

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

5th April 2019

Dear Constituent,

RE: SECOND REFERENDUM.

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 a second referendum should be held. 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.

Furthermore, I should point out that 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 - something I think is unconscionable, three years on from the referendum result, and with the country having voted to leave. 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, 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.

For these reasons, I consider that I am duty bound to respect the result of the referendum. I also firmly believe that 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, 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 secure a second referendum.

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.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE