



Department for International Trade

Rt Hon Greg Hands MP

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The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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21st June 2018

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to tender my resignation from the Government, with great regret. It has been an honour to serve in the Government you lead, and I want to thank you for this opportunity.

I felt incredibly privileged when you appointed me to work with Liam Fox as his deputy to set up the new Department for International Trade and help establish the foundations of the UK's first independent Trade Policy in over forty years.

I have been very fortunate to have held several roles in government. I worked for all the Chief Whips in the Coalition Government and during this period worked to secure a Conservative Party administration following the 2015 General Election.

As Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Spending Review in 2015 involved taking tough and difficult decisions but was important to successfully bring down the deficit and place the nations finances on a more sustainable footing, which we are now seeing the fruits of.

As you know, I have been a long-standing opponent of a third runway at Heathrow and I promised my constituents at the last General Election that I would vote against should the matter come to Parliament and I feel strongly that politicians must have credibility to ensure public confidence in our democratic system. My reasons for opposing the third runway are well-known and well-documented.

The matter will be voted on in the House of Commons next week. I intend to keep my promise to my constituents, and vote against the proposal, and with it now being a whipped vote, I must therefore resign from the Government. I want to thank your team, the Chief Whip and the International Trade Secretary for taking the time to discuss the matter with me over the last few weeks.

I will continue to be loyal to you personally and to support the vital work of this

government, from the backbenches. I will do everything I can to assist you and our colleagues in building a country that works for everyone and a Britain fit for the future and I look forward to continuing to represent the constituents of Chelsea and Fulham.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hands', followed by three dots.

RT HON GREG HANDS MP

Minister of State for Trade Policy

Department for International Trade