

Children and Young People's Panel on Europe



Phase 2 Report Young Brexit Voices: It's Our Future Too



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Foreword

We are the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe. We are a group of children and young people aged 9-19 from across Scotland who came together to ensure that children and young people's voices were heard as the UK exited the European Union. This is our final report from Phase 2 of our work.

The Panel was created in 2018 and our work has been supported by the national charity Children in Scotland and Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights). In 2018 we completed Phase 1 of our work and published a report, **'Listen to Us'**.

In 2019, we recruited some new members for Phase 2. We met several times before the COVID-19 pandemic hit us and we went into lockdown and since face-to-face meetings were banned, we couldn't meet anymore. At this point we moved all our work online; we had a few online meetings, and these helped us to work towards the end goal which was a two-week campaign and ultimately writing this report.

For Phase 2, the Panel was split into four subgroups. The four subgroups were, EU Funding, Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel, Rights and Economy, Trade and Jobs.

We ran a two-week social media campaign in August 2020. On Twitter, our tweets were seen by the public 95,638 times. We also had engagement from a number of decision makers and organisations. We were so proud of the statistics that we got back because we really want young people's voices to be heard.

In Phase 2, we have had a number of meetings with key people who make decisions about Brexit. Thank you to all of them for meeting with us and listening to our ideas.

One of our main aims is to get information related to Brexit presented in a child-friendly way and without all the jargon associated with Brexit. We feel that it is paramount for children and young people to understand what is going to happen in their future.

We have learned a lot about Brexit and how to talk to decision makers. We have also met new people and made friends. In the future we hope that we can continue our work. We always learn something new and children and young people need to be heard.

But Phase 2 has been difficult: coronavirus has made it hard for us to meet and adults have been focussing on that more than Brexit.

As a group we know what we think needs to happen to make sure that exiting the EU doesn't have a bad effect on our lives. We need adults who make decisions to act on this.

We also think it is really important that children and young people are heard about Brexit. What happens next will affect us for the rest of our lives.

So, here's our report – feel free to get in touch with us to let us know what you think of it.



What I've gained from the project

I've become more confident with sharing my opinion and I've learnt more about politics and the fact we all have an equal voice.

Malika

I think I've gained lots of experience in how the government operates day to day and in my ability to chat and ask questions in a formal meeting.

Angus

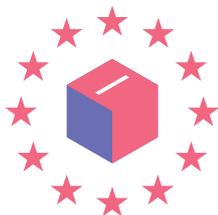
More awareness about how politics works and how to influence decision makers, broadened my views on topics that matter to children and young people, listened to lots of debate and other people's opinions, confidence that even though I am only 10 years old, I can make a difference to life in Scotland.

Oscar

I've gained friends, knowledge, and lots and lots of self-confidence. I've had the opportunity to meet really influential, important people and I've been able to be a part of change.

Kurby

On 31 January 2020, the United Kingdom left the European Union (EU). This was as a result of the 2016 referendum. A referendum is a vote on an individual topic.



Only people aged 18 years old and above were allowed to vote in the referendum. This meant lots of young people did not get to vote, even though over-16s can vote in Scottish elections. Under Article 12 of the UNCRC, children and young people have the right to be involved in decisions that affect them and have their voices heard. However, adults and politicians did little to listen to children and young people and find out what they thought about Brexit.

In 2018, the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe was set up to support our rights under Article 12 and ensure that children and young people's voices were heard as the UK exited the EU. Brexit will have a big impact on our lives so it is vital that our voices are heard, and our needs are met.

During 2018, the UK Government started discussions with the European Union about how the UK would leave. As the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe, we made a series of recommendations to the Scottish Government about what children and young people thought was important. The recommendations can be found in our report '[Listen to Us](#)'.



What is Brexit?

Brexit is short for "British Exit". It means the process of the UK leaving the EU.



What is the UNCRC?

UNCRC stands for United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is a list of all the rights that children (under 18s) have. Human rights are based on things like dignity, fairness and respect. Every child is born with human rights.

The UNCRC includes rights to health, education, family life and protection from being hurt or treated unfairly.

The UK (including Scotland) signed up to the UNCRC in 1991, making a promise to respect children's human rights.

The Scottish Government has promised to make the UNCRC a binding part of our law. This is called incorporation and means they will have to follow the UNCRC.



What is Article 12?

Article 12 of the UNCRC sets out the right of every child to have their views listened to and considered in relation to decisions that affect them.

As children and young people were not allowed to vote in the referendum, it is even more important that politicians speak to children and young people about their views and take them into account in the decisions that they make.

After we published this report, we wanted to keep working to make sure that these recommendations were heard by the Scottish Government and UK Government as their discussions with the European Union continued.

The Transition Period

On 1 February 2020 (the day after leaving the EU), we entered what has become known as the 'transition period'. The 'transition period' is when the UK Government and EU decide how they will work together in future. The transition period will end on 31 December 2020. Until then, all the EU rules still affect the UK, meaning things stay the same.

During the transition period, we have been learning more about the process of leaving the EU and working on our recommendations to make them more specific. We have worked together as a group to develop our recommendations further and to work out who we wanted to speak to.

Phase 1 into Phase 2

This report lays out the work we have been doing together in 2020. It identifies what we think needs to happen to make sure that children and young people's views are heard as we exit the EU. The report focuses on the following four topics which we identified during the first phase of our work:

- The Economy, Trade and Jobs
- EU Funding
- Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel
- Rights.

What is this report for?

In the report you will find out about how we worked together and what we have been doing. You will hear about what we think is most important as we come to the end of the transition period. We will also show you who we have contacted and what success we have had. We have tried to use clear language so that the report is accessible to everyone.

The Panel wants this report to be used as a tool for people making important decisions as our relationship with the EU changes. It tells them what sort of country children and young people want to live in and sets out what Scottish Government, politicians from different parties and other people interested in improving children's lives should think about when making decisions.

The Panel

The Panel is made up of 19 children and young people from across Scotland. We are aged 9-19 and none of us had the chance to vote in the EU referendum.

We have been working with Children in Scotland and Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights). We are politically neutral and do not have an agreed position on whether leaving the European Union is a good or a bad thing. Our work is aimed at ensuring the best outcome for children and young people, whatever happens next.



Thirteen members of the Panel were involved during Phase 1 of the project in 2018-19, and six new members joined in December 2019 for Phase 2.

We wanted to make sure that we involved children and young people from across Scotland and heard from children and young people from a range of backgrounds, from all the different areas in Scotland. We wanted to make sure that all children and young people had an equal opportunity to take part. We also wanted to make sure that we involved children and young people with a range of views on Brexit.

Our work in Phase 2 has been heavily affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. We only met three times in person, as a group. We have since moved all our work online, including using virtual meetings and Basecamp to keep in touch. Despite this we have achieved a lot and are proud of our work.



Methodology

Children in Scotland and Together wanted to make sure that Panel members were supported to learn about relevant topics before deciding what politicians should do.

Brexit is a complicated topic so it was important to make sure that it was understandable to everyone. Children in Scotland and Together tried to make sessions activity-focused and as engaging as possible to ensure everyone's rights to participate and be heard were upheld. It was important that Panel members led the work of the Panel as much as they could.

Building on Phase 1

During Phase 1 of the Project, the Panel worked out five key areas:

- The Economy, Trade and Jobs
- EU Funding
- Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel
- Rights
- Tackling Uncertainty.

We worked with relevant experts in each of these areas during Phase 1 to develop our understanding of the topic. We then made recommendations in each of these areas about how the Scottish Government and UK Government could meet the needs of children and young people. You can find all the recommendations and how we made them in our report, '[Listen to Us](#)'.

Our work in Phase 2 has been built directly from what we did during Phase 1. We have used the recommendations as the basis for our work during Phase 2, narrowing these down to allow us to focus on issues and make more detailed policy calls.



Phase 1



Phase 2

Recruiting new members

The first thing we had to do during Phase 2 was recruit new members. Thirteen members of the Panel decided to stay involved in Phase 2. We decided to recruit for between five and 10 new members.

We held an open recruitment where people could apply by answering the following three questions:

- Why do I want to be involved?
- What makes me who I am?
- What do I think about Brexit?

We held a selection day, where members of the Panel worked with staff from Children in Scotland and Together to choose new members of the group. We chose six new members to take us up to 19 people.

You can find out more about how we recruited people in the 'What have the Panel been doing?' section.

Phase 2

During Phase 2 we have worked in the following four subgroups:

- The Economy, Trade and Jobs
- EU Funding
- Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel
- Rights.

In Phase 1 we had also focused on tackling uncertainty. We didn't use this as a subgroup in Phase 2 because we thought our whole project covered this.

Each member of the Panel picked two of these groups to work in as we did not have the time for everyone to work on all four.

Our work was due to take place mainly by having face-to-face meetings. We had three meetings in person before the Coronavirus lockdown began. After this, we had to hold all sessions online.

Our online work has been a mixture of online video conferencing sessions and Basecamp chats. We have met four times as a whole Panel through our video sessions and also held one additional online session for each of the subgroups.

All the sessions were activity-focused and used different games and exercises to help us think about the big topics we were speaking about.

You can find out more about all of our different sessions and how this led to our campaigns in the 'What have the Panel been doing?' section.



Briefings

Brexit is a really complicated topic. So it was important that we all had access to enough information so we could have informed discussions.

Throughout Phase 2 we received briefings and information sheets to support us with the topics we were discussing. At first these built on what we had talked about during Phase 1 and provided updates on what was happening with Brexit.

As we went through the project, they covered what we had discussed, who we wanted to talk to and what we wanted to see happen next.

All the briefings were written in clear and accessible language to make sure everyone could understand them. We could also speak to staff from Children in Scotland and Together before our sessions if we wanted to discuss the briefings and think about what we would want to say.



Policy Positions and Influencing

In our subgroups, we worked together to agree our policy positions and how we would try to influence relevant decision makers for each topic.

Stage 1 – agreeing our area of focus

1. Deciding areas of interest
2. Characterisation
3. Discussing Phase 1 recommendations
4. Choosing which recommendations to focus on.



Stage 2 – Who, What, When, Why, How

1. Deciding who we wanted to speak to
2. Agreeing our policy position
3. Finalising our position and how we would contact people.



Stage 3 – Influencing

1. Letters and requests for meetings
2. Social media campaign to share our work
3. Meetings and engagement
4. Final Report.



What has the Panel been doing?

After the selection day, the Panel had two face-to-face meetings, five Zoom sessions and seven Basecamp chats. We also ran a two-week social media campaign and met with key decision makers. This section of the report lays out what we have been working on as a group.

Face-to-Face Meetings

Selection Day – 14 December 2019

In December 2019 we held an initial selection day where staff from Children in Scotland and Together supported existing Panel members to deliver a session for people who wanted to join.

At the selection day we played some games to get to know each other, like human Bingo. We also did some team-building activities such as building cup towers and a game where we had to rearrange the pages of a children's story into the correct order without speaking to each other.

Members who'd taken part in Phase 1 then talked about what they had worked on and how they had come up with their recommendations, and explained that this phase of the project was about taking that work forward. They also gave an update about what was happening with Brexit.



 Recruitment session, December 2019

We talked about what it meant to be a good member of a team. We were given flash cards with images on them and then talked in a small group about how the cards related to teamwork. We then chose the ones we felt were most important and made collages to show what we felt the most important aspects of being a good team member were. Everyone fed back to the group on what they had chosen and why.

We then discussed the Panel's recommendations from Phase 1 and found out what people thought about them. This was really important as it let us find out what everyone was interested in.

Six new members joined the Panel following the selection day.



Panel Meeting 1 – 1 February 2020

At the first Panel meeting we built our knowledge of the four topic areas that we would be working on. The topics were:

- EU Funding
- Opportunities to work, study and travel
- Rights
- Economy, Trade and Jobs

This let us learn a bit more about each topic before deciding which two we wanted to work on across the project. Because we had recruited new members, the Panel had a mix of people who had worked on the project before and those who were new to being involved. It was really important that we built up everyone's knowledge and understanding of Brexit and of the Panel.

We did an activity to learn as a group about what stage Brexit was at. As a group we worked together to put a timeline of the key events in order.

We also spoke about the things Scottish Government has powers over, and the things that only the UK Government can do (these are called devolved and reserved powers). We then did some activities to think more about who was responsible for different issues. We did this by playing a variation of the 'corners' game where different parts of the room were assigned as the Scottish Government and the UK Government. Someone would read out an example of a policy area (like health or education) and we would then run to the part of the room that is responsible for it.

We then had to choose what topics we wanted to work on from the four mentioned above. At the meeting, we got to speak about each group and the things they would be focusing on. We then voted for which groups we wanted to be part of on Survey Monkey. Staff from Children in Scotland and Together helped to sort us into groups in a fair way. In the end, everyone was part of two groups.

Meeting with the First Minister and Minister for Children and Young People – 3 February 2020

The Panel was invited to meet with the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, and the Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd, to discuss how Brexit was going to affect children and young people. Seventeen members of the Panel attended. The meeting was a good opportunity to share our work from Phase 1 and talk about our priorities for the future.

