

*Please find below words on behalf of Ambassador David Cairns:*

I wanted to write to you following the outcome of the UK's referendum on membership of the EU last week.

The people of the United Kingdom have voted to leave the European Union. As the British Prime Minister said on Friday 24 June, we would like to reassure Swedish citizens living in Britain, and British citizens living in Sweden, that there will be no immediate changes in their circumstances. Now, and during the negotiations to create a new relationship between the UK and the EU, there will be no change to people's rights to travel and work, and to the way our goods and services are traded, or to the way our economy and financial system is regulated. These negotiations could take a long time.

As George Osborne, the British Chancellor, said on 27 June, Britain's economy is going to have to adjust to the new situation. We were prepared for the unexpected, we are equipped for whatever happens, and we are determined that Britain's financial system will help Britain deal with any shocks. We will ensure that Britain is able to agree a long-term economic relationship with the rest of Europe that provides for the best possible terms of trade in goods and services. We want to put in place the strongest possible economic links with Sweden and our European neighbours, with our close friends in North America and the Commonwealth, and our important partners like China and India.

Finally, as the Prime Minister also said, while Britain is not perfect, we believe that we can be a model of a multi-racial, multi-faith democracy, where people can come and make a contribution and rise to the very highest that their talent allows.

David

David Cairns

British Ambassador to Sweden