

This is likely to be my last column for a couple of weeks due to the imminent arrival of my first baby. It is exciting times for us as a family but please be assured that my office will be functioning as normal and will pick up directly any issues or policy concerns you may have. They are a brilliant support team and run my life already so they will be able to help you.

In the meantime, and with spectacularly bad timing on my part, during my brief absence the nation will learn the outcome of the PM's negotiations about our future relationship with the European Union. This is a hugely important issue which will see all of us have a deciding vote in a referendum.

What is really interesting is the number of people on both sides of the debate who email me demanding that I represent their views on this issue. I rightly represented my constituent's views on wanting a referendum and on curbing the EU budget and voted against my own Government on both accounts to do so. However, this is an issue that I don't need to represent anyone's views other than my own. Everyone will have a vote and so my vote is equal to yours at the ballot box.

As yet I genuinely do not know how I will vote. In many respects I envy those who have set views on our future relationship with the EU whereas I am undecided and waiting to see what the PM offers. But the one thing I shall say is I am not presumptuous enough to think that my view carries any more weight than yours.

I only hope that we get a debate that enables us all to make an informed decision and then the rest is down to democracy.