



Mr Anthony Vickers
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Dear Tony

Thank you for your letter.

In the referendum 17.4 million people voted to leave. Some from both sides may have changed their minds but I do not understand what you mean by hitting "the reset button". It sounds very much to me like politician speak for, "We didn't like the result and we will therefore keep asking the question until we get what we deem to be the right answer".

It is the height of elitist arrogance to say that those who voted leave aren't "getting what they wanted". As democrats (particularly those with the word "democrat" in the title of their party) we surely have to honour the result of the referendum? Surely you believe that? If not, are you really asking me to believe you think we as democrats should be saying, "Thanks Britain. Message received. We will now ignore it"?

During the referendum Paddy Ashdown said, "*Anyone who says we need a second referendum does not believe in democracy. We cannot run a democratic system unless we respect the democratic will of the people.*"

And your leader, Vince Cable said at your Party's conference in 2016 that it is "*disrespectful*" to voters and "*politically counter-productive*" to call for a second vote. I and many others are bemused by this 180 degree U turn. If the referendum result had gone the other way and "*leave*" voters were now calling for a repeat referendum would you follow the same argument? I very much doubt it.

As I said in the referendum campaign, I thought a leave vote would be harmful to Britain's prosperity and so I do recognise there will be some short to mid-term difficulties but the wholly miserable and relentlessly negative tone of this letter and other gloom-ridden prophesies by your party are really over the top. We are the fifth largest economy in the world, the fourth strongest military power, a permanent member of the P5, we have some of the best universities in the world producing some of the most prestigious talent in science, commerce and culture. So we will get through this time and we will continue to be a force for good in the world and we will still be able to provide decent public services for our citizens.

Yours sincerely

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