

BREXIT AND WALES: A THREAT ASSESSMENT

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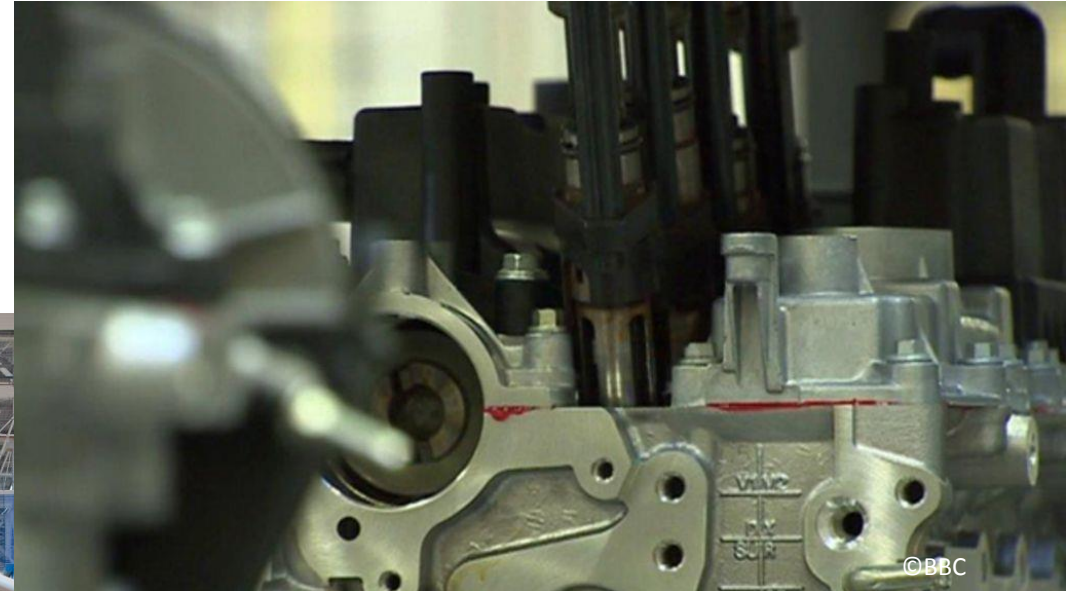
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- **Brexit and Wales: key inflection points**
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 - ***Research, innovation, science and education***
 - ***Agriculture***
 - ***Some general observations***
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Meeting energy demands of the future

21 March 2016



Multi-million pound project will attract business, create jobs and position Wales as a pioneer in energy systems

Cardiff University are to lead a £24m project aimed at developing new ways of managing future energy systems.

The project, entitled FLEXIS, will bring together world-leading expertise from Welsh universities to tackle some of the most pressing issues currently facing society, such as climate change, rising energy prices and fuel poverty.

Bangor University brings significant European research funding to north Wales

Research funding worth nearing £10 million has been levied by Bangor University researchers from the European Union research funding programme, and the University expects to improve on this results in the new European research and innovation programme.

Forty-two major pan-European research projects led by Bangor University academics were successfully funded, against stiff competition in FP7, the 7th Research Framework Programme of the European Commission, which ran from 2007 to 2013.

The replacement research funding stream, which has been going for a year, has seen the University topping previous applications for research projects, submitting bids worth over £15 million in the first year alone. A number of these bids are progressing well and the University is looking forward to the start of the first projects based on these submissions.

Professor David Shepherd, Deputy Vice Chancellor, explains the significance of this result:

"Bangor University staff are clearly collaborating with top research teams across Europe, and conducting work of international relevance and importance.

Research winners

Dr Haley Gomez will receive over £1.4m to probe the evolution of dust throughout cosmic time.

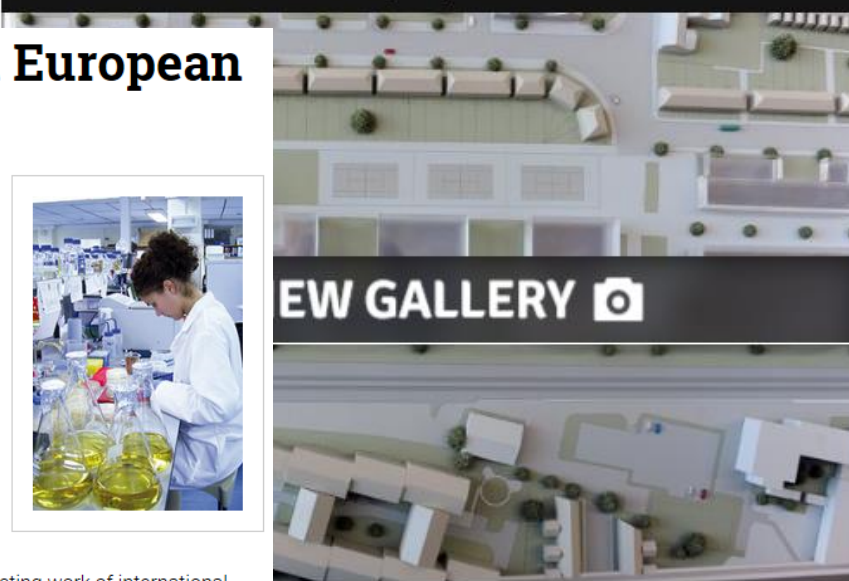
Dr Oliver Williams, reader in experimental physics, will receive nearly £2.2m to lead research into the superconductivity of diamond films and superconducting quantum devices.

Dr Mark Hannam will receive nearly £1.6m for his team's work on mapping gravitational waves from collisions of black holes.

The fourth ERC Consolidator award of £1.5M was won by Professor Chris Chambers in the School of Psychology to research cognitive control training.

