

“The point of no return might be near but there is still time to change course” – Keith Taylor MEP



Green Party

29 March 2018

Thursday, 29 March marks the midpoint between the triggering of Article 50, on 29 March 2017, and the date on which the Government has said the UK will leave the EU, 29 March 2019.

Green MEP Keith Taylor is using the ‘Brexiversary’ as an opportunity to reiterate his commitment to fighting for the people of Britain to have the final say on any Brexit deal in a ‘People’s Poll’.

Mr Taylor has also moved to reassure voters that, although “the point of no return might be near,” there is still time to “change course”.

The senior Green politician, who also [recorded a video addressing supporters directly](#), said:

“Brexit, of any type, is not in Britain’s interest.

“It inevitably means cutting ties with our closest friends and neighbours and abandoning a project that has delivered much positive social and environmental change in Britain and across Europe. More than that, it means departing from a union that has fostered solidarity and proven one of the most successful peace projects in recent history.

“Brexit, of the type a bitter and divided Tory government is dragging us towards, is a monumental calamity.

“The Government’s approach to negotiations has been unforgivably shambolic. The result is that we, the people of Britain, will have [no idea what kind of post-Brexit future we’re heading for](#) when we leave the European Union.

“All that we can be sure of as we approach the point of no return is that any and all Brexit outcomes will have hugely damaging economic impacts, according to the [Government’s own \(secret\) studies](#). The fact the transition period delays the worst of these impacts until 2020 is of little comfort when the fundamental question of what our future relationship with the EU will look

like remains unanswered.

“In the meantime, it’s clear that any notion of [“taking back control”](#) has been hijacked by the Tory Government planning to give itself, as part of the Withdrawal Bill, [unprecedented powers](#) to bypass Parliamentary democracy.

“What is more, almost every day new details emerge about vital information being [kept from the public](#) while allegations about a [potentially illegal disinformation campaign](#) run by Leave groups continue to mount.

“The referendum was supposed to signal the start of a democratic process, not the end of democracy.

“I campaigned for and voted Remain, as did voters in [Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire and Surrey, East and West Sussex](#); across the region, more than 48% of people voted Remain. These voices are being increasingly sidelined by a Government desperately afraid of its own Brextremist fringe and in hock to the DUP.

“I stand committed to the [‘Green Guarantees’](#) I set out after the referendum: safeguarding environmental laws, defending freedom of movement, supporting young people to study and work across Europe; guaranteeing workers’ rights, jobs, food safety and animal welfare by advocating single market and customs union membership.

“Above all, I still believe that we are fairer, greener and safer inside the European Union. It is why Greens are fighting for a [People’s Poll](#) on the final terms of any deal – with remaining in the EU an option on the ballot.

“The point of no return might be near but we still have the chance to change course.”

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[Theresa May’s flying visit to Scotland just won’t cut it](#)

It’s one year to go until the UK is set to leave the EU. To mark the occasion, Theresa May has made a flying visit to Scotland.

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Author:

[News story: £800 million agreed for defence](#)

This includes access to £600 million from the Dreadnought contingency, announced in 2015, and will ensure that the UK's new world-class nuclear submarines are delivered on time and within the £31 billion budget agreed at the [Strategic Defence and Security Review](#) in 2015.

In addition £200 million was agreed at the [Supplementary Estimates](#) earlier in the year.

A Royal Navy submarine has always been on patrol, providing the continuous at sea deterrent for almost 50 years. And the next generation of submarines will ensure this can continue into the future, deterring conflict and protecting the nation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

This money funds a key government priority that has been the bedrock of defence policy for nearly 50 years.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said:

Our commitment to defence and national security is unwavering. The UK's defence budget is the highest in Europe and the second highest in NATO and ensures Britain can continue to respond effectively to the ever-changing threats we face.

We will continue to invest in our world-class Armed Forces and this additional investment of £600 million will ensure the UK is protected by the nuclear deterrent provided by the new Dreadnought fleet into the 2030s and beyond.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

This is a welcome boost to our Armed Forces, ensuring we can continue to back-up our national security with the ultimate capability. In a world of intensifying and evolving threats, we must strengthen and maintain our ability to seize opportunities and counter challenges as they emerge. I have launched the Modernising Defence Programme to ensure we have the capabilities we need to keep Britain safe in an increasingly dangerous world.

Agency worker crushed while unloading a vehicle

A logistics company has today been fined after a worker suffered crush injuries while unloading a vehicle from a visiting delivery lorry.

Southend Magistrates' Court heard how, on 14 December 2015, an agency worker was unchaining a vehicle ramp from a delivery lorry when the lorry moved forward with one chain still attached to the ramp, crushing the worker between the ramp and a barrier.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident found the company failed to fully control the risks arising from the operation of vehicle loading and unloading ramps. The company did not implement suitably robust systems of work; did not provide sufficient training to allow workers to safely unload vehicles; and did not appropriately brief visiting drivers on their role in this activity.

ERIKS Industrial Services Limited of Amber Way, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £373,000 and ordered to pay costs of £8,333.

Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Tim Underwood said "This incident could have been avoided if the company had created a more detailed risk assessment and introduced a fully considered safe system of work. Removing the visiting lorry driver's keys until the procedure was safely completed, is one such method which could have prevented such an occurrence.

"Companies have a responsibility to provide sufficient information, instruction and training to all those involved in workplace transport operations (including visiting delivery drivers), in order to control the risk of serious personal injury."

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. hse.gov.uk
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

Journalists should approach HSE press office with any queries on regional

press releases.

Get on with it

There is still a long year to wait before we leave the EU. This is quite enough time to make any changes that are needed. The government assures us we will be ready to leave with No Deal if necessary.

I want the government to get on with the new borders, fishing, farming and trade policies we can enjoy once outside. I also want to hear how we will spend all the money we save. If we are going to delay our effective exit and give them more money in a prolonged transition there will need to be a very good deal to justify the delay. The message from many of us is Get on with it. Brexit will bring substantial benefits and opportunities.

We have a borders and trade system which works for the rest of the world at the moment, so we know how to live outside the EU.