



Craig Whittaker MP

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Brexit and the People's Vote/Second Referendum Campaigns

Thank you for contacting me about holding a vote on the final deal between the UK and the EU.

It is clear that some people feel very strongly that there should be another vote on the final agreement on leaving the EU. The Government is clear that there will not be another vote and the UK is leaving the EU next year. I believe that when a decision of constitutional significance is made, it is important that democratic processes are followed. That is why Parliament gave the British people the final say on the UK's membership of the EU and why the result must be respected, even if it was unexpected by some.

The ballot paper presented voters with an unambiguous choice: to remain in the EU or to leave. The consequences of either decision were communicated by campaign groups through a variety of print, audio-visual and digital media. The Government also sent a document to every household in the UK on the benefits of staying in the EU.

It was up to the electorate to judge the merits of the different arguments and over 17.4 million voters decided to leave the EU. Both main political parties pledged in their manifestos at the General Election 2017 to respect the EU referendum result and these parties received over 80 per cent of the vote.

Allegations that Vote Leave did not satisfactorily declare campaign spending is a matter for the Electoral Commission. Serious allegations have also been made about the conduct of some of the Remain campaign groups which are also for the Commission to look at. The Electoral Commission has previously declared that the referendum was delivered without any major issues and that the final result was clear.

The Information Commissioner is currently undertaking a formal investigation into the use of personal data during political campaigns. As I am sure you can appreciate, I would not want to comment on an ongoing investigation.

The Government is committed to defending the UK from all forms of malign activity conducted by foreign states. I am not aware that any evidence has been received detailing successful interference in the UK's democratic processes.

MPs from across the political spectrum voted 494 to 122 in favour of invoking Article 50 in 2017. The exit negotiations are now well under way and I am confident that an agreement will be reached to the mutual benefit of the both the UK and the EU. MPs will vote on the deal when it comes to Parliament.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP

