**EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY**

**OVERVIEW OF BREXIT PREPAREDNESS**

**SEPTEMBER 2019 UPDATE**

The University has worked to understand and plan for a range of Brexit scenarios including the scenario of a disruptive Brexit where the EU treaties cease to apply to the UK suddenly. Currently that could happen on 31 October 2019 unless there is a further extension of the withdrawal process, an agreement on an orderly exit, or the UK unilaterally decides to reverse its decision to withdraw.

The UK Government[[1]](#footnote-1) and the European Commission[[2]](#footnote-2) have each published a wide range of guidance on the implications of a disorderly Brexit which may be consulted in respect of specific interests. The University has taken account of this guidance in its preparations. The University continually reviews the risks of a disorderly Brexit in a number of areas including:

**Intellectual Property** (including patents and trademarks) – considered to be low risk and UK Government advice on the subject has been reassuring.

**Data protection** – considered to be low risk and the implications of changes well understood.

**Procurement** – the University works closely with Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) in this area. Risk levels vary across existing procurement frameworks based on the analysis completed so far. The University is talking with individual suppliers to understand their perception of the risks. This likewise shows a variable picture.

**Finance and insurance** – the University has received assurances that there should not be short-term disruption to our banking services. There could be implications for the cost of goods and services depending on what happens, arising from the performance of the UK economy, interest and exchange rate fluctuations and changes to customs and taxation rules. The University is taking steps to minimise these impacts where it can. The University is satisfied that short-term implications of Brexit on its insurance cover will be manageable but there may be longer-term implications for the cost of cover.

**Research** – UK government guarantees to underwrite EU funding in the event of a disorderly Brexit have mitigated the short-term financial risks and the University has submitted details of its Horizon 2020 projects to UKRI. Work is ongoing to identify and mitigate any non-financial risks to projects and contracts.

**Staff travel** – the University is closely monitoring the situation regarding staff travel and any risks of disruption to transportation. Information is being collated on planned long-term business travel around or after 31 October. Guidance will be issued to staff as necessary.

**Student travel** – as above the University is closely monitoring developments and assessing what actions may need to be taken in respect of students on or planning exchanges or internships, though this is not currently considered high risk. The Global Mobility and Visa & International Support Teams will provide information and guidance to incoming and outgoing students. The University is also in close touch with our EU based partners and is taking the necessary steps to ensure continuity of these partnerships.

**Information services** – the most significant risk is considered to be price fluctuation arising from currency movements. No specific software supply risk has been identified but there is a general risk of delays in the fulfilment of orders for hardware and books. The University will continue to access the Janet Network and JISC expect to retain membership of GÉANT which provides UK institutions with secure global network connectivity. There is ongoing work on data storage which is generally considered low risk but there is some concern about the impact on software-as-a-service platforms.

1. <https://www.gov.uk/brexit> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit_en> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)