of Export & International Trade</p> | <p><<Brexit transition extension: the two camps on either side of the argument – and in between [.....]</p> <p>For an extension: opposition political parties and logistics trade bodies including BIFA, the FTA and the RHA</p> <p>Who: Opposition parties are urging the government to seek an extension to the transition period, while its steadfast refusal to do so is reportedly a source of tension among civil servants within the UK's negotiating team.</p> <p>From the international trade camp, the freight forwarding sector led by its trade association BIFA, the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association have been the most direct in calling for a delay to the transition's end.</p> <p>The arguments: These boil down to the distraction of managing COVID-19 and a lack of time to secure trade deals, organise logistical changes and ensure effective legislation is in place.</p> <p>Politicians in opposition parties, to whom Michel Barnier's letter was addressed this week, cite the "catastrophic economic impact" of COVID-19 as reason enough to delay full Brexit.</p> <p>The RHA echoes this argument, its chief executive Richard Burnett saying COVID-19 means hauliers, while supporting Brexit, "are simply not in a position to give the complexity of future trade arrangements with the EU the necessary focus".</p> <p>BIFA has said it has "great reservations" on whether the logistics industry can be ready in time for 31 December, calling no extension "risky and unwise".>></p> <p>https://www.export.org.uk/news/509862/Brexit-transition-extension-the-two-camps-on-either-side-of-the-argument--and-in-between.htm</p> |
| <p>The Professional Clothing Industry Association Worldwide/ Greater</p> | <p>The Professional Clothing Industry Association Worldwide/ Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce.</p> <p><< UK Government has repeatedly insisted it will not ask for an extension to the transition period – and will decline any such request from the EU.</p> <p>Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce want the Government to re-think its position.</p> <p>Chief executive Paul Faulkner says the business community needs time to</p> |

Birmingham Chambers of Commerce

recover from the coronavirus pandemic before facing more disruption to trading conditions.

He said: “While coronavirus has understandably dominated the headlines and business planning in recent months, Brexit is not over yet.

“June is a critical month for Brexit negotiations. By the end of it, we should know how likely a deal (or not) is looking.

[...]

“We also know that many of the businesses hardest hit by this, such as those in the retail and automotive sectors are also the most exposed to Brexit risk due to the nature of their international supply chains and EU citizens in their workforces.

“We urge the Government to change their narrow thinking position on refusing an extension to negotiations.

“British business has just faced its greatest crisis since the Second World War. If a comprehensive deal cannot be agreed, the business community needs time to rebuild resilience before it faces the biggest change to the UK’s political and trading relationships for a generation too.”

<https://pciaw.org/industry-news/brexit-government-must-alter-narrow-thinking-on-transition-period/>
<https://www.greaterbirminghamchambers.com/latest-news/news/2020/6/1/brexit-government-must-alter-narrow-thinking-on-transition-period/>

Dame Caroline Fairbairn
director general,
CBI

Dame Caroline Fairbairn, *director general of the Confederation of British Industry*

<<Business cannot prepare for a no-deal Brexit in the middle of a pandemic

Many firms are clinging on during the coronavirus crisis and have no capacity to to contemplate failure in talks with EU

For many firms fighting to keep their heads above water through the crisis, the idea of preparing for a chaotic change in EU trading relations in seven months is beyond them. They are not remotely prepared. Faced with the desperate challenges of the pandemic, their resilience and ability to cope is almost zero.

With 40 percent of the economy closed, 8 million people in furlough and not working, the U.K. is already in recession. Stockpiles that were built up in preparation for a no-deal outcome in March, October and December last year have been used to plug supply shortages created by the pandemic, while half of all manufacturers are having difficulty reconnecting their supply chains.

Many businesses, especially smaller ones, have burned through cash reserves they would have otherwise used for rainy days. One logistics firm would need to hire 300 new border officials starting in June to prepare for a no-trade deal Brexit, and are asking whether they should do this — and how this can possibly be a sensible use of their stretched resources.

[...]

Before COVID-19, the U.K. led the world in professional services trade, with the country’s auditors, accountants and architects landing business across the

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| | <p>globe. But services trade has collapsed, with company surveys showing the greatest fall in all measures since records began.</p> <p>Perhaps by the end of the year these companies will be climbing back onto their feet. However, an abrupt introduction of restrictions on trade and movement with the EU at that point would be a hammer blow.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The desire for no further delay is understandable. After all, the U.K. made its choice in the Brexit referendum nearly four years ago now, and it is not clear extending the transition period would necessarily bring a better deal in the future.</p> <p>But while it may be tempting for some to down tools and accept that WTO terms are the best either side can hope for, there are many livelihoods and businesses at stake. The current air of resignation surrounding the Brexit talks must be shaken off. This is why a new dynamic and determination on both sides is so essential.</p> <p>In recent months, political leaders across Europe have shown that what previously may have been thought of as impossible is not. A good deal with the EU will be just one strand of the U.K.'s national recovery from the pandemic, but it will be one of the most important for the future of our economy, jobs and livelihoods.>></p> <p>01-02/06/2020 https://www.politico.eu/article/business-cannot-prepare-for-a-no-deal-brexit-in-the-middle-of-a-pandemic/ https://www.cbi.org.uk/articles/business-cannot-prepare-for-no-deal-brexit-during-coronavirus/</p> |
| <p>Warwick Smith, director-general of the British Generic Manufacturers Association / Lib Dem MP Layla Moran</p> | <p>The New European <<No-deal Brexit could limit our access to medicine during a second wave of coronavirus. Jonathon Read</p> <p>A no-deal Brexit could jeopardise the UK’s access to medicine just as a second wave of coronavirus could hit.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Warwick Smith, director-general of the British Generic Manufacturers Association, said: “We must act quickly in the UK to ensure that we are not left behind.”</p> <p>Voices from the industry have previously stressed that a no-deal Brexit could lead to delays on imports of medicines due to possible customs delays.</p> <p>The government has already faced criticism for struggling to secure essential personal protective equipment and ventilators quickly enough at the start of the coronavirus.</p> <p>Lib Dem MP Layla Moran said it was another reason why the government must put forward for an extension to the transition period.</p> <p>She said: “A no-deal Brexit could limit our access to medicine during a second wave of coronavirus.</p> |

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| | <p>“The government needs to stop putting ideology ahead of public health and extend the transition period. They cannot risk a dangerous no-deal Brexit just as we recover from the worst pandemic in living memory.</p> <p>“People and businesses have suffered enough this year, the last thing we need is a shortage of medical supplies this winter.</p> <p>“The government must also start being transparent and regularly publish figures on national stockpiles of vital drugs and medicines. The public can’t be kept in the dark about how prepared we are.”</p> <p>04/06/2020 https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/uk-could-struggle-to-get-medicine-for-coronavirus-after-brexit-1-6684477</p> <p>See also: Financial Times. Peter Foster and Sarah Neville <<</p> <p>UK drugs stockpile eroded by coronavirus ahead of Brexit</p> <p>Struggle to rebuild 6 weeks’ medical stores exacerbated by pandemic’s disruption to global production and fears of a ‘no-deal’ EU exit</p> <p>The UK government is struggling to rebuild stockpiles of drugs eroded by Covid-19 amid fears that a “no-deal” Brexit will jeopardise medicine supplies just as a second coronavirus wave hits the country. >></p> <p>03/06/2020 https://www.ft.com/content/4611bf7d-c749-4cfd-bf7c-7a5e2967f9f7</p> |
| <p>FTA [Freight Transport Association] British Retail Consortium and Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association</p> | <p><<Transport Body Backs Stormont Call For Brexit Extension by Richard Buckley, Editor, Business Eye</p> <p>FTA, the business group speaking for the UK logistics sector, is backing Stormont’s call for additional time to be added to the Brexit transition period as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to dominate the industry’s resources, and government engagement on the Northern Ireland Protocol stalls. Following his participation at the House of Lords Select Committee yesterday (3 June 2020), Seamus Leheny, Policy Manager for Northern Ireland at FTA, comments: “With less than seven months until the end of the Brexit transition period, FTA and its members in Northern Ireland are deeply concerned by the lack of government engagement on the Protocol.</p> <p>Alongside the British Retail Consortium and Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association, with whom we jointly gave evidence to the Committee yesterday, FTA is urging the government to engage with business organisations urgently so logistics businesses and operators can prepare for the successful implementation of the UK’s departure from the EU, which observes the rules of the NI Protocol. [...]</p> <p>“With the COVID-19 pandemic monopolising the industry’s attention, FTA is backing Stormont’s calls for an extension to the Brexit transition period, to allow an implementation period in which all necessary preparations for EU departure can be made. Businesses need clarity on the new trading agreement so they can prepare effectively for the massive changes that will undoubtedly come.”</p> |

