

19 July 2019

Dear all

Thank you for writing to me.

This country will continue to thrive, as it has always done, as an open and internationalist trading nation. This means being open for business, and open to the brightest and best talent. This requires a fair immigration system which works efficiently and does not impose undue burdens on those applying for citizenship.

There are a range of proposals I would wish to review, as Prime Minister, including the ability of international students to stay and working in this country after graduation. Our higher education institutions are a terrific national asset and global export, and the people they produce should feel welcome to stay and work in our country. Another priority for me on day one, should I become Prime Minister, would be ensuring the swiftest possible route for EU citizens living here to be able to stay permanently.

The best way to reduce our dependence on immigration in the long run, and making the system fairer for our citizens, is to increase the skills and opportunities we provide to UK citizens so there is less need for employers to bring people in from overseas. When I was Health Secretary, we would not have been able to keep services going without the fantastic work of NHS staff from the EU and beyond. But at the same time I was proud to increase the training opportunities for young people in this country by hugely expanding the number of nursing and medical degree places.

My goal will be to boost economic growth from the first moment that we leave the European Union. I believe we can do this in a smart and fair way, with immigration systems which work for our businesses and communities.

Thank you, again, for getting in touch.

Best wishes

Jeremy

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Member of Parliament for South West Surrey