

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

6th October 2020

Dear Constance,

RE: UK EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION.

Thank you for your recent correspondence about your concerns relating to the United Kingdom leaving the European Union (EU) without a trade agreement at the end of the transition period.

I have read your comments on this issue with great interest and fully appreciate the sincere place from which your concerns come.

The UK left the EU on the 31st January with a deal. 'No deal' is therefore now an irrelevant concept. The question now is whether we can agree with the EU a deeper trading relationship on the lines of the free trade agreement the EU has with Canada, or whether we have a trading relationship that is based on the 2019 deal, without a free trade agreement and along the lines of Australia's relationship with the EU.

Negotiations are currently ongoing and both sides are seeking a free trade agreement with no tariffs, quotas, fees, or charges across all goods sectors, as well as further provisions on services and security cooperation. The Prime Minister has stated that there must be an agreement by the time of the European Council summit on the 15th October if it is to be ratified in time for next year.

Agreement is still possible and I am hopeful that this can be achieved. If it is clear a deal cannot be reached by the 15th October, I believe we should accept this fact and be ready to trade on the terms of the 2019 deal. I should emphasise that the UK is not asking for a special, bespoke, or unique deal in these negotiations. We are looking for a deal like those the EU has previously struck with other friendly countries like Canada - a perfectly reasonable objective and one which should be agreeable to the EU, given that securing an agreement is clearly mutually-beneficial.

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
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