

Stephen Kinnock MP

February 2019 Newsletter



LIVE Westminster
PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS
May says working hard to leave EU with a deal
BBC NEWS 12:29 INTING SCANDAL • **SANTANDER ANNOUNCES IT IS TO**

A Strong Voice For Aberavon

News from the Commons



Why Have Russians With Extremely Close Links To The Kremlin Been Allowed To Give £1 Million To The Conservatives?

In Prime Minister's Questions I asked David Lidington to explain why Russians with extremely close links to the Kremlin have been allowed to give £1 million to the Conservatives. Is it right that the British governing party is in hock to those so close to a hostile and corrupt foreign regime? <http://bit.ly/2BmsOMQ>



Meeting Martin Selmayr

The Committee for Exiting the EU had a useful meeting with Martin Selmayr, Secretary General of the EU Commission, in Brussels. He reiterated that the negotiations on the Withdrawal Agreement are closed. But he didn't rule out putting the Backstop assurance letters in the Withdrawal Agreement but asked Brexiteer MPs if they'd really back it if the EU did! He also made clear that the Political Declaration is open for negotiation and Norway Plus would help solve the Irish Border. <http://bit.ly/2TxgrEI>



Prime Minister's Approach Is A Charade, And It Needs To Be Stopped Now

As MPs debated the Brexit amendments, I intervened in the debate to say that the idea that Theresa May can re-open Withdrawal Agreement ('divorce items') is a charade - yet another Brexit unicorn. Common Market 2.0 would only amend the Political Declaration on Future Relationship and the EU supports this. <http://bit.ly/2GcJDod>



Why Does She Not Pivot To The Norway-Plus Option Today?

During Prime Minister's Questions I asked if the Prime Minister was serious about doing away with the Northern Irish backstop, and doesn't want to extend Article 50, then why doesn't she pivot to the Norway-Plus option which eliminates the need for both these things? <http://bit.ly/2DVU0U4>



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

As Chair of APPG on Post-Brexit Regional Funding I was pleased to hold a constructive meeting with the Minister for Business and Industry, to discuss how the UK Shared Prosperity Fund must ensure that funding is maintained at current levels and is shared fairly among the four devolved Nations.

News from the Commons



European Scrutiny Committee Hears From Dominic Raab

Former Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab MP appeared before the European Scrutiny Committee to answer questions about negotiations between the UK Government and the European Union regarding the UK's exit from the European Union. <http://bit.ly/2BvF2mi>



European Scrutiny Committee Hears From Suella Braverman

Suella Braverman appeared before the European Scrutiny Committee to answer questions about the negotiations between the UK Government and the European Union regarding the UK's exit from the European Union. <http://bit.ly/2SJ7VVY>

News from Aberavon



Third Divided Views, Common Future

Aberavon residents had another opportunity to speak with me about Brexit as I hosted my third Divided Views, Common Future meeting. The further along the Brexit road we go, the more there is to discuss. It was a fantastic, lively and engaging discussion, with a wide range of topics covered and lots of different views expressed. There was a consensus in the room that nobody wanted Aberavon to be worse off because of Brexit. <http://bit.ly/2WO8kWj>



UK Power Reserve Plant Visit

I had an interesting visit to UK Power Reserve's plant on Afan Way. UK Power Reserve is a leading provider of secure, flexible, low carbon electricity to the UK power market and their recently constructed small scale gas-fired power generation plant can provide power for 20,000 homes. <http://bit.ly/2WOUacc>



Cwmafan Primary

It was great to meet with Cwmafan Primary School Council. We had a great conversation about everything from problems with local littering to the life and times of Nelson Mandela. No shortage of budding Paxmans here!

