

APPLICATION APPENDIX B6

- Prominent individuals

**APPLICATION TO REGISTER AS A DESIGNATED LEAD CAMPAIGNER: VOTE LEAVE
APPENDIX B6: SUPPORT FROM PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS**

The following 7 individuals have provided letters in support of the application by Vote Leave Limited in a personal capacity:

SUPPORTER	
Suzanne Evans	Councillor, London Borough of Merton (UKIP), 2010-14 Founder and Treasurer, Lipoedema UK, since 2012 Communities Spokesman, UKIP, 2014 Deputy Chairman, UKIP, 2014-16 Communications & Policy Officer, UKIP Parliamentary Resource Unit, 2016
Paul Keetch	Councillor, Hereford City Council (Liberal Democrat), 1983-85, then the youngest city councillor in the UK MP for Hereford (Liberal Democrat), 1997-2010 Former Chair, Liberal International British Group Member of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, 2005-10 Founder of the Cider All Party Parliamentary Group
John Longworth	Panel member, Competition Commission, 2008-14 Chairman and Co-Founder, SVA Ltd, 2010-15 Director General, British Chamber of Commerce, 2011-16 Board member, UK India Business Council, 2013-16 Council member, World Chambers Federation, 2014-16 Non-executive director, American Chambers of Commerce, 2014-16
John Mills	National Agent, National Referendum Campaign, the official No campaign in the 1975 European Referendum Co-Founder, Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign, 1975 Co-Founder, People's Pledge Campaign, 2011 Founding Chairman, Labour for a Referendum, 2013 Co-Founder, Labour Leave, 2015
Nigel Smith	Executive member of the Scottish Engineering Employers Association, 1985-90 Member of the BBC National Broadcasting Council for Scotland, 1986-90 Member of the BBC General Advisory Council, 1991-93 Member of the Bank of England Scottish Consultative panel, 1993-2004

	<p>Member of the Scottish Constitutional Commission, 1993-94</p> <p>Chairman of Scotland Forward, the official Yes Campaign in the Scottish Devolution referendum, 1997</p> <p>Principal of Voxscot, an organisation providing strategic advice for referendum campaigns since 1998</p> <p>Executive member of Fairshare, a campaign to introduce proportional representation for Scottish local government elections, 2001-07</p> <p>Chairman of the cross-party No to the Euro campaign, 2002-04</p> <p>Member of the Wilson Committee to review the fairness of BBC coverage of European issues, 2004-5</p> <p>Board member of the think tank Open Europe since 2005</p>
Stuart Wheeler	<p>Founder, IG Index</p> <p>Treasurer of UKIP, 2011-14</p>
Ann Widdecombe	<p>MP for Maidstone, 1987-97</p> <p>MP for Maidstone & the Weald, 1997-2010</p> <p>Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, 1990-93</p> <p>Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment, 1993-94</p> <p>Minister of State for Employment, 1994-95</p> <p>Minister of State for Prisons, 1995-97</p> <p>Shadow Health Secretary, 1998-99</p> <p>Shadow Home Secretary, 1999-2001</p>

The Rt Hon Lord Lawson of Blaby
Chairman, Vote Leave
Westminster Tower
3 Albert Embankment
LONDON
SE1 7SP

8 March 2016

Dear Lord Lawson,

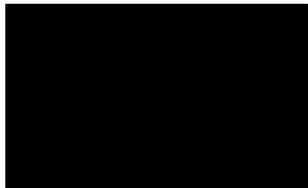
Vote Leave Parliamentary Council and Designation

Thank you for your invitation to support Vote Leave.

I am delighted to agree to be a member of the Vote Leave Parliamentary Council and to give my support for the application by Vote Leave Limited to be the designated lead campaign group for the 'Leave' outcome in the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

I authorise you to make my support public at the appropriate time.

Yours ever,



Suzanne Evans

UKIP Parliamentary Spokesperson

Board Member, Women for Britain

Paul Keetch



The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1 8YZ

30th March 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

Letter of support for "Vote Leave" for designation

I write in support of the "Vote Leave" campaign in their application to receive Electoral Commission designation as the official Leave campaign in the upcoming European Referendum campaign.

