



BRIEFING PAPER

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Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union

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Summary

In a referendum held on 23 June 2016, the majority of those who voted chose to leave the European Union.

On 29 March 2017, in writing to European Council President Donald Tusk, the Prime Minister formally triggered Article 50 and began the two-year countdown to the UK formally leaving the EU (commonly known as 'Brexit').

The UK had long been expected to leave the European Union at 11pm on 29 March 2019. However, following a House of Commons vote on 14 March 2019, the Government sought permission from the EU to extend Article 50 and agree a later Brexit date.

On 20 March 2019 the Prime Minister wrote to European Council President Donald Tusk, asking to extend Article 50 until 30 June 2019.

Following a European Council meeting the next day, EU27 leaders agreed to grant an extension comprising two possible dates: 22 May 2019, should the Withdrawal Agreement gain approval from MPs; or 12 April 2019, should the Withdrawal Agreement not be approved by the House of Commons.

On 2 April 2019, the Prime Minister announced she will seek a further extension to the Article 50 process and offered to meet the Leader of the Opposition to agree a deal that can win the support of MPs.

At a meeting of the European Council on 10 April 2019, the UK and EU27 agreed to extend Article 50 until 31 October 2019.

This paper provides a timeline of the major events leading up to the referendum and subsequent dates of note, looking ahead to expected events as the UK and EU negotiate Britain's exit.

1. Events leading up to the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016

Key events

17 December 2015: The [European Union Referendum Act](#) receives Royal Assent, providing for a referendum on the UK's future membership of the EU.

22 February 2016: The Prime Minister announces the EU referendum date – 23 June 2016.

23 January 2013 In a speech at Bloomberg, Prime Minister David Cameron discusses the future of the European Union and declares he is in favour of an in-out referendum in the future on the basis of a new settlement for the UK in the EU.

14 April 2015 Launch of the [Conservative Party Manifesto](#) for the 2015 General Election.

This pledges: "Real change in our relationship with the European Union" and commits to "hold an in-out referendum on our membership of the EU before the end of 2017".

25-26 June 2015 Meeting of the [European Council](#). Here, the Prime Minister sets out his plans for an in-out referendum. It is the first step in the negotiation process and the European Council agrees to return to the issue in December.

15-16 October 2015 European Council meeting.

19 October 2015 The Prime Minister makes a [statement](#) to Parliament on the previous week's European Council meeting. He sets out the four things he needs to achieve for the UK's renegotiation package in the areas of economic governance, competitiveness, sovereignty and social benefits and free movement

10 November 2015 David Cameron delivers a [speech](#) on Europe to Chatham House, setting out the case for EU reform and reaffirming his commitment to an EU referendum before the end of 2017.

In a [letter to Donald Tusk](#) the Prime Minister sets out the four areas where he is seeking

reform as part of negotiations on the UK's membership of the EU.

17 December 2015 The [European Union Referendum Act](#) receives Royal Assent. This provides for the holding of a referendum in the UK and Gibraltar on whether the UK should remain a member of the EU.

2 February 2016 Donald Tusk [writes](#) to Members of the European Council on his proposal for a new settlement for the UK within the EU.

The European Council publishes its [Draft Decision](#) concerning a 'New Settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union'.

3 February 2016 The Prime Minister gives a statement to the House of Commons on the progress made regarding the [UK-EU renegotiation](#).

18-19 February 2016 European Council meeting.

19 February 2016 Following the meeting of the European Council, David Cameron gives a [statement](#) outlining his negotiations to secure a deal giving the UK special status in the EU.

22 February 2016 The Prime Minister announces the EU referendum date – 23 June 2016 – after securing a deal on Britain's membership of the EU.

The government publishes [The best of both worlds: the United Kingdom's special status in a reformed European Union](#).

In the House of Commons, David Cameron makes a [statement](#) on the UK's new special status in the EU and announces the date of the referendum.

11-13 April 2016 Published by the Government on 6 April, an [EU referendum leaflet](#) is delivered to every household in the UK, setting out the case for remaining in the EU.

2. Referendum – General Election

Key events

23 June 2016: UK holds referendum on its membership of the EU, with the majority of voters choosing to leave the EU (51.9% of the vote versus 48.1% voting to remain).

24 June 2016: Prime Minister David Cameron announces his intention to resign.

13 July 2016: Theresa May becomes the new UK Prime Minister.

2 October 2016: In her Party Conference speech, Theresa May announces a 'Great Repeal Bill' and confirms Article 50 will be triggered before the end of March 2017.

3 November 2016: High Court gives its judgment in the Gina Miller case, finding in favour of the claimants. The Government announces it will appeal against the decision.

17 January 2017: Prime Minister gives her Lancaster House speech, setting out the Government's 'Plan for Britain' and the priorities that the UK will use to negotiate Brexit.

24 January 2017: Supreme Court rejects the Government's appeal of the Gina Miller case.

26 January 2017: Government publishes *European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill*.

2 February 2017: Government publishes its Brexit White Paper, formally setting out its strategy for the UK to leave the EU.

16 March 2017: *European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act* received Royal Assent.

29 March 2017: Prime Minister triggers Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

30 March 2017: Government publishes the Great Repeal Bill White Paper.

18 April 2017: Prime Minister calls a General Election – to be held on 8 June 2017.

23 June 2016 The UK holds a referendum on its membership of the EU. The question posed to the electorate: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

24 June 2016 Result of the referendum is announced, with the majority of voters choosing to leave the EU. The referendum results are:

Remain: 16,141,241 (48.1%)

Leave: 17,410,742 (51.9%)

In a [statement](#) outside 10 Downing St, Prime Minister David Cameron announces his resignation, though will stay in office until a new leader is in place, which should be by the Conservative Party Conference in October.

EU leaders and the Netherlands EU Presidency release a [statement on the outcome of the UK referendum](#).

27 June 2016	David Cameron gives a statement to the House of Commons on the outcome of the EU Referendum .
28-29 June 2016	European Council meeting, the first since the referendum. Following the meeting on 28 June, the Prime Minister gives a statement and answers questions .
29 June 2016	David Cameron makes a statement to the House of Commons on the first EU Council meeting since the referendum .
13 July 2016	Theresa May becomes the new UK Prime Minister. David Davis is appointed Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.
20 July 2016	Speaking to the President of the European Council, Theresa May suggests that the UK relinquishes the rotating Presidency of the Council, scheduled for the second half of 2017.
13 August 2016	Chancellor Philip Hammond guarantees EU funding beyond the date the UK leaves the EU.
1 September 2016	Writing in the Belfast Telegraph ahead of a trip to Northern Ireland, David Davis insists " We don't want a hard border post Brexit... we remain open for business ."
5 September 2016	David Davis makes a statement to the House of Commons, explaining the work of the Department for Exiting the European Union .
8 September 2016	In an Irish Times article , David Davis insists Ireland will not have to choose between having a strong commitment to the UK or to the EU – it can and should have both. Theresa May holds her first formal bilateral meeting with European Council President Donald Tusk to discuss the UK's withdrawal from the EU.
2 October 2016	In her speech to the Conservative Party Conference , the Prime Minister announces a 'Great Repeal Bill' to repeal the European Communities Act 1972. In the same speech the Prime Minister confirms that she will trigger Article 50 before the end of March 2017 and declares:

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"It is not up to the House of Commons to invoke Article 50, and it is not up to the House of Lords. It is up to the Government to trigger Article 50 and the Government alone".

David Davis announces that the Government plans to repeal the 1972 European Communities Act (ECA).

4 October 2016	The High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland hears a legal challenge to Brexit. The question for the court is whether the UK Government needs the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly to leave the EU.
10 October 2016	David Davis makes a statement to the House of Commons on the next steps in leaving the EU .
13 October 2016	Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland and SNP leader, announces that a Scottish independence referendum bill will be published for consultation. She later says that a second referendum on Scottish independence is likely by 2020.
13, 17-18 October 2016	The High Court hears the Gina Miller case: judicial review proceedings challenging the legality of the UK Government's proposed use of prerogative powers to give notice of intention to leave the EU under Article 50.
20-21 October 2016	European Council meeting. At the end of the session, Theresa May gives a statement regarding the subjects covered in the meeting and takes questions.
24 October 2016	The Prime Minister gives a Statement to the House of Commons on the previous week's meeting of the European Council . Theresa May chairs her first Joint Ministerial Committee meeting with Devolved Administration leaders, with 'exiting the EU' being a major theme of the meeting.
28 October 2016	The High Court in Northern Ireland rules in favour of the UK Government, following the court case heard on 4 October.
3 November 2016	The High Court gives its judgment in R (Gina Miller & Dos Santos) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union . The Court finds in favour of the claimants and

rules the Government cannot, according to the UK's constitutional law, use prerogative powers to give the notice required by Article 50 TEU to withdraw from the European Union. The Government says it will [appeal](#) against the decision and is granted permission to "leapfrog" the Court of Appeal and go directly to the Supreme Court.

The Government maintains its intention to stick to the March 2017 timetable for Article 50 to be invoked.

7 November 2016	David Davis gives a Statement to the House of Commons on the process for invoking Article 50 .
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24 November 2016	Alex Ellis, the current British Ambassador to Brazil, is appointed Director General at the Department for Exiting the European Union and will take up his position in January 2017.
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5-8 December 2016	<p>The UK's Supreme Court hears the Government's appeal against the High Court ruling that Parliament must vote on whether Article 50 can be triggered.</p> <p>For the first time ever, the Supreme Court sits <i>en banc</i>, meaning that all sitting justices hear the case.</p>
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7 December 2016	<p>The House of Commons vote on respecting the outcome of the referendum is passed by a large majority.</p> <p>MPs also call on the Prime Minister to commit to publishing the Government's plan for leaving the EU before Article 50 is invoked.</p>
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3 January 2017	Sir Ivan Rogers, the UK Permanent Representative to the EU, resigns.
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4 January 2017	Sir Tim Barrow is appointed as UK Permanent Representative to the EU , taking up the role the following week.
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17 January 2017	<p>David Davis gives a statement to the House of Commons on the 'New Partnership with the EU'.</p> <p>In a speech at Lancaster House the Prime Minister sets out the government's 'Plan for Britain' – the plan for leaving the EU – which includes 12 priorities that the UK Government</p>

will use to negotiate Brexit: [The government's negotiating objectives for exiting the EU](#).

19 January 2017

The Prime Minister writes in *The Times* Scotland on her plans for the whole of the UK to benefit post-Brexit: "[I want an exit that will work for all of us](#)"

Writing in *The Sun*, Theresa May explains how the Government's plan for exiting the EU fits into her wider plan for a better Britain: "[We will create a fairer society](#)".

Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Theresa May speaks about her plans for Brexit and a Global Britain: [Davos 2017: Prime Minister's speech](#).

24 January 2017

The Supreme Court [rejects](#) (by a majority of 8 to 3) the Government's appeal against the November 2016 High Court ruling and states that Ministers "require the authority of primary legislation" in order to give the Article 50 notice.