Following the meeting the Panel wrote a [letter](#) to the First Minister and received a [response](#) from the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitution, Michael Russell.



Panel Meeting 2 – 14 March 2020

At our second meeting, we decided which recommendations we wanted to focus on during Phase 2.

In Phase 1 we had made more than 50 recommendations. We knew this was too many for us to keep working on in Phase 2, so we decided we needed to narrow them down.

We used a characterisation exercise to help us decide which ones to focus on. Here we each made a small character and decorated them with all the things children and young people need to be happy, healthy and safe. This was like an activity the Panel completed in Phase 1 and it helped us think about how Brexit might affect the things that are important to us. We used these characters to help us decide what topics we would focus on in Phase 2.



👁 Placing stepping stones, March 2020

In our subgroups, we then talked about the recommendations from Phase 1 and worked in groups to answer some questions about them. This helped us narrow things down more:

- Why might we want to work on this topic? I.e. is it relevant? Could we have impact?
- How does this relate to our character? I.e. what outcomes? How would it contribute?
- Who else is doing things?
- Are there any reasons we shouldn't work on this topic?
- Who might we want to speak to?

This helped us to think about why the topic was important and how it affected children and young people. It also helped us to think about people we could work with and any reasons we might want to avoid the topic.

In the end we decided to focus on the following topics:



EU funding

- Youth Services
- Science and Health



Rights

- Right to Health
- Right to Education



Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel

- Information



Economy, Trade and Jobs

- Wages
- Trading Standards

We also started to think about the different things we might want to do to share our work. We used a stepping-stones activity to think about what small, medium and big action might be. We wrote these ideas on different sized paper stones and used these to cross a river to a world where children had been fully listened to about exiting the EU.

The activity was used to help us think about what sort of things would help us share our work and make changes.

Some ideas included writing a letter to a politician or having a meeting with them. People also suggested running a campaign and talking to their friends.

Basecamp Chats: April – June

Basecamp is an online platform for working on projects. It allows you to have a group of people working on the same thing. You can post updates and share ideas. It has a lot of different functions, one key way we used it was to come together as a group and chat for an hour at a time about specific topics.

We had seven Basecamp chats in our subgroups for the Panel. We used these Basecamp chats to discuss things like who we wanted to speak to and how we should target them. We used a game based on Top Trumps to help us make these decisions. We had a card for each person or organisation and talked about who we thought had the most power to make decisions on each topic. We also talked about whether or not the Panel had any links with them already and who would have the most time to talk to us.

The chats were facilitated by Children in Scotland and Together. We were also given briefings beforehand so we knew what we were talking about and could think about our answers in advance.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

WHAT?
Scottish Government is mostly made up of Civil Servants.
Civil servants are people who write and deliver the policies ideas and plans that politicians think of.
They speak to politicians a lot and advise them on what they have found out. They know the detail of policies but can't make them up themselves.

HAVE A THINK...
Why might it be good to speak to this organisation?
Think of at least two reasons.
Why might it not be a good idea to speak to this organisation?
Think of at least two reasons.

GIVE YOUR FINAL SCORE!

Power	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Links with the Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHARITIES

WHAT?
Lots of charities work with children and young people to support their mental health.
They provide services that help people deal with mental health problems and also work to prevent them happening.
If funding to other services is cut it might mean people have less support. This might mean these sorts of charities have more people they need to help.

HAVE A THINK...
Why might it be good to speak to these organisations?
Think of at least two reasons.
Why might it not be a good idea to speak to these organisations?
Think of at least two reasons.

GIVE YOUR FINAL SCORE!

Power	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Links with the Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/>

NHS & CAMHS REPRESENTATIVES

WHAT?
The NHS delivers health care in Scotland. This includes mental health support.
The NHS run hospitals, local doctors, surgeries and also things like Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
There are also lots of bits of the NHS that do research, provide information and track statistics.

HAVE A THINK...
Why might it be good to speak to this organisation?
Think of at least two reasons.
Why might it not be a good idea to speak to this organisation?
Think of at least two reasons.

GIVE YOUR FINAL SCORE!

Power	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Links with the Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/>

