

29 March 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THERESA MAY BEGINS BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS WITH 'BROKEN PROMISE TO SCOTLAND'

Corri Wilson, MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock, has reacted to the Prime Minister's triggering of Article 50, which begins the formal process of leaving the EU, by saying that Scotland has already been let down by a UK Government that does not care about the wishes of the Scottish people. Theresa May has been accused of breaking her promise not to trigger Article 50 until she had agreed a UK-wide approach by embarking on negotiations after ignoring attempts by the Scottish government to reach an agreement.

Ms Wilson said that the Prime Minister's failure to reach an agreement with the Scottish Government did not bode well for Mrs May's ability to negotiate a complex exit from the EU. She also repeated that it was democratically right that the people of Scotland hold a second referendum to choose between a 'right-wing, narrow-minded Tory Brexit' or an open and collaborative future with the rest of the world.

Speaking after the triggering of Article 50, Ms Wilson said:

"The triggering of Article 50 is a worrying moment for many people in Scotland and elsewhere. Theresa May has already failed to reach a simple agreement with the Scottish Government – if she cannot do this, how can she possibly negotiate the UK's exit from the EU?"

"We have been repeatedly told by the Government in London that the UK is a partnership of equals. Frankly, this is laughable. By steaming ahead without any consideration for Scotland's wishes, the Prime Minister has shown the contempt with which she views our country."

"While I respect that the people of England and Wales voted to leave the EU, the people of Scotland did not want this, and the people of Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock did not want this. It is for that reason that I believe the people have a right to choose, in a referendum, what future they want for themselves. To have Theresa May, an unelected Tory, who's party won just 14.7% of the Scottish vote in the last UK election, decide our future for us, is outrageous."

"In Theresa May's letter to the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, she said that the Brexit result was a vote to restore "our national self-determination" – if she is such a believer in national self-determination, why does she refuse to allow Scotland that right?"

"To begin the Brexit negotiations with a broken promise to Scotland and a barely-hidden desperation to get a deal – at any cost – is not a strong starting position. Not only that, but the Prime Minister has point blankly rejected the single market which highlights her irresponsibility and intransigence."

....ENDS