On the devolution questions raised, the Court unanimously holds that the UK Parliament is not legally required to seek consent from the devolved legislatures.

Responding to the Supreme Court's ruling, the Government issues the following statement:

"The British people voted to leave the EU, and the government will deliver on their verdict – triggering Article 50, as planned, by the end of March. Today's ruling does nothing to change that.

It's important to remember that Parliament backed the referendum by a margin of 6 to 1 and has already indicated its support for getting on with the process of exit to the timetable we have set out.

We respect the Supreme Court's decision, and will set out our next steps to Parliament shortly".

David Davis gives a statement to the House of Commons on [Article 50](#), in response to the judgment by the Supreme Court.

26 January 2017

With legislation a requirement following the Supreme Court's ruling, the Government publishes a draft Bill that will allow the UK to start the process of leaving the EU: [The](#)

[European Union \(Notification of Withdrawal\) Bill.](#)

The Bill is very short, with only one operative clause:

1. Power to notify withdrawal from the EU

(1) The Prime Minister may notify, under Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union, the United Kingdom's intention to withdraw from the EU.

(2) This section has effect despite any provision made by or under the European Communities Act 1972 or any other enactment.

30 January 2017	Writing in the <i>Irish Times</i> , the Prime Minister sets out the Government's commitment to the UK's relationship with the Republic of Ireland: I want Ireland and the UK to have a stronger relationship after Brexit.
1 February 2017	The European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill passes its Second Reading in the House of Commons by 498 votes to 114.
2 February 2017	The Government publishes its Brexit White Paper, formally setting out its strategy for exiting the EU: The United Kingdom's exit from, and new partnership with, the European Union. Following publication of the Brexit White Paper, David Davis gives a statement to the House of Commons.
6 February 2017	The Prime Minister gives a statement to Parliament on issues discussed at the informal European Council in Malta: migration, America and Brexit.
7 February 2017	UK ministers hold the first meeting of a new forum dedicated to discussing the implications of Brexit for the Overseas Territories.
8 February 2017	The European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill passes its Third Reading in the House of Commons, by 494 votes to 122. The Bill now moves to the House of Lords.

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17 February 2017	To coincide with a visit to Downing Street by French Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, Theresa May writes in French newspaper Le Figaro: " We have voted to leave the EU, but not Europe " (English translation).
1 March 2017	Ministers hold the second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council to discuss Gibraltar's priorities as the UK prepares to exit the EU.
9-10 March 2017	The Prime Minister meets EU leaders at the European Council in Brussels.
13 March 2017	Parliament passes the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill.
14 March 2017	Theresa May gives a statement to Parliament on the March European Council meeting and the next steps in preparing to trigger Article 50.
16 March 2017	<p>In receiving Royal Assent, the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act gives the Government the legal power to notify the European Council of the UK's intention to leave the EU, formally beginning the Brexit process.</p> <p>David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, says:</p> <p>"The Queen has today given Royal Assent to the Article 50 Bill, giving the government the formal power to trigger Article 50 and deliver on the will of the British people.</p> <p>By the end of the month we will invoke Article 50, allowing us to start our negotiations to build a positive new partnership with our friends and neighbours in the European Union, as well as taking a step out into the world as a truly Global Britain."</p>
20 March 2017	Sir Tim Barrow, the UK's Permanent Representative to the European Union, informs Donald Tusk of the UK's intention to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty on 29 March 2017.
29 March 2017	Theresa May writes to European Council President Donald Tusk to notify him of the UK's intention to leave the EU: Prime Minister's letter to Donald Tusk triggering Article 50 .

The Prime Minister makes a statement to Parliament on [Article 50](#).

30 March 2017	<p>The Government publishes the Great Repeal Bill White Paper.</p> <p>David Davis gives a statement to Parliament: Legislating for UK Withdrawal from the EU.</p>
31 March 2017	<p>The President of the European Council publishes draft negotiation guidelines for the 'EU 27' (the EU members excluding the UK).</p>
6 April 2017	<p>Theresa May meets with Donald Tusk in Downing Street and she reiterates the UK's desire to ensure a deep and special partnership with the EU following its exit from the Union. The PM also reaffirms the UK's position on Gibraltar and insists there will be no negotiation on the territory's sovereignty.</p>
18 April 2017	<p>The Prime Minister calls a General Election to be held on 8 June 2017.</p>
19 April 2017	<p>MPs approve a motion for an Early Parliamentary General Election by 522 votes to 13.</p>
29 April 2017	<p>EU-27 leaders meet at the first summit since the UK officially triggered Article 50.</p> <p>In this Special European Council (Article 50), meeting, the EU-27 nations unanimously adopt guidelines for the Brexit negotiations ahead.</p> <p>The UK Government publishes a 'Northern Ireland and Ireland Position Paper', outlining the UK's position on how to address the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland and Ireland in light of the UK's withdrawal from – and new partnership with – the EU.</p>
3 May 2017	<p>Dissolution of Parliament at 00:01am.</p>
7 May 2017	<p>Second round of French presidential elections.</p> <p>Pro-European Emmanuel Macron defeats Marine Le Pen to win the French presidency, taking over 66% of the vote.</p>
16 May 2017	<p>The Labour party launches its 2017 General Election manifesto.</p>

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In the section on [Brexit](#), the party's pledges include:

Labour accepts the referendum result and a Labour government will put the national interest first.

We will prioritise jobs and living standards, build a close new relationship with the EU, protect workers' rights and environmental standards, provide certainty to EU nationals and give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations.

To scrap the Conservatives' Brexit White Paper and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities that have a strong emphasis on retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union.

A Labour government will immediately guarantee existing rights for all EU nationals living in Britain and secure reciprocal rights for UK citizens who have chosen to make their lives in EU countries.

17 May 2017

The Liberal Democrat Party launches its election [manifesto](#).

On [Europe](#), the Liberal Democrats promise:

When the terms of our future relationship with the EU have been negotiated (over the next two years on the Government's timetable), we will put that deal to a vote of the British people in a referendum, with the alternative option of staying in the EU on the ballot paper.

To press for the UK to unilaterally guarantee the rights of EU nationals in the UK.

Continued membership of the single market and customs union.

18 May 2017

The Conservative Party launches its [manifesto](#) for the upcoming General Election.

The manifesto includes several policies related to Brexit, including the following pledges:

As we leave the European Union, we will no longer be members of the single market or customs union but we will seek a deep and special partnership including a comprehensive free trade and customs agreement.

The final agreement will be subject to a vote in both houses of parliament.

To agree the terms of our future partnership alongside our withdrawal, reaching agreement on both within the two years allowed by Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

Once EU law has been converted into domestic law, parliament will be able to pass legislation to amend, repeal or improve any piece of EU law it chooses, as will the devolved legislatures, where they have the power to do so.

3. General Election – close of Phase 1

Key events

8 June 2017: General Election results in a hung Parliament, with the Conservatives winning the most seats and Theresa May forming a government.

19 June 2017: First round of UK-EU exit negotiations begin.

21 June 2017: State Opening of Parliament – Queen's Speech includes a 'Great Repeal Bill'.

13 July 2017: Government introduces the *European Union (Withdrawal) Bill*, commonly referred to as the 'Great Repeal Bill'.

12 September 2017: EU Withdrawal Bill passes Second Reading in the House of Commons.

22 September 2017: Prime Minister delivers her key Brexit speech in Florence, setting out the UK's position on moving the Brexit talks forward.

19-20 October 2017: European Council meeting to assess progress on the first phase of Brexit negotiations.

13 November 2017: Government outlines plans for a *Withdrawal Agreement and Implementation Bill*.

8 December 2017: UK and EU publish a Joint Report on progress made during Phase 1 of negotiations. This concludes Phase 1 of negotiations and both sides move to Phase 2.

8 June 2017	General Election in the UK. The election results in a hung Parliament, with the Conservatives winning the most seats.
9 June 2017	Theresa May goes to the Queen and later, outside Downing St, announces she is forming a government.
17 June 2017	The government confirms that Parliament will sit for two years instead of the usual one, to give MPs enough time to fully consider the laws required to make Britain ready for Brexit.
19 June 2017	The first round of EU exit negotiations begins. The UK and the European Commission, representing the EU, agree the Terms of reference for the Article 50 negotiations between the UK and the EU . Later, David Davis gives a statement following this opening round of the talks.
21 June 2017	State Opening of Parliament. The Queen's Speech includes a 'Great Repeal Bill' in the

Government's legislative programme and other Brexit-related Bills. The Queen announces:

"A Bill will be introduced to repeal the European Communities Act and provide certainty for individuals and businesses. This will be complemented by legislation to ensure that the United Kingdom makes a success of Brexit, establishing new national policies on immigration, international sanctions, nuclear safeguards, agriculture and fisheries.

My Government will seek to maintain a deep and special partnership with European allies and to forge new trading relationships across the globe. New Bills on trade and customs will help to implement an independent trade policy, and support will be given to help British businesses export to markets around the world."

In a [Debate on the Address](#) following the Queen's Speech, the Prime Minister gives a brief outline of Brexit-related Bills:

The first part of this Queen's Speech is of course about Brexit—a Brexit deal that works for every part of the country and commands the greatest possible public support. Over 80% of the electorate backed the two major parties, both of which campaigned on manifestos that said that we should honour the democratic decision of the British people, so this Government will respect the will of the British people and see Brexit through. We will seek to build a wide consensus as we do this and as we take Bills through the House, including a trade Bill, a repeal Bill, and an immigration Bill, as has been referred to, and also a Bill to deal with control of access to our waters for fishermen and a new Bill on agriculture to give greater stability to farmers.

23 June 2017

The Prime Minister gives a [press statement](#) on a number of subjects covered at the European Council June 2017 meeting, including giving reassurance to EU citizens living in the UK.

26 June 2017

Theresa May gives a statement to Parliament following the weekend's [European Council](#). This Council followed the formal start of the negotiations for the UK's departure from the

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EU and comes on the first anniversary of the referendum that led to that decision.

In her statement, the Prime Minister outlines several points with regards to the rights of EU citizens living in the UK.

In conjunction with this statement, the government publishes a [policy paper](#) on the rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK nations in the EU.

David Davis opens the Queen's Speech debate on "[Brexit and Foreign Affairs](#)."

11 July 2017	David Davis gives evidence to the Lords EU Committee for its inquiry on scrutiny of the Brexit negotiations.
13 July 2017	<p>The Government introduces the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.</p> <p>Ahead of the second round of exit negotiations the following week, the Government also publishes position papers laying out the UK's approach on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing Union Judicial and Administrative Proceedings• Nuclear materials and safeguards issues• Privileges and Immunities <p>The Government publishes a technical note considering how the UK's withdrawal agreement with the EU should be implemented in UK law.</p>
14 July 2017	The second round of EU exit negotiations begins.
20 July 2017	At the conclusion of the second round of talks, David Davis makes a statement .
10 August 2017	Brexit Minister Robin Walker completes a three-day tour of the Crown Dependencies , having discussed the implications of Brexit with the Chief Ministers of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.
15 August 2017	In the first of a series of papers on the UK's future partnership with the EU, the Government sets out proposals for a future customs relationship .