👁 Strategic planning with the help of a card game

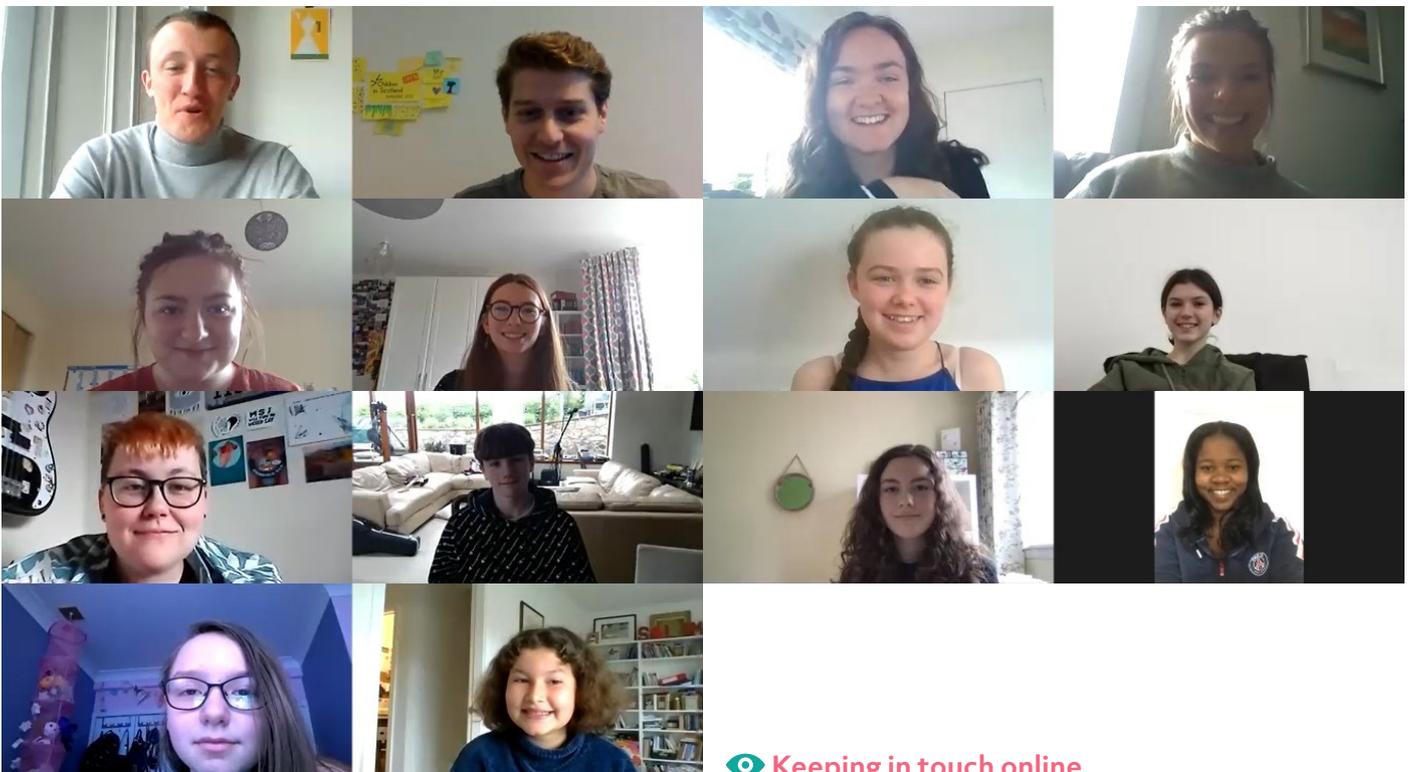
Zoom Meetings: April - September

Zoom is an online video conferencing platform. It allowed us to come together as a group even when we couldn't work face to face.

We had Zoom meetings as a whole panel and in our individual subgroups. We used these Zoom meetings to decide things like our policy positions and also how we wanted to take forward our social media campaigning.

We were given briefings before the Zoom meetings, so we knew what we were going to talk about. We also did some research and preparation in our own time before the meetings.

Children in Scotland and Together would take notes on what we were saying and prepare these into briefings for the next session so we could keep building on what we had spoken about.



Cross-Party Group on Children and Young People – 28 May 2020

Members of the Panel attended a meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Children and Young People to discuss the impact of Coronavirus. Two members of the group asked questions of Scottish Government Ministers.

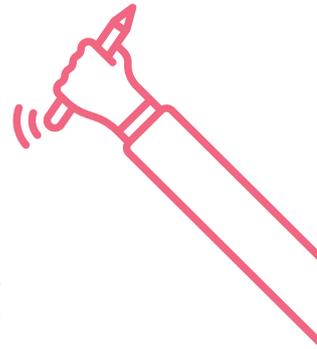


Contacting Decision Makers – July - August

In July and August we contacted people who we thought could make changes in the areas that we were working on. We sent letters and emails out to people telling them what we thought and asking them to meet with us.

We contacted the following groups of people:

- **UK Government Ministers**, including;
 - A letter to Secretary of State for International Trade, Liz Truss
 - A letter to Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, Amanda Solloway
- **Scottish Government Ministers**, including;
 - A letter to Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs, Michael Russell
 - An open letter to Cabinet Secretary for Education, John Swinney
- **Charities and other organisations** that work with children and young people, including;
 - The Children and Young People’s Commissioner for Scotland
 - Education Scotland
- **Wider civil society**, including;
 - The Scottish Trade Union Congress
 - The British Science Association



You can see a table in **Appendix A** with the full list of people we contacted and whether they responded to us. In total we contacted 34 people and received 16 responses.

We managed to organise meetings with the following people:

- Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Richard Lochhead
- Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills, Jamie Hepburn
- Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs, Michael Russell
- Members of the Scottish Parliament’s Health and Sport Committee, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP and Brian Whittle MSP
- Katherine Mathieson, Chief Executive of the British Science Association
- Professor Graeme Reid, University College London, Chair of the Campaign for Science and Engineering
- The Scottish Youth Parliament
- Paul Anderson, Scottish Parliament Outreach Team

You can find out more about each meeting later in this section.

Social Media Campaign: 10 August - 21 August

Across two weeks in August, we conducted a social media campaign to share our work. We prepared a series of infographics to be shared on social media and more widely. We took a different focus each day, as follows:

- 10 August – **Introduction to the Panel**
- 11 August – **Right to Education**
- 12 August – **Open letter to John Swinney – Right to Education**
- 13 August – **Economy, Trade and Jobs – Wages**
- 14 August – **EU Funding – Youth Services**
- 17 August – **Ask organisations and individuals to take the Young Brexit Voices pledge**
- 18 August – **Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel**
- 19 August – **Right to Health**
- 20 August – **Economy, Trade and Jobs – Trading Standards**
- 21 August – **EU Funding – Science & Research**



Across the two-week campaign we received a high level of engagement:

Twitter:

- **2,261** engagements (this is the combined number of likes, retweets, comments, posts etc.)
- Users saw our tweets **95,638** times.

Facebook:

- **338** likes, comments, and shares
- **4302** people saw our posts on Facebook.

Instagram:

- **123** likes and comments
- **489** views on our Instagram stories
- **1,330** users saw our posts on Instagram.



A range of key decision makers and organisations engaged with our campaign and promoted our work.

Some of the key decision makers that engaged with our campaign were:

● **Decision makers**

- Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd
- Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitution, Michael Russell
- Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Richard Lochhead

Some of the key organisations that shared our campaign were:

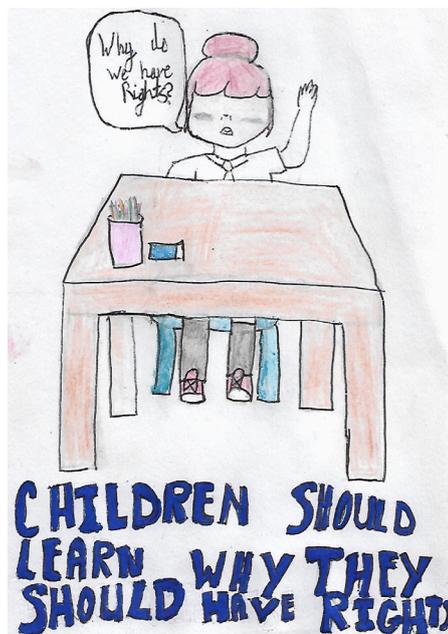
🔄 **Organisations**

- **Human Rights Consortium Scotland**
- **Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland**
- **Barnardo's Scotland**
- **Article 12 in Scotland**
- **The ALLIANCE**

As part of the campaign, members of the Panel made blogs, videos and created artwork to tell people a bit more about what they think.

You can see these at the following links:

- Tamsin wrote **blogs** about; Funding for Youth Services; Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel and Funding for Science and Health Research
- Oscar made a **video** about Funding for Science and Health Research
- Lana drew a number of pictures (below) about the right to education.



The right to education

Survey – 18 August - 15 September 2020

Over the course of a month, the Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel subgroup ran a survey seeking children and young people's views about exiting the EU. The survey focused on travel and access to child-friendly information but also asked for wider opinions, including whether they thought people treated each other differently as a result of Brexit. The survey was open to children and young people aged eight to 22 years. The survey received 20 responses.

We will share more detailed analysis of the data from the survey in the next part of the report. You can also find the full results in **Appendix B**.

Meeting with Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Richard Lochhead – 27 August 2020

Members of the EU Funding subgroup met with Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Richard Lochhead to discuss the impact of exiting the EU on funding for science and health research and for funding for youth services.

The Minister said that he would write to us thank us for raising important points. He also said he would keep our recommendations in mind and keep consulting with children and young people on key issues linked to EU funding. The Minister said he hoped that our report could be celebrated through some online event so more politicians could engage with our work.

Meeting with Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills, Jamie Hepburn – 3 September 2020

The Economy, Trade and Jobs subgroup met with Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills, Jamie Hepburn to discuss future plans to increase wages. At the meeting we discussed the need to raise the minimum wage as we exit the EU.

The Minister said that he would be happy to meet with the Panel again in the future and that he would pass our work on to the UK Government to make sure they were aware of what we were saying.

Meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, Europe and External Affairs, Michael Russell – 17 September 2020

The whole Panel met with the Cabinet Secretary to discuss their work. We discussed how Scottish Government will take forward the recommendations made by the Panel both in their engagement with the UK Government during the transition period and when this ends.

The Cabinet Secretary asked us to send him the final report and said he would tell us what he could do about all of our recommendations. He also said he would talk to us about how we could launch the report and make sure people find out about and said he might be able to speak about it in the Scottish Parliament.

Meeting with Members of Health and Sport Committee, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP & Brian Whittle MSP – 18 September 2020

Members of the Rights subgroup met with Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP and Brian Whittle MSP, members of the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee, to discuss our recommendations and find out how the Committee could work together on these issues.

They thought we had made some very important recommendations and said they would like us to pass on the final report so they could read our ideas in full. They said they would speak to the rest of the members about what we had said.

Other Engagement

We received responses to letters from politicians who were not able to meet with us, discussing our points. These included responses from:

- Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation, Ivan McKee
- Cabinet Secretary for Education, John Swinney

The Panel also worked with other decision makers outside of politics to share our work. We met with people including:

- Katherine Mathieson, Chief Executive of the British Science Association
- Professor Graeme Reid, University College London, Chair of the Campaign for Science and Engineering
- The Scottish Youth Parliament
- Paul Anderson, Scottish Parliament Outreach Team

These meetings helped us make connections and find new people to engage with. Thanks to everyone who did meet with us, we really appreciated it.



What does the Panel want?

EU Funding



Youth Services

We think that youth work is important because it has a big impact on children and young people as they grow up. We know that youth work funding has been reduced in recent years. Youth clubs and projects help young people learn new skills, make new friends and get support with their health and wellbeing, The right to skills development, and the right to play and relax are protected by Articles 29 and 31 of the UNCRC.



Article 29

I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment

Article 29 of the UNCRC says that a child or young person's education should help their mind, body and talents be the best they can. **(CYPCS)**



Article 31

I have a right to relax and play

Article 31 of the UNCRC says that children and young people have the right to have fun in the way they want to. **(CYPCS)**

We feel that services for children and young people are always cut first and current funding for youth services isn't good enough. A lot of funding for youth clubs and projects in Scotland currently comes from the EU. Council budgets for youth services have already been cut and they can't afford to lose money from the EU.

The UK Government is developing a 'Shared Prosperity Fund' which will replace some money that youth services currently receive from the EU. The UK Government is also planning to set aside £7 million for youth services but we don't know how much of this will be given to youth services in Scotland.

The Coronavirus pandemic has shown that not having access to youth services can have a bad effect on children and young people and therefore this issue should be addressed without delay.



We made the following four recommendations for decision makers:

- Youth services should get at least the same level of funding as they currently do from the EU through replacement funding.
- The Scottish Government needs to make sure that Scotland gets a fair proportion of funding for youth projects and services when a replacement fund is set up.
- The Scottish Government needs to give more information about where funding will come from for youth services.
- Funding for youth services needs to be spread fairly across the country.

Science and Health

Between 2007 and 2013, the EU gave the UK €8.8 billion for research, development, and innovation. This included science and health research to help us live healthier, fuller, and better lives.

The UK gets more funding from the EU than we pay in for science and health, so the UK might have less money for science and health research as a result of Brexit, unless it finds money elsewhere.

Funding for science and health will affect us as we grow up and it might affect our parents, carers, or family if they get ill. This is important because under Article 24 of the UNCRC, children and young people have the right to the best possible health and health care.



Article 24

I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food

Article 24 of the UNCRC says that children and young people's health should be as good as possible (CYPCCS)



We made four recommendations for decision makers:

- We want to make sure the current level of spending on health and science research continues or increases as we leave the EU. There should be funding for research and infrastructure.
- We need to continue to co-operate with the EU on science and health research. The Coronavirus pandemic has shown how important it is for countries to work together, share scientific research and find solutions to health issues.
- Poor health can affect other areas of children and young people's lives – for example, you might struggle to go to school. Improving health through science and research can have a positive snowball effect on other parts of children's lives.
- We should try to widen access to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for girls and minority groups.

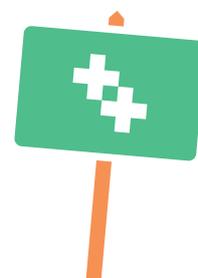
Our recommendations are really important because they will help further our rights to rest and play (Article 31) and our rights to education and non-discrimination (Article 2 and Article 29).



Article 2

All children have these rights

All children have the rights set out in the UNCRC, and individual children and young people shouldn't be discriminated against when these rights are realised. (CYPCCS)



Rights

Right to Education

Every child and young person has the right to education. This is set out in Article 28 of the UNCRC. The right to education means you should be able to choose the subjects you want to learn about, access the information you need and be treated fairly at school.

We want to ensure our right to education is met as we exit the EU, and that education funding and learning opportunities aren't negatively impacted. We also think it's important that children and young people get to learn about big decisions like Brexit at school. It is important we have access to this, as under the UNCRC we have a right to access information and the best standard of education (Article 17 and 28).



Article 17

I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it's safe

Article 17 of the UNCRC says children and young people should be able to access information, particularly from the media. They should be able to get information from many places – from their country and beyond. **(CYPCCS)**



Article 28

I have the right to an education

Article 28 of the UNCRC says that all children and young people have the right to education no matter who they are. **(CYPCCS)**



We made the following four recommendations to decision makers:

- Scotland should take a “rights-based approach” to education. This means that children and young people’s rights are respected at school, they can learn about their rights and take part in decisions.
- Education schemes like language and travel exchanges should continue after Brexit. These schemes help children and young people develop skills which can be useful for getting a job. They also help you learn about and respect other cultures.
- Children and young people should be able to learn about politics at school, so they know what’s happening with big decisions like Brexit. They need suitable information to form their own opinions, influence decisions and have their voices heard. There is not enough opportunity to learn about politics at the moment – lessons are one-off or do not provide enough detail. Teachers should get training so they can give good lessons and in a balanced way.
- Scottish Government should include children and young people in decisions about Brexit and their education.





