



**Brexit Advisory
Commission**
For Public Services

Mission statement

SUMMARY

The process of leaving the European Union (EU) will not only fundamentally change the UK's economy and position in the world, it will also have profound legal, technical and financial implications for our domestic public services. As the full details of the Government's negotiations with the EU unfolds, it is important to consider what a "good deal" looks like for our public services and the people that rely on them.

The Brexit Advisory Commission for Public Services has been established by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to ensure that whatever Brexit deal is reached it focuses on the continued need for public services to be empowered and sustainable for the benefit of the communities they serve.

Chaired by former MP Julia Goldsworthy, the Commission will highlight the risks and opportunities of Brexit for the sector. It will also bring forward relevant policy recommendations on how the impacts and process of leaving the EU can be best marshalled to the advantage of our public services.

Facilitated by:

BACKGROUND

The release of the Brexit Advisory Commission for Public Services' mission statement marks its formal launch. The Brexit Commission Mission Statement has been established to ensure that Brexit results in public services becoming more flexible, effective and sustainable. By boosting the sector in this way, the Commission seeks to reduce regional disparities and improve outcomes for communities.

Studies have shown that support for leaving the EU was in part stimulated by disparities in the quality of public services. Statistics from the **Fabian Society** demonstrate that regions which have seen the greatest reductions in public sector spending power were those most likely to vote to leave. By comparison, areas where public spending per head has been higher were more likely to vote remain.

Therefore, it is critical that Brexit is a positive force for change that reduces regional disparities and boosts outcomes for the people that rely on them. However, the task of making Brexit work for public services will likely be great, as, alongside tackling key workforce and funding issues, the process itself could create turbulence and new pressures for public services in addition to existing challenges around rising service demand, financial pressures and demographic change.

CIPFA released a report in the build up to the referendum which examined the influence the EU has on the public sector. It concluded that, as the EU has a far-reaching impact on public service management, delivery, demand, supply chain and funding, the process of separating the sector from EU policy and legislation would be significantly challenging. Furthermore, after a sustained period of low investment and a reduction in services, the report highlighted there is little by way of resources to manage considerable changes.

In interviews CIPFA conducted with public service leaders, it was also apparent that there will be opportunities from Brexit to reshape EU legislation and policy to boost services for the benefit of communities. Indeed, many regulations are being closely scrutinised for the first-time since their inception, and so there is great scope to look at policy afresh.

Clearly, Brexit will present both challenges and opportunities to the public sector, and so it is vital that, given its economic and social significance, negotiators understand the impact of any deal that they are negotiating. To support this, The Brexit Advisory Commission for Public Services will provide evidence-based analysis and impartial advice on how best to turn this unprecedented challenge into an opportunity to bolster the sector and catalyse innovation and reform.

OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

The objective of the Brexit Commission is to understand what role Brexit can play in improving public service outcomes for communities. To achieve this end, the Brexit Commission will explore in what ways Brexit can enable services to become more **effective, responsive and sustainable**.

To support Brexit resulting in a positive force for change for public services, the Commission will bring forward relevant policy **recommendations** and **observations** based on evidence gathered from **commissioners** and at **public hearings** and **roundtables**.

The Brexit Commission will focus its analysis on public services that impact the **health and wellbeing, opportunity, security and freedom** of communities.

Underpinning its work will be the following principles, which are critical in ensuring that public services are able to meet the needs and expectations of its communities:

- **Transparency** – public services must meet high standards of transparency so that the public can trust in organisations.
- **Accountability** – the lines of accountability for public service quality and spending must be clear.
- **Effectiveness** – public services must meet the needs and requirements of communities.
- **Efficiency** – services must demonstrate efficiency in the use of public resources.
- **Cohesiveness** – services must adopt cooperative working practice across silos to best achieve its outcomes.
- **Legitimacy** – public organisations must keep the communities it is serving at the heart of decision making.
- **Inclusive growth** – economic policy must work to boost prosperity in all regions of the UK.

THEMES

The Brexit Commission will focus its activity on three main research themes:

1. The fiscal and funding landscape

Understanding the economic context, and implications for the public finances.

The cost of exit – assessing options on potential exit bill scenarios.

New funding choices – what is the quantum of repatriated resources, and how should they best be managed.

Ongoing research and collaboration – how can the UK continue its participation and scrutinise projects to make sure they are efficient and effective?

The impact on the public finance profession – how will accountants working in the sector be affected?

2. Enhancing policy to boost outcomes

New policy opportunities – where does exit from the EU create new opportunities to redesign policy and regulation to boost effectiveness, efficiency and outcomes?

Business as usual – what EU policies and regulations need to be maintained to best support public service outcomes?

Tough choices ahead – where are there conflicting priorities and needs and how can they best be resolved?

A United Kingdom? How can the Brexit deal accommodate the different requirements of the public services across both the regions and devolved nations?

3. Capacity to deliver and transform

The capability gap – is there the professional expertise and capacity to mobilise Brexit within public services?

Transition management – understanding the staff, resources and skills needs to deliver large scale transformations in services (eg customs)

The workforce of the present and future – how will short and long-term immigration flows impact? How will the future skills needs of public services be met?

STRUCTURE

The Brexit Commission is comprised of public sector leaders, experts and economists, who will help develop the case for the best possible public sector deal.

Former MP and Treasury Special Advisor in the Coalition, Julia Goldworthy, who is a senior policy advisor for PwC on the devolution agenda, chairs the Commission.

Members include:

- Vicky Pryce, Economist, Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)
- Paul Johnson, Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)
- Niall Dickson, CEO, NHS Confederation
- Andrew Carter, Deputy Director, Centre for Cities
- Anna Randle, Head of Public Services, Collaborate CIC
- Cllr Claire Kober, Chair, London Councils
- Professor David Bell, Professor of Economics, University of Stirling

- Gill Payne, Director of Policy and External Affairs, National Housing Federation (NHF)
- Julian McCrae, Deputy Director, Institute for Government (IFG)
- Kate Kennally, CEO, Cornwall Council
- Warwick Lightfoot, Director of Research, Policy Exchange
- Melanie Maxwell-Scott, Director of Policy, Business Services Association (BSA)
- Marina Wheeler QC

ACTIVITIES

As the authoritative voice on Brexit's impact on public services, the Commission will seek to shape what negotiation choices are made in order to protect and boost the sustainability of the sector. It will explore the three key themes through a combination of recommendations, roundtables and public debate events.

Analysis, evidence and reports

Throughout the Brexit negotiation process, the Commission will share practical insight on the risks and opportunities for the sector and will develop recommendations on how Brexit can be a success for public services and the people who rely on them.

It will also run an online blog, which will provide members of the Commission the opportunity to comment on developments during negotiations.

Roundtables

The Brexit Commission will convene a series of roundtable events which will bring together public service practitioners, local leaders and experts. During the roundtables, the attendees will consider a topic related to one of the Commission's three themes. The discussion will be used as evidence to support the Commission's findings.

Public debate events

The Brexit Commission will host a series of debate events across the country which will be open to the public. The panel of each event will feature members of the Commission alongside any other experts on the topic being discussed.

Legacy

As the negotiations come to a close, the Brexit Commission will create a final recommendation document on how public services can thrive in a post-Brexit scenario based on the evidence gathered throughout the lifetime of the Commission.



**Brexit Advisory
Commission**
For Public Services