

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

### **A people's vote on Brexit**

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about a People's Vote on our future with the EU.

The referendum asked one very specific question on whether the UK should remain a member of the EU or leave. What that referendum didn't answer though, is what form and approach should be taken to Brexit. In the light of that I am determined that there should be no blank cheque for the Government in the way they pursue Brexit. Labour has been pressing ministers to prioritise jobs and living standards throughout the Brexit negotiations.

Of course, as we are not in Government, it is not us who are negotiating the terms of Brexit with the EU and we are very concerned about the approach that the Conservatives are taking to those negotiations. All the evidence suggests that the terms on which Britain leaves the EU will be of key importance to jobs and living standards of people in the UK for many years to come and that the impact will be particularly severe if Britain crashes out of the EU without a deal.

I believe therefore that it is only right that elected MPs, not simply Ministers, should have a meaningful say over the course of action that Britain should take both during the negotiations and at their conclusion. Once Theresa May has presented her final deal, Parliament should have the power to decide what happens next ~~and~~. That means it should also have the power to consider the range of options that could be taken if Parliament rejects her final deal or in the absence of a deal. Asking the people of the UK to give their view would be one of those options, particularly if Parliament is unable to agree a way forward itself. I understand the attractions of going for an option like that to break a logjam in Parliament. However, it would also involve serious difficulties – not least in deciding the precise question on which people would be asked to vote. Despite that, it is an option which should be considered in those circumstances.

Thanks again to everyone who has contacted me about a People's Vote on Brexit.  
Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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