Right to Health

Every child and young person has the right to health. This is set out in Article 24 of the UNCRC. The right to health covers both physical and mental health. It means you should have access to good quality health care and information about your health.

Good health is important for all children and young people. If you aren't healthy, then you might struggle to access other rights like education and play. As we have said before, this is important because under Article 31 of the UNCRC we have the right to rest and play.

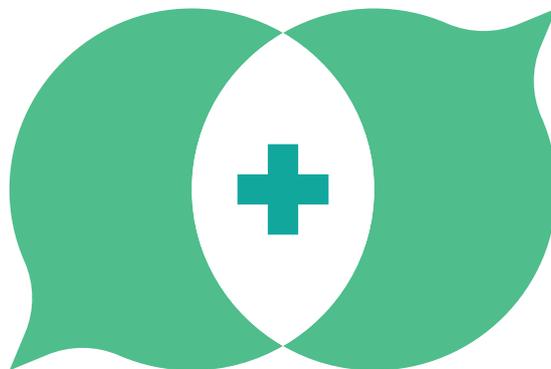
We think Brexit could impact our right to health, for example getting access to medicines that are made in the EU, or doctors and nurses from other countries who move to work here. We think it is important that politicians and countries work together to make sure the right to health is protected.

A lot of children and young people are worried about their family's health or are struggling with their own mental health right now because of Coronavirus.



We made the following five recommendations to decision makers:

- Politicians from the different parties should all work together to protect the right to health as a shared goal.
- People should have access to the medicines they need, including medicines that are made in the EU and medicines should remain free.
- Lots of health workers come from the EU. It is important that they feel welcome in the UK and valued.
- People with mental health issues should get the support they need.
- Children and young people should have access to information about their health, especially right now so we aren't so worried. This will help meet our right to information under the UNCRC.



Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel

Being in the European Union means people have the right to work, study and travel in other EU countries. This is called “free movement” because you don’t need a visa (a piece of paper saying you have permission) to go to another EU country.

Leaving the EU means people from the UK won’t automatically have the right to free movement anymore. This will happen on 31 December 2020 when the transition period ends.

We think it is really important that there is child-friendly information that explains any changes to travel rules so we can understand what’s happening. Children and young people have the right to find out and share information about how they and their families will be affected (Articles 13 and 17 of the UNCRC).



Article 13

I have the right to find out and share information

Article 13 is about the right to freedom of expression. Part of this right involves being able to find out information for yourself – so you’re able to share it in the way you want. **(CYP/CS)**

We wanted to hear from other children and young people about their thoughts, concerns, what information they need and what this information should look like.

We created a survey to find out about children and young people (aged eight to 22 years) think and we will be feeding back what we find out to the Scottish Government.

The survey covered the following topics:

- Is Brexit impacting children and young people’s future plans?
- Key concerns for children and young people about travel
- Whether children and young people felt people treated each other differently as a result of Brexit
- How children and young people could access child-friendly information about Brexit and what this should look like.

You can see the results from the survey in **Appendix B**.



Economy, Trade and Jobs

Wages

The minimum wage is the lowest amount that employers can legally pay their workers. The Panel discussed the minimum wage and how it affects people's standard of living. We also spoke about the national Living Wage which is higher than the minimum wage and based on the real cost of living. The Panel is concerned about the effect Brexit might have on the amount of money that people have access to.

400,000 workers in Scotland (16.9%) earned less than the Living Wage in 2019. There are different rates of minimum wage depending on how old you are and what job you do. The majority of the Panel think this is unfair as it discriminates against younger people. This goes against Article 2 of the UNCRC.



We made the following four recommendations for decision makers:

- Increase the minimum wage for everyone because it will affect the money that families have. Living on a low-income might mean parents and carers have fewer opportunities to do the things children and young people need, like play and have fun. It also might make parents, carers, children, and young people feel stressed, affecting their mental health.
- The minimum wage for 16 to 24-year-olds should be made the same as everyone else. It isn't fair that 16 to 24-year-olds can be paid less for doing the same work. The current minimum wage for apprentices and 16 to 24-year-olds makes it hard for young people to rent their own home. Some members of the panel said that it can be hard to afford to get public transport to work. If the minimum wage for apprentices and 16 to 24-year-olds can't be increased, we need to know why.
- Governments should also look into the extra money they give to people who need more support through benefits. This includes young carers and families with disabled children.
- The UK Government wants to introduce new immigration rules after December 2020. This will mean people need to have a job offer with a minimum salary of £25,600 per year (or £20,480 for jobs where there is 'shortage'). If the minimum wage was to increase this could encourage more people to come to the UK to do jobs after December 2020 when the transition period is over.

Our recommendations here will make sure our rights are respected (Article 4) and our right to have proper clothes, food and a house (Article 27) is met.



Article 4

The Government should make sure my rights are respected

Article 4 of the UNCRC says that the Scottish Government and UK Government should both work to make sure the Convention is known about and upheld. **(CYP)**



Article 27

I have the right to have a proper house, food and clothing

Article 27 of the UNCRC says children and young people should be able to have the food and housing they need to reach their full potential. **(CYP)**

Trading Standards

The UK's current trading arrangements with the EU will continue until the end of December 2020.

The EU single market means EU countries can trade easily with each other. The EU sets clear quality standards which help make sure food and products are good quality. This makes it easy to trade within the EU because everyone is following the same rules about quality when making their products.

Being part of the EU Single Market has meant the UK can't make its own trade deals with other countries. The UK is currently exploring and trying to agree trade deals with the EU and countries outside the EU.



We made the following four recommendations to decision makers:

- Although products can be made more cheaply by having lower standards, we think having high standards is important, as it helps keep people safe and is the morally right thing to do. If our toys are not of the right standard this could affect our right to play safely (Article 31).
- We should try to have high food and product standards so we can continue to trade with EU countries. We should try to keep these at around the same level, but we should go higher than a minimum standard required if we can.
- We discussed media reports about possible imports of chlorine-washed chicken and hormone-treated beef, and the fact that haggis is banned in the USA! We feel it is particularly important to have high quality standards for farming and food preparation, and that there should be a traffic light scoring system for food quality to help keep people informed. A similar system is already in place to show the level of saturated fat, sugar, and salt in the food we buy.
- We don't mind if having higher trading standards means that it is harder for us to trade with some countries. We might lose trade opportunities with the EU if we don't do this.





