

# Working together

to support public services and back businesses.



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**RISHI SUNAK**  
THEY PAID TAX  
THOSE DENIED  
FURLOUGH  
WHERE'S THE SUPPORT  
EXCLUDED

# Centre

## About Centre:

Centre is both a Think Tank and a Pressure Group. Our role as a pressure group involves focusing on certain issues that we feel need attention and promoting different causes. We also act as a Think Tank and publish papers exploring different subjects in more depth. By doing this we hope to inform the public more on the different options available and to generate new policy ideas. Centre is also a registered company; its company number is 12406687 and it is registered as CENTRETHINKTANKLTD.

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## Introduction

This plan sets out what a centrist and moderate United Kingdom would look like. It would be a country that takes the best ideas from both the left and the right and looks at what policies work in other countries. Therefore, we back both strong public services and boosting businesses by creating a free market economy.

We realise that strong public services benefit both the individuals who use them and that businesses benefit from healthier and happier workers. We therefore need to create education, health and social security services that support everyone. We also need public services that cover all our needs from cradle to grave. Regardless of whether someone wants to study in higher education, needs mental health treatment or moves into social care all of it should be available through our public services.

Of course, these investments in public services can only happen if we boost the economy. That's why we support measures such as simplifying the tax system, slashing or simplifying unnecessary regulations and handing more powers to workers to negotiate decisions in their workplaces. This will help to make it easier for businesses to do business and will in the long run it will help to boost our economy.

We know these policies work in practice as well. In Germany they were used just before their 'economic miracle' and in the Nordic countries have turned them into the 'Nordic model'. In both cases they have been incredibly successful. These policies work both in principle and in practice. It's time we followed the example of these countries to create a better set of public services and an economy that works for everyone.

**-Torrin Wilkins, Director of Centre**



## Summary:



**Strong public services.** We support strong public services which includes expanding the NHS, a comprehensive education system and a social security system that ensures no one falls through the gaps.



**Backing businesses.** We think it should be easier for companies to do business. It's why we want to cut or simplify regulations, simplify the tax system and to give more power to workers.



**More power for local areas.** We support stronger regional and local layers of government. This will mean that power is held closer to individuals, and they have more say over local decisions.



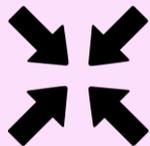
**Protecting our environment.** We want to protect our environment by switching to renewable energy sources. We also want to encourage businesses to move towards more environmentally friendly forms of production.



**Equality of opportunity.** This means that everyone, regardless of their race, sex, gender, ethnicity, religion, age, disabilities or sexual orientation, should have equal opportunities in life.

## Our principles:

The main principles of Centre are listed below which include centrism, evidence-based policy which is mostly inspired by the Nordic countries, a social market economy and building board coalitions across party and tribal lines for policies we support.



**Centrism.** This means we mix policies from the left and right of politics where they work. In general, we are left wing when it comes to the welfare state and more free market on the economy.



**Evidence based policy.** We believe that policy should be based on what works, rather than ideology. As a result, we looked at the Nordic countries which include Norway, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, and Denmark. We learnt from the strengths of each country in areas such as justice, foreign affairs, social security and the economy.



**A Social Market Economy.** On the economy we favour simple taxes, cutting regulation and more competition to create a free market economy. Alongside this, we support well-funded and comprehensive public services. Rather than being opposing forces, free markets and strong welfare states complement each other. Free markets help to fund better public services, whilst public services benefit the economy.



**Building coalitions.** We believe that to achieve change, we need to build broad coalitions with individuals and groups. Within Centre we have already started to do this by agreeing partnerships with other groups. This also means we want to reach out to all areas and to all communities within the UK to ensure our policies take onboard their concerns.

## Devolution:

Our policies also account for devolution within the UK. In areas where a policy is already implemented or is devolved, we simply won't show the flag of that country. The flags above each policy therefore show every area of the UK that will be affected.



# Chapter 1

## Education



Policies in this section only affect England unless specified.



