

## How Has Unite Judged the Deal?



At our conference in July Unite members voted to support a series of tests against which any Brexit deal would be judged. Our union will only support a Brexit deal which meets these tests.

**1) Will it deliver the 'exact same benefits' as the Single Market and the Customs Union?**

No. This vague deal only covers the withdrawal arrangements. It means leaving the EU with no agreement about what should come next. That means more uncertainty with no guarantee of securing frictionless trade when the 21 month transition period ends.

**FAIL**

**2) Does it protect working rights, social and environmental protections which are currently based in EU law?**

No. Nothing in the deal holds the government to retaining or improving workers' rights. Nothing ensures our rights keep pace with EU levels as a minimum.

**FAIL**

**3) Does it avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland?**

No. The proposed 'backstop' is only an emergency solution, a world apart from the comprehensive and permanent customs union needed to prevent a new hard land or sea border. Our members in Northern Ireland and the Republic need long term guarantees.

**FAIL**

**4) Does it grant the immediate and guaranteed right to remain for European citizens in the UK and their dependents?**

No. The government has offered 'settled status' for European citizens in the UK, but has not properly consulted unions or migrant rights specialists about how this will work or how a second Windrush scandal will be avoided.

**FAIL**

**5) Does it retain membership of beneficial European-level institutions or regulatory bodies which are vital to our industrial sectors such as the European Aviation Safety Agency or Euratom?**

The proposed deal does not guarantee UK access and involvement in these key institutions and regulatory bodies nor proposes how they should be replaced.

**FAIL**

- No permanent customs union to keep goods moving
- No protections for your rights at work
- No long term guarantees for Northern Ireland
- No plan for what the final UK-EU deal will look like



Welcome to the Tories'

# Blindfold Brexit



Dear colleague,

From the off Unite recognised the Brexit vote – and the truth that no one voted to hand the Tories a blank cheque. No one voted to lose their job or lose hard won rights.

How Brexit happens is the most vital question.

The message from Unite members has always been clear. As we leave the EU we must leave with a deal

and that deal must protect jobs, defend and advance our rights and support the radical political and economic programme we are campaigning for.

That means a Brexit which does not threaten the gains our members fight for and defend at work. It means a Brexit which does not leave us worse off as a country.

Unite has not stood idly by. For the last two years we have analysed how Brexit will impact every one of our sectors, we have held reps conferences to canvass the views of members from Belfast to Bristol, from Glasgow to Gibraltar.

We have stood by frontline reps who have called out bosses seeking to use the uncertainty of Brexit in pay talks or to deny our members their rights.

We have been a guiding hand to the Labour Party, making sure their approach to Brexit answers the real needs of working people.

I believe we should all be proud of the way in which Unite has tried to tackle these issues.

Now we are approaching the crunch time. What does the Tory Brexit deal look like? Can we support it?

This vague withdrawal deal is all about keeping Theresa May in Downing Street until March. It doesn't answer any of the

difficult questions. There's no plan for what the eventual trade deal will look like. The Tories are asking us to put on a blindfold and take a leap into the unknown.

Our members in manufacturing will ask: how can we defend supply chains and secure new investment if the customs arrangement is only temporary? What will replace it?

Our members in services will ask: does the deal offer them any security if the government's own proposals exclude 80% of the economy?

Our members in Northern Ireland and the Republic will ask: without a permanent customs union how can we avoid the threat of a hard border across land or sea?

The truth is that a shambolic negotiation has resulted in a shambolic deal. Rather than setting out a real vision for what the future EU-UK relationship should be, the Tory deal seeks to rush us out of the door with no agreement in place. The government are asking us to don the blindfold and take a leap of faith. That is unacceptable.

This leaflet outlines the tests which Unite members have backed to judge any deal. Bluntly, this blindfold Brexit falls short on all counts. We will call on MPs to vote this deal down if the government propose it to Parliament. Unite utterly opposes the false choice of a bad deal versus no deal. We must not be blackmailed into supporting a bad deal. We must hold our nerve.

While this deal utterly fails to deliver on the promises of 2016 we have an alternative which offers permanent security for jobs and working rights, and commands the support of a parliamentary majority.

Politically and industrially our movement must speak with one voice. We must leave no option off the table to defeat this deal. Its rejection must mean a general election or if necessary a vote of the people.

We deserve better than this blindfold Brexit. We can do better.

**Len McCluskey,**  
Unite General Secretary

November 2018

## Unite's Brexit Work



**Brexit conferences** were organised for reps in every Unite region – from Belfast to Gibraltar



**Political:** We have used our political clout to make our members' concerns heard in Westminster, Brussels and in the devolved parliaments.

### Brexit In Your Workplace

Unite has launched a new 'Brexit Check' website to monitor the impact of Brexit and provide the resources you need.

Let us know what impact Brexit is having in your workplace. Contact: [brexit.check@unitetheunion.org](mailto:brexit.check@unitetheunion.org) or visit [www.unitebrexitcheck.org](http://www.unitebrexitcheck.org)