

“Miss Crouch, just one question: In or Out?”. The question, referring to the EU referendum I am beginning to dread being asked. The problem is I, like many others, still haven’t decided. “Me neither”, they say, “which is why I was hoping you’d tell me what way to vote”.

I will make a decision but not until I have watched some of the debates. Why am I taking so long though? Because it is a huge decision with short, medium and long-term ramifications that I don’t believe either side of the debate can accurately predict, despite what they say.

I have always considered myself a Eurosceptic but not an “outer”. I put pressure on the Government, voting against the whip, in order to get us this referendum. But now it is here I don’t know which way to vote. I am listening each day to what each side says and both make good points. There are so many different issues. Everything we do now is tied up somehow or another with our membership of the EU. If we leave, what happens? What if those who are campaigning to stay in are right and our economy falters. But then if we stay in, will we be forced to accept ever closer union? Will we ever be able to reform the EU?

I always say we should be more like the French and just stand up and say no when EU missives don’t suit us. If we were less craven to Directives and regulations from the EU it would be easier for me to decide. But we are. Will we ever not be?

I’m not ashamed that I have yet to reach a decision and I envy those who are so sure either way. But like many people the next few weeks of debate will shape my decision. I just hope it focuses on the issues that matter.