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| | <p>[....] Seamus Leheny reiterated these concerns at a media briefing hosted by the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium today (4 June 2020).</p> <p>FTA is one of the UK’s leading business groups, representing logistics businesses which are vital to keeping the UK trading, and more than seven million people directly employed in the making, selling and moving of goods. With COVID-19, Brexit, new technology and other disruptive forces driving change in the way goods move across borders and through the supply chain, logistics has never been more important to UK plc. FTA supports, shapes and stands up for safe and efficient logistics, and is the only business group which represents the whole industry, with members from the road, rail, sea and air industries, as well as the buyers of freight services such as retailers and manufacturers whose businesses depend on the efficient movement of goods.>></p> <p>04/06/2020 http://www.busesseye.co.uk/transport-body-backs-stormont-call-brexit-extension/ https://www.handyshippingguide.com/shipping-news/northern-irish-concerns-over-brexit-transition-period-continue_12968</p> |
| <p>Copa-Cogeca, Celcaa, FoodDrinkEurope [via euroactiv.com]</p> | <p><<Brexit no deal could ‘severely disrupt’ agrifood sector</p> <p>By Natasha Foote</p> <p>Failing to conclude a trade agreement between the EU and the UK would have serious consequences for the agrifood sector, major EU agrifood stakeholders said on Thursday (4 June).</p> <p>As the fourth round of negotiations on the EU-UK future relationship draws to a close, groups working in the sector have expressed their concern, with Farmers association Copa-Cogeca, the European liaison committee for agricultural and agrifood trade Celcaa, and FoodDrinkEurope, saying there is a “growing risk that no agreement will be reached before the end of the current transition period.”</p> <p>They stressed that a combination of ‘no agreement’ and ‘no extension’ of transitional arrangements, combined with the introduction of tariffs and the potential for regulatory divergence, would “severely disrupt integrated supply chains” and agri-food trade between the EU and the UK, which amounted to €58 billion in 2019.</p> <p>Will Surman, Director of Public Affairs & Communications, told EURACTIV that the consequences of a no-deal fallout could include “a major decrease in export volumes from the EU to the UK, a significant fall in revenue, and consequential job losses.”</p> <p>He added that the impact on SMEs, farmers and agri-cooperatives would be particularly detrimental.</p> <p>“We regret that the UK government is currently opposed to any extension of the post-Brexit transition period beyond 2020,” the statement reads.</p> <p>“The transition should be of sufficient length for businesses to plan and prepare for any FTA arrangements, and to avoid a cliff-edge situation.”</p> |

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| | <p>Pekka Pesonen, Secretary-General of Copa-Cogeca, told EURACTIV that, from the farmers’ perspective, EU farmers are on “equal footing” with their UK counterparts and that it is of “crucial importance” that we come to a mutually acceptable agreement.</p> <p>05/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/brexit-no-deal-could-severely-disrupt-agrifood-sector/</p> <p>See also: https://www.thenews.coop/148257/sector/agriculture/no-deal-brexit-would-damage-food-industry-europes-agri-co-ops-warn/ https://www.farminglife.com/country-and-farming/eu-agri-food-chain-warns-growing-risk-no-uk-eu-trade-deal-2874674</p> |
| <p>Stephen Kelly, chief executive of Manufacturing Northern Ireland</p> | <p>Business leaders demand delay to Irish Sea border checks</p> <p>Six months needed to prepare for Brexit border checks, warn Northern Ireland business groups</p> <p>Northern Ireland business groups are calling for a six month delay to Brexit checks in the Irish Sea saying that Boris Johnson’s late admission that he is legally obliged to implement them has left them no time to prepare for the December cliff edge.</p> <p>They have also hit out at Downing Street secrecy, saying they are refusing to discuss the plans with the very people that needed to implement them.</p> <p>Their call for a six month “adjustment period” falls short of the extension to the transition period that the Stormont assembly unexpectedly agreed to call for earlier this week.</p> <p>But they warned Northern Ireland businesses will go to the wall unless they are given more time by the UK and the EU to set themselves up for the unprecedented changes to the way they trade with Britain.</p> <p>Responding to the government’s command paper on the Northern Ireland protocol with a list of 60 unanswered questions they urged Michael Gove, who is charged with implementing the withdrawal agreement to urgently engage with them.</p> <p>“The level of engagement we have with the UK government across a raft of policy areas is really good. But when it comes to this Brexit issue, it’s really locked down and controlled. There is no real defined engagement from them,” said Stephen Kelly, chief executive of Manufacturing Northern Ireland. Aodhán Connolly, director of the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium, said businesses were realistic and knew the UK government was not looking to extend the transition period.</p> <p>Businesses were willing to help the government make the new Brexit protocol work but it was “mission critical” to involve them with just seven months to go.</p> <p>They warn that there is little capacity for planning with delays on the British side compounded by the Covid crisis. Even if they had the “bandwidth” they couldn’t prepare because the government has kept them in the dark on the details of customs and regulatory checks that will be imposed.</p> <p>“We had said from January that this was going to be a Herculean task to get</p> |

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| | <p>everything done in time for 1 January, it has only gotten harder,” said Connolly.</p> <p>05/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/05/business-leaders-demand-delay-to-irish-sea-border-checks</p> |
| <p>BOSS Federation [The trade association representing the UK office supplies and services industry.]</p> | <p>BOSS Federation</p> <p><<Without an extension to the Transition Period, there is a widespread concern that businesses will not have adequate time to prepare for Brexit on WTO terms. >></p> <p>04/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.bossfederation.com/industry-news/more/129115/brexit-bulletin-may-june-2020/</p> |
| <p>Scottish Crofting Federation</p> | <p><<Crofting Federation backs call for Brexit extension by Gordon Davidson. Europe's post-Brexit relationship with the UK is 'too important and affects the economic wellbeing of too many people' for the current negotiations to be rushed.</p> <p>Saying that, the Scottish Crofting Federation has endorsed research produced by the Scottish Government which makes it clear that a Brexit extension is essential to Scotland’s economy.</p> <p>“The Covid-19 pandemic is, quite rightly, absorbing considerable resources from all our national governments,” said SCF chair Yvonne White. "There is no doubt that it is impossible to conclude a comprehensive trade deal with the European Union before the end of 2020. It is therefore essential that the UK government agrees a two-year extension to the transition period with the EU.</p> <p>“SCF welcomes the Scottish Government’s well-researched evidence of the impact of leaving the EU too quickly and applaud their work on this,” said Ms White. "We entirely support the stance taken, that the UK Government must apply for a two-year extension to the transition period. This is too important and affects the economic wellbeing of too many people for the negotiations to be rushed to meet a self-imposed and arbitrary deadline.”</p> <p>05/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/18496725.crofting-federation-backs-call-brexit-extension/</p> |
| <p>Andrew Opie British Retail Consortium. Mark Bridgeman, Country Land and Business Association. Frances O’Grady, (TUC)</p> | <p><<Back in Westminster Andrew Opie, director of food sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, told MPs that Britain could be able to go “out of the frying pan into the fire” by bouncing from the coronavirus crisis to Brexit disruption at borders.</p> <p>If we thought [disruption during coronavirus] was a problem, I think we should starting looking forward to a disorderly Brexit in January, he told the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. If we get a disorderly Brexit we potentially face a bigger challenge to the food supply chain than was faced with Covid.</p> <p>He noted that in January “90 per cent of our lettuces and 80 per cent of our tomatoes and 70 per cent of our soft fruit” come across the channel [and] that disruption could empty shelves.</p> |

