

What	Unarguable (mostly)	Comment
	<p>Immigration was and remains a major factor in voting with claims that it depressed wages (particularly for the low skilled) and put pressure on housing and the NHS.</p>	<p>A study by University College London shows that immigrants bring money into the economy. They are young, healthy, pay taxes and leave before the get old (and a financial burden). Of course the govt. may choose not to spend that extra money on the NHS or housing.</p> <p>Immigration from outside the EU is already controlled (e.g. Syrians and Turks etc).</p> <p>Since Theresa May's call for a Hard Brexit there has been concern that there will be a staffing shortage for the NHS which employs a significant number of EU and non EU staff. Article from the British Medical Journal.</p> <p>The argument for protecting low paid jobs has already been undermined by proposals to have visas for baristas.</p> <p>Vote Leave Director Dominic Cummings said that without immigration being raised as an issue Vote Leave would have lost.</p>



During the campaign Leave promoted a message of £350m a week goes to Brussels. Let's spend it on the NHS.

This claim was almost [instantly shown to be false](#) but the message persisted and was shown everywhere.

As soon as it was announced that Leave had won the [£350m pledge was dropped](#) [It remains dropped](#).

Vote leave director Dominic Cummings admitted that without the £350m/NHS [pledge](#) [vote leave would have lost](#).

(As an aside junior doctors blog release this video [asking can we afford the NHS?](#))



Leave highlighted a lack of accountability and democracy in the EU. The arguments can be read [here](#).

In fact The UK has never lost its sovereignty as admitted in section 2.1 of [this Government White Paper](#) signed by Theresa May.

There is a nicely balanced piece on Sovereignty [here](#) which acknowledges the "accountability deficit".

Absolutely pro-remain, but that doesn't make it inherently wrong is [this talk](#) by Professor Michael Dougan from Liverpool University who specialises in European Constitutional Law.

By trying to trigger [Brexit without consulting parliament](#) , and adding [Henry VII clauses](#) to the Great Repeal Bill (see later) which allows the government to remove laws without parliamentary approval & by [failing to defend Supreme Court judges](#) (who rule on law not politics) and by seeking to develop a majority so huge that she can rule as effectively a one party state, it has been argued that Theresa May is undermining democracy, accountability and the rule of law.



The [Primacy of European Law](#) was highlighted as an issue.

As were the large number of laws from the EU in the UK. It was suggested that removal from the EU would simplify British Law and would remove [burdensome red tape](#)

If you want to find out how many laws have been forced upon us read [this](#).

Rather than scrap EU law The Great Repeal bill seeks to add EU law into UK law. This is the only practical way to approach 40 years of entwined law. Time will tell if it will work. A worst case scenario will be where we have two sets of laws, EU, for companies that wish to trade with the EU, and then other. So more red tape not less.

Other EU laws relate to protection of the environment, standards and working conditions. Removal of these would likely prove unpopular.

Many of the laws are to do with trade. Take the infamous "[bendy bananas](#)". The EU legislation was to attain an agreement as to what a [grade 1 banana would be](#) so that when for example, if France sells the UK a crate of grade 1 bananas we know what we are buying. In fact the banana law was based on UK standards, a hangover from when we had the commonwealth – though you wouldn't know that from the Sun. The wilful misreporting by newspapers remains a problem today.

The Great Repeal Bill also includes adding [Henry VII clauses](#) which allows the government to remove laws without parliamentary approval



In 2015 the [UK exported £230bn to the EU in goods and services, but imported £290bn from the EU.](#)

Germany in particular sold £25bn more to us than we did to them and we are Germany's biggest customer for cars

The UK is the EU's largest single export market (just) with between 8% and 17% of EU exports go to the UK. By value that is 3-4% of the EU economy.

This is the basis of the EU needs us more than we need them argument used by Leave.

It is also the basis of the claim after Brexit we will go to Berlin not to Brussels.

44% of the UK's exports go to the EU with 80% of those being services.

By value this represents 12% of the UK economy.

To put it differently the EU can afford to lose 3-4% more than we can afford to lose 12%.

Leavers claim no damage to the [UK economy](#) (21 Sept 2016), but this was already [showing signs of changing](#) (Price Waterhouse Cooper March 2017) and is confirmed by the latest figures that show that UK economy has slowed [to 0.2% - the same as Italy.](#)



Negotiations

The UK dependence on the service sector and our trade deficit with Germany was the reason why Theresa May wanted to negotiate on a country by country, sector by sector basis. This would have enabled us to leverage the trade deficit in negotiations and safeguard key UK industries.

The Leader of the German Chamber of Commerce warns that [Brexit will hurt Germany](#)

[Ian Duncan Smith claims the EU owes us money. The EU claims £60 Billion](#)

[EU diplomats discount cherry picking protections for our most important sectors](#)

[Seven city banks are already planning to move staff to Frankfurt.](#)

EU negotiators have ruled out country by country or sector by sector negotiations and are demanding the UK settles its £60bn “divorce bill” before discussing trade. [This article](#) in the Express says that we will have trade discussions earlier – but it is hard to see how it supports that claim. If we want to start trade negotiations quickly we may have to bite the bullet. Even then....

The UK’s negotiating position is weak. We have limited time, few trade negotiators, greater reliance on the EU than they do on us and a service industry that is decamping to Europe.

We have 50 trade negotiators and need to make a deal which 27 different EU countries can agree on (each has a veto). [Canada has 300 trade negotiators](#), worked on an EU deal for seven years, and [had it blocked by the Walloons](#).



[Uproar in the UK press as it is revealed that Spain could veto a UK trade deal and use that power to negotiate on Gibraltar](#)

[The Sun newspaper started talking about a possible war with Spain](#) as did [Lord Howard](#)

This was a fine example of how the EU was designed to keep the peace and how quickly things can change.

It was also an example of irresponsible reporting.

All of the 27 EU countries have a veto and all of them can use it to force concessions



Hard Brexit

We will leave the single market and customs union and will trade with the commonwealth and the world

[Donald Trump puts UK at the head of the queue](#) (17 December 2016)

[Trade deal with India unlikely](#)

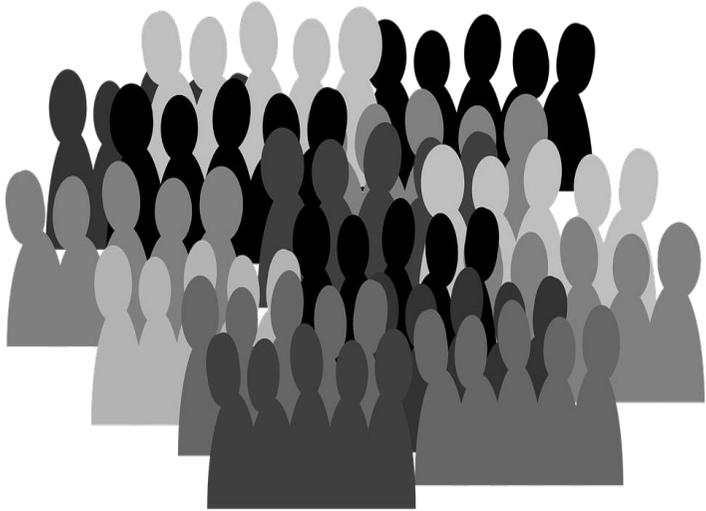
[US moves UK trade deal to the back of the queue](#) (27 April 2017)

[Brazil, Russia, India and China together account for less than 5% of UK exports](#) (EU is 44%)

The above independent paper does not show ANY model (WTO, EEA, Norway) that does not damage the UK economy

WTO rules leave the UK vulnerable. Currently we trade under WTO rules under an EU umbrella. If there are legal challenges the EU regulatory bodies have the experience and infrastructure to fight. The UK does not have these bodies and getting them will take time.

WTO also has tariffs (food tariffs of 40% and we import most of our food). While we are currently a net importer of German goods there is no requirement for Germany (or anyone) to buy anything from us if there is going to be a tariff surcharge and they can get the same things tariff free elsewhere.



The case for Hard Brexit and the Will Of The People

If we accept all the independent evidence there is still a case for hard brexit – and it is this.

We cannot stay within the single market and not pay into the EU, not accept some European Court rulings (which is fair enough, someone has to arbitrate on trade) and not accept freedom of movement. Hard Brexit becomes a POLITICAL (not economic necessity). Otherwise we have had a referendum, voted leave, not much changes and we lose our veto. Controlling immigration is “The Will Of The People.”

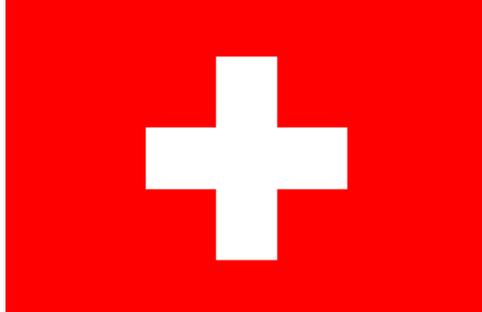
But what if it wasn't?

An [Ipsos Mori Poll](#) published on the 1st July 2016 found 42% of people supported the statement "Britain should continue to allow European Union citizens to come and live and work in Britain in return for access to the EU single market". 38% opposed it and 20% didn't know. That is the majority want immigration and the single market.

While it can be argued that polls can be misleading (but that won't stop political parties putting campaign money where the polls suggest) these results are supported by others.

A poll by [You Gov](#) for the Adam Smith Institute found similar results. A [poll by BMG for the Independent](#) found "A majority of people would rather the UK have a soft Brexit, which sees the country give concessions on EU immigration in return for access to the single market."

Hard Brexit is not the will of the people.

		<p>What about Norway.</p> <p>Prior to the referendum Leave campaigners touted Norway as a good model for the UK.</p> <p>Since the referendum Nigel Farage has said everyone knew “voting Leave meant leaving the single market” and have rejected the Norwegian model.</p>	<p>Norway is in the single market, pays into the EU, accepts a large amount of EU legislation without having a say on that legislation and has freedom of movement.</p> <p>Services (which you will recall are 80% of our exports) are not included in the agreement.</p>
		<p>Switzerland</p>	<p>An utterly bespoke deal that started in 1992 when they rejected the idea of joining the EU and a final (ish) deal was agreed in 2014 – a mere 22 years later.</p>
<p>A thought about the referendum</p>		<p>An In/Out choice on a complex matter without a threshold to “win” is a terrible idea. If anything you have read here is news to you it shows that people voted (myself included) with only the sketchiest idea of what they were voting for, informed by a press largely owned by billionaires who do not live in the country. This is unsurprising. After a hard day do you want to read the paper or go through reams of source data? Michael Gove said we shouldn’t trust experts.</p> <p>In every other walk of life we trust experts, doctors, mechanics, builders. Not being an expert does not make any of us a good person to vote on the future of the country. But now, hopefully you (and me) are a little more expert – however we decide to vote in the general election.</p> <p>References are taken from source reports or where possible pro-leave newspapers to avoid the “It’s the Guardian – what do you expect” response.</p>	