



## Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

London office: Tel: 020 7219 8132

Bedfordshire office: Tel: 01767 313385

Website: [www.alistair-burt.co.uk](http://www.alistair-burt.co.uk) Email: [alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Dear Member

I am writing to let you know that I have informed the Chairman of the NE Bedfordshire Conservative Association, Ian Dalgarno, that I will not be seeking to go forward as the Conservative candidate for the next general election, whenever it is held.

I do so with sadness, but also great pride in having served the people of NE Bedfordshire for the past eighteen years, which have been the most fulfilling of my professional life. When my family and I arrived in Bedfordshire in 1998 to make our new home here, I little realised that I would be getting to know the people and places of England from Wymington to Arlesey in such a way. We will cherish forever the courtesy and friendliness we have encountered, and I will always value the relationships built as I worked as MP on so many issues affecting the lives and livelihoods of my constituents.

After those eighteen years, and the thirty-two in total as an MP and Minister, there was always going to be a time to go, and the end of this, my ninth Parliament, seemed a likely possibility. However, it would be foolish to pretend other than that matters have been brought forward by recent events.

It has become clear that I have a fundamental, and unresolvable disagreement with our party leadership on the manner in which we leave the EU, and the consequences going forward of doing so. This is very likely to be at the root of the next election, and I believe it is unfair of me to present you with a conflict of interest between my views and those of the party at an election, even if current circumstances do not result in my having the whip in Parliament removed.

Accordingly, I think it is in the best interests of the Conservative cause in NE Bedfordshire that it has a new representative, to take a case to the people which I would not be able to endorse with the certainty with which you and I have gone forward in the past. I should also make clear that I am not intending to stand as an independent candidate either - the Conservative Party has been a huge part of the life of Eve and me since we were teenagers and given us many wonderful opportunities. It would break my heart to be canvassing for votes across the road from lifelong friends.

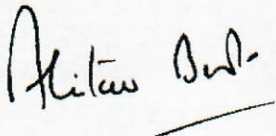
I am now looking forward to being engaged in public life in some other way. My vocation has been built around that for some forty years, and I hope it will continue.

*'Serving the people of North East Bedfordshire'*

I must conclude with thanks and appreciation for your steadfast support over the years for me and my family, and for the Conservative Party; for the highest quality and unstinting work of my Parliamentary and constituency team, and for the facilities and unsparing assistance of Biggleswade Conservative Club.

It is the greatest privilege of a citizen to be elected to Parliament. Our years together will remain an honour all my days.

With warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alistair Burt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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