16 August 2017	The Government publishes a position paper on Northern Ireland and Ireland , proposing no physical infrastructure at the border.
21 August 2017	Ahead of the third round of exit negotiations, the Government publishes position papers outlining the UK's negotiating approach to goods on the market and to confidentiality and access to the official documents .
22 August 2017	The Government publishes a future partnership paper outlining the UK's position on providing a cross-border civil judicial cooperation framework .
23 August 2017	A future partnership paper discussing options for enforcement and dispute resolution mechanisms for UK-EU agreements is published by the Government.
24 August 2017	In the latest of a series of papers looking at the UK's partnership with the EU post-Brexit, the Government outlines proposals for a shared approach on data protection .
28 August 2017	The third round of UK-EU negotiations begins. The Government publishes a series of Technical Notes on functionality and Protocol 7 , on existing contracts for the supply of nuclear material , and on spent fuel and radioactive waste .
31 August 2017	At the conclusion of the third round of exit talks, David Davis gives a statement .
5 September 2017	David Davis gives a statement to the House of Commons on EU exit negotiations , updating Members on the July and August negotiating rounds.
6 September 2017	The government publishes a future partnership paper outlining the UK's objectives for continued collaboration on science and innovation .
7, 11 September 2017	The <i>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</i> has its Second Reading: Day One ; Day Two .
12 September 2017	After the EU Withdrawal Bill passes its Second Reading, the Prime Minister says: "Earlier this morning Parliament took a historic decision to back the will of the

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British people and vote for a bill which gives certainty and clarity ahead of our withdrawal from the European Union.

Although there is more to do, this decision means we can move on with negotiations with solid foundations and we continue to encourage MPs from all parts of the UK to work together in support of this vital piece of legislation.”

The Government publishes its latest future partnership paper, outlining the UK's objectives on [foreign policy, defence and development](#).

18 September 2017	The Government publishes the latest in the series of future partnership papers, discussing the options for security, law enforcement and criminal justice .
22 September 2017	The Prime Minister delivers a key Brexit speech in Florence , setting out the UK's position on how to move the Brexit talks forward and offering a transition period after the UK formally leaves the EU in March 2019.
24 September 2017	Federal elections in Germany. Angela Merkel secures a fourth term as German Chancellor.
25 September 2017	The fourth round of UK-EU Brexit negotiations begins.
26 September 2017	The Prime Minister meets with European Council President Donald Tusk.
28 September 2017	David Davis gives a statement following the conclusion of the fourth round of talks. The Government publishes the latest (September) edition of the technical note on the comparison of EU-UK positions on citizens' rights .
3 October 2017	The European Parliament adopts a Resolution on the state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom .
6 October 2017	Theresa May hosts a Business Advisory Council meeting at Downing St, to hear the views of business leaders on Brexit.
9 October 2017	The fifth round of negotiations begins in Brussels.

The Prime Minister updates the House of Commons on [UK plans for leaving the EU](#).

The Government publishes two White Papers on [preparing for our future UK trade policy](#) and the [Customs Bill: legislating for the UK's future customs, VAT and excise regimes](#).

12 October 2017	Following the fifth round of UK-EU negotiations, David Davis gives a statement .
16 October 2017	A joint statement is issued by the Prime Minister and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, following their working dinner in Brussels.
17 October 2017	David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, gives a statement to Parliament on the fifth round of negotiations with the EU.
19 October 2017	Ahead of EU Council, Prime Minister Theresa May writes an open letter to EU citizens living in the UK.
19-20 October 2017	European Council meeting , including EU27 considering whether 'sufficient progress' has been made on Phase 1 of the Brexit negotiations
20 October 2017	Theresa May gives a statement to the press while in Brussels for a European Council summit.
23 October 2017	The Prime Minister gives a statement to the House of Commons on the October meeting of the European Council.
25 October 2017	David Davis gives evidence to the Exiting the EU Committee, for its inquiry into progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal.
30 October 2017	Theresa May meets with First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, and explains the UK Government's priority to deliver a successful EU exit that will work for the whole of the UK, with relevant repatriated powers passed to the devolved administrations.
31 October 2017	David Davis gives further evidence to the Lords EU Committee for its inquiry on scrutiny of the Brexit negotiations.

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2 November 2017	At a roundtable discussion, government ministers meet with consumer groups to ensure consumer rights and protections are maintained once Britain leave the EU.
6 November 2017	Robin Walker (Minister at the Department for Exiting the European Union) and Alun Cairns (Secretary of State for Wales) hold an evidence session in front of committees at the National Assembly for Wales, answering questions on the EU Withdrawal Bill.
7 November 2017	<p>The Government sets out further details of how its new settled status scheme – for EU citizens and their families – will work.</p> <p>The scheme is set out in a policy paper sent to the European Commission as part of the Brexit negotiations: Citizens' rights: administrative procedures in the UK.</p>
8 November 2017	In a visit to Warsaw, David Davis reaffirms the UK's commitment to strengthening its relationships across Europe after exit.
9-10 November 2017	Further UK-EU negotiations take place in Brussels.
10 November 2017	At the conclusion of the latest round of UK-EU negotiations, David Davis gives a statement .
13 November 2017	<p>The Government announces a new Bill to enshrine the Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU in domestic law. In a statement to the House of Commons, David Davis outlines plans for a <i>Withdrawal Agreement and Implementation Bill</i>.</p> <p>The Prime Minister chairs a roundtable with leaders of Europe's key business organisations, to discuss shared opportunities for industry as the UK prepares to leave the EU.</p> <p>At the European Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels, Defence Minister Lord Howe reaffirms the UK's commitment to European security, saying:</p> <p>We are leaving the European Union but not Europe, and regional security remains top of our agenda in the face of increased Russian assertiveness.</p> <p>With challenges to our common security becoming more serious, our</p>

response must be to work together more closely.

14 November 2017 David Davis gives a [speech at UBS](#), to reassure financial institutions that the UK Government hopes to strike a deal with the EU allowing City firms to move staff in and out of the UK.

The *European Union (Withdrawal) Bill* begins its Committee Stage.

16 November 2017 In a [speech to the Süddeutsche Zeitung Economic Summit](#) in Berlin, David Davis warns the EU not to put 'politics above prosperity'.

17 November 2017 Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson writes in the Irish Times, explaining how the [UK and Ireland can strengthen ties via Brexit](#).

23 November 2017 David Davis visits Estonia and pledges that the UK will remain the greatest ally of European partners in matters of security and defence after Brexit.

8 December 2017 The UK and EU publish a [Joint Report on progress during Phase 1 of negotiations under Article 50 TEU on the UK's orderly withdrawal from the EU](#).

This concludes Phase 1 of the negotiations and both sides agree to move to Phase 2 in January 2018 – talks on transition and the framework for future EU-UK relations.

4. Close of Phase 1 – *EU (Withdrawal) Act* becomes law

Key events

11 December 2017: Prime Minister updates Parliament on Brexit negotiations.

18 January 2018: The *European Union (Withdrawal) Bill* has its First Reading in the House of Lords.

2 March 2018: Prime Minister gives a speech at Mansion House on the UK's future economic partnership with the European Union.

14 March 2018: The European Parliament endorses a resolution laying out a possible association agreement framework for future EU-UK relations after Brexit.

19 March 2018: The amended Draft Withdrawal Agreement is published.

16 May 2018: The *European Union (Withdrawal) Bill* finishes its House of Lords stages and goes into parliamentary ping pong

26 June 2018: The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill receives Royal Assent and becomes an Act of Parliament: the European Union (Withdrawal) Act.

11 December 2017 The Prime Minister updates the House of Commons on [Brexit Negotiations](#) for the UK's departure from the European Union.

In a meeting with Gibraltar's Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Joseph Garcia, Minister Robin Walker reiterates the Government's commitment to securing a Brexit deal that works for Gibraltar. This is the fifth meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council (Gibraltar EU Negotiations).

15 December 2017 The European Council adopts new [guidelines](#) for Phase 2 (the guidelines agreed on 29 April 2017 will continue to apply in Phase 2.)

18 December 2017 The Prime Minister gives a [statement to Parliament](#) on the previous week's European Council meeting.

19 December 2017 Home Secretary Amber Rudd writes an [open letter](#) to EU citizens in the UK, outlining the agreement reached with the EU on their future rights.

20 December 2017 Theresa May writes an [open letter](#) to UK nationals living in Europe.

The European Commission issues a [Recommendation for a Council Decision](#) to supplement the May 2017 Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations. The Annex

to the Council Decision contains draft negotiating directives for the second phase.

10 January 2018	German newspaper <i>Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung</i> publishes a joint article by Philip Hammond and David Davis, highlighting the importance of the relationship between the UK and Germany.
16 January 2018	The <i>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</i> has its first day in Report Stage.
18 January 2018	First Reading of the <i>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</i> in the House of Lords.
24 January 2018	David Davis gives evidence to the Exiting the EU Committee, for its inquiry into progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal.
26 January 2018	The Chancellor, Brexit Secretary and Business Secretary write an open letter to businesses , setting out the UK's ambitions for an 'implementation period' (transition period) following Brexit.
29 January 2018	The European Commission's new negotiating directives are adopted by the General Affairs (Article 50) Council. The Council notes the importance of translating the commitments in the December 2017 Joint Report into 'legal text'. David Davis gives evidence to the Lords EU Committee for its inquiry on scrutiny of the Brexit negotiations.
30-31 January 2018	The <i>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</i> has its Second Reading in the House of Lords.
5 February 2018	David Davis, UK Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, and Michel Barnier, the EU Chief Negotiator, hold an informal meeting focussing on three issues: the transition period, the Ireland/Northern Ireland border and governance of the withdrawal agreement.
6-8 February 2018	The seventh round of UK-EU Article 50 negotiations takes place.
7 February 2018	The European Commission publishes an amendable draft legal text on transition. This partially reflects the January 2018 negotiation directives on the transition period. It is a Commission proposal and not yet the official position of the Council, which may amend it.

26 Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union

8 February 2018	<p>The Government publishes a Technical Note outlining the UK's position on international agreements during the implementation period.</p> <p>The Prime Minister holds a roundtable with senior representatives of Japanese businesses that are significant investors in the UK, discussing the opportunities and challenges presented by the UK's exit from the EU.</p>
14 February 2018	<p>In a speech, the Foreign Secretary sets out the path for an outward-facing, liberal and global Britain following its exit from the EU.</p>
16 February 2018	<p>Discussions begin to give residents from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (EEA/EFTA states) similar rights post-Brexit as those from EU Member States.</p>
17 February 2018	<p>The Prime Minister delivers a speech about Brexit and security cooperation at the Munich Security Conference.</p>
19-20 February 2018	<p>Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations take place.</p>
20 February 2018	<p>David Davis gives a speech in Vienna on delivering a Future Economic Partnership.</p> <p>Guy Verhofstadt MEP, European Parliament Brexit Coordinator, gives evidence to the Lords EU Committee for its inquiry on scrutiny of the Brexit negotiations.</p>
21 February 2018	<p>The Government responds to the European Commission's legal text on transition in a Draft text for discussion: implementation period.</p> <p>The <i>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</i> begins its Committee Stage sittings in the House of Lords.</p> <p>Michel Barnier, the EU's Chief Negotiator on Brexit, gives evidence to the Lords EU Committee for its inquiry on scrutiny of the Brexit negotiations.</p>
26-27 February 2018	<p>Another round of UK-EU Article 50 negotiations takes place.</p>
27 February 2018	<p>Michel Barnier updates the European Council (in EU27 format) on the latest developments in the EU-UK Brexit negotiations.</p>
28 February 2018	<p>The European Commission publishes the draft Withdrawal Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom.</p>

This translates into legal terms the Joint Report from the negotiators of the EU and the UK Government from December 2017 on the first phase of negotiations.

It also proposes text, on the basis of EU positions, for other withdrawal issues that are mentioned in the joint report but have not been subject to an agreement yet.

The draft Withdrawal Agreement will now be sent to the Council (Article 50) and the European Parliament's Brexit Steering Group for discussion, before being transmitted to the UK for negotiation.

1 March 2018	The Prime Minister meets European Council President Donald Tusk in Downing St to discuss progress made in the Brexit negotiations and to look ahead to the European Council later in March.
2 March 2018	Theresa May gives a speech at Mansion House , on the UK's future economic partnership with the European Union.
5 March 2018	<p>The Prime Minister gives a statement to the House of Commons on the UK's future economic partnership with the European Union.</p> <p>Minister Robin Walker hosts the Chief Ministers from Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man to give them an update on the UK's exit from the EU.</p>
5-7 March 2018	Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations
6 March 2018	Theresa May meets with Guy Verhofstadt MEP at Downing St, discussing the importance citizens' rights and a commitment to avoiding a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland.
7 March 2018	European Council President, Donald Tusk, issues draft guidelines on the framework for the EU's post-Brexit relations with the UK.
8 March 2018	Following the latest meeting of the JMC(GEN), the UK and Gibraltar announce a series of measures to secure the UK-Gibraltar relationship.
13-15 March 2018	Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.

28 Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union

14 March 2018	<p>The European Parliament endorses a resolution laying out a possible association agreement framework for future EU-UK relations after Brexit.</p> <p>Opening session – at coordinators' level – of meetings on issues related to Ireland/Northern Ireland. The opening session looking at objectives of the exercise and an agreement of follow-up work.</p> <p>The First Ministers of Scotland and Wales, along with representatives from the Northern Ireland Civil Service, visit Downing Street for an update and discussion on EU negotiations and the EU Withdrawal Bill.</p>
16-19 March 2018	<p>Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.</p>
19 March 2018	<p>David Davis gives a statement in Brussels following the conclusion of the latest round of Article 50 negotiations.</p> <p>The amended Draft Withdrawal Agreement is published. This includes agreed legal text for the implementation period, citizens' rights, and the financial settlement, as well as a significant number of other articles. The UK and the EU negotiating teams state their aim to finalise the entire Withdrawal Agreement by October 2018.</p>
21 March 2018	<p>The Foreign Secretary announces the creation of 250 new diplomatic roles over the next two years, with ten new embassies/high commissions to be opened.</p> <p>This action is part of the government's Global Britain vision, strengthening relationships with countries around the world as the UK leaves the EU.</p>
23 March 2018	<p>The European Council (in EU27 format) adopt guidelines on the framework for post-Brexit relations with the UK.</p>
26 March 2018	<p>The Prime Minister gives a statement to Parliament on the previous week's European Council meeting and Brexit negotiations.</p>
29 March 2018	<p>To mark one year to go until Brexit, Theresa May visits each nation of the UK, outlining her determination to deliver a Brexit deal that works for every community and protects the integrity of the UK.</p>

4 April 2018	The House of Commons Committee on Exiting the European Union publishes its report on The future UK-EU relationship .
16-18 April 2018	Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.
25 April 2018	<p>David Davis gives further evidence to the Exiting the EU Committee, for its inquiry into the progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal.</p> <p>Ministers hold a Brexit roundtable with senior representatives from the UK aviation industry, to discuss post-Brexit priorities and to offer reassurance that aviation access will remain the same during the implementation period.</p>
1 May 2018	David Davis gives further evidence to the Lords EU Committee for its inquiry on scrutiny of the Brexit negotiations.
16 May 2018	The <i>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</i> finishes its House of Lords stages and goes into parliamentary ping pong.
17 May 2018	<p>In a trilateral meeting at the Western Balkans Summit in Sofia, Theresa May discusses the progress of the Brexit negotiations with President Juncker and President Tusk.</p> <p>The Prime Minister also meets with Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and agree on their shared commitment to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.</p>
22-24 May 2018	Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.
5 June 2018	At the latest Joint Ministerial Council (Gibraltar EU Negotiations) in London, the UK and Gibraltar confirm their commitment to continue to work together to achieve a Brexit deal that fully recognises the priorities of the Gibraltar.
5-8 June 2018	Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.
6 June 2018	<p>David Davis delivers a speech to RUSI on Brexit and Security.</p> <p>In his speech, the Brexit Secretary accused the EU of “shooting itself in the foot to see if the gun works”, in planning to weaken security ties with the UK after Brexit.</p>

30 Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union

19 June 2018	The UK and the European Commission publish a joint statement outlining the progress achieved on the draft Withdrawal Agreement since its publication three months earlier.
19-20 June 2018	Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.
21 June 2018	Caroline Noakes, the Minister for Immigration, gives a statement to the House of Commons on the new settlement scheme for resident EU citizens and their family members.
25 June 2018	Theresa May meets with European Council President https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-meeting-with-donald-tusk-25-june-2018 Donald Tusk in Downing St, ahead of the upcoming European Council meeting in Brussels. Northern Ireland Secretary Karen Bradley holds a series of meetings in Brussels. She meets with Michel Barnier to reinforce the government's commitment to upholding Northern Ireland's interests and to help secure a deal that works for the whole of the UK.
26 June 2018	The <i>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</i> receives Royal Assent and becomes an Act of Parliament: the European Union (Withdrawal) Act .

5. *EU (Withdrawal) Act* becomes law – the ‘Meaningful Vote’

Key events

26 June 2018: The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill receives Royal Assent and becomes an Act of Parliament: the European Union (Withdrawal) Act.

6 July 2018: The Cabinet meets at Chequers to agree a collective position for the future Brexit negotiations with the EU.

9 July 2018: David Davis resigns as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and is replaced by Dominic Raab.

24 July 2018: Government publishes White Paper on future UK-EU relations.

23 August 2018: The government publishes the first collection of technical notices providing guidance on how to prepare for a no-deal Brexit.

19-20 September 2018: EU leaders hold an informal summit in Salzburg.

29 October 2018: Budget Day, the last Budget before the UK leaves the EU.

14 November 2018: The Withdrawal Agreement is agreed and published.

15 November 2018: Brexit Secretary resigns as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and is replaced by Stephen Barclay the following day.

25 November 2018: At a special meeting of the European Council, EU27 leaders endorse the Withdrawal Agreement and approve the political declaration on future EU-UK relations.

4 December 2018: MPs begin the first of five days of Brexit debates, leading up to the ‘Meaningful Vote’ on 11 December.

5 December 2018: Government publishes the Attorney General’s legal advice to Cabinet on the Protocol to the Withdrawal Agreement on Ireland and Northern Ireland.

10 December 2018: CJEU issues its judgment on the *Wightman* case, finding unilateral revocation of Article 50 TEU is a sovereign right for any Member State to pursue. Later, the Prime Minister pulls tomorrow’s planned final vote on her Brexit deal.

11 December 2018: Theresa May wins a vote of confidence in her leadership of the Conservative Party.

8 January 2019: Report Stage and Third Reading of *Finance (No. 3) Bill*: in a defeat for the Prime Minister, MPs approve an amendment limiting the Government’s financial powers in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

9 January 2019: As five days of Brexit debates begin – leading to a ‘Meaningful Vote’ on 15 January – an amendment to the business motion is passed, giving the Prime Minister only three days to present a ‘Plan B’ Brexit plan if she loses meaningful vote. The deadline was originally 21 days.

15 January 2019: The Prime Minister loses the ‘Meaningful Vote’ and the Leader of the Opposition tables a motion of no confidence in the Government.

32 Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union

26 June 2018	The <i>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</i> receives Royal Assent and becomes an Act of Parliament: the European Union (Withdrawal) Act .
28-29 June 2018	European Council meeting. On the final day, EU leaders discuss Brexit in an EU27 format. The Conclusions adopted by the European Council are published.
2 July 2018	The Prime Minister gives a Statement to the House of Commons on the European Council.
6 July 2018	The Cabinet meets at Chequers to agree a collective position for the future Brexit negotiations with the EU. The proposals will be published as a White Paper the following week.
9 July 2018	David Davis resigns as Brexit Secretary, telling the BBC he felt the UK was “giving away too much and too easily” to the EU in the Brexit negotiations. Dominic Raab is appointed as the new Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union. Theresa May gives a statement to the House of Commons on leaving the EU. She outlines the Cabinet agreement made at Chequers, a proposal that forms a basis for progressing negotiations with the EU towards a new relationship after the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019.
12 July 2018	Dominic Raab gives a Statement to the House of Commons on the UK's future relationship with the EU, tying in with the publication of the Government's White Paper on the subject. Scottish Secretary David Mundell hosts an EU exit roundtable with business in Edinburgh, updating them on the UK Government's proposals for exiting the EU.
16-19 July 2018	Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.
18 July 2018	Theresa May delivers a speech in Belfast , emphasising her personal commitment to the strength of the UK's four nations and addressing Northern Ireland's unique circumstances. This includes remarks on the Belfast Agreement, power-sharing devolution and the border issue.

