



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

The Future of the UK Following Brexit

Thank you for contacting me about the future of the country following the vote to leave the EU.

During the EU withdrawal negotiations the normal programme of government is continuing. While EU negotiations may dominate the headlines in the coming months and years, I would like to emphasise that the Government is also getting on with other priorities.

The future of the UK is bright. We live in a stable and liberal democracy, an essential foundation for freedom and prosperity.

We are open to the world for business. The UK is the fifth largest economy in the world and it receives more foreign investment than any other country in Europe. It was the fastest growing economy in the G7 last year and PwC predicts that the country could become the fastest-growing economy in the G7 between now and 2050. Manufacturing orders are also at their highest level since 1988 and unemployment is at its lowest since 1975.

I believe that the country also benefits from significant soft power: Britain is home to 3 of the world's top 10 universities, our cities are renowned centres of culture and English is the world's most important language for commerce. The UK can also claim more Nobel Laureates than any other country in the world outside the United States.

The financial markets are naturally volatile during any period of uncertainty. However, because of the tough decisions taken in the last seven years, the British economy is in a much stronger and much more secure position than it was in 2010. The capital requirements of Banks are ten times greater than they were when the previous Labour Government was in power. The Bank of England also stands ready to provide more than £250 billion of additional funds to support market functions.

We have a significant role in maintaining international peace and security. The UK retains its seat on the United Nations Security Council and it is one of only five permanent members. It is a leading member of NATO, the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe and the Five Power Defence Arrangements in the Far East. The UK also has strong and valued bilateral defence relationships with countries around the world.

The country remains committed to being a full international partner with countries most in need of help. In 2015-16, DfID spent £540 million on economic development in Africa and £500 million on humanitarian support. The UK is also at the forefront of the response to the crisis in Syria. The UK has so far pledged more than £2.3 billion, its largest ever humanitarian response.

I am certain that we can all have confidence in the future of our country and the ability of its people to adapt to the demands of a changing world, as they always have done.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP