

RT HON CONOR BURNS MP
Bournemouth West



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

4 May 2020

Dear Boris,

It is with genuine regret that I write to resign as Minister of State for International Trade. The recommendation by the Parliamentary Committee on Standards – which I accept unreservedly and without rancour – that I be suspended from the service of the House makes this decision inevitable.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve in Government in one of the most exciting roles. It has been an exhilarating experience to play my part in helping to scope out the opportunities for Britain in global trade in the years ahead. In all of my international visits - to Brazil, Chile, Morocco, Algeria, Vietnam and the US - I have seen the real enthusiasm there is to engage with Britain post Brexit. I am only sorry that I cannot continue to support you in this vital work.

It has been a pleasure to work with you since our days at the Foreign Office and I was honoured to be at your side throughout your campaign to become Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister. I have never wavered in my judgement that you were the right person to lead our country at this time of challenge and opportunity. I cannot overstate how delighted I was to see that judgement overwhelmingly vindicated in the general election last December.

It goes without saying that you will continue to have my full and unqualified support from the backbenches as both a colleague and a friend.

With all good wishes.

Yours ever,

Conor