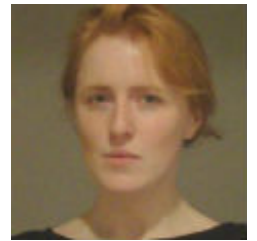


The Supreme Court's ruling on Article 50 – in sticky notes

LSE blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit/2017/01/25/the-supreme-courts-ruling-on-article-50-in-sticky-notes/

25/01/2017

The Supreme Court has ruled by 8-3 that only Parliament can trigger Article 50 and begin the process of taking Britain out of the EU. **Joelle Grogan** follows up her earlier [guide to the case](#) with a quick sticky note summary of the Justices' decision.



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The majority of the **Supreme Court** (8 out of 11 judges) agrees with the High Court that Parliament must vote to push the Article 50 button.



The Supreme Court ruled that **Parliamentary Sovereignty** (nothing and no one can tell Parliament what to do) is one of the most important parts of the British Legal System.



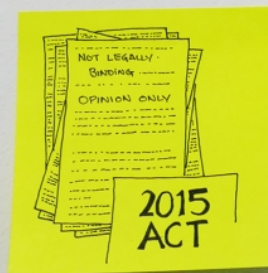
Only **Parliament** can change laws which affect people in the UK and their rights



The **Government** does not have a special power to change EU law when it affects people and their rights in the UK.



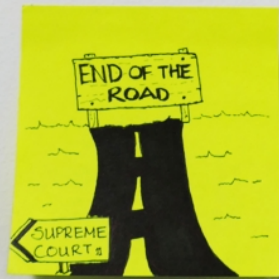
There is nothing in the 1972 Act (which gives effect to EU law in the UK) to provide the Government with the power to leave the EU without asking Parliament.



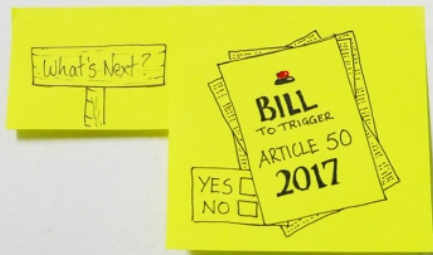
The 2015 Act states that the **2016 Referendum** asks the public's opinion, so while it is very politically important it is not legally binding.



The Supreme Court also ruled that the **Scottish Parliament** and the **Northern Irish Assembly** do not have a veto to stop Brexit.



The Supreme Court is the highest court in the UK, there is nowhere else to go for appeal.



Following the Supreme Court judgment, Parliament must agree to trigger Article 50 by passing a law.



If and when Parliament passes the law and triggers Article 50, **exit negotiations** between the UK and the EU will begin. They must be concluded within two years.



And – well, we don't really know what's next.

@StickyTrickyLaw

This post represents the views of the author and not those of the Brexit blog, nor the LSE.

Joelle Grogan is a Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University. She completed her doctoral research on the rule of law in the European Union at Oriel College, University of Oxford. Also by this author:

| [*The Article 50 case explained in sticky notes*](#)

| [*Rights for the chop: how a Henry VIII clause in the Great Repeal Bill will undermine democracy*](#)

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