

[Notice: This e-mail is sent to you because I have been informed - or have good reason to believe - that you would like to receive occasional e-mails from me on why the UK must leave the European Union.

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Tim Congdon's latest e-mail



Dear fellow member of UKIP (and others concerned about the UK's relationship with the EU),

Here is my [long piece](#) for *Standpoint* magazine demolishing Chancellor Osborne's statement that the average UK household would be substantially worse off because of Brexit. This follows up my e-mail with video last week.

I won't rehash the arguments I gave on Wednesday, but would like to mention a couple more,

1. Assuming that the British people vote for Brexit, *and assuming that the two years for renegotiation of trade arrangements under Article 50 achieve nothing at all*, the UK's companies would have (in 2018) to pay the EU's common external tariff on its exports to the EU. That is the worst possible outcome. The average rate on the common external tariff is 4% and exports on the EU are 13% of national output. How can a small price change on exports that are less than a seventh of national output cause a drop in living standards equal to 10% of national output? How is that possible? The claim is obvious baloney.
  2. Assuming that the British people vote for Brexit, *and assuming that the two years for renegotiation of trade arrangements under Article 50 achieve nothing at all*, the UK would be in the same position relative to the EU as the 160 countries of the world that do not belong to the EU. Most of those 160 countries – which include the USA, Canada and Australia – are doing fine. Why should the UK be any different?
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As I said, official analyses of these matters (in which I include analyses from the National Institute and the Institute for Fiscal Studies, bodies that receive grant money from government- and EU-related funds) are dishonest and worthless, and George Osborne is a bare-faced liar.

One encouraging development in the debate is that the British public is becoming aware of the disgraceful way in which the government, with its allies and cronies, is conducting the PR campaign. *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Daily Express* – which have a few more weeks to expose the shabbiness – are indeed pillars of the British constitution.

With best wishes,..

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Gough". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Runner-up in the 2010 UKIP leadership election  
UKIP Economics Spokesman 2010 – 14