Conclusion

Phase 2 of our project has been affected by the impact of Coronavirus. We have had to move all of our work online and have had to find different ways of engaging with key decision makers during a period when there have had lots of other things to focus on.

Coronavirus has reduced the attention that there has been on exiting the EU. We hope our work will bring this back into focus as we think it is an important issue that will significantly affect the lives of children and young people.

It also made it a bit harder to do our work. It was harder not doing the work in person and sometimes meeting on Zoom was a bit weird. It would have been good to see each other in person a bit more.

It also made it a bit more difficult to influence decision makers.

But working online has allowed us to develop a two-week campaign which had a lot of engagement. It has also meant we focussed on new ways of sharing our work like blogs and videos. We have also been able to meet with different decision makers online, including Scottish Government Ministers.

We have also found throughout our work that achieving actual change is hard. Because powers are split between UK Government and Scottish Government, it can be hard to get everyone to act on what we think. It has been good to get a lot of chances to speak to Scottish Government, but it has sometimes been frustrating because they haven't been able to follow up on what we want to happen.



We have narrowed down our recommendations from Phase 1 to a smaller number of policy calls. We believe it is essential that all decision makers consider these as the UK continues to decide on its relationship with the EU and it continues to be important that children and young people are listened to and that our needs are met. We will be living with these decisions for the rest of our lives.

The Scottish Government is about to 'fully incorporate' the UNCRC into the law in Scotland. This should mean that adults have to make decisions that are in our best interests. We have shown in this report that exiting the EU could affect our rights in a number of ways. We think its important these are going to become law as this is stronger than guidance and means the Government will have to follow it.

We know what we think needs to happen to ensure exiting the EU does not harm children and young people. Now decision makers need to act on this and ensure that leaving the EU does not negatively affect children and young people.

It is really important that children and young people are still heard in decisions about Brexit as we are going to be living with the consequences for years to come. Phase 2 of our work as a Panel is now done, we are going to talk as a group about what we want to do next to campaign to make sure children and young people's needs are met.



Some of our thoughts

I think coronavirus has affected us as we cannot hold large meetings or meet up with politicians

Soroush

I think we've been really lucky that the majority of our work could continue through the pandemic using tools such as Zoom and Basecamp.

Angus

The Panel has allowed me to meet with key decision makers and take young people's views right to the top.

Beccie

Doing it on Zoom is a bit weird and sometimes it's harder to engage, sometimes it is ok. I miss going to the Children in Scotland building and seeing my friends.

Malika

It's been a real shame not to be able to meet up with my Panel members in person or to be able to meet the people we want to influence face-to-face. But we have benefitted from more online so hopefully we have had a bigger reach with our messages. (I have missed the buffets as well!)

Oscar



Appendix A – Contact List

Name/Organisation	Response Received
British Science Association	Yes
Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, Europe and External Affairs, Michael Russell, Scottish Government	Yes
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Government	No
Campaign for Science and Engineering	Yes
Children and Young People’s Commissioner for Scotland, Bruce Adamson	No
Children’s Health Scotland	No
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney MSP, Scottish Government	Yes
Education Scotland	No
First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish Government	Yes
The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland	Yes
Health and Sport Committee, Scottish Parliament	Yes
Mental Health Foundation	No
Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills, Jamie Hepburn, Scottish Government	Yes
Minister for Europe and International Development, Jenny Gilruth, Scottish Government	No
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Richard Lochhead, Scottish Government	Yes
Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation, Ivan McKee, Scottish Government	Yes
Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, Amanda Solloway, UK Government	Yes
Penumbra	No
SAMH	No
Scottish Trade Union Congress	Yes
Scottish Parliament Outreach Team, Paul Anderson	Yes
Scottish Youth Parliament	Yes
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma, UK Government	No
Secretary of State for Finance, Kate Forbes, Scottish Government	No
Secretary of State for Trade, Liz Truss, UK Government	No
Support in Mind Scotland	Yes

Appendix B – Survey Results

The “What Happens After Brexit” survey received 20 responses from children and young people aged between 14 and 21 years. Three respondents said they were EU citizens living in Scotland or had a family member who was an EU citizen.

Everyone was asked a series of questions relating to information about Brexit, opportunities to travel in the EU and whether there were other issues they wanted to raise.

1. Information about Brexit

Where do you find out most of your information about Brexit?

People were asked to click picture boxes to show where they got most of their information about Brexit. They could choose more than one box. The three most popular answers were websites, social media and TV.

<u>Answer Choices</u>	<u>Responses (%)</u>	<u>Number of People</u>
Websites	84.21%	16
Newspapers	26.32%	5
Social media	68.42%	13
TV	63.16%	12
At school, college or university	21.05%	4
Family	31.58%	6
Friends	26.32%	5
Other	0%	0

Do you think there's enough information for children and young people about Brexit and how things might change?

Most people who answered this question (68%) felt there wasn't enough information for children and young people about Brexit. 21% felt that there was enough information and 10% weren't sure.

Some people gave extra comments. These included:

- *“I think there is not enough information for kids and most information out there is very biased.”*
- *“I feel that there isn't enough clear information for anyone in the UK, children and adults alike, about Brexit. But the information is especially lacking for children and young people.”*

What should information for children and young people about Brexit look like?

Most answers said that clear, simple information was really important and that this should be unbiased (this means it should be fair rather than supporting one 'side' or the other). Lots of people said the information should also look good - it should be eye-catching and use pictures or infographics to explain things. Some answers said it was important for information to be available in different ways so that everyone could use it. One person said they weren't sure what information for children and young people about Brexit should look like.

Comments included:

- *"Easy to read, easy to access, unbiased."*
- *"Information that's easy to understand without all the political jargon."*
- *"Non biased, providing information based on facts not opinions. And if it is speculation or an opinion it must be made very clear that it is an opinion not a fact."*
- *"Eye-catching, information is concise."*
- *"Information on Brexit and its impact should be made easily available and accessible to all, and not just for children and young people."*

Some people wanted information on specific things:

- *"Advice on what will change and what will become more difficult, and how to mitigate these effects."*
- *"It should be clear and accurate. The information provided should be in depth, but it also needs to be very accessible. For instance, an informative document/article/website with sections where it is easy to find information on the thing that is most relevant (e.g. sections on how it affects working abroad, sections on how it affects holidays, sections on healthcare etc). I think the problem currently is there is no single source where a young person (or any person) can go to easily find out what is going on. For younger children, even simpler information is required - probably with context on what Brexit even is in the first place."*

2. Rules about Travel

The survey set out that travel rules affect things like going on holiday, working or studying in other countries.