Our top priority is improving our education which will improve both the life chances of students and our economy. Our model for education is based off of Finland which is one of the most successful countries in the world for education. We have also focused on equality and creativity which have both helped Finland improve its own system.

**Increase the use of technology in education.** Using technology in education will help to prepare students for the future and it will make education more personalised to individual student's interests. In education this can include apps to aid with the marking of work, apps that help to analyse the performance of student's, laptops or tablets to write with, subject based games, virtual fieldtrips using virtual reality and using 3D printers to create things. Investment in technology will save time for teachers and it will give them more time for individual help.

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**Apprenticeships and internships should receive a living wage.** Unpaid internships allow businesses to receive work without having to pay staff for their time. This means they may not have to employ a new member of staff to work in the business reducing the number of people who are in employment.

**An online education system.** To ensure everyone can access education easily we want to create a new government website that will allow people to access all courses offered by schools and universities to students. This should include video tutorials, interactive lessons and an effort to make as many peer reviewed papers open to all as possible. This program should first be tested in a small number of regions to ensure it works before it is rolled out to the rest of the UK.

**Use a committee to help plan better school meals.** This would replace the decision on school meals being taken simply by governors and would allow for broader input. There should be a meeting each month to plan the meals students receive. It would include members of the local county council, the schools governing body, a dietician and staff at that school who deal with purchasing and serving food. This should look at where the food is sourced and the nutritional value each item has. It will also help students to pick up healthy eating habits at a younger age.



# Types of school

This policy only affects England and Wales



**Replace the requirement for collective worship in schools.** This would involve replacing section 70 of the School Standards and Framework Act of 1998 which requires a collective act of worship in schools of a broadly Christian nature.

The replacement would mean schools should offer students the opportunity to take part in group worship or reflection. This should not need to be Christian in nature as it should depend on individual beliefs and students themselves must always have the right not to take part.

**Ensure students have access to bathroom breaks during lessons.** We would require teachers to allow students to use bathrooms during lessons. This is a result of multiple incidents involving students on their periods or with either bladder issues being unable to leave the classroom.

**Gender neutral uniforms in schools.** At the moment some schools make students wear certain uniforms depending on their gender. We believe schools should allow students to have a choice between wearing either skirts or trousers regardless of their gender. Wales already has mandatory guidelines for schools meaning they already have gender neutral uniforms.

**Give teachers a master's degree when entering teaching.** We support a Teach First style program that means all new teachers have a tuition free master's degree when entering teaching. This should also be alongside the opportunity for existing teachers to gain a master's degree if they don't already have one.

## **Academies and foundation schools:**

With the mixed performances of academies, we don't believe that forcing other schools to become academies will help in improving school standards. The choice to become an academy should only be open to schools which are failing and even then the decision to become an academy must not be forced on a school. Parents should also have more say over whether schools become academies or whether there are other steps that can be taken by the local council.

**Most existing Academies should be converted into Community schools.** We believe that community schools are more accountable than academies, yet overall, there is little difference between the two in terms of the grade's pupils achieve. This would convert: Sponsored Academies, Converter Academies and Free Schools into community schools. However, this would only be done if their funding agreement or any land ownership is not a barrier to converting the school into a community school. Any land that can be purchased voluntarily should be.

**Give Local Authorities more power over existing Academies.** We believe that academies, foundation schools and free schools should only be used where they are working well and are improving school standards. Councils should have the ability to take schools back into the hands of the local council and to become a community school if they have not improved as an academy.

**Replace Academy Trusts.** Rather than trusts being related to groups of academy schools we wish to expand the practice of cooperation between schools. A trust would be where both a school working to a high standard and one working at a low standard can work together more by pooling resources, staff and good practices. To encourage good schools to enter these programs incentives such as grants should be used to ensure they don't see a negative impact on their finances.

**Only allow non-profit organisations and groups to be involved in running schools.** This would include academies, voluntary-aided, voluntary-controlled, foundation schools and free schools with interest groups such as businesses using academy schools to benefit themselves and pay either themselves or companies linked to them large amounts of money. Whilst businesses would still be allowed to donate money to these schools, they would not be allowed to take part in the running of the schools. We would also cap the salaries of those running these schools to ensure they don't overpay themselves.

