

Government defeated today at Westminster meaning further Brexit delay

The UK Government led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson were defeated today. This extraordinary sitting of the House of Commons held on a Saturday for the first time this century was held to debate the Brexit deal he struck with the EU earlier in the week.

There was no vote on the deal as the amendment lodged by Sir Oliver Letwin effectively wiped it from the agenda with a vote by 322 in favour of the amendment to 306 against. It is thought that the government may bring this bill back to the Commons on Monday.

It is not clear if the Prime Minister will send a letter to the EU requesting an extension. As you will see below the Prime Minister said : "I continue in the very strong belief that the best thing for the UK and for the whole of Europe is for us to leave with this new deal on October 31.

"And to anticipate the questions that are coming from the benches opposite, I will not negotiate a delay with the EU, and neither does the law compel me to do so."

The SNP said Boris Johnson must obey the law and secure an extension – after the Tory Prime Minister was defeated on his Brexit deal.

Ian Blackford MP said the Prime Minister must send a letter requesting an extension – "or we'll see him in court".

The SNP Westminster Leader said Boris Johnson's Brexit deal would be "devastating for Scotland" and called on opposition parties to act to secure an extension.

Mr Blackford said: "Boris Johnson has been defeated on his appalling deal. The Prime Minister must now obey the law and secure an extension – or we'll see him in court.

"Scotland has been completely ignored and shafted throughout the Brexit process. Despite voting overwhelmingly to remain, the Tories are trying to drag us out of the EU on the hardest terms, with a deal that would take us out of the single market and customs union, put us at a competitive disadvantage, and leave us as the only part of the UK with a raw deal and no say.

"It is vital that the opposition parties work together to ensure this Prime Minister secures an extension and takes no-deal off the table.

"Whatever happens now it is clear the only way to protect Scotland's interests is to become an equal and independent European country – and the people of Scotland must have that choice."

Leader of the Liberal Democrats Jo Swinson said: "The fight to stop Brexit continues, and the Liberal Democrats will keep working for a People's Vote so that the people can have the final say.

"Hundreds of thousands of people are marching outside to demand a final say and a People's Vote. The Prime Minister must now obey the law and send a letter asking for an extension to Article 50.

"The Liberal Democrats are the strongest party of Remain. We will use the extra time we now have to secure a People's Vote and campaign to remain in the European Union."

Scottish Greens Co-Leader Patrick Harvie MSP said: "Boris Johnson has once again been defeated by democracy. His attempt to foist his rotten deal upon us, just like his attempt to unlawfully bypass parliament, has been rebuffed.

"The law now calls for the Prime Minister to seek a Brexit extension. As soon as that extension is secured, and the disaster capitalist fantasy of No Deal is averted, we should swiftly give the public the chance finally to stop Brexit, and kick this illegitimate Prime Minister out of office."

The Prime Minister made two statements in the House of Commons today. The first was about the Withdrawal Bill as lodged and which he hoped would be voted upon. The second was delivered after the amendment by Sir Oliver Letwin was voted upon and passed by 322 votes to 306. This demanded that the legislation be passed before any votes on the terms of it.

The First Statement was this :

Mr Speaker, I am very grateful to you, I am very grateful to the House of Commons staff, everybody who's put themselves out, everybody who has come to give up their time in this debate today.

It's been a very important debate, an exceptional moment for our country, an exceptional moment for our Parliament.

Alas the opportunity to have a meaningful vote has been effectively been passed up because the meaningful vote has been voided of meaning. But I wish the House to know that I'm not daunted or dismayed by this particular result and I think it probably became likely once it was obvious that the amendment from my Right Honourable Friend the Member for West Dorset was going to remain on the order paper.

I continue in the very strong belief that the best thing for the UK and for the whole of Europe is for us to leave with this new deal on October 31.

And to anticipate the questions that are coming from the benches opposite, I will not negotiate a delay with the EU, and neither does the law compel me to do so.

I will tell our friends and colleagues in the EU exactly what I've told everyone in the last 88 days that I've served as Prime Minister: that further delay would be bad for this country, bad for the European Union and bad for democracy.

So next week the Government will introduce the legislation needed for us to leave the EU with our new deal on October 31.

And I hope that our European Union colleagues and friends will not be attracted as the benches opposite are by delay. I don't think they'll be attracted by delay.

And I hope that then Honourable Members faced with a choice of our new deal, our new deal for the UK and the European Union, will change their minds because it was pretty close today. I hope that they will change their minds and support this deal in overwhelming numbers. Since I became Prime Minister I've said we must get on and get Brexit done on October 31 so that this country can move on.

Mr Speaker, that policy remains unchanged, no delays, and I will continue to do all I can to get Brexit done on October 31 and I continue to commend this excellent deal, Mr Speaker, to the House.