



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

October 2020

Dear Constituent

Thank you for your email about the United Kingdom Internal Market Bill.

This Bill is an important step on the road to ensuring the four nations of our United Kingdom continue to work as one market at the end of the transition phase. Businesses across the whole of the United Kingdom, under provisions in this Bill, will continue to enjoy seamless internal trade, as they have done for centuries.

Hundreds of powers previously exercised at EU level will flow directly to the UK Government and the devolved administrations in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast. To allow each home nation to take full advantage of these new opportunities, and to ensure businesses can continue to trade freely across the UK, the Government needs to legislate to prevent any new barriers to trade from emerging within the UK as EU law falls away.

The Bill contains a Market Access Commitment to give UK businesses certainty that their goods and services can be traded seamlessly in all home nations. This will mean there is no difference in internal trade arrangements for businesses when the Transition Period ends, meaning total continuity and total confidence for businesses, consumers and investors across the UK.

Our Parliament is sovereign and has the right to make its own laws. I was elected to get Brexit done, and that is why I supported this Bill through the House, because I know businesses across the country rely on being able to trade freely and seamlessly across our four home nations.

As part of the Government's work into forming this Bill, a consultation ran up to 13 August to allow businesses to respond to the Government's initial proposals as set out in the White Paper. I am pleased that there was overwhelming support for the proposals.

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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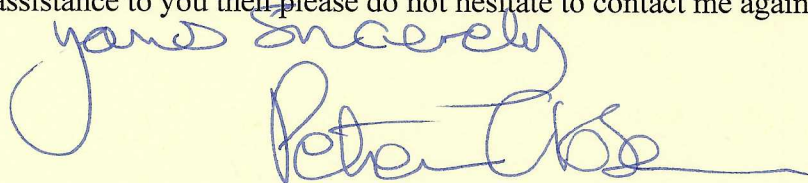




The Northern Ireland Protocol contains inconsistencies that the UK and EU had intended to resolve by the end of the year. The end of the Transition Period is fast approaching, and with no agreement yet reached, the Government has proposed a safety net to protect the Union and ensure that the UK's obligations under the Belfast Agreement are met. We must deliver on our promises to the people of Northern Ireland and this Bill allows us to do so.

Remedying the unintended consequences of the Protocol may breach the Withdrawal Agreement in a limited way but the consequences of inaction could break up the UK. I hope you understand that while I remain fully committed to international law.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours Sincerely
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gibson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PETER GIBSON MP