<http://bit.ly/2DirZVb>

News from Aberavon



Welcome News That UK Government Confirms Baglan Prison Proposals Have Been Axed

This is fantastic news and a real victory for the people of Port Talbot. David Rees AM and I have been working hard with our constituents to make clear the reasons why Baglan was an utterly inappropriate location for a new super-prison, and I'm pleased that – after a campaign lasting almost two years – the UK government has admitted defeat. <http://bit.ly/2RMGPsI>



Steelworkers Pensions Public Meeting

I attended a public meeting in the Twelve Knights about advice given to members of the British Steel Pension Scheme to transfer out of their final salary pension.

There is concern that there are steelworkers who were wrongly advised to transfer out, but are not aware that they received bad advice. <http://bit.ly/2t7XRHw>



NPT 1950s Women Meeting

It was great to be at a packed meeting of the NPT 1950s Women. These women have worked hard, paid-in their whole lives, and deserve to be treated with the respect they have earned. It was made absolutely clear in the meeting that the UK Government must now compensate women born in the 1950s for the way they have been misled and robbed of their state pension. <http://bit.ly/2BkNvsb>



Fire Training Centre

It was great to visit Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Earlswood Training Centre with David Rees AM, and good to meet the brave men and women providing a vitally important service to our community. <http://bit.ly/2Dls1fk>



Political Digest

“They’ve made it clear that the Withdrawal Agreement is done and dusted, its not going to be re-opened..... But I took heart from the fact that they were absolutely clear that we could negotiate and amend the Political Declaration on the future relationship. And if we could change that to make it a much closer and clearer relationship with the European Union, based on membership of the Single Market and a form of customs union, they would be absolutely open to doing that. And its also pretty clear that would resolve the issue of the Irish border and Irish Backstop.”



Stephen spoke to BBC Radio Wales' Good Evening Wales programme after the Committee for Exiting the EU met with the Secretary General of the European Commission, 4 February 2019

Good Evening Wales: Meeting With Secretary General of European Commission

Following the Committee for Exiting the European Union's meeting with the Secretary General of the European Commission, I spoke with *Good Evening Wales* about what was discussed. The Secretary General made it clear that the Withdrawal Agreement is done and dusted, but that we could negotiate and amend the Political Declaration on the future relationship. <http://bit.ly/2Gvfzfs>



BBC Wales Today: Steelworkers Pensions Meeting

I spoke with *BBC Wales Today* following a public meeting in the Twelve Knights about advice given to members of the British Steel Pension Scheme to transfer out of their final salary pension. Steelworkers were exposed to opportunistic and unscrupulous advisers who swooped in like vultures, exploiting the situation for their own financial gain.

<http://bit.ly/2Sz2adg>



Politics Live: Prime Minister's Questions

Before Prime Minister's Questions I appeared on *Politics Live* opposite Tory MP Peter Bone. We discussed Brexit and what Theresa May's options were to renegotiate her Brexit deal with the European Union.

You can watch at <http://bit.ly/2Dis000>



How The Murky World Of Campaign Finance Must Change

I wrote an article for *LabourList* about the work I've been doing with the Electoral Reform Society and Fair Vote to set up an all party parliamentary group on electoral campaigning transparency to investigate how we can better ensure our democratic processes are protected. You can read the article at <http://bit.ly/2RLNxyO>

TalkRADIO: Brexit Amendment Votes

I spoke with Julia Hartley-Brewer on *TalkRADIO* about the Brexit amendment votes and why, when the Prime Minister's mythical alternative for the backstop doesn't work, she should pivot to Common Market 2.0.

“When we get to that point, yet again, where the Prime Minister's mythical alternative for the backstop has clearly not worked, we are once again left with the one option on the tablet that is both acceptable to Parliament and the European Union, rapidly and smoothly, and that is Common Market 2.0.”



Stephen spoke to Julia Hartley-Brewer on TalkRADIO about the Brexit amendment votes, 30 January 2019

Listen to the interview at <http://bit.ly/2t88b2h>

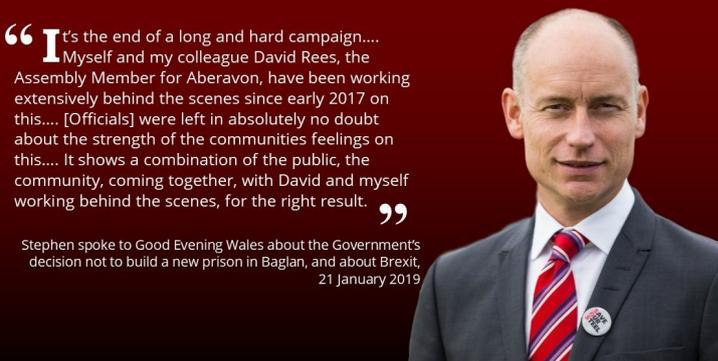
Political Digest



Beyond 100 Days: Brexit Amendment

I was interviewed on BBC's *Beyond 100 Days* about why I was supporting Yvette Cooper's Brexit amendment. The purpose of Yvette's amendment was to prevent the UK from crashing out of the EU after 29 March 2019, by forcing the Government to seek an extension to Article 50 if Parliament had not reached an agreement on a deal.

Watch my interview at <http://bit.ly/2RLdE99>



Good Evening Wales: Prison In Baglan

I spoke with *Good Evening Wales* on the day the Government confirmed it would not be going ahead with proposals for a prison in Baglan. It's the end of a long and hard campaign demonstrating that we can achieve the right result when the community and politicians come together.

Listen to my interview at <http://bit.ly/2Dgz88M>



House Magazine: Common Market 2.0: inside the campaign for a Norway-Style Brexit

I was interviewed alongside my colleagues Lucy Powell MP and Rob Halfon MP, about Common Market 2.0, the growing support it is gaining in Parliament and why it can solve the Prime Minister's Brexit problem.

Read the interview at <http://bit.ly/2TBz7mP>



Sky News: Brexit Deal Options

I appeared on *Sky News* along side Gillian Keegan MP and Ben Bradshaw MP, to discuss alternative plans for Brexit. I advocated that the Prime Minister should pivot to Common Market 2.0

Watch the debate on <http://bit.ly/2t84euz>



Newsnight:

On *Newsnight* I spoke about how, if the Prime Minister continues to flog her dead horse of a deal, then Parliament will have to take control of the process.

You can watch the interview at <http://bit.ly/2WMq3gO>

Political Digest



BBC News: Labour's Five Demands On Brexit

I was interviewed on *BBC News* over Labour's five demands on Brexit. Now we need an explicit call for the UK to join EFTA EEA so all politicians are absolutely clear where we are heading post-29 March.

Watch my interview on <http://bit.ly/2MTEdbn>



“I really hope that this isn't just a stunt. The British people have had enough of stunts. They have had enough of the narrow party political tribalism that we've seen. This conversation should have happened two years ago, the Prime Minister should have been reaching out and having these conversations.”

Stephen speaking to Nick Ferrari on LBC Radio, 18 January 2019

LBC Radio: Prime Minister Reaching Out

After the Prime Minister lost the vote on her Brexit deal and started reaching out across Parliament, I spoke with Nick Ferrarri on *LBC Radio*. In the interview I said that I hoped it wasn't a stunt by the government and that the Prime Minister should have been reaching out and having these conversations for the last two years.

Listen to the interview on <http://bit.ly/2HWO8TC>



BBC Wales News: Talks With Government

I spoke with *BBC Wales News* following my meeting with Government Ministers over Brexit. It was an excellent opportunity to clearly convey the message that they must take 'No Deal' off the table.

Watch the interview at <http://bit.ly/2HXAPNY>



“We've got to find a constructive way through this. There is a way for the UK Government, if necessary, to request an extension to Article 50. But in fact the Norway Plus option that we are proposing doesn't even require that, we just need to change the Political Declaration so that we change the future relationship and leave the European Union in a smooth way.”

