

By Tom Newton Dunn
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Japan's PM Shinzo Abe backs Theresa May's Brexit deal and says 'the whole world' is with her

Japan's premier gave his 'total support' to the PM's EU deal during talks with her in No10

JAPAN'S premier gave Theresa May a much needed boost last night by saying "the whole world" wants to avoid a No Deal Brexit.

Shinzo Abe gave his "total support" to the PM's EU deal during talks with her in No10 yesterday.



Japanese leader Shinzo Abe met Prime Minister Theresa May at No10

And he also warned of a potential exodus of Japanese manufacturers from Britain – who support 150,000 jobs - if it is voted down by MPs next week.

Dubbing the "the gateway to the European market" for Japan, Mr Abe said his country wanted to "further develop this strong partnership".

He added: “That is why we truly hope that a no-deal Brexit will be avoided, and in fact that is the whole wish of the whole world”.

Mrs May told the Japanese PM that relations with his country would be “increasingly important” as the UK leaves the EU and “raise our horizons towards the rest of the world”.



She also revealed the two leaders discussed the UK joining the Pacific free trade alliance after Brexit.

But the Japan boss's trip came as Honda's factory in Swindon told staff that car production will cease for six days in April to deal with Brexit logistics and border disruption.

Mr Abe's visit has been marked by Japan lifting a 23-year ban on UK beef and lamb imports, imposed during the mad cow disease crisis of 1996, which Downing Street said could be worth £127 million to British farmers over the next five years.

The Japanese PM was also briefed by UK security experts at Twickenham Stadium on the policing of major events, ahead of his country hosting the Rugby World Cup later this year.

German business in Britain also last night called for MPs to back the PM's deal.

The Chairman of German Industry UK Dr Bernd Atenstaedt said: “All Members of Parliament need to come together here.

“Failure might well result in a `no-deal` which none of us in business want.”