

Young people will reverse Brexit if they get a bad deal, says Greening

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Justine Greening has warned that young people will undo Brexit if the government strikes a deal against their interests, as MPs voted through the EU withdrawal bill to its next stage in the House of Lords.

The former cabinet minister said leaving the EU would only be sustainable if it worked for young people, suggesting they could mobilise in future against a hard Brexit.

She made her first intervention from the backbenches as MPs debated the final House of Commons stage of the legislation, which will transpose EU law into UK law after Brexit.

Greening, who was sacked as education secretary after she refused to move to become work and pensions secretary, told MPs: "I represent a very young constituency here in London.

"The bottom line is that looking ahead, if Brexit doesn't work for young people in our country, in the end it will not be sustainable.

"When they take their place here, they will seek to improve or undo what we've done and make it work for them.

"So we do absolutely have a duty in this house to look ahead and ensure that whatever we get is sustainable and works for them."

Her warning comes as the Conservatives try to increase their appeal to young people, who overwhelmingly voted for Jeremy Corbyn at the previous election and are generally far more pro-EU than older voters.

Asked about the comments, the prime minister's official spokesman said she was "determined to deliver a Brexit deal which works for all sections of society, of course that includes young people, and a deal that works for all parts of the United Kingdom".

The EU withdrawal bill cleared the House of Commons at third reading, by 324 votes to 295 despite Labour, the SNP, and Liberal Democrats voting against it.

May suffered a defeat by Tory rebels who supported an amendment limiting the powers the bill will grant to ministers. Several said they hoped the Lords would scrutinise the decision not to adopt the EU charter of fundamental rights into UK law.

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