## **Community Schools:**

**All new state schools should be Community Schools.** This would stop the creation of new: academies, free, voluntary-aided, voluntary controlled, foundation and trust schools. This would be to return accountability to schools through local councils.

## **Selective Areas:**

**Phase out Grammar Schools and Secondary Moderns.** Grammar schools are schools that select their intake, mostly using the 11+ test and they focus on academic subjects more. Secondary moderns are the remaining schools which focus more on practical subjects and are non-selective. We believe that 10 is too young to split children and that these systems further disadvantage already disadvantaged groups such as those on free school meals, those with disabilities and slow academic developers. We would phase out both grammar schools and secondary moderns which would be converted into comprehensive schools offering both academic and practical subjects. To do this grammar schools would be slowly integrated into the wider school system which will take place over the course of four years, slowly opening the system to all students regardless of ability. Over the same period, secondary moderns would be converted to comprehensives. After this a fairer funding project will be implemented to balance funding between ex-grammar and secondary modern schools.

## **Faith Schools:**

**Schools should not be allowed to discriminate based on religion.** We do not believe that religion should be a factor in the recruitment of staff or whether children are given a place. To do this we would remove the exemptions from the Equality act of 2010 which allows religious schools to discriminate based on religion.

**Faith schools should follow the curriculum in full, including for Religious Education (RE).** We believe that all children should have a full education and that includes an education that teaches about all faiths and those of no faith. This only applies to Voluntary-Aided schools as Foundation Schools and Voluntary-Controlled schools already teach RE using the National Curriculum.

**Offer to purchase the land and buildings owned by government funded faith Schools.** As Foundation, Trust, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools often own the land and buildings we support offering to buy both the land and the buildings. The schools would then be converted into accountable community comprehensives.

**Set standards for faith schools to continue to receive government funding.** Faith schools are run by a faith group and they have a religious character. They must pass high safeguarding, equality & diversity standards if they are to carry on receiving state funding. This would apply to all state schools receiving state funding including faith academies, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.

## **All schools:**

**Expand the number of schools using the national curriculum.** This would mean introducing a slimmed down national curriculum that needs to be taught at all schools. This would also include bringing: academies (including faith academies), free schools, and independent schools; under the national curriculum. However, some independent schools such as university technical colleges and studio schools would be exempt as they are focusing on a single subject.

The inspections themselves would also change with as much focus on physical health and mental health support as on academic achievements. The physical and mental wellbeing of students would be the priority before academic achievements. The final change would be to set up an aspect of Ofsted focused on receiving and investigating complaints about schools or teachers both from parents and students.

**Abolish all girls and all boys schools.** We believe all schools should be mixed and the idea of single sex schools is outdated.

**An education watchdog.** This watchdog would inspect schools and deal with complaints from or against staff, students, schools and parents. The watchdog would replace both OFSTED and Teaching Regulation Agency. It would also cover all independent schools replacing the 'Independent Schools Inspectorate' and the 'School Inspection Service'. When inspecting schools, the watchdog would ensure that it looks at the happiness and wellbeing of students, their mental health, grades and the life skills schools are teaching their students. It should also take into account the number of students on free school meals or with additional needs and record this on the report. To achieve minimum marks in these inspections schools need to first ensure their students have good mental health support and wellbeing, complaints will also be taken into account during these inspections. We would also support inspections being carried out each year regardless of the schools rating. If a school received a good rating one year this does not mean these standards will continue. A new anonymous complaints system should also from part of the ensuring students and parents can easily make a complaint to an independent body with clear guidance rather than schools dealing with serious complaints.



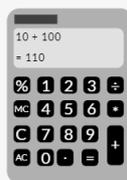
# Early years

**Increase the age at which children start education to 7.** This gives children more time to be around adults when they are younger, so they are more likely to be around people who are mature. This is the same starting age as they already use in Finland.