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| | <p>Other groups echoed the same warnings. Josh Hardie, deputy director-General of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), warned that many businesses were simply not ready for the no-deal being threatened. Progress is worryingly slow, causing deep concern to firms when resilience has rarely been more fragile, he said. The stark reality is that most businesses are understandably unprepared for a dramatic change in trading relations with our biggest partner in just six months' time. With jobs in every region of the UK and EU under pressure, the stakes are higher than ever. A deal that works for both sides' economies is the only way forward. Political leaders should step in urgently, change the dynamic and find solutions that protect people's livelihoods. Failure to break the deadlock only leaves a choice between an extension that the UK Government has already ruled out or worse, a deeply damaging no deal, he said.</p> <p>Mark Bridgeman, president of the Country Land and Business Association, which represents some farmers and rural businesses said the "limited progress" was hugely concerning. Make no mistake, without a quality free trade agreement thousands of farmers both in the UK and the EU would go out of business, with all the devastation to lives and communities that go with it, he said.</p> <p>We understand a degree of posturing is inevitable, but no one – on either side of the negotiating table – should forget what is at risk. We strongly encourage both sides to return to the table as quickly as possible, he said.</p> <p>Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) said: The prime minister must buckle down and get a good deal for workers' jobs and rights. The coronavirus crisis has already put hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk. The government can't allow a no-deal Brexit to put even more families' livelihoods on the line. Ministers must negotiate a deal with the EU that preserves our access to European markets, supporting good jobs and protecting us from dodgy trade deals with the likes of Donald Trump, she said.>></p> <p>06/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.tradingandinvestmentnews.co.uk/fears-of-no-deal-brex-it-rise-as-uk-eu-negotiations-end-without-progress/</p> <p>https://www.reporter.am/fears-of-no-deal-in-brex-it-trade-talks-rise-as-another-round-of-negotiations-ends-in-acrimony/</p> |
| <p>British Retail Consortium</p> | <p><<Brexit disruption 'could destroy some Northern Irish businesses' in wake of pandemic</p> <p>Failure to negotiate a UK-EU trade agreement would hit Northern Irish supply chains harder than Covid-19, the British Retail Consortium says. Northern Irish businesses could collapse unless they are given at least six months for the "Herculean task" of adjusting to the new UK-EU trading relationship from January because Covid-19 has hindered their ability to prepare, a retail body has warned. >></p> <p>05/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2020/06/05/brexit-disruption-could-destroy-northern-irish-businesses-wake/</p> |
| <p>Andrew Opie, director of food, British Retail</p> | <p><<No-deal Brexit will 'cause food shortages worse than coronavirus panic buying'</p> <p>Failure to reach a Brexit deal with Europe will lead to much worse food shortages than the coronavirus panic buying crisis: this was the stark warning</p> |

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| <p>Consortium.</p> | <p>made to MPs today by Andrew Opie, director of food at the British Retail Consortium.</p> <p>Speaking to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the impact of coronavirus on food supply, Opie said the empty shelves and shortages seen in March were mild compared to what could happen in 2020 if government negotiators cannot secure a deal with the EU in time.</p> <p>“If we get a disorderly Brexit we potentially face a bigger challenge than that faced from Covid. The reason I say that is that at no time did we have a problem getting food to this country during this crisis.</p> <p>“In fact, Italy increased its food production during the worst time. It increased pasta production and sent more to us because the borders were flowing.</p> <p>“If we see the border disrupted in January then we’re going to have a big problem, because then we won’t have the food in the country to move around.”</p> <p>>></p> <p>05/06/2020</p> <p>https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/brexit/no-deal-brexit-will-cause-food-shortages-worse-than-coronavirus-panic-buying/645117.article</p> |
| <p>Nourish Scotland</p> | <p>Nourish Scotland.</p> <p><<Through the looking glass by Pete Ritchie</p> <p><<Last week, the Scottish Government published a detailed analysis of the damage a no-deal Brexit would do in the context of Covid-19. Full of arguments, case studies and facts, it makes for a concerning read.</p> <p>And it’s not just Scotland. Two-thirds of the UK public support an extension. Last week we joined the Human Rights Consortium and the Brexit Civil Society Alliance in a letter asking the Prime Minister to extent the transition period beyond 31st December 2020.</p> <p>We need to step out of this looking glass world, where the people’s will is not the people’s will; and risking the security and prosperity of millions of people as we start recovering from Covid-19 is the core business of government.</p> <p>>>http://www.nourishscotland.org/through-the-looking-glass/</p> |
| <p>The Loadstar</p> | <p><u>'If Covid-19 fails to sink UK firms, a messy Brexit could finish the job'</u> by <u>Alex Lennane</u></p> <p><<UK companies, already hit hard by the impacts of Covid-19, could face closure without further clarity on Brexit.</p> <p>Global trade finance expert Dr Kerstin Braun, president of Stenn Group, yesterday warned that the UK’s fast-shrinking economy had already hurt firms, and Brexit could do further damage.</p> <p>“A hard exit following on the heels of the Covid-19 crisis, with potential tariff increases and paperwork confusion, could prove to be a perfect storm for UK firms.</p> <p>“If Covid-19 fails to sink them, a messy Brexit could.”</p> <p>The comments came as the chief executive of Swissport UK warned the government that an aviation strategy would be critical if the UK was to overcome the challenges Brexit would throw at the country. Otherwise, he said, the UK’s aviation sector would fail, while in continental Europe it would thrive>></p> |

22/05/2020

<https://theloadstar.com/if-covid-19-fails-to-sink-uk-firms-a-messy-brex-it-could-finish-the-job/>

3. Experts and commentators

Prof. Chris Grey

<<The question is not just whether to extend the Brexit transition, but for how long

“It is therefore highly unlikely that a one-year extension to the end of 2021 would be sufficient. But if, at the end of this June, that is all that has been agreed then there will be no mechanism for further extension. Prudence would therefore suggest agreeing the maximum extension of two years. If it turns out that this is over-cautious, then it does not need to be used. But it would be available if necessary.

None of this is about reversing Brexit. Brexit has happened now. Nor is it about being pro- or anti-Brexit. People on either side of that debate have an interest in Brexit now being done as smoothly and as effectively as possible.

No one could have predicted at the time of the referendum, or the last election, or the drafting of the Withdrawal Agreement that set the transition period, that we would face this pandemic. So there’s no shame in changing what was planned—and, after all, the provisions for extension were agreed precisely in case this was necessary. And there is much wisdom in doing so in a way that allows maximum flexibility. We only have one shot at this.”>>

21/04/2020

<https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/brexit-transition-extension-coronavirus>

Allie Renison

Head of EU and Trade Policy at the **Institute of Directors**.

“The IoD has long put its focus squarely on the need for a real implementation period, to convey the needs of business rather than squabbling over the politics of transition. How that is achieved is less important to firms, but if extension proves the only way to do so, then it should be on the table.”

22/05/2020

<https://capx.co/businesses-badly-need-a-smooth-end-to-the-brexit-transition-even-if-it-means-extension/>

**Nick Witney,
The European
Council on
Foreign
Relations
(ECFR)**

The European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

“So the time to face up to the problem is now, before the possibility of extension has been overtaken by the calendar. Or, if not face up to it, at least fudge it. A former trade adviser to Theresa May has just come up with one smart way in which the old trick of extending the time for negotiations while disguising it as period for ‘implementation’ **might be repeated**. [...] Nothing in Johnson’s record to date suggests a willingness to meet trouble halfway, when charm, bluster, and good fortune might yet make the problem evaporate. But here, too, the virus may just have changed the landscape. Johnson must know, even if naturally he denies it, that Britain would not now be topping the European death statistics if the government’s initial response had not been so lethally complacent. Equally, he must know that the same breezy insouciance about the need for physical distancing very nearly cost him his own life. Can we now hope that Johnson will apply this learning to the Brexit negotiations? It is less effort, of course, just to stick with the easy descent; retracing your steps is the hard bit, as Virgil pointed out. But the alternative prospect is truly

