



Brexit news: How a 'covert' clause agreed by Lords could REVERSE Brexit

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A 'COVERT' clause added to the Government's landmark Brexit Bill by the House of Lords this week could allow peers to "delay, frustrate and ultimately reverse" the split from Brussels, a senior Commons researcher has warned.

By HARVEY GAVIN PUBLISHED: 11:34, Sat, May 5, 2018 | UPDATED: 13:40, Sat, May 5, 2018



The Lords this week voted by 335 votes to 244 to change the EU Withdrawal Bill to ensure Parliament is given a "genuinely meaningful" vote on the Brexit deal once negotiations have concluded.

The amendment on Monday (April 30) was just one in a series of defeats for the Government at the hands of peers.

But Monday's change - championed by former Tory minister Douglas Hogg, now Viscount Hailsham - could ultimately result in the UK staying in the European Union, Christopher Howarth said.

The senior House of Commons researcher warned the "ambitious" and "vague" amendment was deliberately worded in such a way to make it difficult to understand while still granting the peers the power to derail Brexit.

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Brexit news: An amendment by Viscount Hailsham could derail Brexit, a Commons researcher warned

Writing on the Brexit Central site, Mr Howarth explained there are a series of separate “triggers” contained within clauses of the amendment which could “force the government to re-negotiate its Withdrawal Agreement with the EU”.

He said if all the triggers are all activated, they could ultimately lead to the Lords vetoing the Government’s Brexit deal.

He warned peers could then then potentially block ministers from pushing ahead without an agreement - throwing the exit process into complete disarray just weeks before the UK is scheduled to split from the EU.

Mr Howarth said if this were to happen, it would be too late for the EU to reopen negotiations, and may pave the way to Britain remaining in the bloc.

The House of Lords explained

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He said: “That is their Lordships’ plan: throw as much mud as possible into the system and hope it fails.

“Such a strategy would, of course, wreak immeasurable damage to the Government’s negotiating position – why would the EU offer a deal when the Lords can help deliver an even better one for the EU?

“Holding open the option of Remain is a recipe for a bad deal, which in turn leads to an excuse for the Lords to reject the Withdrawal Agreement, leading to Remain – a self-fulfilling legislative prophecy.”

Explaining the series of “triggers”, Mr Howarth said they had been “carefully designed” to allow peers to activate them without “the interference of the democratically-elected house”.



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Theresa May's Brexit Bill has suffered a series of high-profile defeats by the House of Lords. The first trigger, he said, would essentially provide the House of Lords with a veto over the Withdrawal Agreement, which will set out the terms of the UK's divorce from Brussels.

The next trigger stipulates Parliament must pass the law relating to the implementation of the agreement by January 31, 2019, which could leave the Government limited time if the Lords had already vetoed the first deal.

The last trigger, which Mr Howarth said could only be pulled if the Lords had vetoed the exit deal, would force the Government to bring forward a motion which would need to be considered both by the Commons and peers.

He warned the tight timeline of Brexit would mean this motion would only be brought towards the very end of the process.



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He said: “The atmosphere in which this part of the clause is triggered would be febrile.

“It would, by necessity, be weeks away from Brexit day – a situation in which the EU would be unable to re-open negotiations, even if it wished to.

“We would have Brexit day looming, Remain-backing organisations such as the CBI and IoD fretting about the loss of the transition period, the Government unprepared for an unexpected exit, the EU refusing to re-negotiate.

“Then helpfully the EU could suggest a delay in Article 50, staying in the EU or remaining in the Single Market/Customs Union, for a price of course.



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The House of Lords could block Brexit by activating a series of 'triggers' in a new amendment

“The Labour Party in the Commons would undoubtedly back it.”

All of the amendments made so far by the Lords can still be overturned in the Commons, but Mrs May has a working majority of just 13.

And every vote on Brexit raises the possibility of a revolt by at least a dozen pro-EU Tory MPs.

The Lords are due to consider the EU Withdrawal Bill again on Tuesday, May 8.

Comments:

It is quite unbelievable how the House of Lords are juggling around with our legal system, setting traps by amending the existing articles in the leave EU agreements, cunningly hidden in legal jargon and rhetorics by lawyers, no doubt paid for by the state.

The members of the HOL have every reason to scupper Brexit. At least 70 of the members are, or will be receiving generous pensions from Brussels. Around 80% are Freemasonry members controlled by the Illuminati which is out to destroy all the European borders and national adherence, together with democracy and human rights.

A large proportion of the members belong to 'the global elite' as owners of large, world-spanning companies, greedily working for a New World Order, turning most of the people into a slave like race, serving their greedy masters.

The people, who do not have access to the wealth or powerful legal advice of the global elite, have only our country's unwritten constitution and democracy for support, which we PROMISE, will be guarded by our very lives.