20 July 2018	<p>The European Council (EU27 format) and the EU negotiator Michel Barnier assess the state of Brexit negotiations.</p> <p>Ministers discuss the work to finalise the withdrawal agreement, including a solution to the Irish border issue, as well as future EU-UK relations.</p>
24 July 2018	<p>Dominic Raab gives a Statement to the House of Commons on the publication of the White Paper on Legislating for the Withdrawal Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union.</p>
24-26 July 2018	<p>Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.</p>
14-16 August 2018	<p>Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt visits Finland, Latvia, Denmark and the Netherlands to continue talks with European partners ahead of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Mr Hunt meets his counterparts in all four countries.</p>
16-17 August 2018	<p>Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.</p>
21-22 August 2018	<p>Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.</p>
23 August 2018	<p>The government publishes the first collection of technical notices providing guidance on how to prepare for a no-deal Brexit.</p> <p>In conjunction with this, Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab gives a speech on no-deal planning.</p>
29-31 August 2018	<p>Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.</p>
4 September 2018	<p>Dominic Raab makes a Statement to the House of Commons on Brexit negotiations and 'no deal' contingency planning.</p>
5-6 September 2018	<p>Further UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.</p>
13 September 2018	<p>The government publishes a further 28 technical notices, providing guidance on how to prepare for a no-deal Brexit.</p>
19-20 September 2018	<p>EU leaders hold an informal summit in Salzburg. On the evening of the first day, Theresa May</p>

presents a 10-minute Brexit speech over dinner, insisting there could be no deal that splits the UK into two customs territories.

21 September 2018	Theresa May gives an update on the state of the Brexit negotiations following the mixed response to her Chequers plan by EU leaders in Salzburg.
24 September 2018	<p>The Prime Minister holds a meeting with Guy Verhofstadt MEP in Downing St for an update on the Brexit negotiations and to discuss the two key outstanding issues in the negotiations: the future economic partnership and the Northern Ireland backstop.</p> <p>The government publishes a further 24 technical notices, providing guidance on how to prepare for a no-deal Brexit.</p>
25 September 2018	Home Secretary Sajid Javid delivers a speech in Madrid on the future security relationship between the UK and the EU
26 September 2018	Dominic Raab meets Gibraltar's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo to discuss how they will work together during the Brexit negotiations.
9 October 2018	The Secretary of State for Exiting the EU gives a Statement to the House of Commons , updating Members on progress in the negotiations to leave the EU and the Government's planning for no-deal.
12 October 2018	The government publishes a further 29 technical notices, providing guidance on how to prepare for a no-deal Brexit.
15 October 2018	<p>Theresa May gives a Statement to the House of Commons on EU Exit negotiations.</p> <p>Later, the Prime Minister meets Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to discuss the final stage of negotiations with the EU.</p> <p>A further meeting is held between Theresa May and Sinn Féin leaders to discuss issues relating to the backstop and wider border concerns.</p>
16 October 2018	Michel Barnier updates the European Council (EU27 format) on the most recent talks with the UK.

During the meeting, Michel Barnier explains that despite intense negotiating efforts, some key issues remain open, in particular the backstop to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

17 October 2018 The [European Council meets](#) in an EU27 (Article 50) format to discuss Brexit.

Ahead of the meeting, Theresa May updates leaders on the UK perspective of negotiations.

EU27 leaders reaffirm their full confidence in Michel Barnier and note that not enough progress has been achieved in the negotiations.

19 October 2018 The Prime Minister [addresses](#) over 130 business leaders on progress in the Brexit negotiations, outlining her government's intention to preserve the UK's and EU's frictionless access to each other's markets for goods.

22 October 2018 The Secretary of State for Exiting the EU [delivers a statement](#) on a Meaningful Vote.

Theresa May gives a [Statement to the House of Commons](#) to update Members on the October European Council meeting.

29 October 2018 UK Budget Day. In the last Budget before the UK leaves the EU, Chancellor Philip Hammond announces £500m for no-deal Brexit preparations.

13 November 2018 The House of Commons holds an Opposition Day Debate on [legal advice on the EU Withdrawal Agreement](#). With a Parliamentary defeat looming, the Government instructs Conservative MPs not to vote against the motion; subsequently, the motion is passed without a vote. This means the government must publish the Attorney-General's legal advice in relation to the withdrawal agreement, including the backstop proposal.

14 November 2018 The UK and the EU negotiating teams [reach an agreement](#) in principle on the Withdrawal Agreement. This establishes the terms of the UK's departure on 29 March 2019.

Following a Cabinet meeting, the Prime Ministers makes a [statement](#) to announce the

publication of the Withdrawal Agreement and the Outline Political Declaration.

These publications are made available on the gov.uk website: [Progress on the UK's exit from, and future relationship with, the European Union](#).

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- 15 November 2018 Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab resigns from the Cabinet, citing his opposition to the Prime Minister's draft Withdrawal Agreement. Several other Ministers resign, including Suella Braverman (Junior Brexit Minister) and Esther McVey (Works and Pensions Secretary).
- Theresa May updates the House of Commons on the [EU exit negotiations](#), taking and answering questions from Members for three hours.
- Upon returning to Downing St, the Prime Minister gives a [statement](#) insisting she will deliver a Brexit that works for the whole of the UK and provide a strong economy.
- The Prime Minister also [meets with the Chief Minister of Gibraltar](#), Fabian Picardo, to discuss matters relating to Brexit.
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- 16 November 2018 Stephen Barclay is announced as the new Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.
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- 19 November 2018 Theresa May delivers a [speech to the Confederation of British Industry](#) (CBI) ahead of a special European Council and outlines the Brexit outcomes the government expects to deliver.
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- 20 November 2018 Theresa May holds a [meeting](#) with First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon to discuss plans for the UK's exit from EU.
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- 21 November 2018 Theresa May has a [meeting](#) with First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones to discuss Brexit negotiations. She travels to Brussels for talks with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, to finalise the Brexit deal before the EU Summit on 25 November.
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- 22 November 2018 Theresa May [delivers a short statement](#) outside Downing St, saying the Brexit deal is now "within our grasp".
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Later, she delivers a [statement to the House of Commons](#), updating Members on the progress of EU negotiations.

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- 25 November 2018 The government [publishes](#) a letter from the UK's Permanent Representative to the EU on the territorial scope of the UK's future agreements with the EU; and a letter from the Gibraltar government.
- Theresa May makes a [statement at the EU Council](#).
- At the special European Council meeting, EU27 leaders [endorse the Brexit withdrawal agreement and approve the political declaration on future EU-UK relations](#).
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- 26 November 2018 The Prime Minister delivers a [statement to the House of Commons](#) on the Special European Council to finalise the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union.
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- 29 November 2018 The Shadow Brexit Secretary, Keir Starmer, is granted an [Urgent Question](#) regarding publication of the Attorney General's legal advice on the Withdrawal Agreement. He [suggests the government is withholding information](#) after it announced it would publish a "full, reasoned, positions statement" but not the full legal advice on Brexit that it has received.
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- 30 November 2018 Attending the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Theresa May [tells world leaders](#) that the Brexit agreement reached with the EU is a 'good deal' for the global economy.
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- 3 December 2018 The Attorney General makes a [statement to the House of Commons](#) on the legal position of the Withdrawal Agreement.
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- 4 December 2018 MPs hold the [first](#) of a planned five days of debates on the Withdrawal Agreement and the UK-EU future relationship.
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- 5 December 2018 Following a Motion passed in the House of Commons, the Government publishes the [Attorney General's legal advice to Cabinet](#) on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. This is the full, final advice that the Attorney General
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provided to Cabinet on 14 November on the legal effect of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Prime Minister has a telephone [call with the Irish Taoiseach](#) to discuss progress made in the Brexit negotiations, specifically the backstop and the UK's commitment to the Good Friday Agreement.

[Day 2](#) of House of Commons debates on the Withdrawal Agreement and the future UK-EU relationship.

Theresa May suffers [three Brexit defeats](#) in the Commons and the Government is also found to be in contempt of Parliament.

6 December 2018 The Prime Minister [announces the formation of five new business councils](#) to advise on how to create the best business conditions in the UK post-Brexit.

[Day 3](#) of House of Commons debates on the Withdrawal Agreement and the future UK-EU relationship.

10 December 2018 The CJEU issues its [judgment](#) on the *Wightman* case, finding unilateral revocation of Article 50 TEU is a sovereign right for any Member State to pursue.

The Prime Minister gives a [statement to the House of Commons](#) on Exiting the European Union and announces a delay to the Meaningful Vote, originally planned for the following day.

Later, Stephen Barclays (Secretary of State for Exiting the EU) makes a [statement to the House of Commons](#) in response to the CJEU's ruling on the Wightman Article 50 case.

11 December 2018 The Chair of the Home Affairs Committee, Yvette Cooper, is granted an [Urgent Question](#) on the Government's duty under Section 13 of the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 should no deal be reached by 21 January 2019.

Junior Brexit Minister Robin Walker, [responding to the Urgent Question](#), insists "the Government will ensure that the question whether to accept an agreement is brought back to this House before 21 January", adding "If Parliament were to reject the deal, the Government would be required to make a

statement on our proposed next steps and table a motion in neutral terms on that statement”.

The House of Commons later holds an opposition-led Emergency Debate on the [Government’s management of the meaningful vote debate](#).

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- 12 December 2018 Sir Graham Brady, Chair of the 1922 Committee, announces that enough Tory MPs have requested a vote of confidence in Theresa May as Conservative leader.
- In the ballot later in the evening, Theresa May [wins the vote of confidence](#) by 200 to 117.
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- 13 December 2018 The European Council (meeting as EU27) [adopts conclusions on Brexit](#), including further assurances on the Northern Ireland backstop.
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- 14 December 2018 Theresa May holds a [press conference](#) following the European Council meeting.
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- 17 December 2018 The Prime Minister gives a [statement to the House of Commons](#), updating Members on the previous week’s European Council meeting.
- Later, in the House of Commons, the SNP makes an application to hold an [Emergency Debate](#) on UK-EU negotiations. The Speaker later gives a [Statement](#) to announce an emergency debate will be held the following day.
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- 18 December 2018 The SNP lead an [Emergency Debate](#) in the House of Commons on the current UK-EU Brexit negotiations.
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- 19 December 2018 Keir Starmer, Shadow Brexit Secretary, is granted an [Emergency Debate](#) on preparations for a no-deal Brexit.
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- 20 December 2018 The UK reaches [agreements](#) with the EEA EFTA states and Switzerland on withdrawal issues including citizens’ rights post-Brexit.
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- 2 January 2019 Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt delivers a speech to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Singapore. Here, he outlines Britain’s position in South East Asia and looks ahead to the UK’s post-Brexit role.
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40 Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union

3 January 2019	The Government publishes updated Brexit guidance for UK nationals living in the EU , in the absence of a withdrawal agreement.
7 January 2019	Jeremy Corbyn is granted an Urgent Question in the House of Commons on legal changes to the EU Withdrawal Agreement and the timetable in the House for a Meaningful Vote.
8 January 2019	MPs debate the Report Stage and Third Reading of the <i>Finance (No. 3) Bill</i> . In a defeat for Theresa May , MPs approve an amendment (303 votes to 296) that limits the government's financial powers in the event of a no-deal Brexit.
9 January 2019	In a further setback to the Prime Minister ahead of the start of five days of Brexit debates, the Speaker of the House of Commons allows an amendment to the business motion by Dominic Grieve, which is passed by 308 votes to 297 . This amendment means that if the government loses the 'meaningful vote' on 15 January 2019, then the Prime Minister will then have to present a new 'Plan B' Brexit plan within three days. The House of Commons then commences the Brexit debates .
10 January 2019	Day 2 of the Brexit debates on the EU Withdrawal Agreement.
11 January 2019	Day 3 of the Brexit debates on the EU Withdrawal Agreement.
14 January 2019	The Prime Minister gives a statement to the House of Commons on the further assurances and clarifications received from the European Union on the Northern Ireland protocol. Later, the Brexit debates on the EU Withdrawal Agreement continue with Day 4 of this series of debates.
15 January 2019	Day 5 of the Brexit debates on the EU Withdrawal Agreement. The 'Meaningful Vote' takes place, with the government suffering a huge defeat, losing the vote by a majority of 230 (with 202 voting in favour of the Prime Minister's Brexit deal and 432 against).