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| | <p>hellish.” 21/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_those_brexit_negotiations_the_descen_t_to_hell</p> |
| Institute for Government (IfG) | <p>"[I]n its most forthright intervention to date, the influential thinktank Institute for Government (IfG) said the transition period must be extended or a longer implementation period agreed for the new border arrangements in the Irish Sea. It warns that many businesses are simply focused on “staying afloat” during the coronavirus crisis and cannot be expected to concentrate on new trade arrangements – and suggests the government is underestimating the complexity of the new Northern Ireland arrangements.</p> <p>“The UK and the EU should extend the transition period or agree to a separate longer implementation period for the withdrawal agreement,” the institute warns in a new report. “The timetable for putting arrangements in place for the Irish Sea border was very tight even before Covid-19 hit Europe. But now coronavirus has slowed the pace of negotiations on the future relationship, delaying key decisions....”</p> <p>23/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/may/23/johnsons-promised-brexit-border-in-irish-sea-will-not-be-ready-in-time</p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/implementing-brexit-northern-ireland-protocol</p> |
| Institute for Government | <p><<Implementing Brexit: securing more time</p> <p>Time is short for the UK and the EU to agree and ratify the terms of their future relationship – and coronavirus has added to the pressure. This paper has set out five options for both sides to secure more time after the 31 December deadline.</p> <p>>></p> <p>30/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/implementing-brexit-securing-more-time</p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/implementing-brexit-securing-more-time.pdf</p> |
| David Walsh - The Star, Sheffield | <p>“Brexit transition extension vital amid coronavirus 'catastrophe' says CBI” [Report citing Nicole Sykes (CBI) and Sarah Olney MP (Lib Dem)]</p> <p>https://www.thestar.co.uk/business/brexit-transition-extension-vital-amid-coronavirus-catastrophe-says-cbi-2843079</p> |
| Clare Foges | <p>The Times. <<This is no time to be stubborn about Brexit</p> <p>After the way we’ve handled the coronavirus crisis, spurning the chance to extend the transition period appears suicidal.</p> <p>“Paranoid Brexiteers will claim an extension is Remainer sabotage; the establishment trying to squash Brexit under the cover of the virus. But that fight is over. Brexit cannot be reversed. It is in all our interests, now more than ever, for this to be done well, ending in a comprehensive trade agreement with our closest neighbours. When you’re caught in a rainy day, seek out umbrellas, not other storms. Let sense prevail. Request the extension.”>></p> <p>11/05/2020</p> |

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| | <p>https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/this-is-no-time-to-be-stubborn-about-brexit-w3w6cgr0j</p> |
| <p>Denis McShane [former MP and Europe minister]</p> | <p>Former David Cameron aide is right to blast Tories for ignoring Brexit extension</p> <p>“Labour shadow ministers and MPs should talk to the businesses in their portfolio areas or constituencies, local Chambers of Commerce, and regional CBI councils, to urge them to politely talk to Tory MPs to get an extension before it’s too late.”</p> <p>12/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/denis-macshane-on-risks-of-ignoring-a-brexit-extension-during-coronavirus-1-6649668</p> <p>“ Professor Tim Bale, one of our smartest political analysts, has number crunched MPs and thinks there is a majority for an extension if Johnson asks for it. Labour should make it clear it will support an extension in the national interest, rather than make the economic costs of Covid19 crisis far worse. ”</p> <p>http://www.laboureurope.eu/johnson_must_decide_face_down_his_brexit_zeal_ots_or_add_no_deal_brexit_to_his_list_of_problems</p> |
| <p>Martin Wolf</p> | <p>Martin Wolf, <i>Financial Times</i>. "The wisest thing to do would be to reach a comprehensive free trade deal with the EU, on the best available terms, and then move on. The second wisest thing would be to accept that now is not the time for another shock and ask for an extension of transition until this crisis is over. ” 22/02/2020</p> <p>https://www.ft.com/content/d12f85ec-9aba-11ea-adb1-529f96d8a00b</p> |
| <p>Financial Times</p> | <p>“The UK needs to extend its EU transition period With or without a trade deal, the virus-hit economy would face extra burdens” THE EDITORIAL BOARD</p> <p>“Arguing in favour of an extension is not an attempt to thwart Brexit. The UK’s withdrawal from the EU has already happened. The British public has spoken twice on the issue, in the 2016 in-out referendum and then in the decisive victory it handed to Mr Johnson in the 2019 election. The prime minister has a mandate to deliver in the way his government decides — but not to take steps that would compound the economic damage caused by the pandemic....</p> <p>The immediate issue for the UK ... is the extra cost to business and the continued uncertainty. Some Brexit hardliners argue the added costs will be lost in the wider economic malaise caused by Covid-19. This is not a serious argument. For firms struggling to rebuild, any new cost could be one too many....</p> <p>The need now, as Mr Johnson has told cabinet colleagues since his election victory, is to show maturity and stop fighting old battles. Though many fear the consequences of Brexit, there are no longer Remainers and Leavers. There is only a British economy facing a dire recession. The government needs to give it a break.” 21/05/2020</p> |
| <p>Raoul Rouparel</p> | <p>“A solution to the Brexit transition conundrum. Why a conditional extension could allow everyone more time to prepare while keeping up pressure on negotiators.” 18/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.politico.eu/article/brexit-transition-conundrum-solution/</p> |

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| James Smith | <p>Developed Markets Economist, ING Think. "Brexit: Why an extension to the transition period still seems likely"</p> <p>https://think.ing.com/articles/brexit-why-an-extension-to-the-transition-period-seems-likely/</p> |
| William Keegan | <p>Journalist, economics commentator.</p> <p><<The pandemic and its economic impact should persuade even this cabinet of the value of a two-year delay to departure >></p> <p>17/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/may/17/brexit-strange-idea-derailed-strange-times-pandemic</p> |
| Isobel Oakeshott | <p>Journalist, Vote Leave campaigner.</p> <p>"I now think it is inevitable the Brexit transition period will be extended and as a Brexiteer I am cool with this. The corona catastrophe changes everything. We have enough to deal with." <i>Twitter</i>.</p> <p>10/04/2020</p> |
| Dmitry Grozoubinski | <p>Founder of explaintrade.com and former WTO negotiator</p> <p><<Brexit can be done right by extending the transition to make up for the time coronavirus stole>></p> <p>21/04/2020</p> <p>https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/04/21/brexit-can-done-right-extending-transition-make-time-coronavirus/</p> |
| Joe Owen | <p>Brexit Programme Director, Institute for Government</p> <p><<Agreeing to extend the transition period will still leave the two sides with the problem that existed before coronavirus: the time will likely be consumed by negotiations, so how can changes be eased in rather than introduced overnight? Businesses will need more than a handful weeks to properly adjust once the outcome of the deal is clear.</p> <p>One option would be to set a new date for the transition to end, and if a deal is agreed by that point then an extra slot of time automatically kicks in – giving businesses breathing space to adapt once the details are known. The key is to give business early warning of a revised timetable – and then enough time to prepare.</p> <p>This government has promised it would not ask for more time. But not all policy U-turns are a sign of weakness – and certainly not when made to help manage an unprecedented national crisis. The greater risk is that the government tries to conclude Brexit and tackle the coronavirus at the same time, and finds it can do neither well.</p> <p>>></p> <p>15/04/2020</p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/blog/coronavirus-response-means-government-will-need-extend-brexit-transition-period</p> |
| Angus Armstrong, Anand Menon | <p>Director of the Rebuilding Macroeconomics network</p> <p>Director of The UK in a Changing Europe</p> <p><<Let's get serious: we need to extend the transition period with the EU Given the pandemic's likely impact on world trade, we should amend the December deadline>></p> |

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| | <p>19/04/2020</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/19/coronavirus-complications-december-brexid</p> <p>https://ukandeu.ac.uk/the-transition-period-needs-to-be-extended/</p> |
| <p>Prof. Anand Menon, Prof. Jonathan Portes / The UK in a Changing Europe</p> | <p><<Covid-19 crisis strengthens case for extension</p> <p>“And now the Covid-19 crisis has presented Johnson with what looks like a perfect excuse. Even the most Brexit-obsessed, both Leave and Remain, have other things to worry about.</p> <p>It is hard to see a u-turn – justified, as it would be, by an unprecedented health and economic crisis both here and in the EU – generating a huge political backlash. Most of us would simply shrug.</p> <p>[....]</p> <p>At present, we have little idea what the medium to long-term impact of the Covid-19 shock will be on the UK, EU and global economies.</p> <p>But whatever they are, it hardly seems sensible to overlay a further and entirely self-inflicted hit to the UK economy.</p> <p>Business, in particular – already resentful that its interests have largely been ignored in formulating the UK’s negotiating position – would find such a decision incomprehensible.</p> <p>[....]</p> <p>On balance, the pandemic probably does make the economic risks of exiting transition without a trade deal larger.”</p> <p>23/04/2020</p> <p>https://ukandeu.ac.uk/covid-19-crisis-strengthens-case-for-extension/</p> <p>https://www.conservativehome.com/platform/2020/04/anand-menon-and-jonathan-portes-on-balance-the-pandemic-strengthens-the-case-for-extending-the-brexid-transition.html</p> |
| <p>Sam Lowe</p> | <p>Senior research fellow at the Centre for European Reform.</p> <p><<Sam Lowe, a senior research fellow at the Centre for European Reform thinktank, believes an extension is inevitable but Johnson has “no incentive” to seek one until June, the deadline for a one-off UK request.</p> <p>“A free-trade agreement could still be agreed but it would be hard to implement. Even if we were coming to the end of this pandemic by then, businesses will be not be prepared,” said Lowe, who described himself as optimistic that a free-trade deal could be done by the end of the year, albeit a poor one.>></p> <p>24/04/2020</p> <p>https://www.cer.eu/insights/why-uk-should-extend-transition-period</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/apr/24/who-and-what-uk-and-eu-resume-interrupted-brexid-talks-future-relationship</p> |
| <p>Jeremy Warner</p> | <p>Associate Editor, <i>The Daily Telegraph</i></p> <p><<Covid-19 has completely sunk the chances of a swift EU trade deal</p> <p>The current pandemic that is so damaging on a global scale, has made all talks increasingly irrelevant>></p> <p>https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2020/05/12/covid-19-has-completely-</p> |

