

December 2018

Dear Constituent

Thank you for contacting me about the recent ruling of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on the revoking of Article 50.

The ruling of the ECJ clarifies a position of EU law but does not change the Government's policy. Whilst this is an interesting exercise in clarifying a legal position, the Government has no intention of revoking Article 50 so the judgment of the ECJ is completely irrelevant. Parliament has no power itself to unilaterally revoke Article 50, as the ECJ ruling makes clear, any revocation would have to be done in line with the democratic processes and procedures of the country doing so. This would mean the Government would need to be as willing as Parliament to undertake this action. However I know there is no majority in Parliament, as in the Government, to revoke Article 50.

The United Kingdom voted to leave the EU in the largest democratic act seen in our nation's history. A decision to simply revoke Article 50 or hold another referendum would be seen as a betrayal of those people, many of whom have never voted in an election before.

We are in a position now where people are trying to push and pull the process in a particular way to either stop Brexit, force a hard Brexit or a different kind of deal. The only workable solution on the table is the deal being presented by the Prime Minister and for the national interest it is incumbent on me and other MPs to back it.

85% of MPs were elected in 2017 on manifestos that pledged to honour the result of the referendum. That is what we must now do.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Richard Benyon