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UNISON national health and safety seminar / Belfast 2019

# **Health and safety and leaving the European Union**

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# Health and safety timeline before Europe



- 1833: Factories Act
- 1843: Mines Inspectorate
- 1895: Quarry Inspectorate
- 1956: Agriculture (Safety, health and welfare provisions) Act

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1966: Aberfan 144 dead



1974: Health and  
Safety at Work  
Act 1974

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What has the European  
Union done for health and  
safety?



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- 1988: Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations
- 1989: OSH Framework Directive
- 1992: Health and Safety Six Pack Regulations
- 1993: Management of Health and Safety Work Regulations

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**Provided a system of  
regulating workplace  
health & safety in a  
global economy**



# **BREXIT: What we know so far?**

- **European Union (EU) Withdrawal Act**
- **The Health and Safety (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018**



# Henry VIII Powers



Allow government to change an act of parliament, or even to repeal it, after it has been passed, and without the need to go through, parliament.



## **Scenario 1: Draft withdrawal agreement**

- **Britain will formally exit EU on 29 March 2019**
- **UK will stay inside the single market and remain subject to EU laws and budgetary obligations until end of 2020 to allow time to agree new trading relationship**
- **This transition can be extended up to December 2022, subject to agreement of both sides.**

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## **Backstop agreement**

- **Single customs territory between the (European) Union and the United Kingdom" will be triggered**
- **"Level playing field"**
- **No hard border and Northern Ireland would in effect stay be subject to rules of Single market**
- **Once triggered can only be removed by agreement of both sides**



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## **What would withdrawal deal mean for health and safety?**

- **Commits Britain to maintaining “level playing field” re health and safety regulation**
- **No say on how future health and safety legislation is developed**
- **Possible confusion & increased bureaucracy (e.g. REACH)**

# What would no-deal mean?

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**Brexit**

## Tory MPs suggest firms draw up list for bonfire of EU laws after Brexit

Michael Gove and John Whittingdale tell CBI companies should outline regulations they want scrapped when Britain exits bloc

**Rowena Mason**  
Deputy political editor  
Wed 7 Dec 2016  
15.26 GMT

4650  
This article is over 1 year old



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## Scenario 3: BREXIT delayed??

- **How long for?**
- **Will EU agree?**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Referendum?**
- **????????????????**

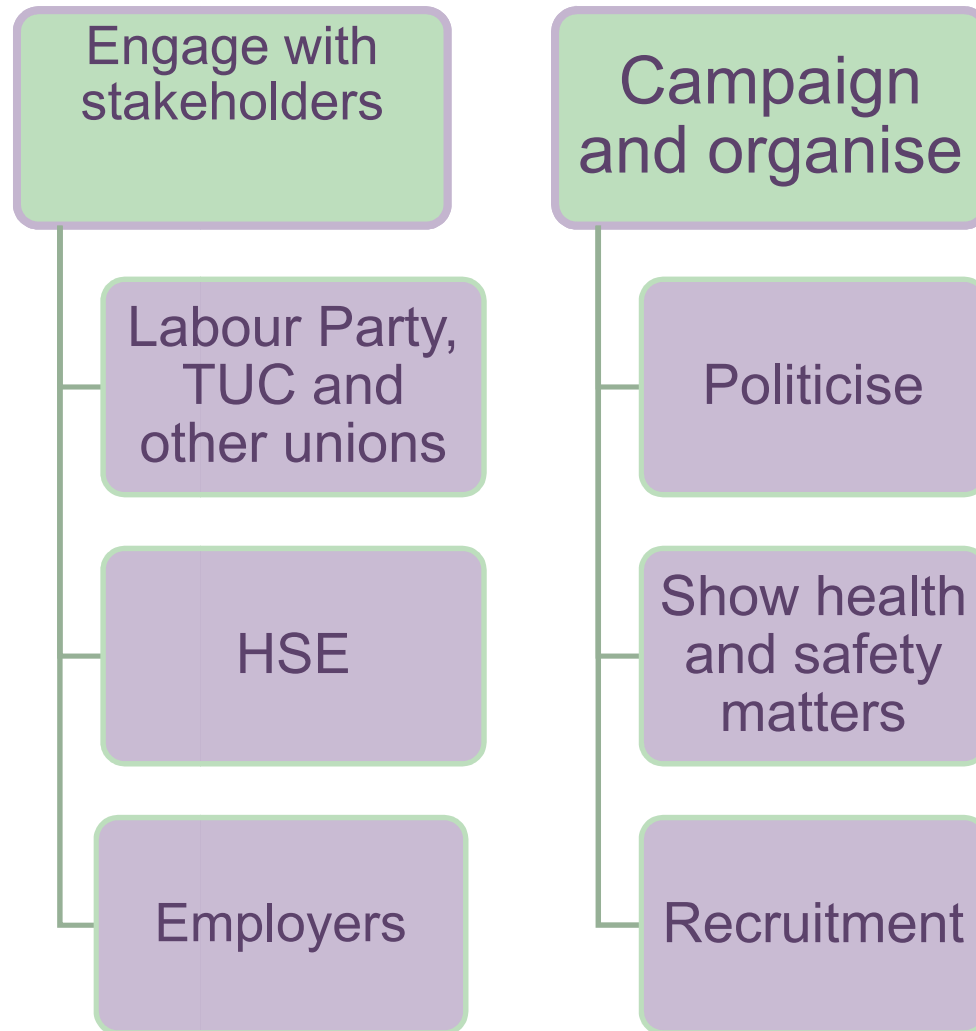


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# What is UNISON doing?





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**The best way to protect  
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BREXIT or no BREXIT**



# Contact us



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