Do you think that it's important to be able to work, study and travel in EU countries?

Most people who answered this question (94%) thought it was important to be able to work, study and travel in EU countries. The remaining 6% (one person) thought it wasn't important.

Comments included:

- *"I think it's importance is different for every individual."*
- *"Yes, but not because they are EU countries."*
- *"Some of my best experiences and hopes for the future are based around this."*

Are you worried about changes to travel rules?

Most people who answered this question (61%) said they felt worried about changes to travel rules. Of the rest, 28% said they weren't sure and 11% said they weren't worried.

Comments included:

- *"Both for my sake and more importantly for my friends who are not UK nationals."*
- *"I'm worried that Brexit will decrease the number of opportunities I have available."*
- *"I have saved up money to travel across Europe for four years."*
- *"I don't have much information on the matter so I don't feel I am in position to have an opinion."*

Do you think that any good things might happen because of changes to travel rules?

Most people who answered this question (56%) didn't think that anything good would happen as a result of travel rules being changed. 33% said they weren't sure and 11% said they thought good things might happen.

Comments included:

- *"I don't know but I'm doubtful."*
- *"I'm not sure I have even heard of any potential good things that could theoretically happen."*
- *"There may be more good things but also a lot of bad things."*

Has Brexit changed your plans for the future?

Half of people who answered this question (50%) said that Brexit hadn't changed their plans for the future. 33% said their plans had changed and 17% said they weren't sure.

Comments included:

- *"It has made me feel worried and unsure about my future. Of course in regards to future travel – but also in terms of how I feel about living and working in the UK for the rest of my life."*
- *"I am considering leaving this country much more seriously, and my motivation to support political changes such as electoral reform and Scottish independence has increased massively."*
- *"Why would it?"*



3. Other Issues

Do you think people treat each other differently as a result of Brexit?

Most people who answered this question (56%) thought people treated each other differently. 39% said they didn't think people treated each other any differently while 6% said they weren't sure.

Comments included:

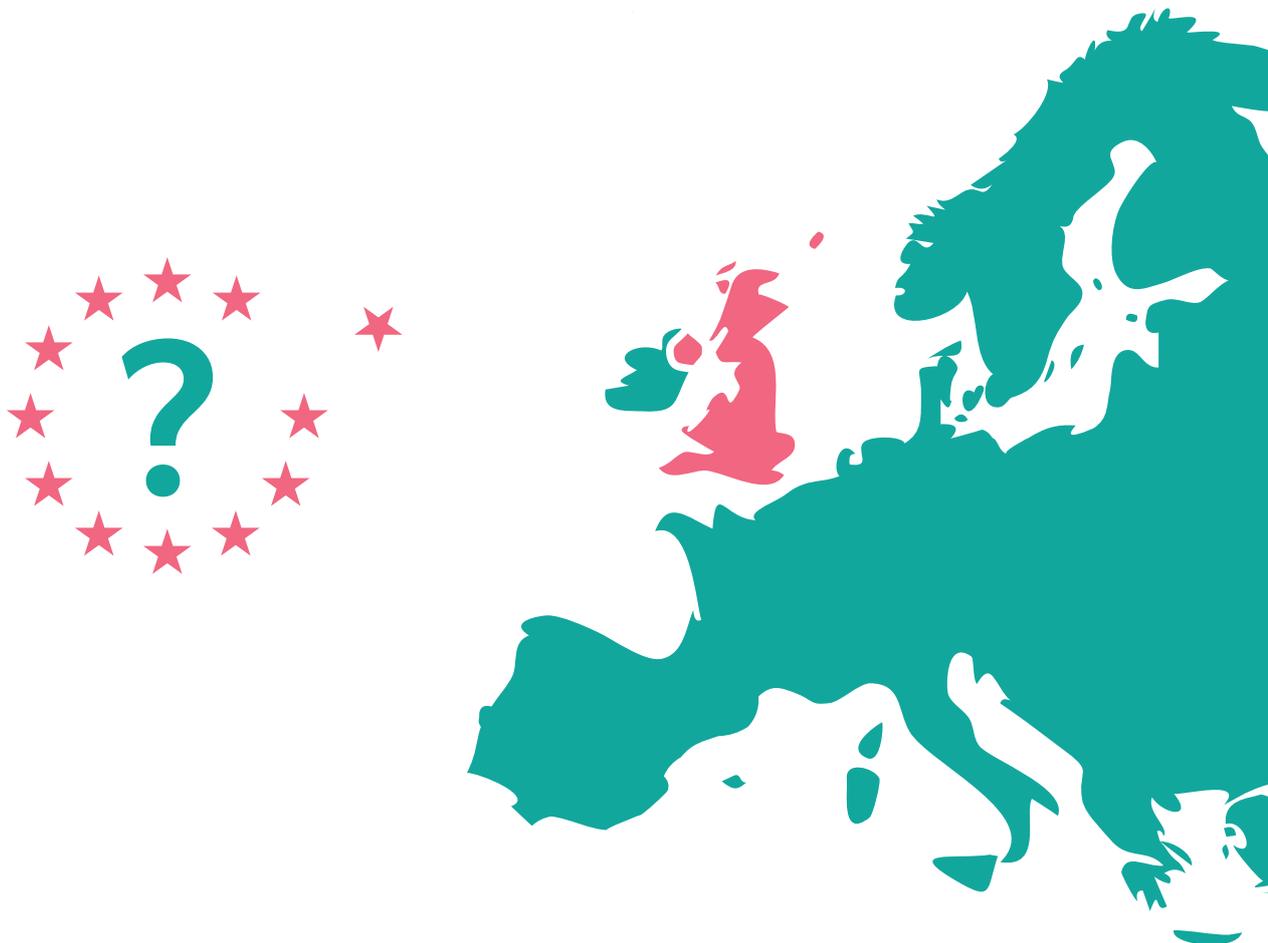
- *"I think people are more nationalist and xenophobic."*
- *"I think racist and xenophobic people have felt emboldened as a result of the rhetoric around the Brexit campaign."*

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about Brexit?

Ten people answered this question. They talked about things such as Erasmus, the cost of food, racism, and Scottish independence.

Comments included:

- *"My mum worries that food will be dearer."*
- *"I feel as if my life and the lives of those around me have been changed for the worse by what I see as a gamble for political power from a very small group of people."*
- *"Despite Scotland and Northern Ireland voting Remain by substantial margins - they will be taken out against their will. The people of Scotland should have the right to choose independence – and Scotland's remain vote should be respected."*



October 2020



Children in Scotland

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Charity Reg No. SC003527
Company No. SC083383

Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)

Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5EZ
Charity Reg No. SC029403
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