

## Alok Sharma, MP for Reading West

21<sup>st</sup> August 2019

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about the effect of leaving the EU without a deal on the UK.

I voted for the UK to remain in the European Union. However, ahead of the referendum, I also made it absolutely clear that I would respect the outcome of the national referendum. The vote on our membership of the European Union was not a local referendum, but a national vote, and everyone had the same opportunity to have their say.

The result was clear - a majority of those who voted, voted to leave the European Union. And that is why we must proceed with our exit from the EU. It is also worth pointing out that at the general election in 2017 over 80% of those who voted, voted for a party committed to respecting the referendum result.

My preference is to leave the EU with a deal however if that is not possible, we are preparing to leave without a deal by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Making sure Britain is prepared whatever the circumstances is the best way to get a new deal but ultimately, we need to get Brexit done by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Act 2019 requires the Government to publish reports on progress made towards the formation of an executive in the province every two weeks between October and December. Amendments to the Act also require MPs to debate the reports even if Parliament has been prorogued. This means that Parliament could be recalled and could be sitting on the 31 October. The legal default EU exit date, however, would not change. Only the Government has the power to change the exit date with the agreement of the EU.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Alok Sharma MP**