



DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

02 April 2019

I always try to do my very best for the people of Central Suffolk and North Ipswich and as is the case with my colleagues up and down the country, I have received thousands of emails and letters regarding Brexit over these past few weeks. The one common thread amongst those emails and letters is that people simply want a conclusion to this stage of the negotiations.

Through every step of the process, I have worked hard to keep residents informed of my position. Although I voted to Remain in the 2016 Referendum, as a pragmatist, I have always believed it my duty to respect the Referendum result and to ensure that we leave the European Union in the smoothest and best way possible.

Although far from perfect, I believe that the Prime Minister's Deal ensures that we deliver on the result of the Referendum and allows us to leave the EU, providing the certainty that our businesses and agricultural sector need and deserve. In coming to my decision to support the Deal, I have both read and listened to the views of hundreds of Suffolk residents and listened carefully to the national debate. It ensures that we leave the EU, it ensures an end to freedom of movement of people - allowing for better control of immigration to the UK - it protects our trade with the EU and the jobs and businesses that rely on this, and it paves the way for an ambitious free-trade deal to come into force in the future - all things which I believe were central to the referendum and the result that was voted for by the majority of the people of Suffolk and the UK. On that basis, I shall, on balance, continue to vote in favour of the Prime Minister's deal.

I understand that many people have been left extremely frustrated by the way that this process has been conducted and, of course, I share some of those frustrations. Having weighed up all the information available to me, I have concluded, that on balance, the Prime Minister's Withdrawal Agreement, imperfect as it is, represents the most pragmatic way forward at this moment. Of course, the situation continues to evolve rapidly, and I will continue to do all that I can to ensure that residents and business across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich can have the certainty that they need and deserve to go about their day to day lives.