

## TLD 2020

Brexit and Parliament - BBC, *Politics Live* - 17 janvier 2019

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_R9jafc1m5o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_R9jafc1m5o)

1 (00:00 Jo Coburn) Hannah White from the Institute for government 'cause we've explored some of the  
2 areas for compromise and how this can be moved on obviously we've discussed the cabinet we've  
3 discussed MPs. What could Parliament do with MPs in terms of wresting control of the agenda,  
4 Hannah?

5 (00:14 Hannah White) well the the way these ideas in play and **Nick Boles**<sup>(1)</sup> is one of the people who's  
6 been is talking about this

7 (00:20 Jo Coburn) he's a **Conservative**<sup>(2)</sup> MP

8 (00:21 Hannah White) a Conservative MP, and he has said that essentially he wants to put in place his  
9 own backstop he wants a backstop which says there's legislation which compels the government not to  
10 go for no deal but to extend **article 50**<sup>(3)</sup> so the idea is that when the government brings forward its next  
11 motion which the government said today is going to be debated by MPs on the 29th – **Tuesday**<sup>(4)</sup> the  
12 29<sup>th</sup> hum that hum he and others will seek to put down amendments which give control of the  
13 parliamentary agenda to backbenchers for long enough for them to table and pass legislation which stops  
14 the government using the threat of no-deal as a as a as a bargaining chip

15 (01:00 Jo Coburn) well and it has some support if we believe the *Daily Telegraph*<sup>(5)</sup> front page here  
16 says “Hammond Philip Hammond tells business chiefs MPs will stop no-deal **Brexit**<sup>(6)</sup>” and they record  
17 the contents of a telephone call with business leaders so it feels like it has some high-level support

18 (01:15 Hannah White) well the original idea was that the panel would get much further and the the  
19 liaison committee - a committee of senior MPs - would come up with an actual proposal for  
20 **Parliament**<sup>(7)</sup> to vote on he's r- he seems to be rowing back from that now what he's trying to put in  
21 place is this extension hum but he's exactly right I mean he can't do this on his own first he has to get  
22 the backing of MPs to pass the amendment then crucially he needs the backing both of the House of  
23 Commons and the House of Lords to get a piece of legislation through that does this

24 (01:42 Chuka Umunna) I think the concern was about the hum suggestion as it was originally configured  
25 was that you could see the liaison committee almost acting in an executive capacity and the worry  
26 amongst colleagues I know on it is that obviously their role is scrutiny however that shouldn't preclude  
27 a group of parliamentarians through whatever means determining what our business would be and I  
28 think you know listen to listening to Liz Truss there on Peston last night she doesn't seem to have learnt  
29 anything which is that Parliament does have the capacity and there is a majority for us to seize control  
30 of at least the business to ensure that we don't go down this avenue towards No Deal the reason that we  
31 are having a vote on Tuesday week and the government's having to put down this motion stating how  
32 it's going to go forward on Monday is because a coalition in the Commons came together and required  
33 that to happen and that that the aim really here is to make sure that the House of Commons has a wide  
34 canvas on which to do things with and if they haven't learned by the fact that they were defeated  
35 unprecedented defeats but this is a the problem the extraordinary has become ordinary in this Parliament  
36 but what has been happening

37 (02:48 Gillian Keegan) xx an unprecedented thing to try and do, though, Brexit, we've never tried it  
38 before

39 (02:51 Chuka Umunna) no no no it's right but I it's just a statement of fact I think you'd agree it's  
40 extraordinary what's going on so until people frankly like Liz Truss and the Prime Minister get their  
41 heads around the fact that we are in a extraordinary situation and Parliament's not just going to roll over  
42 and act like a rubber stamp on what them the executive wants to do they're gonna keep hitting a brick  
43 wall frankly

44 (03:10 Jo Coburn) so you obviously support this hum

45 (03:12 Chuka Umunna) yeah I mean so long as so long as Nick is clear about his intentions like I clearly  
46 don't like Brexit and I wouldn't want it to happen he wants it to happen in a different form and so long  
47 as we're clear about that I'm fine and I'm happy to work with him and others and I think others who  
48 share my view in **the House of Commons** <sup>(8a)</sup> are prepared to do that in order to ensure that their  
49 legislature gets to determine how we take this f- forward which is perhaps the most democratic way you  
50 sh- you know rather than using the government

51 (03:34 Jo Coburn) and do you back this too Gillian?

