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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Proroguing of Parliament ahead of a new Queen's Speech

September 2019

I thank you for contacting me with your concerns around the announcement that Parliament is to be prorogued on the 10th September, ahead of a new Queen's Speech on 14th October.

Firstly, as a backbench MP I do not have a say in the matter as it is one for the Queen and Privy Council. It is important to point out that it is entirely normal for a newly incumbent Prime Minister to arrange for a Queen's Speech to take place shortly after taking office. While the current Prime Minister was elected on the same Conservative & Unionist manifesto as the previous one, there will inevitably be policy areas in which a change of direction is desired. The decision amounts to a loss of four sitting days.

While many people hold concerns about the timing of this proroguing, accompanied by suggestions that this is a politically motivated maneuver intended to force through a 'no deal' Brexit, the Prime Minister has been clear that there will be considerable Parliamentary time set aside for the purpose of debating Brexit, following the EU summit on the 17th October – in addition to the 460 hours of debate to date. The current Parliamentary session has now lasted over 340 days, which is the longest session for nearly 500 years. Indeed, the previous Prime Minister received considerable criticism for allowing the session to continue as it has by not holding a Queen's Speech, by the opposition, earlier this year.

The decision to call a Queen's speech at this juncture not only provides the opportunity for the Prime Minister to set out a bold domestic agenda for the upcoming Parliamentary session, but will also make it possible to bring back the existing withdrawal agreement for a further vote in Parliament, should the Prime Minister choose to do so.

As with many issues in this area, this matter has been subject to a number of misleading headlines, accompanied with narratives aimed to fuel confusion and division which are unhelpful.

Were this a cynical attempt to force through a no deal Brexit by deliberately avoiding Parliamentary scrutiny then I would wholeheartedly share your concerns on this issue. However, I hope that the above is able to make clear that this is not the case and is, therefore, able to address your frustrations on this issue.

If you have any further matters you wish to raise or if there is anything else with which I can assist, then please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind regards,

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