

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th February 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: LET US STAY CAMPAIGN

Thank you for you for emailing me as part of the “Let us Stay” campaign.

I am completely supportive of EU nationals remaining in the UK. We owe a great deal to these neighbours of ours, not simply in their contribution to the British economy, social care or the NHS. They have a very positive broader impact in UK society and culture.

I agree that the British Government has a moral responsibility to EU citizens who have chosen to make their home here. It also has a moral and legal duty to protect the interests of British people who are residing, as is their legal right, elsewhere in the EU.

Before Christmas the Prime Minister tried to secure the agreement that both groups of citizens would have their ongoing rights respected. Unfortunately at that stage a tiny number of EU countries were not prepared to agree to this and the EU as a whole took the decision that no such declaration can be made by them until Article 50 is triggered.

I am very hopeful, as is the Government, that at a very early stage mutual guarantees will be given on this issue. To be clear this has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with “trade talks” or a wider negotiation.

I have total and complete confidence that EU nationals will be able to remain (the vast majority in any event are already entitled to apply for indefinite leave to remain). The Government is wholly committed to this and the Commons will be able to have its say in an Immigration Bill which will be necessary as part of our withdrawal from the EU.

I understand why an amendment was tabled to the Article 50 Bill. However given the assurances the Government has given and the progress on this issue in the EU I am very hopeful that this can be resolved bilaterally giving early comfort not only to my EU constituents but equally to constituents of mine who write from Spain and France where they have made homes and are also concerned for the future.

I personally campaigned to Remain during the Referendum campaign but am committed (as I said I would be in the campaign) to honouring the result of the vote. Unfortunately this is just one area in which work needs to be done, swiftly, to reassure our fellow citizens. I am sure it will be resolved in principle (in practice there is no risk at all, in my view, to their status) quickly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.

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