**PRESS RELEASE**

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**BREXIT, ‘HARD’ OR ‘SOFT’**

**PARTY WHIPS, AND THE WILL OF PARLIAMENT**

Whipped majority votes may produce ‘fake’ results.

If the House of Commons had 550 mps, 300 Tory/dup mps and 250 Labour/snp/Lib-Dems/others, a majority would require at least 276 mps.

‘HARD’ ‘SOFT’

Now, if 70% of the Tories supported a ‘hard’ Brexit… = 210 mps;

and 30% supported the Single Market… = 90 mps;

while if 80% of all the others supported the Single Market… = 200 mps;

and 20% supported a ‘hard’ Brexit… = 50 mps

the total supporting a ‘hard’ Brexit would be… = 260 mps

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and the total supporting the Single Market would be… = 290 mps

The Tories + dup have a majority, just. So if they apply the whip, (or threaten those mps who want to vote against Brexit with ‘backing Jeremy Corbyn’ – which amounts to the same thing), they can win. But actually, in a free vote, a majority might well support the single market.

A whipped majority vote can be hopelessly inaccurate. Indeed, it can produce a result which is the very opposite of what a majority of mps actually want.

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