



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

January 2017

Dear Constituent,

This is an open letter regarding Britain's plan for leaving the European Union.

On the 17th January, the Prime Minister set out the Government's 12 negotiating objectives for Brexit, part of our Plan for Britain, which aims to get the right deal abroad while ensuring a better deal for ordinary working people here at home. I have to admit that I am incredibly happy with the plan Theresa May laid out, and it was everything I campaigned for during my time in the Fresh Start Project.

The referendum vote last June was about something more than simply leaving the European Union. It was a vote for change: to make Britain stronger and fairer – restoring national self-determination while becoming even more global and international in action and spirit. And while it was a vote to leave the EU, it was not a vote to leave Europe – we want to continue to be reliable partners, willing allies and close friends with European countries.

So in that spirit, we are not seeking partial membership of the EU, associate membership, or anything that leaves us half-in, half-out. We do not seek to adopt a model already enjoyed by other countries or hold on to bits of membership as we leave. Instead we will seek to form a new and equal partnership – between an independent, self-governing, Global Britain and our friends and allies in the EU. It is important to note that it remains firmly in Britain's national interest that the EU should succeed after we have left.

The 12 objectives amount to one big goal: a new, positive and constructive partnership between Britain and the European Union.

1. **Certainty:** whenever we can, we will provide it. And I can confirm that the Government will put the final deal that is agreed between the UK and EU to a vote in both Houses of Parliament.
2. **Control of our own laws:** we will bring an end to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in Britain. Because we will not have truly left the European Union if we are not in control of our own laws.
3. **Strengthen the Union:** we must strengthen the precious Union between the four nations of the United Kingdom. We will work very carefully to ensure that – as powers are repatriated back to Britain – the right powers are returned to Westminster and the right powers are passed to the devolved administrations. We will make sure that no new barriers to living and doing business within our Union are created.



4. **Maintain the Common Travel Area with Ireland:** we will work to deliver a practical solution that allows the maintenance of the Common Travel Area with the Republic of Ireland, while protecting the integrity of the United Kingdom's immigration system.
5. **Control of immigration:** the message I got on the doorstep before and during the referendum campaign was clear: Brexit must mean control of the number of people who come to Britain from Europe. However, we will continue to attract the brightest and the best to work or study in Britain but there must be control.
6. **Rights for EU nationals in Britain, and British nationals in the EU:** we want to guarantee these rights as early as we can. We have told other EU leaders that we can offer EU nationals here this certainty, as long as this is reciprocated for British citizens in EU countries.
7. **Protect workers' rights:** as we translate the body of European law into our domestic regulations, we will ensure that workers' rights are fully protected and maintained.
8. **Free trade with European markets:** as a priority we will pursue a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement with the European Union. This agreement should allow for the freest possible trade in goods and services between Britain and EU member states. It cannot though mean membership of the EU's Single Market. That would mean complying with European Court of Justice rulings, free movement and other EU rules and regulations without having a vote on what those rules and regulations are. And because we will no longer be members of the Single Market, we will not be required to contribute vast sums to the EU budget. If we contribute to some specific EU programmes that we wish to participate in, it will be for us to decide and in our national interest.
9. **New trade agreements with other countries:** it is time for Britain to become a global trading nation like we once were, striking trade agreements around the world. Through the Common Commercial Policy and the Common External Tariff, full Customs Union membership prevents us from doing this – but we do want to have a customs agreement with the EU and have an open mind on how we achieve this end.
10. **The best place for science and innovation:** we will continue to collaborate with our European partners on major science, research and technology initiatives.
11. **Co-operation in the fight against crime and terrorism:** we want our future relationship with the EU to include practical arrangements on matters of law enforcement and intelligence. In this field, our security services are the best in the world and our European counterparts are reliant on us for providing invaluable security information.
12. **A smooth, orderly Brexit:** we want to have reached an agreement about our future partnership by the time the two year Article 50 process has concluded. From that point onwards, we expect a phased process of implementation and we will do all we can to avoid a disruptive cliff-edge.



While Britain wants to remain a good friend and neighbour to Europe, we know there are some voices calling for a punitive deal. **This Government has been absolutely clear that no deal for Britain is better than a bad deal for Britain.** However, I am feeling rather bullish about Britain's future and I am looking forward to breaking free of the constraints of Brussels.

As always I will do all I can to represent the views of my constituents in Westminster and will be keeping a very close eye on this matter to make sure we get it right. However, should you have any questions regarding this matter, or any other, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY