



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

5th April 2019

Dear Constituent,

RE: REMAIN IN THE EUROPEAN UNION.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the ongoing debate around the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (EU).

Whilst I have read your comments with great interest and respect your sincerely held point of view, I must be entirely straightforward and upfront in saying from the outset that I profoundly disagree with you.

I am afraid that I simply cannot accept that we should cancel Brexit altogether and stay in the European Union - achieved by revoking Article 50. As you might be aware, I campaigned for a 'Leave' vote in the 2016 referendum and I should also point out that in Corby, 64% of those who voted did so to 'Leave', and in East Northamptonshire, 58% did so.

I am therefore committed to seeing the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union delivered, as the referendum result was an instruction, not a consultation, as was made clear at the time in the booklet delivered to every home in the country, by the Government, which stated: *"This is your decision. The Government will implement what you decide."*

This instruction was further confirmed at the 2017 General Election which followed, where over 83% of votes cast nationally were in favour of parties which very clearly promised to deliver Brexit. There is, therefore, a clear electoral mandate in favour of leaving the European Union, particularly in Corby & East Northamptonshire where over 96% of those who voted in that election cast votes in support of parties promising to deliver, in full, on the referendum result.

I think it is unconscionable, three years on from the referendum result, and with the country having voted to leave, that the Government would simply turn around and announce that Brexit has been cancelled. I also say this because, week in, week out, I hear on the doorstep local people increasingly saying, loud and clear, and regardless of whether they voted 'Leave' or 'Remain': "just get on with it!"



I am also conscious that if the Government were to hold a second referendum, as many of those who simply wish to remain in the EU propose, the result would undoubtedly be an extended period of uncertainty for businesses and investors - the thing they tell me is the single greatest concern to them on my frequent local visits here in the constituency. This is because, in order to hold a second referendum, the United Kingdom would have to seek a long extension, during which time we would be required to participate in the forthcoming European elections.


For these reasons, I consider that I am duty bound to respect the result of the referendum. I also firmly believe that either revoking Article 50, or holding a second referendum, would indicate that Parliament does not accept the result of the first vote as legitimate, sending the wrong message to voters, and in turn setting a dangerous precedent. It would also only serve to entrench division on this issue, rather than heal it. And, in terms of a second referendum, having ignored the first, why would we have a duty to accept the result of the second? What would the question be? Where do you draw the line? The whole approach poses more questions than it answers.

Whilst I appreciate this is not the response you were seeking, ultimately, I strongly believe that politicians must keep their promises and that we tamper with our democratic principles at our peril. As such, I will not be supporting attempts to frustrate or cancel Brexit.

You can find further regular updates on my views on these matters throughout this rapidly developing process, here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxoyyw6h>.

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 PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE