

Open letter to John Cryer MP on the Article 50 vote

Dear John,

I am writing to you regarding your support of Brexit, and the upcoming vote on the triggering of Article 50 in parliament.

Since the EU referendum, I have spoken to hundreds of your constituents on this subject. As you know, the majority of them supported Remain. Many did not. But none of them gave a mandate to the hard Brexit that Theresa May is now pursuing, and citizens on all sides have been mystified by your failure to say anything at all on this issue.

What does Brexit look like? Should we stay in the Single Market? Will you seek to amend the Bill on triggering Article 50?

I believe that the further we distance ourselves from our European friends and partners, the more isolated and impoverished we will become. I believe that with Trump on one side and Putin on the other, now is no time to turn our back on Europe. I believe that a referendum on a deal shaped by the Tories' agenda is the best way for the British people to confirm or withhold their support for that deal.

You may disagree and that is your right, but you must do your constituents the service of telling them what you do believe. Disagreement and debate are the essence of democracy, but your silence makes debate impossible.

You cannot ignore the people you serve and then claim to be a democrat. This is the most important issue that you will ever be asked to decide upon. By hiding away and refusing to speak, you fail in your duty and you do your constituents a disservice.

I hope that you will reconsider your stance; but if you do not, I hope that you will at least tell us how you intend to vote and what you believe the government's negotiating position should be.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Sims
ben@walthamforestlibdems.org

Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesperson,
Leyton & Wanstead