



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
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12 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister

EU TRANSITION PERIOD

We are writing following the fourth round of negotiations on the future relationship between the UK and EU. It is clear that fundamental differences on central issues such as governance, fisheries and the level playing field remain.

Crucially, whatever the outcome of the negotiations, the coronavirus crisis means that the end of this year is the worst possible time to end the transition period.

Without an extension to the transition period, at very best there will only be a damaging “bare bones” trade deal or even worse, a disastrous no deal outcome.

We are mindful that the Withdrawal Agreement only permits an extension of the transition period if this has agreed before the end of June.

At the time the Withdrawal Agreement was signed, no-one could have imagined the enormous economic dislocation which the Covid 19 pandemic has caused – in Wales, Scotland, the whole of the UK, in the EU and across the world.

While we hope that the second half of this year will see the beginnings of a recovery, we believe that exiting the transition period at the end of the year would be extraordinarily reckless. It would pile a further very significant economic and social shock on top of the COVID-19 crisis, hitting businesses whose reserves, in many case, have already been exhausted, leading to more business closures and redundancies. But in this case, the shock would be avoidable.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

No-one could reproach the UK Government for changing its position in the light of the wholly unforeseeable Covid crisis, particularly as the EU has made it clear it is open to an extension request.

We therefore call on you to take the final opportunity the next few weeks provide to ask for an extension to the transition period in order to provide a breathing space to complete the negotiations, to implement the outcome, and the opportunity for our businesses to find their feet after the enormous disruption of recent months.

We are copying this letter to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland

Yours sincerely



NICOLA STURGEON



MARK DRAKEFORD

To: First Minister
From:

CC:

Ext
Fax

Date:

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