

Brendan O'Hara MP

Argyll and Bute



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Constituent,

10 December 2018

Why I will vote AGAINST the government's Withdrawal Agreement

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the forthcoming vote at Westminster on the government's Withdrawal Agreement. Perhaps not surprisingly given that this is possibly the biggest peace time decision a politician will ever be asked to make, the volume of email traffic has been unprecedented in my three and a half years of being your Member of Parliament.

I can confirm that when the government's motion comes before the House of Commons on Tuesday, I will vote against, as I do not believe this deal to be in the best interest of the people of Argyll & Bute.

My overriding priority as MP for Argyll & Bute is the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the people who live here and having looked closely at the government's Withdrawal Agreement, I believe it would be a dereliction of duty on my part if I were to support what they are offering.

The people of this constituency voted by a very considerable margin to remain full members of the European Union. We recognised the benefits that being part of the EU has brought and understood that much of our economic future depended on retaining free movement of people, in order to be able to attract young, ambitious, entrepreneurial people into Argyll & Bute from across the continent.

Not only does this deal end freedom of movement but it also puts our already fragile economy at a competitive disadvantage compared to our near neighbours in Northern Ireland. I believe this would be catastrophic for our farming and our fishing communities, particularly those who export vast quantities of live shellfish directly into Europe.

Looking to the future, I also had to ask myself, why would a company choose to invest here when just 12 miles across the water from the Mull of Kintyre, they would enjoy full Single Market access and remain part of the EU Customs Union.

For the past two years, the Prime Minister has told us repeatedly that a "no deal is better than a bad deal". Yet what we will be asked to vote on at Westminster this week is exactly that, a bad deal...a very bad deal.

The Prime Minister has claimed that it is a straight choice between her Agreement or a No Deal Brexit.

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I simply do not believe that to be the case and I will not be “bounced” or blackmailed into voting for something I know will harm my constituents.

In my opinion, the UK’s attempt to leave to EU has descended into an embarrassing fiasco and if the Prime Minister believes that I will sacrifice the future wellbeing of my constituents simply to get her out of a disaster of her own making...she can think again!

Yours for Scotland,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan O'Hara', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brendan O’Hara MP
Argyll and Bute