

# How do you want the government to proceed?

This Parliament has argued and voted itself into an impossible position. 82% of the votes were cast in the General election for two main parties promising to deliver Brexit. Now one of those is doing everything to prevent it, and some Conservative MPs have also assisted them or have joined the Lib Dems. The Lib Dems make a mockery of their name by insisting on not implementing the referendum, saying they want a second vote and finishing off their anti democratic credentials by telling us if that went the wrong way they might ignore that too. We have a Leader of the Opposition who has gone on and on about the need for an early election. Now he is faced with the opportunity of one he looks as if he might instruct his party not to vote for it.

Today the Commons will seek to drive a dangerous Bill through all its stages in one short sitting. Its purpose will be to deliver the UK into the power and control of the EU. The PM will be required to ask for an extension of our membership, and to accept any terms the EU wishes to dictate. No sensible Remain voter, let alone a Leave voter, can think that a good idea. The Commons procedures have been changed to allow this to happen. An urgent debate which was always on a neutral motion has been attached to a detailed Timetable motion not of the government's choosing, binding the Commons and changing Standing Orders. This teems with irony. The MPs who have done this claim to be the true democrats and the defenders of the constitution. Instead they warp the constitution to seek to pass a Bill which would bind the UK into EU servitude against the express wishes of the electors in the referendum and in the 2017 General election.

There are usually constraints on MPs other than the government legislating. Only a Minister can move a Money Order, so any new legislation entailing substantial expenditure requires government agreement. This proposed Bill involves spending £1bn or more extra a month for however long we have to stay in the EU. Yet we are told the Speaker is unlikely to agree it needs a Money resolution. This Bill affects royal prerogative. It therefore should require Queen's Consent – usually offered by the PM on her behalf- before its third reading. It will be interesting to see if this convention is observed. The government would wish to use Queen's consent to stop the debate on this Bill to prevent its passage. In recent times Queen's Consent has been withheld from Bills the government did not favour. As this is a fundamental constitutional Bill of great significance, it would usually get substantial debating time in both houses, yet yesterday's timetable motion tramples over this normal protection.

Issues being debated include would an early election help? Should Conservative MPs who back this legislation lose the whip? The danger of that is then there are fewer MPs to whom the government can look to get any aspect of its programme through, making it even more difficult to govern.

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## A general election?

The media is awash with election speculation. The PM confirmed in his remarks yesterday evening to his MPs that he does not want an early election.

It is by no means clear that the Leader of the Opposition wants one either. His party lags badly in the polls. It cannot say what policy it would offer on Brexit, with some wanting revocation of our notice to leave, some wanting a second referendum and some wanting some unspecified renegotiation with the EU that the EU might reject anyway. Of course he has to say he wants one, but he seems happier proposing rebel legislation to delay our exit.

It is quite likely an early election before we had left the EU would be an acrimonious re run of the referendum, with parties wanting to do well having to be clearly leave or remain. There is no guarantee the voters would create a good majority for one single view of Brexit in any new Parliament. Politics is only likely to return to some sense once this so far hopeless Parliament has fulfilled its main task, to get us out of the EU, as promised by both Labour and Conservatives in the last election.

Our main problem is not too few elections. Our problem is the inability so far of this Parliament to implement the decision of the referendum. Until that is done there will be anger about those MPs who have failed to vote and speak on Brexit as promised in the last election, and an inability to move on to discuss how an independent UK will use its new freedoms.

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## £14 billion cash boost for schools in Wokingham and West Berkshire

The Prime Minister has announced that we are boosting schools with a record £14 billion, levelling up per pupil funding across the country so every child in Wokingham & West Berkshire has a world class education.

The cash boost will mean that every secondary school in Wokingham & West Berkshire will receive a minimum of £5,000 per pupil next year and every primary school will get a minimum of £4,000 per pupil from 2021-22, rising at least in line with inflation.

The cash boost will mean £700 million extra for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), so every pupil in Wokingham & West Berkshire can access the education that is right for them, and none are held back from reaching their potential.

In addition, the new funding will mean £400 million additional funding for further education and sixth form colleges in Wokingham & West Berkshire to train and teach our young people the skills they need for well-paid jobs in the modern economy.

The Prime Minister has also pledged to meet the £4.5 billion requirement for teachers' pensions from outside the education budget. This means that every penny of the extra £14 billion will go straight to schools and delivering the best educational outcomes for our children.

Commenting, The Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

"When I became Prime Minister at the start of the summer, I promised to make sure every child receives a superb education – regardless of which school they attend, or where they grew up.

"Today I can announce the first step in delivering on that pledge – funding per pupil in primary and secondary schools will increase, and be levelled up across the entire country.

"We should not accept the idea that there can be "winners or losers" when it comes to our children's futures. That's why we are providing additional funding now and for the future for every school, with those historically underfunded receiving the greatest increase.

"My government will ensure all young people get the best possible start in life. That means the right funding, but also giving schools the powers they need to deal with bad behaviour and bullying so pupils continue to learn effectively".

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## Excellent GCSE Results

Congratulations and well done to the students across Wokingham Borough for achieving outstanding GCSE results, well above the national average. A special thank you to teachers, staff and parents who have all played a part in this excellent achievement.

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## Measures for Dealing With Illegal Encampments

I have written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local

Government to urge him to press on with stronger measures to deal with illegal encampments, particularly the Government review on the 'Irish model' which criminalises trespass in certain circumstances. I have written in similar terms to the Home Secretary and the Justice Secretary.

THE RT HON SIR JOHN REDWOOD MP, D.Phil, FCSI



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

2 September 2019

Dear Robert

This summer has seen a great number of illegal encampments in my constituency. In one instance, the residents have taken turns sleeping in their cars for weeks on end in order to barricade the entrance to their estate and they are understandably frustrated by the lack of any effective action which can be taken. They have told me that they have also been subjected to threats and taunts by those who are trying to establish the illegal encampment.

I am aware that the Government responded earlier this year to the consultation on the powers to deal with unauthorised development and encampments. I understand that it is conducting a review of the 'Irish model' for dealing with unauthorised encampments which criminalises trespass in certain circumstances as the majority of respondents to the consultation believe the Government should consider criminalising unauthorised encampments in England.

While the powers that police and councils now have has made it quicker to remove encampments, the great inconvenience to residents, instances of anti-social behaviour, and the expense that local authorities must incur to clean up needs to be addressed summarily and not have to wait for a lengthy review.

I should be grateful for a response which I can forward to my constituents to assure them that the Government is indeed taking seriously their concerns and that effective measures will be put into place.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Redwood'.