

# Prime Minister Theresa May 'in tears' as she's forced to say when she'll quit and Brexit talks collapse



Boris Johnson threw his hat into the ring yesterday, saying he would 'go for it' referring to the Tory party leadership

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Theresa May was said to have had tears in her eyes as she was told MPs have run out of patience for her to announce her departure date.

The Prime Minister has been fighting to keep her Brexit deal alive and prolong her position, but her grip on power has weakened.

She has been told she must go by June 30 at the latest so that the Tories can hold a leadership election.

Campaigning for that job has effectively already begun with Boris Johnson announcing yesterday that he would 'go for it'.

She met with senior members of the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs in what has been described as an 'emotionally-charged' meeting yesterday.

Mrs May's chances of receiving Labour support for the Withdrawal Agreement Bill (WAB) appear to be fading, with Jeremy Corbyn's party frustrated at the lack of progress in cross-party talks and the prospect of a new prime minister tearing up any compromise.



Theresa May has been told that she must set out her departure timetable soon  
(Picture: PA)

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She was involved in what has been described as an 'emotionally charged' meeting yesterday (Picture: PA)

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This morning Mr Corbyn told Mrs May that the cross-party Brexit talks have 'gone as far as they can' and 'we have been unable to bridge important policy gaps between us'.

In a sign the negotiations are foundering, Mr Corbyn said he found it hard to deal with a Government in 'disarray' and warned 'the time limit is very soon'.

But Number 10 insisted the talks process, which began in early April, remained alive.

There were meetings between officials on Thursday and the prospect of the talks collapsing was 'not how I see it', a senior source said.

Meanwhile, European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has spoken of his regret at not speaking out during the campaign about Vote Leave's campaign claim that the UK sends the EU £350 million a week.

In an interview with Austrian paper Der Standard, he said: 'I think it is an incomprehensible error on my part that I did not intervene in the Brexit campaign owing to British wishes.'

‘So many lies were told, so many of the consequences of a ‘no’ were misrepresented, we as a commission should have spoken up.’



Boris Johnson is the first person to say that he would go for the top job in the Tory party (Picture: PA)

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The Prime Minister has been fighting to keep her Brexit deal alive and prolong her position, but her grip on power has weakened (Picture: Parliament TV)



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The Prime Minister will meet the chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee Sir Graham Brady at the start of June to agree to the details of the leadership contest to succeed her.

The move follows a lengthy meeting on Thursday between Mrs May and the 18-strong 1922 executive during which she again came under pressure to name her exit date from Downing Street.

Even as the summit was taking place in Westminster, former foreign secretary Boris Johnson galvanized the race to succeed her, confirming he would be a candidate.

Mrs May and Sir Graham's next meeting will come after the WAB has received a second reading vote in the Commons in the week beginning June 3.

Downing Street insiders indicated that if the Bill cleared its first Commons hurdle, Mrs May would seek to persuade the 1922 Committee to allow her to remain in office and secure Brexit, letting her leave having completed the main goal of her administration.



Number 10 insisted the Brexit talks process, which began in early April, remained alive (Picture: Reuters)

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Mrs May wants the legislation to complete its progress by the time Parliament rises for its summer break, which is usually near the end of July.

‘If the WAB goes through, she could say ‘this is my path for getting the Bill through Parliament, obviously it is something that is important to the ‘22 to see Brexit delivered, and I want to see that through’ and then she is out after phase one,’ a source said.

But if the WAB was defeated, she would face intense pressure to quit immediately.

The source said ‘she would have to say ‘this is how I envisage the timetable for a leadership election happening’ and there would have to be some sort of agreement about that’.

Sir Graham said the meeting with the Prime Minister on Thursday was a ‘very frank discussion’.

Mr Johnson will not be alone in seeking to replace the Prime Minister, with a crowded field of potential challengers already jostling for position.

International Development Secretary Rory Stewart wants the job and he has said ‘at least half-a-dozen’ Cabinet colleagues also have leadership ambitions.

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Source:

<https://metro.co.uk/2019/05/17/prime-minister-theresa-may-tears-forced-say-will-quit-9580917/>

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