I served as Member of Parliament for Hereford from 1997 until my retirement in 2010. During this time, I was privileged to serve on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and as Liberal Democrat Shadow Defence Secretary throughout the Iraq War. In so doing, I was the most senior Defence spokesman opposed to the invasion of Iraq.

I support the Vote Leave campaign for designation on its own merits. The appointment of my talented former colleague on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Labour's Gisela Stuart, as its co-chair demonstrates not only their commitment to bipartisanship but to campaigning prowess and intellectual rigour. I also feel, as a Liberal Democrat, respected and valued by the Vote Leave - and have been pleased to serve on their Campaign Committee alongside former political adversaries. Theirs is the truly bipartisan, truly open and truly national campaign.

Above all, however, I feel Vote Leave have set the correct tone for engaging in this referendum campaign. There is always a risk that such campaigns, so rooted in identity and issues such as immigration and security, will involve a race to the bottom of the political debate. I feel that Vote Leave are not engaging in that kind of campaign - their core message of 'taking control' is a positive one that has the capacity to win majority support in the country - not just provide an outlet for a cadre of the most committed eurosceptic voices.

An official Leave campaign not run by Vote Leave would, I feel, be one in which liberal and progressive voices would find less of a home and be able to play less of a part.

Yours faithfully, 



Matthew Elliott
Chief Executive, Vote Leave
Westminster Tower
3 Albert Embankment
LONDON
SE1 7SP

17 March 2016

Dear Matthew,

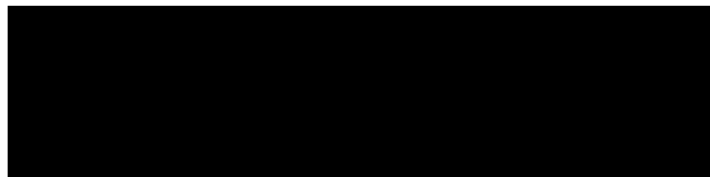
Vote Leave Designation

Thank you for your invitation to support Vote Leave.

I am delighted to give my support for the application by Vote Leave Limited to be the designated lead campaign group for the 'Leave' outcome in the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

I authorise you to make my support public at the appropriate time.

Yours ever,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of John Longworth.

John Longworth

Former Director General, British Chambers of Commerce (2011-2016)

The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1 8YZ

31st March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of support for "Vote Leave" for designation

I am writing to you as the Chairman of Labour Leave and the legal director and owner of the Labour Leave company (08444905). In this letter I set out Labour Leave's official position in the designation process for the forthcoming EU referendum and I then explain my personal position, as a supporter of Vote Leave.

I have a longstanding involvement in centre-left Eurosceptic politics dating back to my position as the National Agent for the NO campaign in the 1975 referendum. With Ron Leighton MP I subsequently set up the Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign (LESC), which has had a continuous existence, with me as its Secretary, since shortly after the 1975 referendum. It was founded to represent people on the left who felt strongly that, although their arguments for the UK not remaining a member of the Common Market had not prevailed during the 1975 referendum, they were still fundamentally right. For more than forty years, LESC has made the case that it is not in Britain's long term interest to be in the organisation which has morphed from being a Common Market to being the European Union. We believe that our assessment has turned out to be correct and that whatever benefits the UK has received from UK membership have been significantly outweighed by the disadvantages which have been brought in train.

In March 2011, I helped to launch the People's Pledge, a cross-party campaign for a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. As Chairman of the campaign, I was very pleased to be part of a team which signed up over 130,000 supporters and held several referendum ballots in individual constituencies. In September 2012, the People's Pledge campaign, which had signed up 87 MPs, were announced as the secretariat to the APPG for an EU referendum, with Conservative MP John Baron acting as the group's chair. We were delighted in January 2013 when David Cameron made his commitment to holding an In-Out referendum by the end of 2017. At this point, with the Conservative Party committed to holding an EU referendum, I decided to focus my energies on setting up two new campaign groups, Labour for a Referendum and Business for Britain, to make the case for an EU referendum in the Labour movement and the business community, two groups which had reacted in a hostile fashion to David Cameron's pledge.

