

## **Brexit White Paper: The Future Relationship Between the United Kingdom and the European Union**

### **Highlights for Heritage Science**

In July 2018, the Government published the [White Paper](#) outlining its position for a post-Brexit relationship with the European Union, intended to underpin negotiations with the EU ahead of the EU Exit on 29 March 2019.

The paper dedicates a whole section to science and innovation (p. [77-78](#)), and another to culture and education (p. [78-79](#)).

The following points in particular may affect the heritage science sector:

- **On freedom of movement, affecting heritage professionals and researchers post-Brexit:**

“The UK ... will want to continue to attract the brightest and the best, from the EU and elsewhere.” The paper reaffirms the UK’s continued interest in enhancing its “attractiveness for research, development and innovation”.

While the UK intends to end the free movement of people, it hopes to “facilitate mobility for students and young people” by proposing a UK-EU youth mobility scheme, and announces plans to “discuss how to facilitate temporary mobility of scientists and researchers, self-employed professionals, employees providing services, as well as investors.”

The strategy also proposes reciprocal visa-free travel arrangements to allow tourism and temporary residence for business activity to continue.

The House of Lords has recently published a report on [Brexit: movement of people in the cultural sector](#), presenting evidence and raising a number of issues.

- **Future research funding and participation in EU networks:**

The White Paper proposes a UK-EU science and innovation accord that would provide for UK participation in EU research funding programmes, and would “enable continued cooperation through joint participation in networks, infrastructure, policies and agencies which are to the UK’s and the EU’s joint benefit.” The accord would also ensure the UK’s participation in future programmes.

The UK also requests “suitable involvement through representation at strategic for and committees.”

While the Erasmus+ scheme is scheduled to end at the same time as the Brexit implementation period, the government is “open to exploring participation in the successor scheme, and continued involvement in Creative Europe to support the cultural, creative and audiovisual sectors.”

- **On the movement of goods and access to specialist materials:**

The Strategy recognises that the temporary movement of goods is necessary to the cultural and creative sectors, explicitly citing “objects and collections loaned between museums.” The UK hopes to model a culture and education accord based on the EU’s Cultural Cooperation Protocols with third countries, to allow for the temporary movement of goods “for major events”.

The UK also intends to remain affiliated with the cultural object restitution regime system, to “underpin efforts to prevent the illicit removal and trading of cultural objects.”

No mention is made of continued access to imported specialist materials for restoration work, an issue [previously raised](#) in Parliamentary Questions to DCMS.

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