



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Response to Relationship with the DUP – June 2017

Thank you for contacting me about the General Election result and the Conservative - DUP relationship.

At this crucial time, the Prime Minister will form a Government in the national interest. With the most seats and most votes, only the Conservative Party has the ability and legitimacy to do that. The Conservative Party have had a strong relationship over many years with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), and are discussing finalising a confidence and supply deal. I know there are a number of concerns with this approach that I want to address directly.

As your Member of Parliament I will continue to promote and champion equal rights. Conservatives in Government introduced same sex marriage and earlier this year passed 'Turing's law' to remove historic convictions for consensual acts. As I work with others to govern in the national interest we will continue to promote and champion the equal rights we believe in. Social issues within Northern Ireland such as same-sex marriage and abortion are decided upon directly by the Northern Ireland Assembly and the political parties, elected representatives and people of Northern Ireland. Any potential arrangements within the UK Parliament and any relationship between the Conservative Party and the Democratic Unionist Party will not affect the UK Government's approach to social issues such as same-sex marriage and abortion within Great Britain.

On the Northern Ireland peace process, Ministers and I are committed to re-establishing inclusive, devolved government in Northern Ireland. The approach and objectives as set out in The Conservative Party Northern Ireland manifesto remain unchanged, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland continues to work to restore a Northern Ireland Executive as soon as possible.

Governing in the national interest will mean delivering a successful Brexit that works for the whole country. It means building on our economic record of more jobs, cutting the deficit and investing more in public services like the NHS. It means tackling the social issues we face in the country: issues like mental health, housing, and proper technical education for young people.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP