

Register free for our breaking news email alerts with analysis and cutting edge commentary from our award winning team. [Register for email alerts](#)

News sponsored by:



# Altmann accuses Tories of censorship over 'people's vote' ad

The Conservative Party has been accused of an 'outrageous' suppression of free speech after a conference fringe event on a 'people's vote' on Brexit was blocked from publication in the party's official conference guide.

By Ollie Smith  
28 Sep, 2018

6

FOR PROFESSIONAL CLIENTS ONLY, NOT SUITABLE FOR RETAIL INVESTORS.

**FINDING MONTHLY INCOME AMID LOW YIELDS**

Why a flexible, multi sector



The Conservative Party has been accused of an 'outrageous' suppression of free speech after a conference fringe event on a 'people's vote' on Brexit was blocked from publication in the party's official conference guide.

Remain supporter Conservative peer Ros Altmann (pictured), who was formerly pensions minister, told *New Model Adviser*® that the newly formed parliamentary group 'Conservatives for a People's Vote' had organised [a fringe meeting at the annual conference](#), and paid for it to be entered into the conference's formal brochure, which has already been sent to delegates members.

However, the party machinery blocked details of the event from publication, stating that it was 'against government policy.'

FOR PROFESSIONAL CLIENTS ONLY, NOT SUITABLE FOR RETAIL INVESTORS.

**FINDING MONTHLY INCOME AMID LOW YIELDS**

Why a flexible, multi sector credit approach can add value.

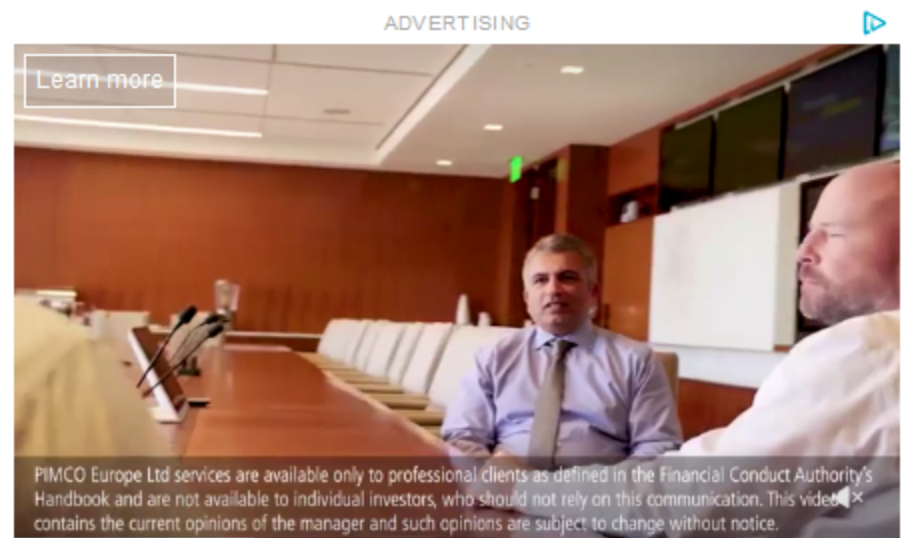
Royal London Monthly Income Bond Fund

[SEE MORE](#)

'We arranged a fringe meeting for "Conservatives for a

We arranged a fringe meeting for ‘Conservatives for a People’s Vote,’ registered and paid for this to be entered into the Conference brochure, and the party refused to publish the details. This, to me, is outrageous,’ Altmann said.

‘It is [suppressing freedom of speech](#) and freedom of thought within the party, and when we consider how many fringe meetings over the years have been organised that discuss policies that are not official Tory policy, or indeed go against party policy, I find it wholly depressing that the conference brochure has banned the fringe meeting from its pages.’



inRead invented by Teads

The People’s Vote campaign has arisen since the European Referendum result in 2016. It argues in favour of the British public being given a final say on the outcome of Brexit, including the option of remaining in the EU altogether.

Altmann is among several high-profile peers who back the campaign, including [Labour’s Andrew Adonis](#) and former Liberal Democrat Leader Paddy Ashdown.

This week Adonis told a fringe event at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool of his hope that a people’s vote would result in a decision to remain, as a consequence of higher youth turnout, increased levels of British citizenship in the European ex-pat community, and public dismay at the government’s handling of negotiations with Brussels.

But Altmann has been told that her party won’t publicise the campaign.

‘The message was that it was against government policy. But of course that doesn’t stop plenty of other

policy. But of course that doesn't stop plenty of other meetings discussing policies that aren't yet government policy. Indeed, how can one explore new policy ideas if they aren't discussed openly?' Altmann said last night.