

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA

3rd April 2019

Prime Minister,

It has been an honour to serve in your Government as a Whip and more recently as Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Exiting the European Union and I thank you for giving me the chance to serve my country in these roles.

In my current job, I've had the responsibility of helping to coordinate our preparations for if we were to leave the European Union without a negotiated deal. As I believe you know, these preparations are well advanced and whilst I would have preferred to leave the European Union with your deal, I truly believe our country would have swiftly overcome any immediate issues of leaving without a deal and gone on to thrive.

It has been a privilege to work with some quite brilliant civil servants in my Department and across your Government. They have moved mountains to prepare our country for leaving the European Union without a negotiated deal. Unfortunately, I do not believe the briefings you have received on these matters recently have reflected all they have achieved or the preparations our European partners have made.

However, I completely understand you do not want to leave the European Union without a negotiated deal and that obviously makes my job in Government irrelevant.

I have constantly voted in Parliament for us to leave the European Union on March 29th, 2019. I truly believe we should have honoured the result of the 2016 Referendum and left on that date. Indeed every time we seek an extension to this process we diminish faith in our political system and the good people, from all political parties, who serve within it. I simply cannot support any further extension to Article 50 and this obviously means I cannot stay in government.

I certainly appreciated the opportunity to serve as a Minister in your Government, but being a backbencher is truly the best job in politics and I now intend to continue to represent and serve my constituents in Daventry to the best of my ability from a seat further back in the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris".

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

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