

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30th August 2017

John Confrontment
RE: THE EUROPEAN UNION REPEAL BILL.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the *European Union (Withdrawal) Bill*, also known as the *Repeal Bill*.

The Prime Minister has been clear that she wishes to minimise disruption to businesses and individuals as the UK leaves the EU. That is why the *Repeal Bill* is being introduced. This Bill will transfer EU law, including the case law of the European Court of Justice, into UK law at the point of the UK's departure from the EU. This will make sure that the UK has a functioning Statute Book when it leaves the EU and it will provide the maximum amount of certainty, control and continuity.

Workers' rights, consumer protection and environmental laws will not change and businesses will benefit from this certainty. Parliament will, of course, be free to keep, amend and repeal laws, as it sees fit, after this date. There may also be some laws which no longer operate as intended and the Bill will provide the power for corrections to be made so that the UK legal system can continue to operate.

The Government also wants to ensure that power is returned, as close as possible to communities, as laws are returned to the UK. I expect that there will be a significant increase in the decision-making powers of the devolved administrations, but I want this approach to work coherently for the whole of the UK.

I can also clarify that the UK will leave the EU on the 29th March 2019 and that this means leaving the Single Market and the Customs Union at that point. The Single Market and the Customs Union are the main and essential elements of the EU. To remain in either would mean not really leaving the EU at all. Leaving these will ensure that the referendum result is respected in full and that the UK has more control over the issues you mention.

There will, of course, be an implementation period as we leave the EU. A cliff-edge for businesses and individuals would not be in anyone's interests. But make no mistake: this will not be of unlimited duration. This would not be good for the UK or the EU.

I can also confirm that the UK will not convert the *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights* into UK law. This is because the Charter only applies to EU Member States when they act within the scope of EU law. It will no longer be relevant to the UK after withdrawal.



This does not mean that the substantive rights of individuals will be affected. This is because the Charter did not create new rights. It simply brought together the rights that already existed in EU law into a single document to make them more visible. The UK will remain a signatory to the *European Convention on Human Rights* because this is entirely separate from the EU.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE