

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the...



Time to roll back the amendments and adopt original Withdrawal Bill

Opinion



By David Lidington

This week, when the EU Withdrawal Bill returns from the House of Lords, members of Parliament will face a stark choice. During its time in the Upper House, the Bill has been amended in ways that go far beyond its primary purpose. Changes relating to some of the most contentious questions at stake in the Brexit process have been tacked on to the Bill with the avowed intention of damaging the Brexit process.

My parliamentary colleagues will have to decide whether to support the Government in restoring the Bill to its original purpose of delivering legal certainty, or whether to allow hostile amendments to frustrate those essential aims, restricting the Government's ability to negotiate.

It is profoundly in our national interest that they should choose the first path.

Having spent six years as Europe minister, I am in no doubt about the technical challenge Brexit presents lawmakers. The EU Withdrawal Bill fulfils an absolutely essential role in delivering a smooth and orderly Brexit.

It is not about what our future relationship with the EU will look like; Parliament will debate and vote on the different aspects of that in due course.

This is simply about getting everything from workers' rights to environmental standards, which are currently set at the EU level, on to the UK statute book, providing certainty and continuity from day one, and upholding the constitutional and economic integrity of our country.

The Government has listened to those who have reasonable concerns about the Bill and has made sensible changes to build consensus.

The Bill respects the UK's devolution settlements. After detailed discussions with the devolved administrations, we made changes in response to concerns expressed by the Scottish and Welsh governments, while ensuring that businesses and consumers in every part of the country can continue to buy and sell freely across the UK's own internal market.

We also listened to those who wanted to see a clearer expression of the Government's commitment to give Parliament a say on the final deal. Our amendment on that should command the support of the whole House.

But when amendments seek to pre-empt policy decisions which will rightly be taken at a later date and in a different form, the Government must stand firm against them.

At every turn, the Prime Minister has sought to build a consensus around practical answers to the profoundly complex questions which the UK's departure from the EU after more than 40 years of membership have posed.

Time and again she has succeeded – both in uniting her colleagues and in moving forward with the negotiations.

This week, I hope that MPs from all parties, including those Labour MPs who want to see their constituents' votes in the referendum acted upon, will give the Prime Minister their backing.

They will be voting to support measures that are profoundly in our national interest – and in support of a Prime Minister resolute in her determination to deliver a Brexit deal that protects our economy and promotes our future prosperity.

David Lidington is Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, David Lidington, writes for the Telegraph:

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Home Secretary Sajid Javid writes for the Guardian: "The...

Our response to terrorism is balanced, not Orwellian

Sajid Javid



Last year, the UK witnessed a series of sickening terrorist acts which claimed the lives of 36 people and changed the lives of many more. In recent weeks the nation has come together to remember those who paid the ultimate price, and I have seen first-hand the heartache people are going through. Attending the memorial service for the victims of the London Bridge attack, it was clear to me that the people of Britain will not allow these vile terrorists to change our way of life.

Their actions will not undermine the freedoms on which this country is built on - but neither will this government as we respond to them. Our updated counter-terrorism strategy sets out how we will deal with the unprecedented challenge we face, and today the counter-terrorism and border security bill will be debated in parliament for the first time.

This important piece of legislation will allow the police and MI5 to disrupt threats earlier, and ensure our laws reflect modern use of the internet. It will change existing laws to better manage terrorist offenders and permit more effective investigations. It will also give police more powers to investigate hostile state activity in the wake of the Salisbury attack.

These changes will make us safer - but there was no blank cheque when we went about deciding what these new powers would be. The bill is the product of a carefully considered process. We have built safeguards and oversight into this legislation so that the public can have confidence in its proportionate use.

We did not just seek the views of the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and MI5 when drafting the bill. We discussed our proposals with the current and former independent reviewers of terrorism legislation - whose job it is ensure that our terrorism legislation is effective, proportionate and serves the public interest.

They provided robust challenge - indeed there were times when we did not agree - but their comments and recommendations have shaped and will continue to shape our response.

Since introducing the bill last week, critics have already wrongfully accused the legislation of criminalising thought, describing it as a "blind expansion of power". This could not be further from the truth. Our proposals will be debated and scrutinised as they pass through parliament. This process is a key pillar of Britain's democracy that terrorists seek to undermine. I totally reject any attempt to simplify today's debate into one of security versus liberty.

This is not a binary choice we need to make. The fact of the matter is there can be no liberty without security. People cannot feel free to live their lives as they wish without feeling safe and secure. The balance lies in making sure that in protecting our freedom and way of life, we don't undermine it. I love this country and the liberal, tolerant, pluralistic society we are. And I will fight to protect it.

Our police and intelligence officers are hardworking, committed people keeping us safe so that we don't have to worry. Over the past five years, they have foiled as many as 25 Islamist-linked plots. And right now our security agencies are handling more than 500 live operations and have 3,000 "subjects of interest". That is why we are giving counter-terrorism policing a £50m increase in funding this year - to more than £750m.

As well as sufficient funding, I am committed to providing our people with the powers they need to do their jobs effectively. But I want people to know that these powers do not and will not go unchecked.

Our bill will be subject to full parliamentary debate as well as ongoing scrutiny by the intelligence and security and home affairs select committees, and indeed the courts. The independent reviewer of terrorism legislation not only examines our laws but also their application. The investigatory powers commissioner, the inspectorates of constabulary and prisons, the biometrics commissioner and a series of other independent bodies hold government, the police and the intelligence community to account. And we listen to them.

The counter-terrorism and border security bill is not part of a sinister strategy to create an Orwellian state. It is simply part of my desire to allow the public to live their lives safe in the knowledge that the police have the powers they need to protect us. I look forward to making this case as the bill passes through parliament.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid writes for the Guardian:

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[Yesterday, Home Secretary Sajid Javid unveiled our revised...](#)

Yesterday, Home Secretary Sajid Javid unveiled our revised counter-terrorism strategy.

“The threats are evolving, we must evolve too...Ultimately, our approach is about ensuring that there are no safe spaces for terrorists.”

[International Trade Secretary Liam Fox writes for the Sun on...](#)



THE UK is leaving the European Union.

Why? Because 17.4million of us voted to leave, to take back control of our money, our laws and our borders.

Before the referendum vote, Parliament decided – quite rightly – that the British people had the right to decide whether we should leave the EU. That is why Parliament passed the Referendum Act and voted to trigger Article 50.

And it is why both major political parties agreed in last year's general election to abide by the referendum decision.

There is huge democratic legitimacy behind the leaving process.

There is also great strength in the UK economy that should give us reassurance as we move towards a more independent future.

Remember the dire consequences predicted if the British people decided to vote to leave?

We were told investors would desert us.

What happened?

Last year we landed more inward investment projects than ever before, a vote of confidence from the international financial community.

We were told we would face an employment crisis.

What happened?

Employment is up by 600,000 since before the referendum to 32.34million, with record numbers in work. Our manufacturing order books are at their highest for years and our exports have risen by about ten per cent in the past year.

Remember how jobs would flood out of the City of London to Paris and Frankfurt?

What happened?

Last year saw more venture capital on tech, including financial technology, coming to London than all of Germany, France, Spain and Ireland combined.

Thankfully, the British people had the sense and courage to ignore the prophets of doom. We can rightly be confident and optimistic about our future outside the EU – and the PM has set out a vision of what that will look like. The UK already has enormous advantages in a competitive global economy.

Our system of law is admired across the globe. Our skilled workforce and universities are world class. We have fantastic research and development facilities, some of the best innovators and we are leaders in the digital revolution.

And we speak English and are in the right time zone to trade with Asia in the morning and the Americas in the afternoon.

The UK is in a strong position. We are not the dependent and supplicant country some would have us believe.

We are a leading member of the Commonwealth, a grouping of 53 countries that is home to one third of the world's population and half of the globe's top 20 emerging cities.

UK must raise its level of ambition

We are one of the highest contributors to Nato, have a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and are members of the G7 and G20.

The UK's future is, and needs, to be global. Based on International Monetary Fund data, it has been calculated that in the next ten to 15 years, 90 per cent of global economic growth will originate from outside the EU.

That is where we must concentrate our efforts for exports and investment, alongside maintaining our ties of prosperity and security with our European neighbours. The well-being of future generations depends upon it.

Sometimes it is difficult for people in Britain, or the rest of Europe, to grasp the scale of this growth. But when we understand that by 2025, China, alone, will have 221 cities with more than a million people, while the whole of the European continent will have 35, we can begin to see a fuller picture.

Of course, the EU will continue to be an important economic and trade partner and we want to have a full, open and comprehensive trade agreement with it that puts the prosperity of European people before the ideology of the EU bureaucracy.

But the truth is that our trade relationship with the EU has been changing over the years, since well before the referendum.

In 2006, 54 per cent of our exports went to the EU. That has now fallen to 44 per cent, as markets elsewhere have expanded faster.

One of the main benefits of Brexit, and being outside the Customs Union, will be having an independent trade policy for the first time in more than 40 years – made in Britain, for Britain.

We need to have policies that ensure we are able to take advantage of the opportunities that will lie ahead as Asia and Africa develop growing middle classes with an appetite for the high-quality goods and services Britain provides.

We cannot allow our future options to be constrained by the patterns of the past.

As we leave the EU, we will take up our independent seat at the World Trade Organisation, the governing body of global trade.

We will be champions of the free trading system that has helped take a billion people out over abject poverty over the past generation – one of the greatest achievements in human history.

We believe protectionism will always fail and that spreading prosperity through trade is the best route to the global stability and security that is in all our interests.

The UK can, and should, be a leader in that quest.

It is time for our country to raise its level of ambition, take pride in our achievements and help shape our global future, joining the PM and the Government in delivering a Brexit that works for everyone – in Britain and beyond.

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox writes for the Sun on Sunday on how Brexit will power Britain's prosperity

[On #Marr this morning, Home Secretary Sajid Javid outlined key...](#)

On #Marr this morning, Home Secretary Sajid Javid outlined key aspects of the Government's new counter-terrorism strategy