

# THE RT HON SIR JOHN MAJOR KG CH

7 July 2022



The proposal for the Prime Minister to remain in Office – for up to three months – having lost the support of his Cabinet, his Government and his Parliamentary Party is unwise, and may be unsustainable.

In such a circumstance, the Prime Minister maintains the power of patronage and, of even greater concern, the power to make decisions which will affect the lives of those within all four nations of the United Kingdom and further afield. Some will argue that his new Cabinet will restrain him. I merely note that his previous Cabinet did not – or could not – do so.

For the overall wellbeing of the country, Mr Johnson should not remain in Downing Street – when he is unable to command the confidence of the House of Commons – for any longer than necessary to effect the smooth transition of Government.

I see two possible solutions:

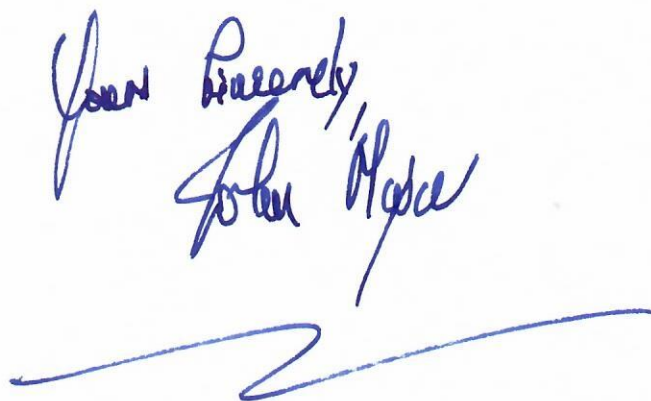
- (i) The Prime Minister could resign, with the Deputy Prime Minister becoming acting Prime Minister until a new Leader of the Conservative Party is elected.

- (ii) Alternatively, in the unique and pressing circumstances of the moment, the 1922 Committee should arrange for the new Leader of the Party to be elected solely by MPs, with the winner being installed as Prime Minister, and then endorsed by Party Members.

Neither of these options is ideal, but the interests of the country *must* be given priority over all else and, with so many long-term and critical issues before us, an imaginative response – even at the risk of some bruised feelings within the Party – is most definitely in the national interest.

In the view of the wide and national concern over this matter, I am releasing this letter to the media.

Yours sincerely,  
John Major



Sir Graham Brady MP  
Chairman 1922 Committee