Following this vote, Theresa May uses a [point of order](#) to set out how the Government intends to proceed.

Responding to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition tables a motion of no confidence in the Government, with a vote on the motion to be held at 7pm the next day, following a debate.

6. The 'Meaningful Vote' – present (24 April 2019)

Key events

16 January 2019: The Prime Minister wins a vote of confidence in the Government.

21 January 2019: Theresa May presents the government's 'Plan B' Brexit deal.

29 January 2019: MPs debate the Prime Minister's 'Plan B' deal, which is then approved following two amendments.

14 February 2019: The government's Brexit plan suffers a defeat in the House of Commons.

26 February 2019: The Prime Minister promises MPs a vote on ruling out a no-deal Brexit or delaying Brexit if she loses the second 'meaningful vote' next month.

12 March 2019: The Prime Minister loses the 'Meaningful Vote 2'.

13 March 2019: In a defeat for the Prime Minister, MPs vote to rule out a 'no-deal Brexit'.

14 March 2019: MPs approve the amended government's motion, instructing the government to seek permission from the EU to extend Article 50.

20 March 2019: The Prime Minister writes to European Council President Donald Tusk, asking to extend Article 50 until 30 June 2019.

21 March 2019: Following a meeting of the European Council, EU27 leaders agree to grant an extension comprising two possible dates: 22 May 2019, should the Withdrawal Agreement gain approval from MPs next week; or 12 April 2019, should the Withdrawal Agreement not be approved by the House of Commons.

27 March 2019: The Commons debates and votes on eight indicative votes, in an attempt to find a Brexit plan that wins the support of the majority of MPs. All options are defeated.

29 March 2019: The Prime Minister loses the 'Meaningful Vote 3'.

This was also the long-established date the UK was expected to leave the European Union. Following a House of Commons vote on 14 March 2019, the Government sought permission from the EU to postpone this date. At a European Council meeting on 21 March 2019, EU27 leaders agreed to delay Brexit.

1 April 2019: In the second day of indicative votes, all four of the selected options are defeated.

2 April 2019: The Prime Minister announces she will seek a further extension to the Article 50 process and offers to sit down with the Leader of the Opposition, to finalise a deal that will win the support of MPs.

5 April 2019: Theresa May formally writes to Donald Tusk, requesting a further extension to the Article 50 process to the end of June 2019.

10 April 2019: The European Council meets. The UK and EU27 agree to extend Article 50 until 31 October 2019.

21 May 2019: The Prime Minister unveils her new Brexit deal.

23 May 2019: The UK votes in the European Parliament elections.

15 January 2019 The 'Meaningful Vote' takes place, with the government suffering a huge defeat, [losing the vote](#) by a majority of 230 (with 202 voting in favour of the Prime Minister's Brexit deal and 432 against).

16 January 2019 In the House of Commons, MPs [debate a motion of no confidence in the Government](#). The Prime Minister wins the vote of confidence ([325 votes to 306](#)) and then uses a [point of order](#) to pledge to work with Parliamentarians and other political parties in order to find solutions that will gain the support of the House.

The Prime Minister later gives a [statement at Downing Street](#), inviting all parties to come together to find a way forward.

21 January 2019 Theresa May gives a [statement to the House of Commons](#), presenting the government's 'Plan B' and outlining the six key issues that have been at the centre of cross-party talks.

23 January 2019 The Prime Minister [meets](#) with the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales as part of ongoing discussions to find a consensus around the terms of the UK's exit from the EU.

24 January 2019 In response to an Urgent Question, the Minister for Trade Policy gives a statement to the House of Commons on [EU Free Trade Agreements](#).

29 January 2019 The Prime Minister opens the House of Commons [debate](#) on her 'Plan B' deal. The Speaker selects seven amendments for debate, all of which are moved. Two amendments are approved, indicating that a majority of MPs are a) against exiting the EU without a deal, and b) against the Northern Ireland backstop in its current form. Following the series of votes on the amendments, the main question (as amended) was put and agreed to. Theresa May uses a [point of order](#) to give her response to the evening's votes and the amended Brexit deal.

30 January 2019 European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and the EU's Chief Negotiator on Brexit, Michel Barnier, give [speeches](#) at the Plenary session of the European Parliament, updating

	MEPs on the Brexit negotiations and reaffirming their support for the Withdrawal Agreement.
5 February 2019	The Prime Minister gives a speech in Belfast and outlines her thoughts on changing the Northern Ireland backstop and re-opening the Withdrawal Agreement in her negotiations with the EU.
7 February 2019	<p>Theresa May meets President Juncker in Brussels, to review the next steps in the Brexit process.</p> <p>President Juncker makes clear the EU27 will not reopen the Withdrawal Agreement, but expresses his openness to add wording to the Political Declaration.</p>
8 February 2019	The UK reaches an agreement with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein (the EEA EFTA states) to protect citizens' rights in a 'no deal' scenario.
12 February 2019	<p>Theresa May gives a statement to the House of Commons on the "Government's ongoing work to secure a Brexit deal that honours our commitments to the people of Northern Ireland, commands the support of Parliament, and can be negotiated with the EU".</p> <p>The Prime Minister confirms that if there is no deal negotiated by 26 February 2019, then the government will make a statement on the same day and hold a debate on an amendable motion the following day (27 February 2019).</p> <p>The Prime Minister's statement is repeated and debated in the House of Lords.</p>
13 February 2019	<p>The International Trade Secretary (Dr Liam Fox MP) responds to an urgent question on the progress made in replicating trade agreements between the UK and third countries with which the EU has a trade agreement.</p> <p>Members of the House of Lords debate the government's ongoing Brexit discussions.</p> <p>Baroness Smith of Basildon (the Leader of the Opposition in the Lords) proposes a motion calling on the government to take all steps necessary to ensure that the UK does not leave the EU on 29 March without an agreement that has been fully ratified by both Houses of Parliament, and that – before the end of February 2019 – motions are moved which fulfil the</p>

provisions under sections 13(1)(b) and (c) of the *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018*.

The [motion is agreed](#), with 155 votes in favour and 69 against.

14 February 2019 Opening the Brexit debate, Stephen Barclay gives a [statement to the House of Commons](#), asking for the continued support of the House in negotiating the UK's exit from the EU, in accordance with the approach that won a majority of MPs on 29 January 2019.

Several amendments to the governments motion are made, with the Speaker selecting three.

The official Opposition amendment – aiming to set a deadline for another ‘meaningful vote’ – is defeated by [322 votes to 306](#).

The SNP amendment – requiring that the Government immediately begin negotiations for an extension to Article 50 – is defeated by [315 to 93](#).

Anna Soubry's amendment – requiring that the Government publish its most recent no-deal briefing documents – is withdrawn, after the government offers to release ‘no deal’ information.

The unamended motion sees the government defeated by a majority of 45, losing by [303 votes to 258](#).

20 February 2019 The Prime Minister and President Juncker [meet](#) to discuss the Northern Ireland backstop and commit to avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland.

25 February 2019 The UK signs an [agreement](#) with Switzerland to protect citizens' rights after the UK leaves the EU.

The Labour Party [announces](#) it will be prepared to back a second referendum if its withdrawal plan is rejected by MPs this week.

26 February 2019 Theresa May gives a [statement to the House of Commons](#), promising MPs a vote on delaying the UK's departure from the EU or ruling out a no-deal Brexit, if she loses the second ‘meaningful vote’ next month.

The Prime Minister's statement is repeated and debated in the [House of Lords](#).

27 February 2019 David Lidington (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office) leads a House of Commons [debate](#) on the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The Speaker selects five amendments to the government's motion. MPs divide three times during the debate and a fourth amendment passes without a division.

The Opposition amendment – laying out support for Labour's alternative Brexit plan – is defeated by [323 votes to 240](#).

The SNP amendment – stating that the UK should not leave the EU without a deal “under any circumstances” – is defeated by [324 votes to 288](#).

Alberto Costa's amendment – guaranteeing the citizens' rights part of the withdrawal agreement be implemented even if there is no deal – is approved without division.

Yvette Cooper's amendment – noting the Prime Minister's statement that she will return to the House of Commons in March for a series of votes on her deal, the prospect of leaving without a deal, and extending Article 50 – is passed by [502 votes to 20](#).

Meanwhile, members of the House of Lords [debate a motion](#) “to take note of the further discussions with the European Union under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union”.

6 March 2019 During a [debate](#) on the Trade Bill in the House of Lords, the government is defeated over an amendment that would oblige Britain to seek to remain in a customs union with the EU post-Brexit, by [207 votes to 141](#).

8 March 2019 The Prime Minister delivers a Brexit [speech in Grimsby](#) and writes an [article in the Grimsby Telegraph](#), asking MPs to support her in next week's Meaningful Vote. Referring to her Brexit deal, she writes:

Back it, and the UK will leave the European Union. Reject it and we do not know what the consequences will be. We may not leave the EU for many months; we may leave without the protections that the deal provides; or we may never leave at all.

11 March 2019 Junior Brexit Minister Robin Walker [responds to an Urgent Question](#) on legal changes to the EU Withdrawal Agreement.

Theresa May travels to Strasbourg to meet Jean-Claude Juncker and Michel Barnier. In a [statement](#) following the meeting, the Prime Minister says she has secured “legally binding” changes to her Brexit deal.

On the eve of the second Meaningful Vote, David Lidington gives a [statement to the House of Commons](#) on Exiting the European Union.

12 March 2019 The Attorney-General gives a [statement to the House of Commons](#) on his “legal opinion on the joint instrument and unilateral declaration concerning the withdrawal agreement”, published the previous evening.

The Prime Minister open a House of Commons [debate](#) on the *European Union (Withdrawal) Act*.

Following the debate, the ‘Meaningful Vote 2’ vote takes place. The government suffers a large defeat, losing the vote by a [majority of 149](#) (with 242 voting in favour of the Prime Minister’s Brexit deal and 391 against).

Following this vote, Theresa May uses a [point of order](#) to express her disappointment in the outcome of the vote and confirms she will open the debate the next day on whether to take ‘no-deal’ off the negotiating table.

Further to the PM’s announcement, the Leader of the House makes a short [business statement](#), outlining the business for the following day and the remainder of the week.

13 March 2019 In a [statement to the European Parliament Plenary Session](#), Michel Barnier says “last night’s vote in the House of Commons prolongs and worsens the major uncertainty that was created almost three years ago now by the sovereign decision – which we respect but regret – of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union.” He adds that it is the UK’s responsibility to find way out of the impasse in negotiations.

Looking ahead to House of Commons votes over the next couple of days, Barnier says: “It will be for the British government to tell us – I hope positively – how it wishes to proceed, to finally bring together a constructive majority for a

proposal. It is the UK's responsibility to tell us what it wants for our future relationship, what its choice is, what its clear line is"

MPs again debate the [UK's Withdrawal from the European Union](#).

The Speaker selects two amendments to the Government's motion, both of which go to a division.

Dame Caroline Spelman's amendment (moved by Yvette Cooper) – ruling out a 'no-deal Brexit' at any time – is passed by [312 votes to 308](#).

While this result demonstrates the will of MPs, it is not a binding amendment and does not definitively rule out a no-deal Brexit.

Damian Green's amendment (known as the 'Malthouse Compromise') – setting out the process for a managed no-deal – is rejected by a majority of 210, with [164 votes in favour and 374 against](#).

The day's final vote sees MPs voting on the government's amended no-deal Brexit motion: "That this House rejects the United Kingdom leaving the European Union without a Withdrawal Agreement and a Framework for the Future Relationship". The motion is passed by [321 votes to 278](#).

Following this vote, the Prime Minister uses a [point of order](#) to acknowledge MPs have provided a clear majority against leaving the EU without a deal, but reaffirms her view that "the deal on the table is indeed the only deal available." She confirms that the Government will bring forward a motion tomorrow on whether the House supports seeking to agree an extension to Article 50 with the EU.

This is confirmed in a short [business statement](#) by the Leader of the House.

14 March 2019

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

The Speaker selects five amendments to the government's motion, four of which go to division.

Dr Sarah Wollaston's amendment – requesting an extension of Article 50 in order for a second referendum to take place – is rejected by [334 votes to 85](#).

Lucy Powell's amendment (itself an amendment to Hilary Benn's amendment) – specifying that any extension to the Brexit process should end by 30 June 2019 – is defeated by three votes: [314 to 311](#).

Hilary Benn's amendment – allowing MPs to take control of the Parliamentary business on 20 March, potentially to hold indicative (non-binding) votes – is narrowly rejected, by [314 votes to 312](#).

Jeremy Corbyn's Opposition amendment – rejecting both the Prime Minister's deal and a 'no-deal' Brexit, while also seeking an extension of Article 50 to allow time to find a different approach – is defeated by [318 votes to 302](#).

Chris Bryant's amendment – saying the Government cannot bring the same deal to MPs for a third 'Meaningful Vote' – is not moved.

The day's final vote sees MPs voting on the government's amended motion – to seek permission from the EU to delay Brexit beyond 29 March 2019. This motion is passed [by 413 votes to 202](#).

15 March 2019

Theresa May issues a [Written Statement](#), noting the motions of the House of Commons over the previous two days and confirming that "the Government will now seek to agree an extension with the EU".

The Statement also states:

As soon as possible following agreement at the EU level [expected during the European Council meeting on 21-22 March] the we will bring forward the necessary legislation to amend the definition of exit day in domestic legislation. This statutory instrument will be laid, before it is made, under section 20(4) of the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

This legislation is subject to the draft affirmative procedure and so would need to be actively approved in each House. The legislation would give effect to any agreement with the EU on an extension, so would not be laid before Parliament until that agreement had been reached.

17 March 2019 In an article for the Sunday Telegraph, the Prime Minister writes: "[The patriotic thing for MPs to do is vote for my Brexit deal](#)".

18 March 2019 The Speaker of the House of Commons makes a [statement](#) in the Chamber, ahead of a third 'Meaningful Vote' that is expected over the coming days.

In this statement, the Speaker says a further meaningful vote would be ruled out of order if the motion was "the same or substantially the same", concluding:

If the Government wish to bring forward a new proposition that is neither the same nor substantially the same as that disposed of by the House on 12 March, that would be entirely in order. What the Government cannot legitimately do is to resubmit to the House the same proposition or substantially the same proposition as that of last week, which was rejected by 149 votes. This ruling should not be regarded as my last word on the subject; it is simply meant to indicate the test which the Government must meet in order for me to rule that a third meaningful vote can legitimately be held in this parliamentary Session.

Later, the Speaker grants an [Urgent Question](#) on the Government's plans in relation to the Article 50 period extension procedure.

20 March 2019 The Prime Minister [writes](#) to European Council President Donald Tusk, asking for an extension of the Article 50 period until 30 June 2019.

In Prime Minister's Questions, Theresa May updates the House on the planned extension to Article 50 and a third 'meaningful vote', saying:

I have this morning written to President Tusk, the President of the European Council, informing him that the UK seeks an extension to the article 50 period until 30 June.

The Government intend to bring forward proposals for a third meaningful vote. If that vote is passed, the extension will give the House time to consider the withdrawal agreement Bill. If not, the House will have to decide how to proceed. But as Prime Minister I am not prepared to delay Brexit any further than 30 June.

Following PMQs, Brexit Minister Chris Heaton-Harris responds to an [Urgent Question](#) on no-deal Brexit preparations.

The House of Commons later holds an opposition-led [Emergency Debate](#) on extending Article 50.

Donald Tusk issues a [statement](#) following Theresa May's Brexit extension request, saying:

I believe that a short extension will be possible, but it will be conditional on a positive vote on the withdrawal agreement in the House of Commons. We cannot give up seeking - until the very last moment - a positive solution.

In the evening the Prime Ministers delivers a [statement](#) from Downing St, setting out her hopes for the forthcoming Brexit negotiations.

21 March 2019

The European Council meets in Brussels, with an extension to Article 50 a key part of the agenda.

The Prime Minister makes her case in a 90-minute presentation, before the remaining EU27 leaders hold discussions late into the night.

After eight hours of talks, the European Council agrees to an extension of Article 50, meaning Brexit will no longer happen on 29 March 2019.

The [European Council conclusions](#) explain:

The European Council agrees to an extension until 22 May 2019, provided the Withdrawal Agreement is approved by the House of Commons next week. If the Withdrawal Agreement is not approved by the House of Commons next week, the European Council agrees to an extension until 12 April 2019 and expects the United Kingdom to indicate a way forward before this date for consideration by the European Council.

Following the conclusion of discussions, the Prime Minister delivers a [statement](#) at the European Council.

Donald Tusk later [remarks](#) on the outcome of the talks.

22 March 2019

Matthew Pennycook is granted an [Urgent Question](#) regarding the extension to the Article 50 process agreed at the European Council.

The UK's Permanent Representative to the EU [writes](#) to Donald Tusk, confirming the agreement to extend Article 50. The European Council adopts a [Decision](#) on the extension.

25 March 2019

The Prime Minister gives a [statement](#) to the House of Commons, following the European Council.

Later, David Lidington leads a House of Commons [debate](#) on a motion relating to Section 13(4) of the *European Union (Withdrawal) Act*.

The Speaker selects three amendments to the government's motion.

The Opposition amendment – calling on the government “to provide sufficient parliamentary time this week for this House to find a majority for a different approach” – is not moved.

Oliver Letwin's amendment – calling for Commons business on 27 March to be set aside for a series of indicative votes – is passed by [329 votes to 302](#).

Margaret Beckett's amendment – saying that if “no-deal” is ever a week away, MPs must either approve a no-deal or the Prime Minister be asked to seek another, longer extension – is narrowly defeated by [314 votes to 311](#).

The main motion (as amended) was passed by [327 votes to 300](#).

27 March 2019

Speaking in a debate in the European Parliament, following the recent European Council meeting, Donald Tusk [says](#) “12 April is the new cliff—edge date. Before that day, the UK still has a choice of a deal, no deal, a long extension or revoking Article 50”.

MPs debate a [Business of the House motion](#) providing for today's indicative votes debate. The motion passes by [331 votes to 287](#).

The Speaker selects eight motions to be put to an ‘indicative vote’ and MPs [debate](#) these motions.

Early in the evening, when addressing the 1922 Committee, Theresa May [suggests](#) she will stand down before the second stage of Brexit negotiations (on the future UK-EU relationship), reportedly telling Conservative MPs:

I have heard very clearly the mood of the parliamentary party. I know there is a desire for a new approach - and new leadership – in the second phase of the Brexit negotiations and I won't stand in the way of that.

Later, while the indicative votes are recorded, MPs [debate](#) the statutory instrument changing the date of Brexit as set out in the *EU (Withdrawal) Act*. The SI is approved in the Commons, with [441 votes in favour and 105 against](#).

The results of the eight indicative votes are announced:

John Baron's "No deal" motion – proposing leaving the EU without a deal on 12 April – is defeated by [400 votes to 160](#).

Nick Boles's "common market 2.0" motion – allowing continued participation in the Single Market and a "comprehensive customs arrangement" with the EU post-Brexit (until the agreement of a wider trade deal guaranteeing frictionless movement of goods and an open border in Ireland) – is defeated by [283 votes to 189](#).

George Eustice's "EFTA and EEA" motion – proposing remaining within the EEA and re-joining EFTA, but remaining outside a customs union with the EU – is defeated by [377 votes to 64](#).

Ken Clarke's "Customs union" motion – requiring a commitment to negotiate a "permanent and comprehensive UK-wide customs union with the EU" in any Brexit deal – is defeated by [271 votes to 265](#).

Jeremy Corbyn's "Labour's alternative plan" motion – proposing a close economic relationship with the EU – is defeated by [307 votes to 237](#).

Joanna Cherry's "Revocation to avoid no deal" motion – requiring the government to stage a vote on a no-deal Brexit two sitting days before the scheduled date of departure, should the government not have passed its withdrawal agreement; if MPs then refuse to authorise no-deal, the prime minister is required to halt Brexit

by revoking Article 50 – is defeated by [293 votes to 184](#).

Margaret Beckett's "Confirmatory public vote" motion – requiring a public vote to confirm any Brexit deal passed by Parliament before its ratification – is defeated by [295 votes to 268](#).

Marcus Fysh's "Contingent preferential arrangements" motion – calling for the government to seek to agree preferential trade arrangements with the EU if the UK is unable to implement a withdrawal agreement – is defeated by [422 votes to 139](#).

28 March 2019 Andrea Leadsom (Leader of the House of Commons) [announces](#) the House will sit on 29 March to debate the government's Brexit deal.

29 March 2019 Writing for the [Washington Post](#), the Foreign Secretary (Jeremy Hunt) says the UK will retain all the capabilities of a global power post-Brexit.

MPs [debate](#) the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

At the close of the debate, the government loses a vote on the motion ('Meaningful Vote 3' – or MV 2.5, as it has also been called) by [344 votes to 286](#).

Following this vote, Theresa May uses a [point of order](#) to outline the implications of the votes.

