

# Brexit - What next?

Series 3, V17 - 8.9.2019, 1400  
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Debate using #BrexitDiagram on Twitter!

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Grey line / box - possible but prob not calculated



Black line - possible option, thickness corresponds to accumulated probability

Route ruled out - no longer possible

0.2 Probability at a decision node

12% Accumulated probability of outcome

Remain parties stick to original plan pass the anti-No Deal Brexit Law - this mandates the Prime Minister to ask EU for a 3 month Article 50 extension until 31 January 2020 - this is **against Johnson's wishes**

Johnson pre-empt's the Commons on 4 Sept and tables a motion under the Fixed-term Parliaments Act (FTPA) to hold a **General Election (GE)** anyway (prob on 15 Oct), before law has been passed

Law to circumvent FTPA - requires simple majority in Commons but also requires Lords (hence not enough time)

Johnson accepts the Backstop and seeks to pass the **Withdrawal Agreement (WA)** through Commons

There is no way the Queen is going to **refuse Royal Assent** for the Bill - she is going to refuse to be drawn into Johnson's game. And it would destroy the monarchy.

2/3 majority needed under FTPA is not achieved

Legislative efforts succeed **4-6 Sept** and anti-No Deal Brexit Law is passed (Passes Commons 4 Sept, Lords 6 Sept)

Despite what some UK press and 10 Downing Street say, there is **no legal mechanism to kick the UK out of the EU** if it does not send a European Commissioner

Johnson **changes tack** and decides he really wants to aim for a Brexit with a Deal, instead of No Deal

Solution is to **revert Irish Backstop to original form** - so it only applies to NI - requires change to Withdrawal Agreement (WA) but EU is OK with principle

Solution is to **narrow the scope of the Irish Backstop to cover only agri and food matters** - requires change to the Withdrawal Agreement

Johnson says he is still seeking a **Brexit with a Deal**, but does not explicitly ask EU for more time nor come up with workable proposals - sits it out

Government brings **Vote of No Confidence (VONC)** in itself under FTPA on **9 Sept**, aiming for 29 Oct GE (needs simple maj.)

**9 Sept Johnson retables the motion to force a GE under FTPA**, aiming for 15 Oct GE (needs 2/3 maj.)

Johnson **resigns by mid Sept**, forcing the opposition to find a majority for an interim Prime Minister (PM)

EU agrees  
Commons votes in **favour** of Deal with original backstop

EU doesn't agree  
Commons votes **against** Deal with original backstop

EU agrees  
Commons votes in **favour** of Deal with agrifood backstop

EU doesn't agree  
Commons votes **against** Deal with agrifood backstop

Labour is OK with this, so simple majority achieved

Labour **refuses** to vote in favour, chooses to wait until after 14 Oct to call GE

Labour is OK with this, so 2/3 majority achieved

Prorogation (forced suspension of Parliament) happens before an alternative PM can be appointed

Majority for an **alternative Government** (under PM Corbyn or another figure) - based on taking UK to a GE 29 Oct or after

No majority for any **alternative Government** (under PM Corbyn or another figure)

During prorogation and Party Conference period (until **early Oct**), Johnson pushed on what he will do at 17 Oct European Council meeting

Johnson **agrees** to request Article 50 is extended

Johnson **continues to refuse** to request Article 50 is extended

Johnson **resigns prior to 14 Oct**

Johnson is in danger of getting taken to Court for not respecting the law (can only happen after 17 Oct)

Opposition parties agree who would command a majority in the Commons, and Queen appoints this person as PM

New PM has 2 tasks: to ask EU for Article 50 extension (will be granted) and organise a GE

**14 or 15 October** After Commons returns post-prorogation **Vote of No Confidence (VONC)**

VONC **passes**

VONC **doesn't pass**

No administration can be formed, so after 14 days UK goes for **General Election**

Interim administration with **Corbyn as PM** formed - goes for **General Election**

Interim administration with **centrist PM** formed - goes for **General Election**

Interim administration with **centrist PM** formed - **revives Theresa May's Deal**

Interim administration with **centrist or Corbyn as PM** formed - goes for **renegotiation with the EU then 2nd Referendum (People's Vote)**

EU **refuses** at the last minute to unconditionally grant the UK more time, to avert No Deal

EU **agrees** at the last minute to unconditionally grant the UK more time, to avert No Deal

Might need emergency legislation to prevent No Deal in 14 day period

Might need emergency legislation to prevent No Deal before 31 Oct - will pass

Legislation **passes**

Legislation **doesn't pass**

UK has approved a Brexit Deal, but then heads for a **General Election** as DUP no longer supports Conservatives  
**Chance: 1%**

UK has approved an amended Deal agri food only Backstop  
**Chance: 1%**

Brexit with a Deal happens legally but **after 31 Oct 2019**  
**Chance: 4%**

UK heads for a **General Election on 29 Oct or after** (needs few months extension of Art 50 to organise - EU will agree this)  
**Chance: 72%**

UK heads for a **General Election prob. 15 Oct** (17 Oct is European Council - probably doesn't need Art 50 extension)  
**Chance: 7%**

UK plans **2nd Ref in 2020** (needs 9-12 months ext of Art 50 - EU will agree this)  
**Chance: 8%**

Commons votes to **Revoke Article 50**  
**Chance: 3%**

**No Deal** Brexit looms on 31 October 2019  
**Chance: 5%**

Further **extension to Article 50 period** granted to UK, but with no clear justification  
**Chance: 2%**

All Deal options require a technical extension of Article 50 to allow time for ratification - will be granted

Cumulative Chance GE: **80%**  
Cumulative Chance Deal: **6%**

Interim probabilities  
Chances Johnson no longer PM at 17 Oct European Council: **71%**  
Chances VONC needed in Oct post-prorogation: **47%**

**BIG CAVEAT HERE!** I cannot predict how a General Election would go. Were it won by Tories, especially if held on 15 Oct, there is a substantial chance of No Deal after an election!