



June 2020

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about the transition period.

The UK left the EU on 31 January. A transition period has followed during which market access remains the same and the UK and EU are negotiating an agreement on their future relationship. The manifesto I stood on was clear that the transition period would not be extended beyond December 2020 and this has been put into law.

Although I have received several standard emails from a pro-EU campaign group on this matter, I want to reiterate that I was elected in the Bracknell Constituency on a manifesto which committed to the following statement; 'we will not extend the implementation period beyond December 2020'. This manifesto produced one of the biggest majorities at the last General Election and I am steadfast in upholding the commitments I was elected on.

I fully appreciate that the outbreak of COVID-19 is serious and my ministerial colleagues are doing everything they can to tackle the virus based on the latest scientific and medical advice. The latest round of negotiations took place via video conference in the week beginning 11 May and a further round will take place in the week beginning 1 June.

I appreciate that you have concerns about the deadline but ministers have already shown that they are able to negotiate international agreements with speed and efficiency. The Withdrawal Agreement was re-opened and re-negotiated in under three months despite many believing that this would be not be possible. A high-level summit will take place in June where both sides intend to take stock of progress.

The UK and the EU share closely aligned interests and I am confident that the determination and willingness of the parties to reach a free trade agreement will ensure that the matter is brought to a conclusion by the end of 2020 as legally committed to in good faith by both parties as part of the transition period.

Although I understand the concerns of the IMF Managing Director, this organisation also stated a recession would occur immediately after the EU referendum and this did not happen. My humble view is that there has been a commendable, pragmatic and entirely conditions-based approach to the negotiations and that both sides will come to an agreement.

If you would like to see the UK's approach to negotiations with the European Union, please click on the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-approach-to-the-future-relationship-with-the-eu>

Thank you once again for taking the time and effort to contact me. I wish you and your family all stay safe and well in these challenging times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Sunderland', is displayed on a light yellow rectangular background.

James Sunderland MP
Member of Parliament for the Bracknell Constituency
Bracknell, Crowthorne, Finchampstead, Sandhurst and Wokingham Without