

SUELLA FERNANDES M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP  
House of Commons

17 October 2017

Dear Jeremy,

We write regarding the Labour Party's new policy on a 'no deal' scenario, as outlined at the weekend.

We are significantly concerned that your refusal to countenance planning for 'no deal' will do material harm to Britain's negotiating position in the discussions about our exit from the European Union.

On the Andrew Marr Programme on Sunday your Shadow Chancellor suggested that you would not 'countenance' accepting a scenario in which we left the European Union without an agreement going forward.

To be clear, a no deal scenario is not one that we seek, but it is certain that it must be taken seriously, and that engaging with it is in the national interest.

First, if we fail to take the necessary steps to prepare for our exit on all possible terms then we remove options that the UK can take, and allow a situation to arise where whatever deal the EU offer will have to be accepted, because there is no alternative. Is this now Labour's policy?

So if the European Union determined that we could only leave if we accepted a continuation of free movement, budget contributions, and single market rules, under your preferred situation, Britain would be forced to accept it. Is this Labour's policy?

Second, not only would this approach force us to accept a bad deal, it would also make a bad deal scenario more likely. If the negotiations have taught us one thing so far, it is that the EU have played hardball with issues that affect people's lives, and we must use all our leverage to protect the national interest.

They have already pushed hard on the rights of citizens: declining to guarantee onward movement rights for UK citizens in the 27, declining to advocate for voting rights for those citizens, and declining to guarantee that students currently studying for a professional qualification should be able to use that qualification across the 27 remaining EU countries. Are you content that there is an asymmetry between the treatment of EU and UK citizens and is that now Labour policy?

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These are all issues which can and should be resolved by the time we reach the final stages of a deal, but the fact the EU have used so much force to resist these rights, shows how tough they are willing to be, and how we need to use every bit of leverage we have.

There are those in the EU for whom the sole priority in these negotiations is that they punish Britain: Your policy would give them strength.

Finally, it comes just two weeks after you allowed your Members of the European Parliament to vote for a motion which sought to delay progress in the negotiations. Are you going to discipline these individuals?

Your decision to try to limit Britain's negotiating flexibility, and the destructive actions of your MEPs, demonstrate once and for all that Labour is betraying the national interest and seeking to thwart a successful exit from the European Union.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suella Fernandes".

**Suella Fernandes MP**

Michael Tomlinson MP  
Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP  
Charlie Elphicke MP  
John Penrose MP  
Craig Mackinlay MP  
Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP  
Scott Mann MP  
Maria Caulfield MP  
Andrea Jenkyns MP  
James Duddridge MP  
Crispin Blunt MP  
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