



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th June 2016

Dear Constituent,

The United Kingdom has just taken part in a giant democratic exercise, perhaps the biggest in our history. Over 33 million people have all had their say. We should be proud of the fact that, in these islands, we trust the people with these big decisions. The British people have voted to leave the European Union and their will must be respected.

It is significant that we have had a referendum to answer this national question. My view in the referendum was just that, my view. Across the country it is clear that the British people decided the result, not politicians. No Briton under the age of 58 had ever been given the opportunity to have their say but the Prime Minister, David Cameron, promised to give people a choice – and I am grateful he delivered on his pledge.

The national, regional, county and constituency¹ statistics are as follows:

	<i>Leave</i>	<i>Remain</i>
United Kingdom	51.9%	48.1%
South East England	51.8%	48.2%
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	54.6%	45.4%
North East Hampshire ¹	50.3%	49.7%

While I voted to leave the European Union, I understand that many constituents – and those further afield – did not. The result was close but, in a referendum, the winning side needs to be only one vote ahead across the whole country. In the end, there was a majority of over a million for ‘Brexit’. As a mature democracy, I hope that everyone will respect the differences in our views and accept the result of the electorate.

I am proud that turnout was high across North East Hampshire – 83% in the District of Hart and 78% in the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane. This shows that people were engaged with the discussion, had sought out the information they needed to make a decision and wanted to have their say, whatever their view.

Just under half of the British people will, nonetheless, be unhappy with the result and I am respectful of this fact. Now is not the time for gloating nor insults from either side. Now is not the time for party political posturing. Now is the time for calm, reflection and unity.

As the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said today, “The vote to withdraw from the European Union means that now we must all reimagine both what it means to be the United Kingdom in an interdependent world and what values and virtues should shape and guide our relationships with others.”

Before the referendum, I set out my commitment to you – my commitment to dedicate my time and effort into making the settlement – whether inside or outside of the EU – work best for Britain. You and the people of the United Kingdom have spoken. Parliament now has the important task of making sure that the United Kingdom gets the best possible deal in our future relationship with our European friends. I will continue working hard for you, for North East Hampshire and for our country.

Yours faithfully,

¹ A combination of the District of Hart and the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, as the constituency includes parts of both local government districts.