



**HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA**

24 January 2017

Dear Colleague,

**Re: Process for Triggering Article 50**

The Government is determined to deliver on the decision taken by the people of the United Kingdom in the referendum of June 23 last year to leave the European Union.

In 2015, our party won a historic election victory with a manifesto commitment to hold a referendum on our membership of the EU and to respect the result. Whatever side of the argument we were on, our party, which offered people that referendum, is coming together to work to address the challenges and seize the opportunities presented by our exit.

The Prime Minister's speech last week set out a plan to negotiate a new and equal partnership between an independent, self-governing, global Britain and our friends and allies in the EU.

She made clear our position on the UK's intentions on issues such as the single market and customs arrangements, as well as our belief that it is firmly in Britain's national interest that the EU should succeed politically and economically after we have left.

The Prime Minister's plan has commanded broad support in the country for bringing clarity to our aims.

Now, following the judgment of the Supreme Court, we are introducing legislation to allow Article 50 to be triggered to start the formal process of withdrawal from the EU.

The Bill itself is a straightforward one. It is not about whether or not the UK should leave the EU. That decision has already been taken in the referendum we promised and delivered – the outcome of which we promised to respect. Rather, it is about implementing that decision and getting on with the job at hand.

We will work with colleagues in both Houses to ensure the Bill is passed in good time for the Prime Minister to invoke Article 50 by the end of March this year, a timetable that has already been supported overwhelmingly by the Commons.

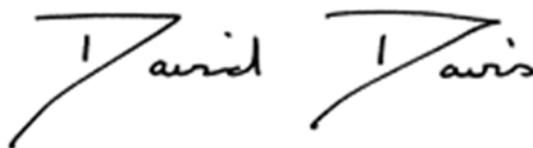
We have committed to Parliament being thoroughly and properly engaged throughout the process of exit, whether that is in terms of discussion of the forthcoming Great Repeal Bill or the vote we have promised on the final deal the UK strikes with the EU. And while no part of the UK can have a veto over exit, we are also working with the devolved administrations and seeking an outcome that works for the whole country.

I know many of you have strong views on issues that flow from Brexit. But it's important, especially at a time when Labour is in disarray about its approach, that we come together to support the Prime Minister in legislating to allow her to trigger Article 50 and get on with seeking to negotiate the best possible deal for the UK.

That's what the majority of voters, however they voted in the referendum, want and expect us to do now. So I hope you will support the Article 50 Bill, and help us to resist amendments that might slow or impede its progress.

Naturally, my door, and those of my ministerial colleagues, is open to any of you who wants to discuss the Bill during its passage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

**Rt Hon David Davis MP**  
**Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union**