



The international community is increasing its efforts to organise and co-ordinate the international fight against terrorism. Europol, the European Police Office, opened the [International Centre for Counter-Terrorism](#) in The Hague in 2015 to improve information exchange and identify the links between terrorism and other criminal sectors. However if Britain goes for a no Brexit deal, the UK and Europe face the possibility of homeland data flows, and police and judicial cooperation, [being turned off within hours](#). This would give free rein to terrorists, traffickers and organised criminals. Some politicians believe this means Britain [must avoid a no deal](#) at any cost.

Brexit is only one policy challenge facing the UK as it implements the [Strategic Defence and Security Review](#). A report published in March 2018 by the independent academic group [The UK in a Changing Europe](#) entitled [A successful Brexit: three foreign and security policy tests](#) provides a framework for assessing what a successful Brexit may mean for the UK’s international role. The intention of the report is not to answer the question as to what that future role may look like but, rather, to consider how we may begin to assess the impact of Brexit on the UK’s foreign and security policy. It asks three (pretty searching) questions:

- What would a Brexit that had a positive impact on security look like and how could we tell?
- Will Brexit increase or decrease the UK’s ability to shape the international agenda?
- Will the UK increase its ability to take its own decisions on foreign and security policy once it leaves the EU?

In her speech to the Munich Security Conference in February 2018, Theresa May said that the UK is [committed to building a ‘deep and special partnership’](#) on foreign, defence and security policy with the EU after Brexit.

It is, however, not too clear what that will look like.

### Implications for Gwent

Paragraph 2.4 of the [Strategic Defence and Security Review](#) sets out that the UK government “*is strengthening our domestic resilience, giving more power to local communities, investing in infrastructure across the UK, and delivering devolution so that we can focus on how powers are used to better the lives of the people of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in a strong United Kingdom.*”

Security will be an issue post Brexit and getting it right will be critical. There is probably little that Gwent can do at the moment other than maintain a watching brief, however.

How might the issue impact on Gwent in the future



How might Gwent public services respond?