Stephen speaking to BBC Radio Wales Good Evening Wales, 17 January 2019

Good Evening Wales: Talks With Government

After I met with Government Ministers over Brexit and the alternatives the Prime Minister could pursue I spoke with *Good Evening Wales*. I told them that they must take 'No Deal' off the table and that we have to find a constructive way through this: change the Political Declaration to the Norway Plus option.

Listen to my interview at <http://bit.ly/2MS4gzC>



BBC News: Talks With Government

I joined Huw Edwards on *BBC News* following talks with the Government over Brexit. I talked about the need to take 'No Deal' off the table and we had a constructive conversation about Norway Plus, a compromise that can command support in the House.

Watch the interview at <http://bit.ly/2SiLDzG>

Political Digest

Jeremy's letter to Theresa May is a step in the right direction, because what it says is we need a customs union and full single market alignment. I'd like him to go further and say this means membership of the European Economic Area..... it is a version of Brexit that will deliver for the steelworks in my constituency, for the automotive workers in Nissan, for our entire manufacturing and services sector.

Stephen speaks to Matt Frei on LBC about Brexit and Luciana Berger, 9 February 2019



LBC Radio: Brexit

I spoke with Matt Frei on *LBC* radio about Jeremy Corbyn's letter to Theresa May outlining Labour's position on Brexit.

You can listen to my interview at <http://bit.ly/2I477qs>



Channel 4 News: Brexit

I appeared alongside Rupa Huq MP on *Channel 4 News* speaking about Brexit, the need for politicians to rediscover the lost art of compromise and why Norway Plus would deliver on the Brexit referendum but doesn't destroy the jobs and livelihoods of the people we represent.

You can watch at <http://bit.ly/2GClKyS>

The Prime Minister is quite unlikely to pivot to a softer Brexit because she is so worried about the impact on her party, and she will always put party ahead of country. But the opportunity here is for a Norway-style deal.

Stephen speaks to Shelagh Fogarty on LBC about letters exchanged between Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn, 11 February 2019



LBC Radio: Brexit Letters

I spoke with *LBC's* Shelagh Fogarty about the exchange of letters between Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn, and how there is an opportunity here for a Norway-style deal.

You can listen to what I said at <http://bit.ly/2TN5iji>



Fabians Conference

I attended the Fabians conference and poke about bridging the geographical, cultural and generational divide. We need a whole nation Labour party that reaches out to all, and can heal our deeply divided country.

Aberavon Constituency Funding Fair

Hosted by: Stephen Kinnock
MP for Aberavon



Friday 22nd March

10am-1pm

The Centre, Baglan

Lodge Drive, SA12 8UB

Are you a local **Sports Group, Community Organisation, Club or Charity?**

I am bringing together a number of funders, including the **National Lottery Community Fund** and **Sport Wales** alongside local Energy providers, such as **Margam Biomass Power Station** - who have community funds available, a full list is below.

They can advise you on the day whether they can fund your project or organisation, and how you can go about accessing the funding.



'Stephen's Funding Fair is an excellent opportunity for local clubs and groups to meet funders directly.

Thanks to the invaluable help we have received there, we have now produced our educational anti-bullying film 'My Life As A Bully'

Denise Francis - Founder, Firehorse Productions.



Project Development & Funding Unit
Community Funds
• Margam Biomass
• Newlands Wind Farm



Stephen's Next Surgery

Stephen Kinnock
Member of Parliament
for Aberavon

Advice Surgery

Friday 8th March

4.00-5.00pm

Port Talbot Library

Aberafan Shopping Centre

Coffee Morning

Saturday 23rd March

10.30am-12.30pm

Briton Ferry Library

Neath Road, SA11 2AQ

Contact Stephen

My office is open Monday - Thursday between 10am and 1pm for a drop-in advice surgery with a caseworker.

Outside of these times you can call to make an appointment.

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As your MP, I'd like to stay in touch and hear your views.

You can visit my website to sign up to my mailing list:

www.stephenkinnock.co.uk

I send out a monthly newsletter and may also contact you to ask for your opinion on issues that may be important to you.