Cardiff University's planned £300m innovation campus

► Plans for new £300m Cardiff University campus

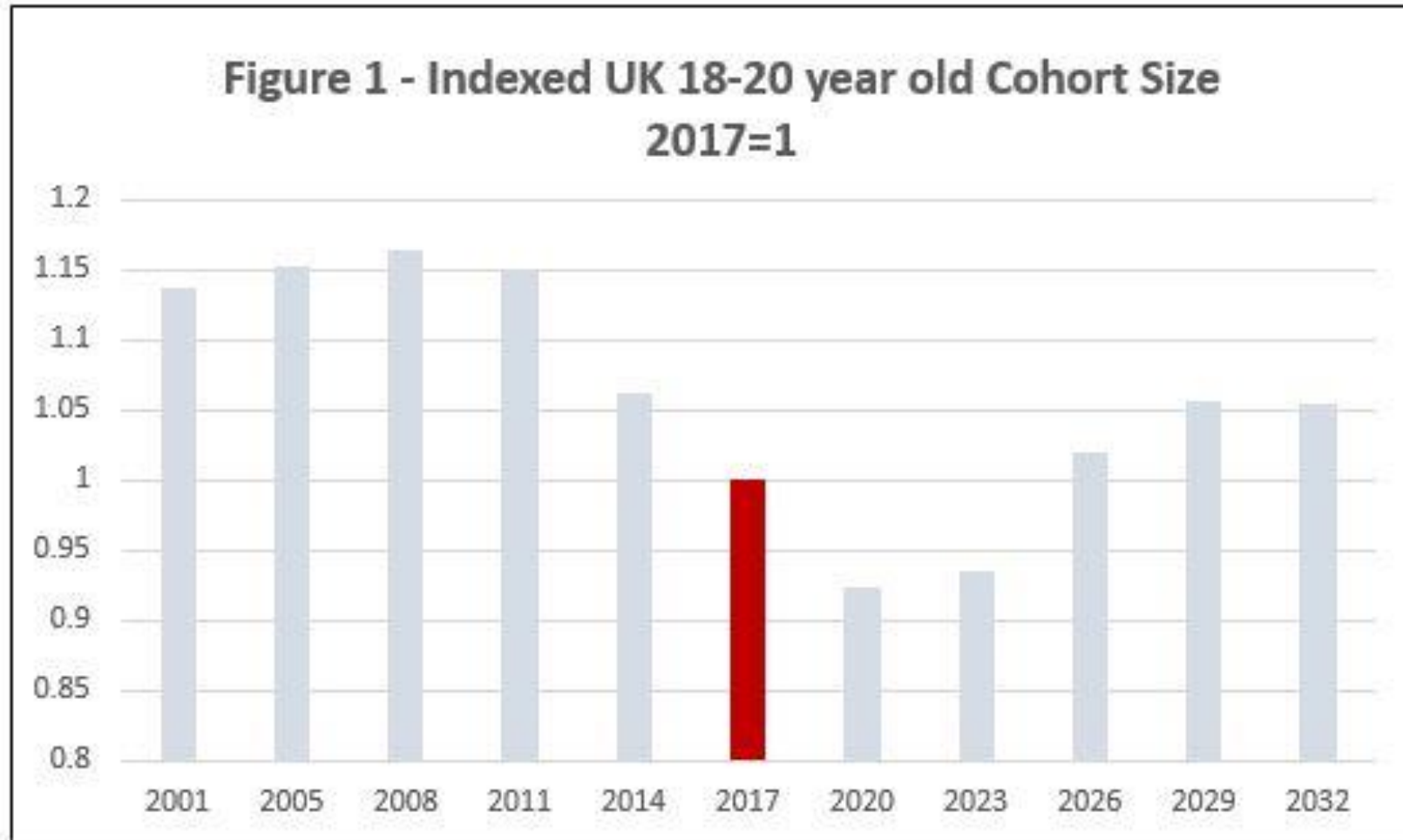


Vice-chancellor's view

Cardiff University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Riordan, said: "The 26 Cardiff projects are spread across the three pillars of the Horizon 2020 programme: Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges, and underpin our mission to tackle major global issues.

"A set of awards of this magnitude for Cardiff University is an outstanding example of impact in action.

Science...



Source: ONS Mid Year Population Estimates

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Economy | Companies | Opinion | Markets | Alex | Telegraph Connect | Events | C

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New Zealand offers UK its top trade negotiators for post-Brexit deals



John Key, New Zealand's Prime Minister CREDIT: PHIL WALTER/GETTY IMAGES

By Peter Spence, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

30 JUNE 2016 • 10:15AM

New Zealand has offered its top trade negotiators to the United Kingdom, relieving the British civil service as it prepares for the strain of seeking new deals with countries across the globe.

The Telegraph understands that the Commonwealth country has made an offer to loan staff to the British civil service, which has few trade negotiators of its own.

Wellington's olive branch came alongside an offer to discuss a trade agreement with the UK, which would help Britain get out of the starting blocks and begin replacing the trade access lost as a result of the Brexit vote.

“The UK would need massive numbers of trade negotiators”

Allie Renison

Experts say that drafting negotiators will be crucial for forging new agreements between the UK and Brussels, as well as with more than 50 other markets with which EU members currently enjoy trade agreements.

It is often asserted that EU Directives on public procurement are a barrier to increased levels of sourcing and hence local economic development. Adherence to such Directives is part of the Single Market and hence Brexit may provide opportunity. It is worth noting however:

- **Since 2014 (at least) it has been possible to include social and environmental outcomes within public sector contracts, as well as provide a high level of support to SMEs wishing to participate in public sector supply chains. Both these elements might de facto advantage local bidders, but the UK has not been in the vanguard in applying them.**
- **Work over a long period by Kevin Morgan from the University's School of Geography and Planning and his colleagues suggests that the public sector in Wales is under-resourced and under-skilled in the area of procurement, and hence we are unlikely to reap the benefits of any loosening of the procurement reins – particularly at a time when austerity places lowest cost above (wider) best value.**
- **Wales has a very underdeveloped sector in terms of large 'first tier' suppliers, for example in construction and food. The story here is thus one of Wales losing out to rest-of-UK competitors more than rest-of-EU, a situation perhaps unlikely to change much post-Brexit.**

The above suggests the public sector in Wales must work very hard – and very differently – to turn any theoretical Brexit procurement advantage into a reality.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



HM Government



Wales Office
Swyddfa Cymru



DINAS-RANBARTH
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay
CITY REGION



north wales economic ambition board
bwrdd uchelgais economaidd gogledd cymru

Cardiff
Capital
Region
City Deal

- Brexit likely to hit Wales hard – arguably most exposed part of the UK
 - Unlike Scotland & NI there is no ‘Brexit martyr’ myth to unite us in charting a least-worst path – we’ve made our bed!
 - Additionally, we fall between several stools – no strong, distinctive economy & government nor of key Brexit/security importance & close to UK government – we lack internal and external political capital
 - Indeed Brexit exposes key fault lines within Welsh society, mostly, but not wholly, between Valleys & Coast
 - ‘Solving’ these problems requires a completely different approach to economic development & civic governance
 - ...which we have shown no appetite for since devolution
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THANKS FOR LISTENING.

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“You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. And what I mean by that is an opportunity to do things that you think you could not do before.”

— Rahm Emanuel

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