



11 February 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Brexit: time for a pause**

It is now fewer than 50 days until we are due to leave the European Union. The gridlock over Brexit continues in Parliament. We are now effectively faced with the stark reality between a devastating No Deal, for which the country would rightly never forgive us, and a compromise which virtually no-one on any side of the argument is happy with.

Every day there is more news of companies not committing to the UK or worse, moving their operations abroad. The potential economic harm this deal will cause should further focus our minds.

Now we know that this proposed deal could lead to a 4% shrinkage in our economy according to the Government's own figures, it risks further dividing our nation, costing jobs and is highly unlikely to be the best outcome for our families and communities. It is our responsibility as a Conservative Government to put the economy, job creation and the prosperity of our citizens at the very heart of everything we do.

Whatever your view on Brexit itself, everyone can now see that we are not ready to leave on 29<sup>th</sup> March. It's not just businesses but families too that are now being impacted by the uncertainty. This is not Project Fear, it is Operation Reality. As you have said repeatedly, we do not want a 'disorderly' Brexit. We should not be inflicting one on our country.

Given all of this, we are urging you and the Government to take a breath, to take a minute and give us all time to consider whether this proposed deal, or however it is adjusted, is really in our best interests. This is not just about dotting the Is or crossing the Ts, this is about giving the nation time to consider what is a monumental decision for us all.

Before we sign on the dotted line, we need to pause and think about what the implications of this deal could be - as any of us would with any other major decision in our lives.

**Right To Vote**

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In the Conservative party we have a proud democratic and pragmatic tradition. We must follow this. The fear of delay should not box us into a corner so that the country leaves with the worst possible outcome. We should take enough time to resolve this impasse.

We would be grateful for an urgent meeting with you to discuss this option. We appreciate the many pressures on your diary at this time, but we are aware that over the past few months you have met with pro-Brexit MPs on a number of occasions. We hope you feel that the voice of patriotic, pragmatic Conservatives is also worth listening to. Given the urgency of this issue as we head towards further votes in Parliament, we should be grateful if you could confirm to us this week if a meeting will be possible.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr. Phillip Lee MP**

Chair, Right to Vote

**Baroness Altman CBE**

**Guto Bebb MP**

**Rt. Hon. Dominic Grieve QC, MP**

**Sam Gyimah MP**

**The Rt. Hon. Lord David Willetts**

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