

Cambridge Stays

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

Dear Paul and all at Cambridge Stays,

I am happy to have supported the Cambridge Stays campaign in the past and have made my views on the EU and Brexit clear on several occasions. I proudly support the free movement of people in the EU, believe membership of the single market to be beneficial to our economy and wish to preserve and enhance the workplace and environmental protections we enjoy as part of the European Union.

In response to your specific questions;

1. Yes. I do not believe people should be used as bargaining chips and recognise the huge contribution EU migrants make to the UK. I would guarantee their rights unilaterally and immediately.
2. I value both access to the single market (which includes the free movement of goods and services) and the free movement of people and would not wish to choose between them.
3. Yes, I would be willing to maintain EU regulations to permit seamless access to the single market.
4. Yes, I would accept the jurisdiction of the ECJ to allow access to EU funding and to remain part of EU regulatory bodies.
5. Yes. Parliament should be able to reject the deal that is struck if MPs are not satisfied.
6. I would support a referendum on the final deal, with the option of remaining in the EU if voters wish to do so.
7. It would depend on the context and other factors involved in the situation, however, if we were to lose access to the single market and the free movement of people were to end, I find it impossible to envisage myself supporting such a deal.
8. Yes, we should retain all existing human rights, workplace and environmental regulations if we leave the European Union. I would also be supportive of introducing legislation that ensured the incorporating of EU principles, such as the 'Polluter pays' and the precautionary principles, into UK law. I would also campaign for the UK to keep up with any improvements in EU regulation post Brexit so we as a country are not left behind.

My thoughts on the impact on Cambridge of Brexit and my plans for the region are as follows,

I campaigned for Britain to remain in the European Union in the 2016 referendum and still believe membership of the European Union to be best for the UK. This does not mean I think the EU is perfect. For example, I am frustrated by some of the ECJ's rulings which may undermine collective bargaining rights and do not agree with the treatment of Greece and its debt crisis.

I also respect the decision of the 2016 referendum and unlike Dr Julian Huppert, do not agree that this referendum should not have been held. I do not feel, however, that this decision should bind us forever and that it means the people of the UK should be denied an opportunity to vote on the final negotiated deal between the UK and the EU.

I believe Brexit will have a negative impact on Cambridge's business, on the higher education sector and also on our ability to safely run our public services, the NHS in particular. The hostile tone of debate around immigration, and the uncertainty of the current situation, is already having a harmful effect in these areas.

First and foremost, it will be the responsibility of the next MP for Cambridge to stand against hatred and intolerance. They must champion an open and welcoming city and challenge the harmful rhetoric around immigration. I will do that proudly.

Secondly they must work to minimise the impact on higher education and research. Currently the UK does disproportionately well out of European research funding, such as the Horizon 2020 programme. I would work cross-party to ensure our higher education and research sectors remain strong and my party has pledged to protect funding for higher education if we do leave the EU.

Our new MP also has to bear in mind the interests of the rest of the city, and of the wider region. They will need to be a strong advocate in parliament to ensure there is no watering down of standards protecting our workplace rights or our local environment. It has been up to the EU, for example, to force the UK Government to take the issue of harmful air pollution seriously. In areas such as this we must ensure EU regulations are replaced and reinforced in UK law so that there is no race to the bottom.

Our MP will also have to understand the potentially disastrous effect Brexit could have on our public services. I fully support the aim of training more healthcare professionals in the UK and of improving the wages and conditions of carers so the job is a more attractive proposition to young UK citizens. Realistically, however, our mainstream political parties have all proved incapable of doing this over the last 30 years and we are likely to continue to rely on workers from overseas to plug gaps in our services. I would campaign for policies that ensure services are properly staffed and the sick and elderly are adequately cared for.

There are many more areas in which our next MP will need to work to protect the city and the region during the coming years. I am happy to discuss these further with campaigners but for the sake of clarity will limit my reply to the above priorities.

Thankyou for writing and please don't hesitate to contact me again if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Tuckwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stuart Tuckwood
Parliamentary candidate for Cambridge