

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tuesday 25 October 2022

Dear Constituents

Thank you for your email about the next general election.

The United Kingdom is a Parliamentary democracy, not a Presidential one. Following the general election of December 2019, Members of Parliament of the governing party (the Conservative Party) were elected, such that there is a majority in the House of Commons. This remains the case. A change in the leader of the governing party does not trigger a general election – this has been the case under governments of successive political colours.

The Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022 provides that Parliament is automatically dissolved five years after it first meets (unless it is dissolved sooner), otherwise, the timing is a matter of discretion for the incumbent Prime Minister (subject to re-established constitutional conventions).

Moreover, we must be frank about the scale of the economic challenges we currently face in this country, with global inflationary and interest pressures caused by Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine. A general election would further add to the economic instability we face, preventing us from getting on with the job of tackling the issues we face both locally and nationally.

I am aware that an e-petition has been created calling for one to take place immediately in light of the resignation of Liz Truss as Prime Minister. Liz Truss announced her resignation as leader of the Conservative Party on 20 October, the Conservative Party elected Rishi Sunak as leader on Monday 24 October and consequently, as leader of the majority party in the House of Commons, he will become Prime Minister today.

For the reasons outlined above, I do not believe that it is necessary for a General Election to be called. I remain incredibly proud to be the Member of Parliament for Darlington, elected on a clear manifesto, which I will continue to deliver on for the people who trusted me to represent them, working hard every step of the way.

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

Yours faithfully
Peter Gibson

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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