

The news, parliamentary business and my inbox has been dominated by Brexit over the past few weeks.

In Westminster this week, all other business was put on hold and we had nearly 20 hours of debate on the Bill which paves the way for leaving the EU. The legislation was required after the ruling from the Supreme Court requiring Parliament to have a vote on triggering Article 50 (which formally notifies the EU of our intention to leave) and therefore next week we will have a further three days of debate before it finishes in the Commons and passes into the Lords for consideration.

It is hugely important that the Bill continues smoothly so that the Prime Minister can keep to her timetable of being able to trigger Article 50 in March. I have had over a hundred emails, the majority of which have been asking me to vote in favour of the legislation. I did. But not because the drafted template email threatens to never vote for me again if I don't but because it is a Government commitment to progress the outcome of the referendum, in respect of the will of the people. I

In Tonbridge & Malling 56% voted to leave the EU in last year's referendum. In Medway it was 65%. A clear majority in step with the views of the rest of the region and indeed country. As a minister in the Government I can assure readers that the work being done to ensure that the sectors I represent are engaged with both the challenges but also the opportunities of leaving the EU is phenomenal. We are dealing with the minutia of supporting industries that have been linked to the EU for decades.

This work takes place beyond the parliamentary debates but the Bill we've discussed this week and continues into next takes us one step closer to realising the result of the referendum.