1 April 2019 MPs debate Oliver Letwin's [business motion](#) for the indicative votes process. This later passes by [322 votes to 277](#).

The Speaker selects four motions to be put to an 'indicative vote' and MPs [debate](#) these motions.

Meanwhile, in Westminster Hall, MPs [debate](#) a series of e-petitions relating to leaving the European Union.

Later, the results of the four indicative votes are announced:

Ken Clarke's "Custom union" motion – requiring any Brexit plan to include a commitment to negotiate a "permanent and comprehensive UK-wide customs union with the EU" – is narrowly defeated by [276 votes to 273](#).

Nick Boles's "Common Market 2.0" motion – proposing UK membership of EFTA and the EEA and allowing continued participation in the Single Market and a "comprehensive customs

arrangement" with the EU post-Brexit, including a "UK say" on future EU trade deals – is defeated by [282 votes to 261](#).

Peter Kyle's "Confirmatory public vote" motion – requiring a public vote to confirm any Brexit deal passed by Parliament before its ratification – is defeated by [292 votes to 280](#).

Joanna Cherry's "Parliamentary Supremacy" motion – seeking an extension to the Brexit process or, should this not be possible, providing for Parliament to choose between either 'no deal' or revoking Article 50 – is defeated by [292 votes to 191](#).

2 April 2019

Yvette Cooper's *European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 5) Bill* – seeking to further extend Article 50 – has its [First Reading](#) in the House of Commons.

Following a lengthy Cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister makes a [statement](#) from Downing Street, announcing that she will seek a further extension of Article 50 and offering to sit down with the Leader of the Opposition in order to agree a Brexit plan that will win parliamentary approval.

3 April 2019

At the European Parliament's plenary session, President Juncker gives a [speech](#) to update MEPs on the Brexit negotiations.

MPs [debate the business motion](#) for the day's proceedings in the Commons. This is to allow MPs to pass the Commons stages of Yvette Cooper's bill by 10pm and provide time for further debate when it returns from the House of Lords.

Hilary Benn's amendment – to allow a further series of indicative votes the following Monday – goes to division. The result is a tie with 310 votes on each side; citing precedence, the Speaker uses his casting vote to side with the noes. This final vote is, therefore, [311 against and 310 in favour](#).

The main business motion – setting out the arrangements to the afternoon's debate on the Cooper bill – is then passed by a majority of one: [312 votes to 311](#).

Yvette Cooper's *European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 5) Bill* passes its [Second Reading](#) debate by [315 votes to 310](#).

The Bill goes to its next stage: [Committee of the whole House](#).

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister holds formal discussions with the Leader of the Opposition.

Back in the Chamber, George Eustice's amendment – preventing the government from being forced to hold a vote if the European Council proposes an extension date that is different than that requested by Parliament – is defeated by [313 votes to 304](#).

The Government's amendment – ensuring the bill does not limit the power of the Brexit secretary in seeking an Article 50 extension – suffers a heavy defeat, with [400 votes against the amendment and 220 in favour](#).

Amendment 1 – limiting any extension to 22 May 2019 – is defeated by [488 votes to 123](#).

The bill passes its Third Reading by just one vote: [313 to 312](#).

4 April 2019	<p>The <i>European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 5) Bill</i> passes its First and Second Readings in the House of Lords.</p> <p>The government and opposition hold further talks on breaking the Brexit impasse.</p>
5 April 2019	<p>Theresa May writes to Donald Tusk, asking for a further extension to Article 50 until 30 June 2019. The letter also states the Government is making preparations should the UK have to take part in the forthcoming European Parliament elections.</p>
6 April 2019	<p>The Prime Minister gives a speech on the Brexit negotiations. She announces a further visit to Brussels to seek another short extension to Article 50.</p>
7 April 2019	<p>Theresa May releases a video statement from 10 Downing Street. She says Brexit must be delivered and that Parliament must pass a withdrawal deal for that to happen.</p>
8 April 2019	<p>The Cabinet Office confirms that the government has taken the necessary legal step</p>

for EP elections to be held in the UK. It has laid a statutory instrument called a Day of Poll Order. This provides returning officers with a date to hold potential European parliamentary elections, though participation in EP elections is not inevitable. The Day of Poll Order sets the date for EP elections as Thursday 23 May.

The government and opposition hold further talks on breaking the Brexit impasse.

The *European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 5) Bill* passes its [Committee Stage](#) and [Third Reading](#) in the House of Lords.

The Bill returns to the House of Commons for [consideration of Lords amendments](#). MPs pass this bill, designed to prevent a no-deal Brexit.

The Bill later receives [Royal Assent](#), becoming the *European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 5) Act*.

9 April 2019

EU ministers attend a [meeting of the EU's General Affairs Council](#) in Luxembourg, with Brexit on the agenda ahead of European Council on 10 April.

Ahead of the European Council, the Prime Minister [meets German Chancellor Angela Merkel](#) for a working lunch in Berlin and they discuss the UK's request for an extension to Article 50.

Later the Prime Minister flies to Paris for [talks with French President Emmanuel Macron](#).

In the House of Commons, MPs [debate](#) the motion backing the Prime Minister's plan to request an Article 50 extension. This debate is a consequence of Yvette Cooper's bill being passed on 9 April.

The Government wins the vote on requesting an Article 50 extension until 30 June by a majority of 310: [420 votes to 110](#).

Donald Tusk [writes](#) to EU leaders, asking them to offer the UK a flexible extension to the Article 50 process of up to one year.

10 April 2019

European Council meeting. Theresa May asks for an extension of Article 50 until the end of June. The Council then meets in an EU27 format to discuss the Prime Minister's proposal.

The UK and EU27 later agree a further extension of Article 50 until 31 October 2019 but with the possibility of leaving earlier if the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by both parties before this date. The [Conclusions](#) adopted by the European Council are published. In addition to the revised Brexit date, the conclusions state:

If the UK is still a Member of the EU on 23-26 May 2019 and if it has not ratified the Withdrawal Agreement by 22 May 2019, it must hold the elections to the European Parliament in accordance with Union law. If the United Kingdom fails to live up to this obligation, the withdrawal will take place on 1 June 2019.

At the close of the European Council, the Prime Minister delivers a [statement](#) to the press.

11 April 2019	<p>The Government publishes a letter confirming its agreement to extend Article 50.</p> <p>Later, Theresa May gives a statement to the House of Commons on the European Council outcomes.</p>
1 May 2019	<p>Theresa May gives evidence to the Liaison Committee, with Brexit dominating the session.</p>
2 May 2019	<p>In response to an Urgent Question, the Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Grayling) gives a statement to the House of Commons on no deal Brexit preparations for cross-channel ferries and freight services.</p>
3 May 2019	<p>In local elections, the Conservatives lose over 1,000 councillors and control of several councils. Labour suffers some losses, while the Liberal Democrats are up by 705 and the Greens increase their tally by 194 councillors. Independents also fare well, gaining 660 council seats.</p>
7 May 2019	<p>Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington confirms the UK will take part in European Parliament elections on 23 May.</p>
14 May 2019	<p>Downing Street confirms the government will bring forward legislation to implement the Brexit withdrawal agreement in the week commencing 3 June.</p>

Brexit Secretary Steve Barclay publishes an [open letter](#) regarding the Withdrawal Agreement, in response to John Redwood's earlier open letter to the Attorney General Geoffrey Cox. The Brexit Secretary's letter is used as a further opportunity to explain the Withdrawal Agreement.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt gives a [speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet](#), covering: Brexit, the UK's role afterwards, and UK foreign policy priorities to make the world safer, healthier and wealthier.

16 May 2019	At a meeting of the 1922 Committee, Theresa May agrees to set a timetable for her departure as Prime Minister, following a vote on her Brexit bill in early June.
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17 May 2019	The Leader of the Opposition calls off the cross-party Brexit negotiations after six weeks of talks.
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21 May 2019	<p>The Prime Minister delivers a speech on her new Brexit deal. This 'New Brexit Deal' includes a ten-point offer to MPs. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 the Government will seek to conclude Alternative Arrangements to replace the Ireland/Northern Ireland backstop by December 2020, so that it never needs to be used. 2 a commitment that, should the backstop come into force, the Government will ensure that Great Britain will stay aligned with Northern Ireland. 3 the negotiating objectives and final treaties for our future relationship with the EU will have to be approved by MPs. 4 a new Workers' Rights Bill that guarantees workers' rights will be no less favourable than in the EU. 5 there will be no change in the level of environmental protection when we leave the EU. 6 the UK will seek as close to frictionless trade in goods with the EU as possible while outside the Single Market and ending free movement. 7 we will keep up to date with EU rules for goods and agri-food products that are relevant to checks at the border,

protecting thousands of jobs that depend on just-in-time supply chains.

- 8 the Government will bring forward a customs compromise for MPs to decide on to break the deadlock.
- 9 there will be a vote for MPs on whether the deal should be subject to a referendum.
- 10 there will be a legal duty to secure changes to the political declaration to reflect this new deal.

22 May 2019	Theresa May gives a statement to the House of Commons on her new Brexit deal: Leaving the European Union .
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23 May 2019	The UK votes in the European Parliament elections.
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7. Future timetable

Key events

23-26 May 2019: European Parliament elections. The Prime Minister first hoped to win approval of her deal before then, to avoid the UK participating in the elections. But EP elections will take place in the UK (if the UK and the EU have ratified the Withdrawal Agreement before the new EP sits for the first time on 2 July, the 73 new UK MEPs will not take up their seats).

31 October 2019: Brexit Day? At the European Council meeting in April 2019, the UK and EU27 agreed an extension of Article 50 to 31 October.

There is some uncertainty about the timing of events in this section and some are indicative only.

23-26 May 2019	European Parliament elections take place, with the UK voting on 23 May.
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The results will be announced on 26 May, after voting in all EU countries has taken place.

w/c 3 June 2019	The draft <i>European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill</i> is published.
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7 June 2019	The government is seeking to hold the Second Reading of the <i>European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill</i> on this day.
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June 2019	Theresa May is expected to set out a timetable for her departure as Prime Minister, following the vote on her new Brexit deal.
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20-21 June 2019	European Council summit.
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2 July 2019	The first sitting of the new European Parliament.
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29 September – 2 October 2019	Conservative Party conference.
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17-18 October 2019	Meeting of the European Council: the last such meeting before 'Brexit Day'.
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31 October 2019	'Brexit Day'? Following the European Council meeting in April 2019, this is the date by which the UK must leave the European Union. But a further delay cannot be ruled out.
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November 2019?	A special summit of the EU27 is expected soon after the UK formally leaves the EU.
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Following Brexit, trade and future relations talks begin between the UK and EU.

31 December 2020	If the UK has ratified the Withdrawal Agreement, this is when the transition period ends (unless it is extended past 2020).
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1 January 2021	Agreement on future relations expected to enter into force (unless transition period is extended).
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