News from the Brexit Cliff Edge
3rd Apr 2019

Welcome to the Brexit Cliff Edge

Extension Tension

- [After a marathon Cabinet meeting yesterday the Prime Minister](#) risked a walkout by the Brexiteers in her Cabinet, as she threw an olive branch to the Opposition Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn, and announced she has pivoted towards a soft Brexit in the withdrawal process
- Political pundits seem startled by the PM's strategic shift '[May prepared to blow up her Tory family and put Brexit in Labour's hands'](#) or '[May chooses a deal over party unity](#)'
- In a statement shortly after the Cabinet meeting broke-up, May confirmed she was [going to ask the EU for an extension to the Brexit deadline beyond April 12th to break the logjam in Parliament](#)

Could it be a trap?

- [One respected pundit, Ian Dunt, said 'although May's move looked genuine](#) on the surface, it could be a No-Deal trap. If the UK passes the April 12th deadline without agreeing to contest the European Elections it cannot remain inside the EU. This creates a danger zone in which May could put her deal to Parliament for a 4th time, safe in the knowledge that no further extensions of Article 50 were possible'
- The EU still needs to agree to an extension, although the May 22nd deadline is in place, subject to conditions. [With trust in Theresa May's ability to deliver an approved withdrawal agreement ebbing away](#), the EU is preparing to offer the UK a long [extension with conditions attached](#)
- Theresa May, though, said she wanted [a short extension, just enough time to pass the necessary enabling legislation](#)to support any deal Parliament passes. This difference in intepretation led to Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, accusing May of simply kicking the can down the road to avoid making any decision on how to compromise

- [Therefore, Labour's Lexit/Brexit priorities of a customs union, access to a single market and protections](#) for the consumer, environmental and workers rights are now 'on the negotiating table'

And what about the DUP?