

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th July 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', with a large flourish at the end.

RE: SECOND REFERENDUM (FAIR VOTE CAMPAIGN).

Thank you for contacting me recently about holding a vote on the 'exit' deal reached between the UK and the European Union (EU); your comments upon which I read with great interest.

Firstly, as you know, I supported the 'Leave' campaign and whilst I very much respect your sincerely held point of view, I should say at the outset that I have to disagree that there should be a further referendum on the 'exit' deal reached between the UK and the EU. The British people have democratically voted to leave, and I think that their decision must be respected and upheld.

The ballot paper presented voters with an unambiguous choice to remain in the EU or to leave. The consequences of either decision were communicated by campaign groups through a variety of print, audio-visual, and digital media. The Government also sent a document to every household in the UK on the benefits of staying in the EU.

As in every election, it was up to the electorate to judge the merits of the different arguments, and over 17.4 million voters decided to leave the EU. Both main political parties also pledged in their manifestos at the General Election in 2017 to respect the EU referendum result, and these parties received over 80 percent of the vote.

Allegations that Vote Leave did not satisfactorily declare campaign spending is a matter for the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission has previously declared that the referendum was delivered without any major issues and that the final result was clear. Therefore, the handling of any future allegations regarding campaign spending will not change the fact that the UK is leaving the EU.

I should also add that, the Information Commissioner is currently undertaking a formal investigation into the use of personal data during political campaigns. As I am sure you can appreciate, I would not want to comment on an ongoing investigation.

Furthermore, the Government is committed to defending the UK from all forms of malign activity conducted by foreign states. I am not aware that any evidence has been received detailing successful interference in the UK's democratic processes.

MPs from across the political spectrum voted 494 to 122 in favour of invoking Article 50 in 2017. The exit negotiations are now well under way, and Ministers are confident that an agreement will be reached to the mutual benefit of both the UK and the EU. MPs will vote on the 'exit' deal when it comes before Parliament.

Finally, shortly after the referendum result was announced, I made clear that as your local Member of Parliament, I was determined to play a constructive role in scrutinising legislation put before the House of Commons, in relation to the UK's 'exit' from the EU – this is an important role that I have, and will continue to, actively fulfil. Leaving the EU presents, to my

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mind, a number of fantastic opportunities for our area, and indeed our country – opportunities I passionately made the case for during the referendum. I am determined that these should now come to fruition, and a significant means by which to ensure this is achieved is by respecting the referendum result and not frustrating the process of leaving. I would also argue that we tamper with our democratic principles at our peril.

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
Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**