



# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Our ref: 2017 05 02 GELibAnMPs

2 May 2017

Dear Colleague

## USE OF LIBRARY ANALYSIS DURING DISSOLUTION

I'm writing to remind you that the dissolution guidance confirms that the Library's services to Members close at 5pm on 2 May (today), and will not be available again until Friday 9 June.

Of course, it is likely that political parties and some Members standing for re-election will use existing Library analysis in their election campaigns, potentially drawing upon analysis commissioned from the Library as part of our confidential enquiry service.

The Library does not publish briefings during dissolution. Neither do we expect to be commenting publicly on our work, because of the risk of our impartiality being perceived as compromised. The long term value of our work to you and to the wider public depends upon our perceived impartiality.

**It is for this reason that I want to encourage any use of Library analysis, particularly any commissioned as part of our confidential enquiry service, to be appropriately transparent.** Under usual circumstances (and as set out in the Library's Statement of Services) we would be very keen to help Members do this, but this is not possible during the Election period. So I thought it would be helpful to remind you that public use of our work should be accompanied by:

- The data that supports any claims
- Sources
- An explanation of methodology
- Any major caveats we have highlighted to you

In addition, it is more important than ever that Library analysis is not taken out of context.

I'm sending this letter to all the political parties represented in the current Parliament, and copying to all Members.

We're very much looking forward to working with Members in the new Parliament; and on behalf of my colleagues, can I also take the opportunity to thank you for all the kind words about the work of the Commons Library.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penny Young  
House of Commons Librarian