Labour LEAVE

Labour for a Referendum launched in May 2013 to make the case for an EU referendum in the Labour Party and trade union movement. As Chairman, I was extremely pleased when we attracted the support of many MPs - both Eurosceptic and pro-EU - including Jim Dowd MP, Keith Vaz MP, Kate Hoey MP, John Cryer MP, Rosie Cooper MP, Graham Stringer MP, Austin Mitchell MP and Lord Moonie. Sadly, we were unable to convince the Labour Party under Ed Miliband's leadership to support our cause, despite my best efforts as Labour's biggest private donor. The Labour Party's official position prior to the 2015 General Election was that an EU referendum would be an unnecessary distraction from government priorities. Following the Conservative victory in that election, however, we were delighted when Labour Party policy changed to supporting the passage of the Referendum Bill through Parliament, thus achieving the result sought by Labour for a Referendum.

With an EU referendum now guaranteed, I set up 'Labour for Britain', which was subsequently renamed 'Labour Leave'. Unlike Business for Britain, which is affiliated to Vote Leave and supporting it for designation as the official Leave campaign, Labour Leave has decided to remain neutral in the designation process. This does not stop individual Parliamentary supporters of Labour Leave supporting a specific campaign for designation, but organisationally we are staying independent.

I am pleased, therefore, to say that the following Labour MPs are supporting Vote Leave for designation: Gisela Stuart MP (who is also Chair of Vote Leave and Co-Convenor of the Campaign Committee); Graham Stringer MP (who sits on both the Labour Leave Board and Vote Leave Board and Campaign Committee); Frank Field MP (who sits on the Labour Leave Board and Vote Leave Campaign Committee); and Roger Godsiff MP (who is part of Labour Leave). From the Lords, Vote Leave also has the support of Lord David Stoddart (Independent Labour) and Lord David Owen (Independent Social Democrat).

It should also be noted that Vote Leave has provided, and continues to provide, considerable financial and administrative assistance and technical advice to Labour Leave, and continues to provide back office finance, legal and HR support alongside research and digital support. The Labour Leave executive team currently work out of the Vote Leave campaign headquarters. It is headed up by Ian Davidson, the former MP for Glasgow South West, who is Vote Leave's Labour Coordinator. Tom Harris, the former Labour MP for Glasgow Cathcart, is Vote Leave's Director for Scotland. And Michael O'Sullivan is Labour Leave's Head of Digital.

I am also proud, in a personal capacity, to be now Deputy Chairman of Vote Leave, after having been Chairman for five months, and to support it for designation. Having fought the 1975 Referendum as Referendum Agent, set up the Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign, chaired the People's Pledge campaign which certainly influenced David Cameron to commit to an In-Out referendum, chaired Labour for a Referendum, and - now - founded Labour Leave, I believe that

Labour LEAVE

Vote Leave is best placed to represent Eurosceptic campaigners and voters from across the political spectrum. I very much hope, and will continue to urge, that after designation all sensible people will unify their efforts and avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources, and I will continue to ensure that there is a strong Labour voice in the Eurosceptic movement.

Yours faithfully,


John Mills
(Chairman, Labour Leave)

Letter from Mr Nigel Smith to the Electoral Commission, London.

FAO The Designation Commissioner

23 March, 2016

Dear Commissioner,

Contested designation in the EU referendum

Through evidence and commentary, I have shared my 20 year experience of referendums with the Electoral Commission since its foundation in 2001. Now, aware the Commission is facing a contested designation, I offer my reasons for recommending *Vote Leave* as the Commission's choice for designation.

The authority in a referendum decision comes not only from turnout but the informed nature of the vote. The quality of information and argument provided in the debate is the perennial challenge of referendums.

For example, the Commission demonstrated in its research after the AV referendum that 75% of voters considered themselves well informed. But deeper research showed two out three of these voters got the majority of the top arguments wrong.

The statutory test awards designation to the campaign that represents *to the greatest extent those campaigning for that outcome*. As they usually campaign for one outcome with many reasons, the '*greatest extent*' must include both the range of arguments as well as their ability to cast them far and wide.