52 (03:36 Gillian Keegan) well I don't back it but I also I'm not gonna sit here and say no no no no no

53 (03:40 Chuka Umunna) mmm

54 (03:40 Gillian Keegan) to everything and stick with where I was because that's not gonna get anywhere  
55 it does so what it does it's it's it I mean Nick voted for the for **the Prime Minister** <sup>(9)</sup>'s deal and he's now  
56 looking to this would extend some time give us more time which which you know hum would have its  
57 implications but I still think the most important thing is actually not time but compromise because we  
58 actually still need to find a deal if if during that time we still haven't got a way to compromise and  
59 find a deal that can get through the House of Parliament then you know we haven't got anything even to  
60 offer

61 (04:14 Chuka Umunna) but then Gillian, I I think that time is an issue even look even

62 (04:17 Gillian Keegan) e- e- possibly, but

63 (04:18 Chuka Umunna) look even if you s- you you

64 (04:20 Gillian Keegan) compromise is a bigger issue

65 (04:21 Chuka Umunna) even if even if you you government you get your deal through we've got 36  
66 sitting days at the moment we've got over 800 pieces of secondary legislation we've still got three bills,  
67 the trade, agriculture

68 (04:30 Gillian Keegan) we'll have to work hard

69 (04:31 Chuka Umunna) fisheries yeah but even even if you and I were sitting over there overnight every  
70 single day we're not going to get it all through so I think definitely we're going to need an extension to  
71 the article 50 process

72 (04:42 Jo Coburn) do you agree?

73 (04:42 Chuka Umunna) there's no doubt about that

74 (04:43 Gillian Keegan) hum I don't I haven't seen that that isn't possible to get through but I'm willing  
75 to to you know if it's practical just to pass legislation well and and there's a you know clear time  
76 then fine if that is the truth but I haven't I haven't looked at that actually to be fair

77 (04:57 Jo Coburn) Hannah

78 (04:58 Hannah White) I think it's interesting when you're saying that the liaison committee you plan  
79 clearly looks as though it's not gonna fly because you know this would be like

80 (05:04 Chuka Umunna) it helps if you talk to the chair before you flew xx

81 (5:05 Hannah White) well it does indeed and it's certainly not in their remit at the moment but it is not  
82 actually historically unprecedented for **the House** <sup>(8b)</sup> to ask a committee to go away and develop  
83 legislation for the House to then consider so actually

84 (05:18 Chuka Umunna) it's true

85 (05:19 Hannah White) what this was as a plan was an attempt to find a different group of people within  
86 Parliament who had somebody to legitimacy I mean not all the chairs that are elected but s- but

87 (05:26 Chuka Umunna) xx

88 (05:27 Hannah White) most of them are to say well perhaps this group of people could come up with an  
89 option for the whole of the House to vote on

90 (05:33 Jo Coburn) would it work?

91 (05:34 Tim Shipman) well I think people are talking about Parliament seizing control this is the way  
92 that Parliament could seize control and I think the onus is on parliamentarians probably to do that if  
93 they're going to talk that game I think the problem with a referendum is that you are effectively saying  
94 Parliament can't do this and **the Boles plan** <sup>(10)</sup> does at least give MPs a way of resolving this issue and  
95 I think if they don't this will be more damaging for Parliament than the expenses scandal.

96 (05:56 Jo Coburn) do you do you think that extending article 50 is now inevitable hum Lucy and should  
97 actually happen to allow Parliament - it is a representative democracy – to to to actually take control?

98 (06:06 Lucy Harris) absolutely not I think extending article 50 is an incredibly dangerous and slippery  
99 slope, we set a line and we'd all agreed that we would hum you know make article 50 resolute and to  
100 move that line would say to **the EU** <sup>(11)</sup> that we no longer have hum the the the power within our own  
101 Parliament to draw those lines and stick to them