



Oversight and Governance

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Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee Supplement Pack Two

Wednesday 5 September 2018
2.00 pm
Warspite Room, Council House

Members:

Councillor Morris, Chair
Councillor Fletcher, Vice Chair
Councillors Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Cook, Mavin, Stevens and Wheeler.

Please find attached, for your consideration, additional information relating to agenda item 9 on the agenda.

Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9. Brexit - Impact on Higher Education:

(Pages 1 - 2)

Brexit: Impact on Higher Education Submission by the University of Plymouth

1.1. Brexit – update on research

In her 21 May speech on ‘Science and modern Industrial Strategy’, the Prime Minister signalled that the UK would like to associate fully with European science and innovation programmes including the successor to Horizon 2020 and Euratom R&T.

Following this, on 7 June, the European Commission published its detailed proposal for Horizon Europe, the programme which succeeds Horizon 2020, with an agreed initial budget of €97.6bn. Changes within the proposal include a widening of the criteria through which non-EU countries can join the programme, removing uncertainty over whether it would be possible for the UK to become an associate member of the programme once it leaves the EU.

However, it has been noted that under the proposal, associated countries cannot have “decisional power on the programme” as financial contribution does not guarantee voting rights. Therefore, the UK’s influence over the direction of the programme will be limited despite the likelihood that it would make a sizeable budget contribution.

1.2. Brexit – Erasmus+

On 30 May, the European Commission published its proposal for the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2021-27 which will allow countries outside the EU and the European Economic Area to participate fully, meaning that UK universities and students will be able to participate post-Brexit. Participant countries from outside the EU and the European Economic Area will not have decisional power on the programme, and will need to agree to a fair balance of contributions and benefits.

The Commission’s proposal document also confirmed plans to double the budget for Erasmus+ to €30 billion (£26 billion) and to allow about 12 million students to travel abroad in the period 2021-27, up from 4 million during the current programme.

1.3. Brexit – EU students

On 2 July, the Government confirmed that EU students will be able to access student support on the same basis as home students if their courses start in 2019. They therefore will not become international students part way through their course at the end of the transition period.

1.4. Brexit – UK guarantees EU citizens' rights

On 21 June, the Home Office announced that it will begin rolling out a process for EU citizens to obtain settled status beginning in late 2018. The agreement allows those who have resided in the UK for at least 5 years to obtain settled status, retain their work and residency rights, access public services and later become eligible to apply for British citizenship. Notably, the process incorporates a simplified system to allow research mobility for UK-based academics which will enable them to take up extended placements overseas without affecting their entitlement to status.

For EU citizens who have resided in the UK less than 5 years or who arrive during the transition period ending 31 December 2020, application for pre-settled status will be in place with the opportunity to apply for settled status after 5 years. These arrangements will be mirrored for UK citizens in EU member states after transition. In the meantime, there will be no change to the existing rights of EU citizens until 31 December 2020.

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