

Our Ref: SA/AC/EU

The Rt Hon David Davis MP
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AS

11th August 2016

Dear David,

RE: CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS SINCE REFERENDUM RESULT

As you may know, I voted to leave the European Union. However, the city of Leeds as a whole voted to remain. Since the result, I have been contacted by a number of constituents who have expressed concerns over Government plans going forward, and as their Member of Parliament I want to pass these concerns to you.

While I appreciate that much work is yet to be done, it is important that any plans are made clear to the public with the clarity that they deserve. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could provide some assurances on the following points that I can pass on to my constituents.

Invoking Article 50

My own thoughts are that Article 50 should only be invoked when our negotiating position is absolutely clear, and we have taken account of the public's views on our 'red lines', so to speak. However, my constituents are concerned at conflicting media reports which suggest differing thoughts on invocation throughout Government. They also feel that given an exit of this nature has not been attempted before, it is important that the Article is invoked at the appropriate time. Before this happens, many of my constituents have said they would appreciate the Government speaking with one voice on this, otherwise we do risk our negotiating position being undermined.

Future of Migrants

It is difficult to provide absolute reassurances on the future of EU migrants in the UK. But, several constituents of mine are concerned about members of their family who currently have migrant status and whether they are going to be able to stay in this country. I am sure you will agree that if a migrant is here legally and is contributing to our economy, there should be no reason for them facing deportation.

I have been saddened to hear about the rise in hate crime and racial tension which has occurred since the referendum. Indeed, some incidents have unfortunately taken place in my constituency. As the Member of Parliament and Chair of the APPG on Islamophobia, I am keen to make sure that people feel welcome and included in our society. Any kind of assurance on the future of migrants would go a long way towards achieving this.

P.T.O.

Member of Parliament for Pudsey

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Please reply to the constituency address: 94A Town Street, Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS18 4AP

Tel: 0113 258 5615

Contact by email via www.stuartandrew.com

Research Funding

There are three universities in the Leeds area, with Leeds Trinity being located in my constituency. These are institutions that my constituents and I are rightly proud of, but they are in receipt of large amounts of funding from Europe. While Jo Johnson has assured the public that any existing funding arrangements would still be honoured, I share the concern of some constituents at the future of research.

There is concern amongst a number of my constituents that the loss of access to European funding streams could have a substantial impact on the UK research base. I was pleased to be able to secure a Westminster Hall debate on the UK science budget last year in my capacity as Chair of the APPG on Heart Disease. As a result of this, the Government committed to maintain the science budget. It is absolutely imperative that funded researchers for organisations such as British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research and Arthritis Research UK are still available to build on progress made in tackling the most devastating illnesses.

Part of this involves understanding how researchers are able to move around Europe. Research is fundamentally an internationally collaborative undertaking. There are concerns that any restriction of the freedom of movement for researchers would undermine the UK's ability to attract international talent.

I would therefore be grateful of your assurance that this is being considered as negotiations move forward.

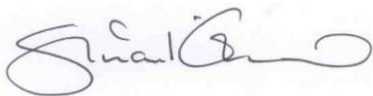
Public Engagement

Finally, with the nature of public involvement throughout the referendum campaign, my constituents are still keen to have their say on our future outside of the EU, regardless of how they voted.

It would be helpful if you could outline the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the public are still going to have their say on the UK's relationship with EU nations moving forward. Many of my constituents have very personal stakes in the matter, whether that be the business they run, the universities they attend or the friends they have. Therefore, I would be grateful of any advice on how they can put their concerns to the Government.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and will be sharing your response with constituents who have contacted me with their concerns.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Andrew', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stuart Andrew MP