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| | sunk-chances-swift-eu-trade-deal/ |
| Matthew O'Toole | <p>A former adviser to Theresa May who is now an SDLP politician in Northern Ireland's assembly</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/mar/14/calls-to-extend-eu-transition-period-as-europe-fights-coronavirus</p> |
| David Henig | <p>Former UK trade negotiator</p> <p><<A Brexit transition extension is an insurance policy at a time of extreme risk>></p> <p>17/04/2020</p> <p>https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/04/17/brexit-transition-extension-insurance-policy-time-extreme-risk/</p> |
| Fabian Zuleeg and Jannike Wachowiak, European Policy Centre/Scottish Parliament | <p><<The UK government's refusal to consider an extension to the Brexit process represents a "reckless" and "irresponsible" stance, given the "unprecedented economic crisis" sparked by the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a leading EU think tank.</p> <p>Experts at the European Policy Centre said the contagion had not only impacted on the practicalities of the talks surrounding the UK's departure from the EU, but had rendered it "extremely difficult" for both sides to move beyond technical negotiations given the demands of responding to the outbreak.</p> <p>Fabian Zuleeg and Jannike Wachowiak from the European Policy Centre said that the prospect of the UK leaving the transition period without a future free trade agreement deal in place "could not come at a worse time," and stressed that even a managed 'no deal' scenario "will create immense uncertainty for businesses and have severe economic consequences."</p> <p>The warning comes in a letter to MSPs on Holyrood's culture, tourism, Europe, and external affairs committee ahead of their latest meeting tomorrow.>></p> <p>26/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-governments-refusal-consider-brexit-extension-reckless-and-irresponsible-2863841</p> |
| Prof. Chris Grey /Scottish Parliament | <p>Holyrood's culture, tourism, Europe, and external affairs committee</p> <p><<also received written evidence from Professor Chris Grey, head of the department of human resource management and organisation studies at Royal Holloway, University of London, who said an extension to the transition period - ideally for a period of two years - was "vital" in the circumstances.</p> <p>He explained: "The unforeseen disruption caused by Covid-19 has reduced and probably destroyed even the small possibility of doing any meaningful trade deal by December, let alone ratifying it.</p> <p>"Several rounds of planned negotiation have already been missed, key personnel on both sides have been ill, and videoconferencing is a poor substitute for face-to-face meetings for matters of this complexity."</p> <p>Mr Grey also pointed out that any extension to the transition period need not necessarily take the form of the UK request. He said the withdrawal agreement would allow it to be agreed by the joint committee without publicly having been initiated by either side.</p> <p>"This is an important and often overlooked point, which might be significant in terms of UK domestic politics," he added.>></p> |

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| | <p>26/05/2020 https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-governments-refusal-consider-brexit-extension-reckless-and-irresponsible-2863841</p> |
| <p>Belfast Telegraph/ Stephen Farry MP, Alliance Party</p> | <p><<Prime Minister Boris Johnson is coming under increasing pressure to extend the deadline for the implementation of the Brexit withdrawal agreement to avoid a hard border in the Irish Sea.</p> <p>An influential UK think tank said businesses are focused more on "staying afloat" rather than understanding new trade agreements.</p> <p>The position is echoed by the Alliance Party, whose North Down MP Stephen Farry said: "Ultimately, given the need to focus on the Covid-19 crisis and its economic fallout, Alliance believes the UK Government must now seek an extension to the Brexit transition period.">></p> <p>25 5 2020 https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/fresh-calls-for-brexit-deadline-extension-to-avoid-hard-irish-sea-border-39230522.html</p> |
| <p>Kathryn Petrie and Amy Norman, Best for Britain/ Social Market Foundation</p> | <p>(Commissioned by) Best for Britain: <i>Assessing the economic implications of coronavirus and Brexit</i>, by Kathryn Petrie and Amy Norman (Social Market Foundation)</p> <p><< "How policymakers should respond to the picture revealed in this report is beyond our remit here. For the avoidance of doubt, this report does not take a position on which form Brexit should take or express any view on the choices that policymakers should make over Britain's future relationship with the EU. We acknowledge that our sponsors take a clear view about those policy choices, including on the possible extension of transitional arrangements. The SMF expresses no view on that, in this report or elsewhere." "Given the large increase in government expenditure as a result of coronavirus it is hard to see how the Government could afford another stimulus package in early 2021 due to failing to secure a deal without adding to already unprecedented borrowing and potentially testing the patience of gilt buyers.">></p> <p>In considerable and regional detail, this evidence-based report shows how COVID-19 plus No Deal will break the eUK conomy beyond our ability to fix it. And leaves you to draw whatever conclusion you choose. Described by BfB CEO Naomi Smith as "a report commissioned by the Best for Britain group, warning of a profound economic impact of ending the transition period on December 31".</p> <p>31/05/2020 https://www.bestforbritain.org/impactassessment</p> |
| <p>Indirect Tax Matters</p> | <p><i>Indirect Tax Matters</i> May 2020</p> <p><<Is Brexit on track? Some significant bodies both in UK and EU have cast doubt on the current transition deadline (31 December 2020) and that an extension may be sought but more likely later in year. Vicky Price (Chief Economist/Economics & Business Research London) was recently quoted as saying "<i>The government insists that all is on track, but we all suspect NOT</i>", while Mr. Kallum Pickering (Economist Berenberg) said "<i>we should not rule an extension out despite the official position....(UK) ministers would likely accept a 6 or 12 month delay given the circumstances</i>". Chief at Europe and UK Signum</p> |

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| | <p>Global (a political risk advisory body), Ms Anna Rosenberg has said that the coronavirus crisis had increased the odds of an extension from 20% to 60%. >> https://www2.deloitte.com/ie/en/pages/tax/articles/itm-is-brex-it-on-track.</p> |
| <p>Irish Times</p> | <p>https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorial/the-irish-times-view-on-brex-it-delay-is-almost-certain-1.4206256</p> |
| <p>Professor Alex de Ruyter, Director of the Centre for Brexit Studies at Birmingham City University</p> | <p>https://www.express.co.uk/ <<Brexit warning: UK desperately needs trade deal more than EU experts believe</p> <p>Professor Alex de Ruyter, Director of the Centre for Brexit Studies at Birmingham City University, explained to Express.co.uk: “The EU holds all the advantage in the post-Brexit trade talks.</p> <p>"As the UK conducts about half of its trade with the EU, whilst the EU in total only exports about 10 percent of its products to the UK, which will be heavily concentrated in certain sectors like automotive and fall more on countries like Germany.</p> <p>"So whilst both sides would take a hit from ‘No Deal’, the effects would be far more severe for the UK.</p> <p>When asked if the UK should extend the transition period beyond December 31, 2020, Professor de Ruyter added: "Yes, for all the reasons alluded to above. COVID-19 has sapped the ability of Government to devote time and resources to this.</p> <p>"The prospect of a No Deal coming on top of the coronavirus disruption could tip many businesses over the edge and would devastate our manufacturing sector.">></p> <p>[30/06/2020]</p> <p>https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1288279/brexit-news-uk-eu-trade-deal-latest-brex-it-transition-period-boris-johnson-barnier-frost</p> |
| <p>UK Trade Policy Observatory. Prof. L. Alan Winters, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Palitha Konara.</p> | <p>(L. Alan Winters CB is Professor of Economics and Director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO). Mattia Di Ubaldo is a Research Fellow in the Economics of European Trade Policies, and Palitha Konara is a Senior Lecturer in International Business at the University of Sussex. Both are Fellows of the UKTPO.)</p> <p><<COVID-19 will reinforce the Brexit shock.</p> <p>“COVID-19 and Brexit may appear as independent shocks but, in fact, they are interrelated. First, as the UKTPO and many others have argued, because COVID has disrupted the preparation for and conduct of negotiations on the future UK-EU trading arrangements, the UK government should ask for an extension to the transition period. This would allow the UK and EU to work out details of mutual cooperation that will be beneficial on both sides of the channel.</p> <p>Second, COVID and Brexit, in either its ‘No deal’ or its FTA form, are linked in a more direct and more harmful way – company debt. COVID is creating a mountain of debt and this will make the already difficult job of adjusting to Brexit more difficult.”</p> |