Single issue Campaign

I chose *Vote Leave* because it will cover all the arguments not some or even only one argument for leaving the EU no matter how powerful that single argument is.

The political risk is that a single issue campaign has a more rousing effect but a more limited appeal, so designating a narrow campaign could give structural bias to the outcome.

The too-narrow debate in the 1975 referendum debate focused on economic union (*the common market* on the ballot paper) rather than the political union that the EU already was. This has been a source of controversy ever since.

The referendum debate needs to answer the full range of questions in voters' minds and the range of issues presented by different campaigns.

Grassroots Campaign

I chose the *Vote Leave* because I believe that it has the best chance of resisting the privileged position the Government has in this referendum.

PPERA was drafted with the euro referendum in mind. Apart from the last 28 days when government had to play by the same rules as all other campaigners, it was designed to give the Government of the day a free hand to mobilise, coerce and deploy resources on a scale no other campaign could match.

The euro referendum was abandoned. In the AV referendum, the Coalition split neutralised this advantage and in the Scottish Independence referendum it was counterbalanced by a government on both sides.

So sixteen years after the Act was passed, this is to be the first referendum in the UK where the full force of the legislated government advantage will be seen in action. The Commission has several times in the past pointed to the inequity. Here at last is the test.

This places a campaign which deliberately structures itself as exclusively based on 'grassroots' support at the greatest disadvantage no matter how successful it might be in recruiting such supporters. It would have to mobilise an extraordinary degree of popular support in much less than 100 days. While it is undeniable that popular campaigns are gaining ground in the western democracies, this is too tall an order; leaving the high possibility that it will be swept aside by a government machine taking the law to the limit.

On the other hand *Vote Leave* has enough assets in people and knowledge of the political system combined with the ability reach into business and society to find the right arguments and authoritative voices giving them the best chance of countering government dominance and putting these arguments quickly and effectively before the voters.

A Cross party Campaign

Finally I am like many others in referendums, a non-party political campaigner. I am satisfied that *Vote Leave* is structurally and in practice more than a cross party campaign and that it reaches all parts of the UK.

Most campaigns experience an accession of new talent and support the moment the banner is raised. Whilst this will be true to some extent of all the campaigns, I expect *Vote Leave* to be the prime beneficiary because of the quality of its leadership.

I recommend *Vote Leave* for designation on this basis.

[REDACTED]
Nigel Smith
[REDACTED]

I have been a participant in five UK referendums and a privileged observer of another dozen in UK and abroad. I gave evidence on referendums to the Neill Committee prior to PERA and since then to several parliamentary committees in London and Edinburgh and to the Electoral Commission itself. I was member of the Wilson Committee review of the fairness of BBC coverage of the EU.

On 30 Mar 2016, at 13:47, Stuart Wheeler [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Matthew,

I am writing to you because I support the application by Vote Leave to be the designated lead campaign group for the 'leave' outcome. While I naturally welcome the efforts by any person or by any party to help the leave campaign, I feel very strongly that Vote Leave's arguments for leaving are particularly persuasive and that the fact that all those in the cabinet who are campaigning believe Vote Leave is the best group to put the case must be significant.

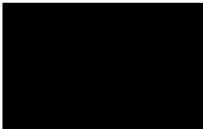
Vote Leave, led by Michael Gove, Conservative and Gisela Stuart, Labour, and having the backing of UKIP's only M.P. Douglas Carswell, clearly has wide support. On top of that Matthew Elliott and Dominic Cummings, who founded Vote Leave and who run the campaign with a great deal of help from a distinguished board, and from the campaign committee which includes all the cabinet members referred to above, have a tremendous record of success in referenda.

For some years I was the treasurer of UKIP but I am now convinced that the success of the campaign to leave depends very largely upon Vote Leave being the chosen group.

With best wishes,
Yours ever,

Stuart

Stuart Wheeler



Telephone: [REDACTED]
Facsimile: [REDACTED]

30 March 2016

Dear Matthew,

Vote Leave Designation

I am delighted to give my support for the application by Vote Leave Limited to be the designated lead campaign group for the 'Leave' outcome in the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

I authorise you to make my support public at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

The Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe DSG