

Kirstene Hair MP
Member of Parliament for Angus



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



EU Withdrawal Agreement

January 2018

I am writing to update you following last week's vote in Parliament on the Prime Minister's proposed EU withdrawal agreement.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that I could not support a second referendum, or 'People's Vote'. We had the 'People's Vote' in June of 2016 and following this I campaigned and was elected on a manifesto that clearly stated I would support the UK-wide referendum result - it remains my absolute intention to ensure that this result is honoured. I have a strong belief there would be many who would not accept the decision of a second referendum if it did not reflect their opinion and we simply cannot continue to divide our country.

I cannot support those who wish to reverse the decision the British people took in 2016 and halt our departure from the European Union entirely. As a democrat, I respect the decision taken, and as a parliamentarian, it is my duty to deliver. I could not contemplate seeking to overrule the people who we are here to serve and retain the status quo – for a whole host of reasons.

Following the announcement of the proposed withdrawal agreement, many constituents have let me know their own views on this matter and, unsurprisingly, opinions have varied significantly. As someone who wants to see a Brexit deal that works and delivers for businesses, I have been in touch with a number of large employers across my constituency, and their views on the proposed deal have been largely positive. It is clear from the comments I have received that local businesses want to see long-term security, and are particularly concerned about the ongoing uncertainty.

I believed the deal we had in front of us last week would ensure a smooth transition from the European Union - just as the country asked. Fundamentally, however, I believed this deal delivers on the Government's commitments to fully take back control of our borders, to allow us to strike trade deals as an independent country, to take back control of our laws, halt sending vast payments to the EU - funds which can now be invested in vital public services, as well as keeping people safe against crime, terrorism and other threats by working closely with other European countries.

As a result, I took the decision to support the withdrawal agreement in last week's vote.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

While many of my colleagues ultimately arrived at a different conclusion around the withdrawal agreement, and chose to vote against it, I am nevertheless confident in the Prime Minister's ability to guide the country towards the best possible outcome. The resilience and judgement she has shown in the preceding weeks and months make it clear that she is the right person to lead our country ahead of what are potentially a number of unpredictable and uncertain weeks.

I acknowledge that many people now wish the Prime Minister to completely rule out a 'no deal' Brexit scenario. While I share many people's concerns about the potential disruption of a no deal Brexit, I do not believe it is wise or even legally possible to rule out such a scenario completely. I can only echo the Prime Minister's comments in that I believe the best way to avoid a no deal Brexit is to vote for a deal.

Whilst I know my stance may differ from yours – I believe I am taking the responsible approach as your Member of Parliament.

I hope the above is able to clarify my position on last week's vote and assure you that I will support the Prime Minister as she works to secure a deal that can both provide a smooth departure from the EU and command a majority in Parliament.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirstene".

Kirstene Hair MP
Member of Parliament for Angus