

**Below is a letter sent to Seamus McCauley by Laura Trott (the Conservative candidate) and Mr. McCauley's reply.**



Dear Seamus,

**Will you help get Brexit done?**

There is no doubt that getting Brexit done is the key issue facing the UK. We have one chance to get Brexit done. If we fail to do so and fail to honour the people's decision to leave the EU, then it's clear that Parliament will remain gridlocked. That will mean that other important things that make a difference to peoples' lives - being able to get an appointment to see a GP, feeling safe when walking home, making ends meet at the end of the month – will be ignored.

Without a plan to get Brexit done it is impossible to have credibility on anything else.

That's why I've confirmed that, if I'm elected, I will back the great new deal that Boris Johnson has already agreed with the EU. Britain will be out of the EU by the end of January, giving families and businesses the certainty they need to plan for the future.

However, your position on Brexit as Jeremy Corbyn's candidate for Sevenoaks appears unclear and needs urgent clarification to help local people make their choice in this election.

Appearing on the BBC Question Time Leaders Special, Jeremy Corbyn - your Party Leader - confirmed that he has decided to take no position on Brexit and remain "neutral". This means he would hold a second referendum in which he was not even willing to back an arrangement that he had negotiated. And he refused to rule out a second independence referendum on Scottish independence – the price the SNP would demand for propping him up in a hung parliament.

Voters in Sevenoaks deserve to know what you would do. Can you clarify it for them by answering the following four questions:

Do you agree with Jeremy Corbyn's decision to remain neutral on Brexit?

1. What is your plan to get Brexit done?
2. Will you remain neutral in a second referendum, and if not, how will you campaign?
3. Will you refuse to support any government which is reliant on the votes of the SNP and a second independence referendum?

My view is that it is wrong to force the people to vote again; wrong to rip up a deal when it's clear you have no plan; and wrong to play games with our precious union. There must be no more dither and delay - we need to get Brexit done and unleash our country's potential.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Laura Trott

26th November 2019

Dear Laura

Thank you for your letter of 25th November, it was a pleasure to hear from you. I hope you have been enjoying your visit to Sevenoaks. We were sorry to have missed you at last night's climate hustings in Otford but I sympathise with your reluctance to defend in public ten years of Conservative government inaction on the climate emergency or a manifesto that contains no credible acknowledgement of the scientific consensus that we must address that emergency now.

The three and a half years that a succession of Conservative leaders have wasted since the referendum have offered me ample time to lay out my Brexit position to the voters of Sevenoaks, but I appreciate your kind offer of an opportunity to do so again. To answer your specific questions:

1. It will be entirely appropriate that when the incoming Labour government puts a Brexit vote back to the people, Prime Minister Jeremy Corbyn retains his neutrality as our government brings the country back together.
2. The Labour Party will resolve Brexit once and for all by negotiating a fair exit deal with the EU that prioritises jobs, workers' rights and the environment, and then putting that deal back to the voters in a confirmatory referendum.
3. My own pledge to campaign in the subsequent referendum in favour of remain is a matter of longstanding public record and I am proud to reiterate that intention here.
4. No doubt your own party hopes, and perhaps even expects, to secure a majority government at the election on December 12th rather than another coalition with the Liberal Democrats or de facto coalition with the DUP. Such is, of course, also the Labour Party's plan and intention.

While it is apparent how important the catchphrase "get Brexit done" must be to your party from its appearance no fewer than 23 times in your manifesto and five in your letter, it was refreshing to hear Nicky Morgan admit on Radio 4 only yesterday morning that the withdrawal agreement is just the first step of the Brexit process. All it would "get done" is the opening of years negotiations with our nearest friends and neighbours for a deal substantially worse than the one we already enjoy.

It is my pleasure to end our correspondence on a note of agreement. The incoming Labour government will end ten years of crippling austerity, resolve the Brexit deadlock, invest in our public services, create hundreds of thousands of new jobs through our green industrial revolution, save the NHS from creeping privatisation and take the first steps to tackle the climate emergency. I trust you will join me in supporting this vision of hope and regeneration to unlock our country's potential.

Yours sincerely  
Seamus McCauley