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| | <p>27/05/2020 https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/2020/05/27/covid-19-will-reinforce-the-brexit-shock/</p> |
| <p>Rachel Sylvester, <i>The Times</i> / Best for Britain</p> | <p>Rachel Sylvester, <i>The Times</i> / Best for Britain. <<Red Wall Tories won't forgive a no-deal Brexit.</p> <p>Former Labour voters in the north and Midlands say the transition period should be extended to avoid economic harm.</p> <p>“Focus group research conducted last month for Best for Britain in the red wall seats showed that people’s priorities appear to have changed as a result of Covid-19. When voters in Warrington South were asked whether they thought the government should request an extension so they could concentrate on the pandemic, a 53-year-old man replied: “One million per cent. Everyone’s focus is on health and safety. One good thing about coronavirus is that we stop talking about bloody Brexit.” A 59-year-old woman in Bury South agreed that: “people’s health is so much more important than Brexit” while in Don Valley one voter suggested it would be “selfish” for the new Tory MP there to oppose extending the transition period. “It’s then taking the focus off something that is killing people,” they said. “The health of the country has got to come first, the state of the NHS and the economy. . . it’s no good pumping resources into Brexit when it’s needed elsewhere.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>What is more, the Tories’ new supporters in red wall seats would be among the worst affected. Already the industrial heartlands are at the sharp end of a surge in job losses, with workers being made redundant in large numbers and vacancies shrinking as a result of the lockdown. A report by the Social Market Foundation, published at the weekend, warned of the “severe economic disruption” that would face the northwest and the Midlands if the Covid-19 crisis was compounded by a no-deal Brexit. The imposition of tariffs could force up the cost of living, which would have a disproportionate impact on the lowest paid. ”>></p> <p>01/06/2020 https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/red-wall-tories-won-t-forgive-a-no-deal-brexit-spgdmt5pq</p> |
| <p>Nick Cohen</p> | <p>Nick Cohen, <i>The Spectator.</i> <<The lethal combination of Brexit and Covid</p> <p>“The combination of Covid-19 and Brexit is a double whammy. The first was a haymaker that hit Britain from nowhere. The follow up will come when Britain, quite deliberately and with malice aforethought, winds up its fist and punches itself in the face. The economic impact of the virus will be accentuated by the UK leaving the EU without a deal or with a meagre free-trade agreement, warns a grim report, sponsored by the Best for Britain think tank.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The authors put it like this: ‘With public debt spiralling, the Government is boxing itself into a fiscal corner unless it extends the transition period and secures a trade deal at the end of the ongoing negotiations.’</p> <p>Objectively, the recommendation makes sense. If Boris Johnson were to appear at a press conference and announce that he was asking the EU for an extension to the trade talks because of the pandemic, the majority of</p> |

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| | <p>the public would understand. The country, people would reason, had enough to cope with already without adding to its troubles.”>></p> <p>01/06/2020 spectator.co.uk/article/the-lethal-combination-of-brexit-and-covid</p> |
| Full Fact | <p><<<u>Claim that extending the Brexit transition period could cost £380 billion is not credible.</u></p> <p>Claim</p> <p>It will cost the UK £378 billion to extend the transition period between the UK and the EU.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This estimate is based on a one-sided analysis which doesn’t seem to factor in any economic benefit of retaining free trade with the EU during the transition period. Most studies suggest these benefits outweigh potential gains from trade agreements and deregulation after the transition period ends.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>A report published recently by the Centre for Brexit Policy (CBP) warned that the public did not want to see an extension, and that it could cost £378 billion.</p> <p>Neither of these claims is based on credible evidence. The report presents a one-sided viewpoint on the costs of transition, and most studies into the economic impacts of Brexit show leaving the customs union and single market will mean the UK economy is smaller compared to remaining.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>There’s no evidence that a majority of people oppose a transition extension</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The economic analysis is unbalanced and not aligned with other estimates</p> <p>.>></p> <p>04/06/2020 https://fullfact.org/europe/brexit-transition-period-economic-cost-public-opinion/</p> |
| Reuters | <p>Sterling to take a pasting if UK seeks no extension for EU trade talks - Reuters poll</p> <p>Sterling will lose recent gains against the dollar and weaken further if Britain does not ask for an extension to its Brexit transition period by a June 30 deadline to allow more time for talks on a trade deal with the EU, a Reuters poll found. “The fading prospect of an extension to the post-Brexit transition period, and the risk of supply chain disruption at the start of 2021, casts a cloud over (Britain’s) GBP outlook,” said James Smith at ING.</p> <p>04/06/2020 https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-forex-poll-sterling/sterling-to-take-a-pasting-if-uk-seeks-no-extension-for-eu-trade-talks-reuters-poll-idUSKBN23B04C</p> |
| Amber Khan, Young Fabians | <p>Amber Khan IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS, BREXIT MUST BE DELAYED</p> |

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| | <p>“It will be politically difficult for Johnson to deviate from the Brexit hymn sheet, as a delay may be untenable for large swathes of his core base of supporters. But a Brexit delay does not have to undermine our negotiating position with Brussels nor is it a vehicle to simply ‘cancel’ Brexit. A delay would instead be a prudent act that ensures when the UK does leave Europe, it does so on favourable terms and at a time that will maximise our chances of a successful exit.”</p> <p>31/05/2020</p> <p>http://www.youngfabians.org.uk/in_light_of_covid_19_brexit_must_be_delayed</p> |
| <p>Peter Donaghy (Salmon of Data)</p> | <p>Northern Ireland is about to learn the cost of lies Peter Donaghy (Salmon of Data)</p> <p><<The disgraceful refusal of the British government to agree an extension of the transition period, combined with its callous disregard towards businesses and consumers in Northern Ireland, has now raised the very real risk of food shortages and price rises in the middle of winter during a possible peak of new infections during a global pandemic. >></p> <p>06/06/2020</p> <p>https://sluggerotoole.com/2020/06/06/northern-ireland-i-about-to-learn-the-cost-of-lies</p> |
| <p>UK in a Changing Europe</p> | <p><<UK in a Changing Europe. The Brexit Negotiations: A Stocktake, <i>“Extension is needed to ensure a comprehensive UK-EU deal, new academic report finds.</i></p> <p>It is hard to see how the sort of comprehensive deal the UK and EU say they want can be agreed without an extension, a new report by academic think tank UK in a Changing Europe finds.</p> <p>Professor Anand Menon, director of the UK in a Changing Europe, said: “It is little surprise the talks last week did not make any real progress.</p> <p>“If the Government sticks to its guns and refuses to ask for an extension to transition, it is hard to see either how a deal can be agreed, or how the necessary preparations for either deal or no deal can be carried out by either the government or businesses”.</p> <p>Professor Jonathan Portes, senior fellow, UK in a Changing Europe, said: “Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit are major shocks for the UK economy. The interaction of the two is complex and unpredictable, with the potential to amplify some impacts while moderating others.</p> <p>“On balance, the pandemic probably does make the economic risks of exiting transition on January 2021 without a trade deal larger, but considerable uncertainties remain.”</p> <p>Professor Catherine Barnard, senior fellow, UK in a Changing Europe, said “The Withdrawal Agreement provides a legally simple route to extension of the transition period. If that route is not taken, there is serious legal trouble ahead if both sides decide they need more time.”</p> <p>09/06/2020</p> <p>https://ukandeu.ac.uk/extension-is-needed-to-ensure-a-comprehensive-uk-eu-deal-new-academic-report-finds/</p> |

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| | <p>https://ukandeu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/The-Brexit-Negotiations-A-Stocktake-1.pdf</p> <p>https://www.verdict.co.uk/brexit-deal-extension/</p> |
| <p>Jessica Simor QC</p> | <p>Tweet: <<There is a connection between the disastrous approach to Covid19 in the UK and the Brexit issue. The connection is the people - the same people made and are making the policy decisions. We must extend transition now - in reality only three weeks left. #extendtransition>></p> <p>08/06/2020</p> <p>https://twitter.com/JMPSimor/status/1267451907867639809</p> |
| <p>Institute of Government/ EUobserver</p> | <p>EUobserver: By Andrew Rettman.</p> <p><u><<EU and UK stumbling into Irish border crisis</u></p> <p>The looming collapse of the Irish border deal, threatening security, is the elephant in the room in Brexit talks, a top UK <u>think-tank</u> has warned.</p> <p>"Against the background of a global pandemic, it is very difficult to see how preparations to implement the [Irish] protocol can be completed before the end of the year," the Institute for Government <u>said in a report</u> on Saturday (23 May).>></p> <p>25/05/2020</p> <p>https://euobserver.com/brexit/148439</p> <p>Institute for Government</p> <p><<Implementing Brexit. The Northern Ireland protocol by Jess Sargeant, Alex Stojanovic, Haydon Etherington and James Kane</p> <p>“The UK’s decision to leave the EU posed unique challenges for Northern Ireland. As the only part of the country to have a land border with a remaining member state and with a troubled history of violent conflict, changes to the UK–EU relationship would present particular problems for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>This report looks at the implementation of the Northern Ireland protocol. It outlines what it says, how it might work and the challenges of ensuring it is operational before the end of the transition period.</p> <p>It also looks at the long-term consequences of applying future EU law in Northern Ireland and for politics and policy making in the whole of the UK”</p> <p>“Against the background of a global pandemic, it is very difficult to see how preparations to implement the protocol can be completed before the end of the year – given the scale of both the decisions and practical work still required. The UK and the EU should extend the transition period or agree a separate longer implementation period for the Withdrawal Agreement.”>></p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/implementing-brexit-northern-ireland-protocol</p> <p>https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/implementing-brexit-northern-ireland-protocol.pdf</p> |

4. Campaigns, polls and petitions.

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| <p>Mark Lazarowicz, The European Movement in Scotland</p> | <p>Mark Lazarowicz, Chair, The European Movement in Scotland, former Labour MP for Edinburgh North and Leith from 2001 to 2015.</p> <p>“There is no need for this damaging double whammy. Polling points to the fact that 77 per cent of British people (83 per cent of those in Scotland) want a breathing space. They want the UK to ask for an extension to the transition period – but the UK Government continues to rush towards the cliff edge.</p> <p>At the very least we deserve this folly to be debated in Parliament.. A public debate is vital, ensuring that the Opposition can challenge this situation, exposing it for what it is and the damage it will inevitably lead to.”</p> <p>https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/letters/uk-must-ask-eu-brexit-extension-letters-2861198</p> |
| <p>Opinion polls: https://whatukthinks.org/</p> | <p>https://whatukthinks.org/eu/questions/to-what-extent-would-you-support-or-oppose-an-extension-to-the-end-of-the-transition-period-beyond-december-31-this-year/</p> <p>https://whatukthinks.org/eu/questions/should-the-transition-period-be-extended-because-of-the-covid-19-outbreak-or-not-be-extended-despite-the-covid-19-outbreak/</p> <p>https://whatukthinks.org/eu/questions/do-you-think-the-transition-period-should-be-extended-to-allow-more-time-for-trade-negotiations-or-should-it-end-as-planned-on-31st-december/</p> <p>https://whatukthinks.org/eu/questions/would-you-support-or-oppose-extending-the-brexit-transition-period/</p> <p>https://whatukthinks.org/eu/questions/would-you-support-or-oppose-extending-the-brexit-transition-period-because-of-the-coronavirus-outbreak/</p> <p>Polls overview and commentary by John Curtice: https://whatukthinks.org/eu/another-look-at-attitudes-towards-extending-the-transition/</p> |
| <p>Opinion Poll March 29, 2020 by Focaldata for Best for Britain and HOPE not hate</p> | <p>“Two-thirds of Brits (64%) said they agreed with the statement ‘The government should request an extension to the transition period in order to focus properly on the Coronavirus’, whereas a third (36%) agreed with the statement ‘The Brexit transition period must end on 31 December whether a deal has been fixed or not’.</p> <p>While this was broken down into predictable support from those who voted for Labour (84%) and the Lib Dems (83%) at the last election, the first statement was also supported by nearly half of those who voted Conservative (44%) and a fifth of Brexit Party voters (19%).”</p> <p>https://www.bestforbritain.org/poll_brits_want_brexit_transition_extension</p> |
| <p>Opinion Poll April 20, 2020 by Focaldata for Best for Britain and</p> | <p>“The survey of over 2,000 people found that 66 per cent of the public believe the UK government ‘should focus 100% of its energy on dealing with coronavirus for the rest of the year’, including nearly half of Conservative and Leave voters. Of those who support an extension, 64 per cent want the</p> |

HOPE not hate

transition period to be extended ‘indefinitely until the crisis is resolved’.”

“Our new poll, commissioned alongside our partners at HOPE not hate, finds that the general public overwhelmingly support extending the transition period. Two-thirds of respondents said they thought the government ‘should focus 100% of its energy on dealing with Coronavirus for the rest of the year’, whereas only a third (34%) thought the UK government could ‘balance dealing with the Coronavirus outbreak whilst also giving necessary time to negotiate a full trade deal with the EU before the end of the year.’ There was agreement among all age groups and UK regions. Of those who supported an extension, 64 per cent wanted the transition period to be extended ‘indefinitely until the crisis is resolved’, whereas 36 per cent wanted the transition period to be extended ‘for a maximum of a year.’

While some have speculated that the government’s position on extension owes to a fear it will be punished for failing to deliver on its manifesto pledge not to delay Brexit, our data suggests this is not the case.

With some high-profile Brexit supporters conceding the need for an extension, our data indicates that the government has support for extending the transition period among small ‘c’ conservative voters.

- 48% of Conservative voters
- 45% of Brexit Party voters
- 49% of Leave voters

Of those who supported an extension there was strong support for a longer extension:

- 44% of Conservative voters
- 27% of Brexit Party voters
- 43% of Leave voters”

20/04/2020

<https://www.bestforbritain.org/poll-long-transition-extension>

Best for Britain

REPORT: Getting the Best Deal for Britain

The Case and Mechanism for Extending Transition in the Time of Covid-19

28/04/2020

<https://www.bestforbritain.org/report-extend-transition>

Petition:

<https://www.bestforbritain.org/transition-coronavirus>

“Boris Johnson will be forced to extend the transition period in order to focus on the coronavirus outbreak engulfing government, business leaders have today claimed.”

03/04/2020

https://www.bestforbritain.org/pm_will_be_forced_to_extend_transition_claim_business_leaders

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| <p>Naomi Smith (Best for Britain)</p> | <p>Naomi Smith. CEO, Best for Britain. “Voters overwhelmingly want to leave the EU with a comprehensive Brexit deal, something this Government promised as part of its manifesto. "The transition period was designed to give us time to secure that trade deal and make preparations for it to come into effect. "That time has already been decimated by coronavirus. And with fears of a possible second wave of infections around the corner, it would be prudent to plan for the worst and hope for the best. "We urge the Government to reclaim the time stolen by coronavirus by extending the transition period.”</p> <p>17/05/2020 https://www.bestforbritain.org/new-poll-public-expect-to-avoid-no-deal</p> |
| <p>Opinion Poll May 17, 2020 by Focldata for Best for Britain and HOPE not hate</p> | <p>"Three-quarters of those asked said they would prefer that “A UK-EU trade deal comes into force after the transition period”, as opposed to “The UK exits with no EU trade deal”. This includes 64 per cent of Conservative voters and 57 per cent of Leave voters, and is strongly supported across all age groups and UK regions.</p> <p>And with the crisis threatening a second wave of infections as nations around the world begin easing their lockdown restrictions, a majority of the public (59%) now expect the transition period to be extended in order for the Government to fulfil their promise to deliver that trade deal....</p> <p>The poll found that 42% of Conservative and Leave voters now expect the transition period to be extended.”</p> <p>https://www.bestforbritain.org/new-poll-public-expect-to-avoid-no-deal</p> |
| <p>Labour for a European Future</p> | <p>“PETITION: EXTEND BREXIT TRANSITION PERIOD DUE TO CORONAVIRUS</p> <p>We don't have time to negotiate Brexit and deal with Covid19. Sign our petition to call on the Government to extend the transition period so we can deal with the virus now, and negotiate Brexit later. ”</p> <p>08/05/2020 https://www.laboureuropeanfuture.org/latest/petition-covid https://www.laboureuropeanfuture.org/extendbrexittransitionperiodnow</p> |
| <p>Labour for a Socialist Europe</p> | <p><<Public demand for Brexit delay strengthens</p> <p><i>It's only seven weeks until the current deadline for the government to demand an extension (30 June)! Labour must start fighting for this now. If you're a Labour member or trade unionist, please add your name to this call for our party and movement to speak out. >></i></p> <p>https://labourforasocialisteurope.org/category/news/resources/</p> <p><<Richard Corbett (pictured above right) was the last leader of the Labour group in the European Parliament. He explains why he's backing our call for Labour to fight to extend the Brexit transition. You can also add your name to the call here.</p> <p>“The Government’s intention to ignore the Coronavirus crisis in order to complete trade negotiations and force a new UK-EU treaty through this autumn, ending the Brexit transition period in eight months’ time, should alarm people on both sides of the Brexit debate.</p> <p>“Such a reckless and myopic ideological approach to what everyone knows are</p> |

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| | <p>complex negotiations could not come at a worse moment. There was already a strong argument to be made for a longer timetable but, at a time when we should all be working together to fight this terrible virus, the case to extend the transition has surely become overwhelming. We cannot let this government's ideology take precedence over saving lives.">></p> <p>https://labourforasocialisteurope.org/2020/04/20/richard-corbett-on-why-he-backs-the-fight-to-pause-brexite/</p> <p>Petition: "Covid can't wait, Brexit can - extend the Brexit transition period"</p> <p>https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/covid-cant-wait-brexite-can-extend-the-brexite-transition-period/</p> |
| Lord Heseltine/ European Movement | <p>"We must extend the Brexit trade negotiations – it is unforgivable to add more uncertainty on top of Covid-19"</p> <p>17/05/2020</p> <p>https://www.europeanmovement.co.uk/heseltine_we_must_extend_the_transition_period</p> <p>https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/brexit-trade-negotiations-delay-extension-coronavirus-eu-a9519016.html</p> <p>Petition: https://www.europeanmovement.co.uk/delaybrexit4covid19</p> |
| Petition to Parliament | <p>"Extend the transition; delay negotiations until after the coronavirus outbreak</p> <p>The government should consider delaying negotiations so they can concentrate on the coronavirus situation and reduce travel of both EU and UK negotiators. This would necessitate extending the transition period; as there can only be a one off extension, this should be for two years."</p> <p>https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/300412</p> |
| 450 Labour members, including former European Labour leader Richard Corbett , plus ex-MEPs Seb Dance, Theresa Griffin, Julie Ward and Jude Kirton-Darling . | <p><i>LabourList</i>, Open letter. "As Labour members, activists and supporters and trade unionists, we are calling for our party and unions to push for a major extension to the Brexit transition period." 12/05/2020</p> <p>https://labourlist.org/2020/05/ex-labour-meps-tell-starmer-to-push-for-brexit-transition-extension/</p> |
| LabourList readers survey | <p>"Britain is currently in a Brexit transition period that is due to end in December. Do you think Labour should call on the government to extend it?"</p> <p>Yes 75.6% No 17.1% Don't know 7.3%</p> <p>10/05/2020</p> <p>https://labourlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Frame-5.jpg</p> |
| Trade Justice Movement | <p>"Coronavirus is enough to deal with - We must extend the post-Brexit transition to get our EU-UK relationship right"</p> <p>08/04/2020</p> |

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| | <p>https://www.tjm.org.uk/blog/2020/five-reasons-why-we-must-extend-the-post-brexit-transition-period-to-cope-with-coronavirus</p> |
| Volt.UK | <p><<Barnier is to offer a 2 year to delay to the UK's Brexit negotiations. Considering the state of this year, it is clear that there is no possible deal that can be agreed by Christmas that would be good. We urge the Government to accept the olive branch. #brexit >> 27/05/2020</p> <p>https://twitter.com/UkVolt/status/1265662192583618561</p> |
| Stephen Dorrell, European Movement | <p>Stephen Dorrell, campaign video tweet. "Extend the transition. Focus on COVID-19." https://twitter.com/euromove/status/1267429437693255683</p> |
| Swindon for Europe [via Swindon Advertiser] | <p><<Brexit negotiations: Group urges government to consider extension as deadline looms A Swindon group is urging the government to extend the Brexit transition period as the June 30 deadline looms.</p> <p>Swindon for Europe members fear a no deal Brexit could cause chaos and inflict serious damage on the British economy.</p> <p>Steve Rouse said: "People are worried about the damage to jobs and livelihoods the perfect storm that no deal and the pandemic could bring.</p> <p>"Swindon, with its reliance on manufacturing and finance industries is already extremely vulnerable to the effects of Brexit.</p> <p>"Achieving a trade deal was always going to be ambitious within an eleven-month transition period but doing so in the midst of a worldwide pandemic injects massive challenge to the task. Many parliamentarians of all parties voted against a no-deal Brexit last year and right now our government should not create chaos but avoid it."</p> <p>Britain can request an extension of up to two years, if agreed by both parties. The group has asked the by78update its Swindon Brexit report, assessing the risk and identifying the threats and opportunities in various areas including the town's economy and workforce.>></p> <p>https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/18504623.brexit-negotiations-group-urges-government-consider-extension-deadline-approaches/</p> |
| Yorkshire Bylines | <p><<Yorkshire campaign groups call on MPs to extend Brexit transition. The chairs of 13 pro-European campaign groups from across Yorkshire have written to our region's MPs to call for the Brexit transition period to be extended.</p> <p>In their open letter to the Yorkshire MPs, the groups stress that this is, "not an attempt to thwart Brexit. We simply want to avoid creating a cliff edge that risks shortages of both food and medicines as well as further increasing unemployment when as a nation we will be fighting for every job."</p> <p>They have joined a growing number of businesses, trade bodies and national organisations in making this urgent request, including over 50 civil society organisations. The deadline to agree an extension to the transition period is 1 July, just over three weeks away. Last week it became clear that no progress</p> |

has been made in the negotiations with the EU, and Boris Johnson is now rolling back on the commitments he made in the the political declaration that the UK and 27 other EU member states signed in October 2019

Richard Wilson, vice-chair of the European Movement UK and chair of Leeds for Europe said:

“Meeting the shortened deadline for completing the UK’s exit from the European Union was always going to be a challenge, but the havoc wreaked by Covid-19 has made the mammoth task of renegotiating hundreds of expiring agreements between the UK and the EU an intolerable distraction at a time of national crisis when the attention of UK and European governments is, quite rightly, focused on tackling the pandemic.

“There simply isn’t sufficient time for businesses, government and citizens to prepare for another shock to the system in less than seven months’ time. An extension to the Brexit transition is the only sensible course of action.”

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<https://yorkshirebylines.co.uk/yorkshire-campaign-groups-call-on-mps-to-extend-brexit-transition/>

**Louise Brown,
The Northern
Echo.**

The Northern Echo.

<<**Letters: 'It is utter madness not to extend Brexit'**

As someone who grew up around the corner from the Nissan factory, I know just how important it is to the region.

With the news that the plant is not sustainable in the event of a no-deal Brexit, it beggars belief that this Government is not going to ask for an extension to the transition period.

This increases the risk of a no-deal Brexit and thus Nissan leaving our region, taking its 7,000 jobs with it (and thousands more if you include the supply chain).

Whichever way you voted in the EU referendum, it was probably not for this scenario.

In the middle of a pandemic, it is utter madness not to extend to prevent such a no-deal scenario.

The North-East is currently the worst affected by Covid-19 and will soon be the worst affected by a no-deal Brexit too. Please let us not revisit our economic disaster of the pit-closure past and extend the transition period to save the region from ruin.

Louise Brown, Gateshead>>

08/06/2020

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/opinion/letters/18503297.letters-it-utter-madness-not-extend-brexit/>