



Dear MP

We are writing to you to express our deep concern about the current European Union Withdrawal Bill and its lack of any mention of health, environment or women.

This is a very damaging omission given that, under European law, we are currently protected by the best chemicals regulation in the world. When we leave the EU we risk losing this protection which has benefitted our health, wildlife and environment for decades.

European environment and chemicals laws are underpinned by principles which serve to protect health and environment - protection which British civil society has helped shape. Through Brexit we are threatened with losing this vital protection.

Existing EU laws on chemicals and pesticides have already eliminated many of the most toxic chemicals and pesticides from use. We feel very strongly the need to defend and retain all EU chemicals regulation- especially REACH (Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and other existing legislation which protects us in our workplaces. There should be no reduction in standards or deregulation when we finally leave the European Union.

We support the amendments put forward by some progressive MPs who are taking action to ensure that our health and environment are as protected as business interests when we finally withdraw from the EU. They are tabling [amendments](#) to the EU withdrawal bill which will add health and environmental protection to the bill. We urge you as our elected representatives to back these amendments.

Specifically but not exclusively:

New clause 28
New clause 60
New clause 61
New clause 62

These clauses will ensure we retain the fundamental principles which underpin EU chemicals legislation and it is vital we keep and transport them into UK law. The precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle can provide a framework for UK business and courts on how environmental and workplace regulation should be developed.

We must remain under REACH and be a part of [European Chemicals Agency \(ECHA\)](#) in order to secure full consumer and worker protection from harmful and toxic chemicals. These laws and principles not only benefit health but also give business a competitive advantage which can position the UK as the global leader in protecting its citizens and workers and natural environment.

Staying under REACH and remaining a part of ECHA is vital for UK businesses because of the complex nature of existing EU regulations means it cannot simply be transferred into UK law or replicated.

The EU is the first parliament in the world to try and establish criteria to control the most harmful chemicals which can affect our hormone system, known as [endocrine disrupting chemicals \(EDCs\)](#). For women especially, reducing exposure to toxic chemicals and EDCs is critical, as EDCs are linked to breast and other cancers and adverse health effects.

This is why Brexit and breast cancer are connected. 55,000 women in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, but less than half these diagnoses are attributed to lifestyle risk factors. There is overwhelming evidence linking breast cancer to occupational and environmental exposures and practices such as [night shift work](#) or to give them their correct term, *environmental and occupational risk factors for breast cancer*.

We sincerely hope you will support the amendments as tabled, to ensure our future health and the maintaining of standards which currently protect our workplaces, our wildlife, and our environment.

Kind regards,

Yours

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[From Pink to Prevention](#)

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