



Department
for Exiting the
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Cllr Annwen Hughes, Chairman
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Dear Annwen

Thank you for your letter of 7 January, regarding the concerns of Gwynedd Council about the UK's withdrawal from the EU. I am responding on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Since 2010 we have worked hard to build a stronger, fairer economy - dealing with the deficit, helping people into work, and cutting taxes for people, families and businesses. Beyond that, there are 3.3 million more people in work since 2010, real wages are rising, and we have invested over half a trillion pounds in infrastructure.

Furthermore, we have cut taxes to support business investment and reformed technical education. Development in every region of the UK, including Wales, is essential to continue these trends.

That is why, for over two years, we have worked to deliver a deal that allows us to honour the referendum and realise the opportunities of Brexit. We want a smooth and orderly departure from the EU with a deal that protects our union, gives us control of our borders, laws and money, and gives us an independent trade policy.

The Government's policy is that we are leaving the European Union on 29 March, and we have been very clear that we will never accept a second referendum. The British people voted to leave the EU in what was the largest democratic exercise this country has ever undergone, and that is what we will do at 11pm on 29 March. To deny the legitimacy or frustrate the result of the referendum threatens public trust in our democracy.

Delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the Government's top priority. However, we are doing the responsible thing and accelerating 'no deal' preparations to ensure the country is prepared for every eventuality.

A fortnight ago, Parliament clearly rejected the proposed Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration with just 202 MPs voting in favour. Now a majority of MPs have said they would support a deal with changes to the backstop. The Government is now engaging with the EU about how we address Parliament's views. As the Prime Minister said, we acknowledge that there is limited appetite for such a change in the EU, and negotiating this will not be easy. However, in contrast to a fortnight ago, Parliament has made it clear what it needs to approve this Withdrawal Agreement.

The Prime Minister also said in Parliament on 29 January, that we will bring a revised deal back to this House for a second meaningful vote as soon as we possibly can. If we have not brought a revised deal back to this House by Wednesday 13 February, we will make a statement and, again, table an amendable motion for debate the next day.

The best way forward is to leave in an orderly way with a good deal. It is important that the Government focuses on securing a new partnership with the EU which guarantees our long term prosperity.

Thank you for taking the time to write and I hope this alleviates your concerns.



**KWASI KWARTENG MP
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