

Rewriting Johnson's letter with regard to Scotland will...

Published: January 13, 2026, 7:27 pm

This comment was in [the letter](#) from Boris Johnson to Donald Tusk relating to the Northern Ireland backstop, [to which I have already referred](#):

The backstop locks the UK, potentially indefinitely, into an international treaty which will bind us into a customs union and which applies large areas of single market legislation in Northern Ireland. It places a substantial regulatory border, rooted in that treaty, between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The treaty provides no sovereign means of exiting unilaterally and affords the people of Northern Ireland no influence over the legislation which applies to them. That is why the backstop is anti-democratic.

Let me rewrite that, slightly:

Leaving the EU locks Scotland, potentially indefinitely, into an international arrangement which will exclude it from a customs union and which will exclude it from large areas of single market legislation. It is as a result likely to create a substantial regulatory border, rooted in that arrangement, between Scotland and the European Union. That arrangement provides no sovereign means of Scotland exiting unilaterally and affords the people of Scotland no influence over the legislation which applies to them. That is why leaving the EU without the agreement of the people of Scotland is anti-democratic.

Rathe hard to argue with, I'd say Mr Johnson.