



THE ADECCO GROUP

The facts about Brexit

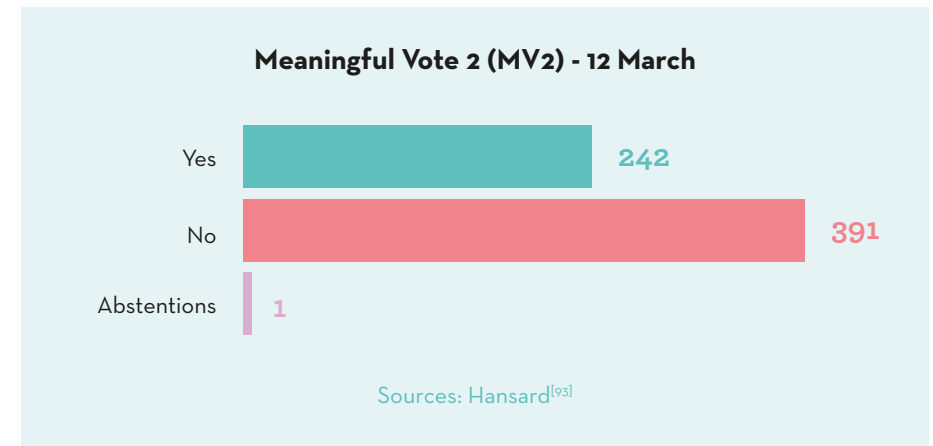
— March 2019 —

Government lost the second meaningful vote

March was a busy month for Brexit. It was supposed to be the very last month of the UK being an EU Member – but that wasn't to be.

On the 12th March, the Government lost the second meaningful vote (MV2) by a margin of 149 votes, although they gained 40 more votes than when MV1 was held in January. This was still the fourth largest defeat in parliamentary history.

Despite further reassurances by the Government, the final legal advice published by the Attorney General (the Government's top lawyer) failed to reassure the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in relation to the Irish Backstop (the insurance to ensure no border between Ireland and Northern Ireland under all circumstances), causing the European Research Group (ERG), the Hard Brexit faction of the Tories, to vote against it too. Too few Labour MPs in constituencies that voted to leave also walked across the aisle to back the deal.



Parliament ruled out No Deal

After the MV2 defeat, Parliament then ruled out No Deal on the 13th March, and formally agreed to extend Article 50 on the 14th March, meaning Parliament has instructed the Government to delay Brexit.

Speaker of the House prevented MV3 without substantial changes

An added complication was that while the Government had wanted to have a third Meaningful Vote, the Speaker of the House, John Bercow, ruled against putting the same motion to the House that had already been rejected, unless there were 'substantial' differences to the previous motion.



The EU set the conditions for departure

During the EU Summit, it was stated that should the UK pass the Prime Minister's deal (or at least the withdrawal agreement) by the 29th March, the UK would leave the EU on the 22nd May, allowing time for the UK to enact the necessary legislation.

If the UK did not pass the Prime Minister's deal, the UK would remain in the EU till the 12th April. The UK would then need to agree on a plan and allow time for the EU to respond to the proposal. In theory this would mean a No Deal should no agreement be made by the 12th April, but the reality is more likely a substantial delay, followed by various potential options, such as a General Election. This date represents the last moment at which the UK can decide to participate in the EU elections.



In theory this would mean a No Deal should no agreement be made by the 12th April, but the reality is more likely a substantial delay..

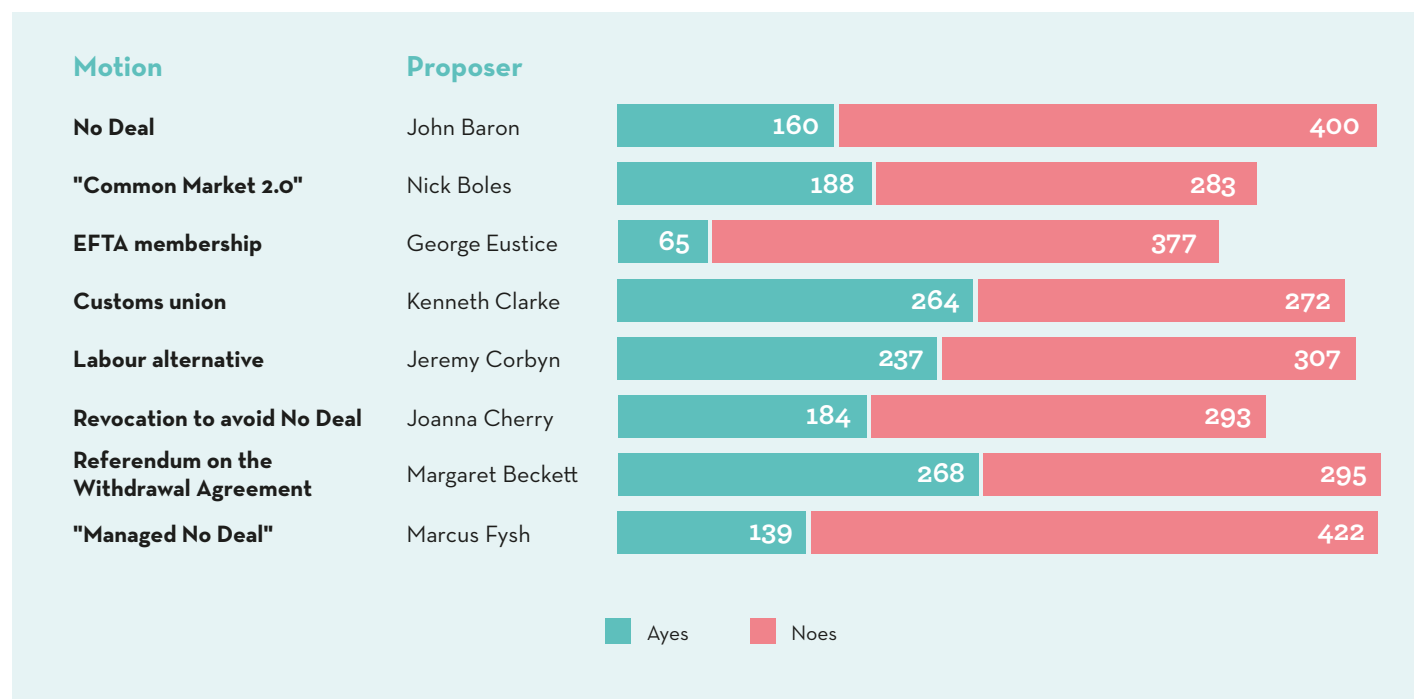


Parliament takes control – indicative votes

The UK Government struggled to gain support for a MV3 (a backbench amendment was passed on the 25th March), triggering Parliament to undertake 'indicative votes' to see whether a majority could be won in Parliament for a single approach.

This comprised two rounds of votes; the first was on the 27th March, the second on 1st April.

In the first round, no motion achieved a majority although customs union came close.



Despite the PM offering to quit, MV3 failed

On 20th March, the Government tabled a motion on the vote for the 'Withdrawal Agreement' without the political declaration, which the Speaker allowed. This is still the barometer for MV3. In order to get more support for the deal, Theresa May offered to resign shortly after the deal passes - presumably in May.

However, it still wasn't enough, and the deal was voted down on a 286 to 344 margin, although notably still more popular than all the other indicative vote options. 34 Tories voted against it and so did the DUP, and far too few Labour MPs (5) voted for it.

20th March vote result - 'Withdrawal Agreement' without political declaration



In order to get more support for the deal, Theresa May offered to resign shortly after the deal passes - presumably in May.

