

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

May 2023

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill.

The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 brought a large number of EU laws and regulations into our domestic law. This was called Retained EU Law (REUL), and had special status, reflecting the supremacy of EU law, European Court of Justice case law and EU legal principles. In September 2022, the Government introduced the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill. The Bill will abolish this special status and will enable the Government, via Parliament, to amend more easily, repeal and replace REUL.

As the Bill is currently drafted, almost all REUL is automatically revoked at the end of 2023, unless a statutory instrument is passed to preserve it. This is known as a 'sunset' provision. The Government has tabled an amendment for the Lords Report, which will replace the current sunset in the Bill with a list of all of the EU laws that it intends to revoke under the Bill at the end of 2023. The remainder will continue in force without the need to pass extra legislation. By making it clear which regulations will be removed from our statute book, businesses and all those affected by these laws will have certainty. The Government will retain the vitally important powers in the Bill that allow it to continue to amend REUL, so more complex regulations can still be revoked or reformed after further assessment and consultation.

I have been assured that the Government is committed to upholding workers' and consumers' rights, as well as environmental protections, following the UK's departure from the EU. The Working Time Directive has been transposed into UK law; our consumer protections will remain some of the best in the world; and the Government has recently legislated to strengthen environmental protection in the form of the Environment Act 2021.

What I want to see is meaningful reform which not only removes unnecessary red tape but allows us to tailor regulation to our needs and for the UK to secure its own path. Already, over 1,000 laws have been revoked or reformed since Britain's exit from the EU. This Bill would revoke around 600 more and other legislation will revoke a further 500. The Bill now provides certainty for business by making it clear which regulations will be removed from the statute book, instead of highlighting only the REUL that would be saved. Crucially, the powers included in the Bill that allow us to continue changing REUL have been retained. As such, more complex regulations can still be revoked or reformed after proper assessment and consultation.

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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This Bill will benefit people and businesses across the United Kingdom and end the supremacy of EU law.

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. If you would like to keep up to date with my activities as your Member of Parliament then please subscribe to my Darlington Matters newsletter using this link: www.petergibson.org/signup

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

PETER GIBSON MP