



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Matthew Pellereau
Chairman
Winchester Conservative Association
Office 1, Folly Hill Farm
Itchen Stoke
Alresford
SO24 9TF

20 June 2023

Dear Matthew,

I am writing to inform you I do not intend to seek re-adoption for the Winchester constituency ahead of the next General Election.

As you know from our discussions in recent weeks, this is a decision I have not taken lightly but it is time for me to consider a new chapter in my life.

When I entered Parliament in 2010, I had in my mind to serve for twenty years - or four General Elections - whichever came first.

This wasn't a hard and fast rule (and I don't think anyone could have predicted the events of the past thirteen years with three elections in four years!) but it feels like the right time now, for both myself and the family.

Going forward, I feel I can pursue some of the issues I care about - in health and perhaps elsewhere - outside Parliament as well as within.

At the time of the next election, I will be fifty and whether as association officer, party campaign director, parliamentary candidate and of course MP, I have been doing this since my mid-20's.

During my time as our MP, Susie and I have had two wonderful children and I've put my heart and soul into doing the job to the very best of my ability. My team and I have done tens of thousands of pieces of casework to-date and that quietly remains the bedrock of my work for the people I represent.

But that has all come at a price; being away several nights every week, working at pace across this vast constituency when I am home plus every weekend and just the sheer intensity of this role in the modern age.

We always think our children need us most when they're little - and that is of course true in the most basic caring sense - but I've learnt they need us more as they get older. I hope, in time, to be around a little more; both for them but also for Susie who has supported me every step of the way and without whom I could never have done any of this.

I love this constituency, which I am so privileged to represent, and believe there is something very special about being the 'MP for Winchester' given its history and vibrancy.

Steve Brine MP

Winchester & Chandler's Ford

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The City is almost a constituency on its own but the inclusion of Alresford, the many villages - and of course Chandler's Ford which I so enjoy working for - make it a really special seat.

I said from day one I would be, first and foremost, a constituency MP and I have stayed true to that attending literally hundreds of events each year (including every fete I can find!) and supporting the many great institutions we have in the patch.

Nowhere is that truer than our hospital and I am very proud to have helped secure millions of pounds over the years to develop safe and secure services in Winchester.

It is especially pleasing to be able to deliver on my promise of significant new investment at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital from our Conservative government. Just this week we've confirmed £40m of capital investment to develop an elective hub and orthopaedic outpatient facility. There's more to come and it will always be Priority NHS for me.

Equally, I have really enjoyed working with our many excellent schools. I am proud of the huge investment we were able to secure from Hampshire in the early days of my time to secure hundreds of new places in the state sector when they were badly needed. I look forward to continuing my visits to local schools, and welcoming them to Westminster, over the remainder of this Parliament.

And I never forget the issue that drove me into politics in the first place, the environment. Through my long-running *Green Winchester* campaign I have been able to champion local, national and international causes dear to us and my time at COP26 in Glasgow was really special.

In Westminster I have been so fortunate to work with some truly inspirational people. To be alongside Jeremy Hunt at the Department of Health was a great education and we remain the closest of friends.

I have served as a Government Whip (which shows you how Parliament and Government works in a way you never thought possible) and held the only job I ever really coveted in Government; that of Public Health Minister. To represent our country overseas, at G7 and G20 meetings for instance, was a huge honour.

That role, which included holding the important cancer brief, meant so much to me and I am hugely proud of the many policies I was able to pursue.

As you know I lost both my parents to cancer while still relatively young - my father just three days after the 2019 General Election - and I am sure the fight to better detect and treat that disease will remain one important part of the next chapter for me.

And, as we have discussed many times, the chair of the cross-party Health & Social Care Select Committee is the perfect role for me at this moment. I feel truly blessed to have been elected by the whole House to take on this job at such an important time.

Our Prime Minister is not only a local boy, but he is also a good friend. The U.K. has a world-class leader in Rishi Sunak who is a thoroughly decent person perfectly suited to the job.

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He will always have my total support and I hope people will recognise that before it's too late and before they vote in a way that lets in a Labour Government that this area, in particular, cannot afford and will not like at all.

In the meantime, I can assure you I will continue to serve my constituents across Winchester and Chandler's Ford until the very last day of this current Parliament. And I will of course give whoever you choose to contest the constituency for the Conservatives my full backing.

I am sure they will be successful with your help - and a renewed local party organisation. Nobody owns Winchester so face the future with confidence. Be sure to pick someone who lives here and will treat the constituency with the respect it deserves.

Finally, I want to thank *you* for your unwavering support and kindness. You have been there since day one and I couldn't have asked for a more loyal or hardworking President, Chairman, Campaign Team member and friend. Association Officers down the years, not least the much-missed Judi Harris, and our local party members have given me rock solid support for which I am grateful.

We've had some wonderful moments together as a team; from the initial victory in 2010, the resounding wins of 2015 and 2017 and of course the most pleasing of them all in 2019. But I do believe for everything there is a season and sometimes we have to clear the way to allow for new growth.

I shall miss you all dreadfully when the time comes but, for now, it's business as usual and we've still much to do.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Brine".