**Make it easier for students to switch between school years.** This will include a larger period in which any student that is among the youngest in their year group can choose whether to move into that year or the one below. After a student has started school this option should remain open to them until they begin studying for their GCSE's. This is to deal with the large difference that having a year between the youngest and the oldest students has.

**Scrap Base Line Assessments.** The proposed base line assessments are tests for reception students to measure progress in students. We do not support the introduction of this test as it risks teachers focusing their attention on the test rather than on improving students more broadly. This would also reduce stress on students along with the test itself being done when students are not old enough for tests to be useful.

**Scrap SATs.** SAT's (Standard Attainment Tests) are primary school tests which are used to try to understand student attainment. We however believe this is too young to test students accurately and that SATs risks teachers focusing their attention towards the test rather than on improving students more broadly. We also worry about the stress this places on students.



# Middle years

**Change GCSE's to an easier baccalaureate style qualification.** This would reform GCSEs, so they are; less stressful, include non-exam essays that account for 50% of the course and focus more on critical thinking.

**Introduce TCSE's.** If T-Levels are successful, then we feel this style of course should be expanded further. We would therefore support Level 2 BTEC's and National Vocational Qualifications being replaced by a Technical Certificate of Secondary Education with greater links between schools and businesses. This will involve partnering schools offering TCSE's with businesses to give students real world experience.

**Grants for schools offering GCSE's on arts and technology subjects.** Whilst subjects like maths and English are important, we also need to focus on other subjects that are very likely to be helpful in the future by increasing the amount of time students spend on them. We reject the idea that people who want to study these subjects should have any less chance than those who want to do core subjects.

**Split (PSHE) into separate sections.** PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) would be split into lessons on politics, business, finance, home economics, sexual health and relationships. These would all be allocated separate slots of time within PSHE lessons along with a curriculum for PSHE education. We would also support teaching about basic consent from an early age and for Sex Education to be taught in primary schools.

**Teach topics rather than subjects.** This would involve students looking at issues such as climate change or immigration rather than individual topics such as science of maths. Whilst the course content learnt by students would be similar, this would change how it is delivered. It should combine technology and interactive teaching to make education more personal along with individual projects for groups of students. The aim of this is to make learning more applicable to the wider world.

**Increase the importance of practical and verbal skills in GCSE's and A-levels.** This would include increased weight for speaking and listening within English and a focus on practical experiments within science.

**College entrance exams for students that don't pass their English and Maths GCSE's.** For students with learning disabilities we feel there should be an alternative way into college to study A-Levels or vocational courses at the same level run by the government. This should be through an exam in either one or multiple areas depending on the subjects they want to study. Whilst access to A-Level courses exist, they mainly focus on either making up for a lack of having the right grades or not having either English or maths GCSE's, this exam would be more specific to the subjects students want to study at A-level standard.

**Alter T-Levels for rural communities.** We welcome the new T-Levels and we hope these improve vocational education within England. This qualification however needs to introduce more flexibility for rural schools allowing more time to be spent at the college where travelling to an employee is more difficult.

**Less homework.** We believe students should have more time to play, develop as people and make social connections. Students will also learn in other ways, especially when they are exploring their natural surroundings. This is vital if students are to be successful in school and will reduce the stress student's experience. This approach has already been used successfully in Finland.

**Mixed ability classes for students.** Alongside mixed ability schools, we also support mixed ability classes where students of all abilities are in classrooms together. This will require extra help for students with additional needs along with training for teachers to work with all ability classrooms. Mixed ability classes are already proven to work well in Finland.

**A single GCSE and A-level exam board.** At the moment, England has tests and exam results provided by charities and private companies. This means the exams students sit is different depending on the exam body. We support a single government body to mark degree level exams and coursework. This would help to standardise the marks of students in different schools and colleges.



## Higher education

**Higher Education Grants.** This would mean that 18-year-olds would receive a grant for higher education as a replacement for university tuition fees and maintenance loans. These would cover either the costs of university education, an apprenticeship, a vocational course or another higher education course. This would be available to anyone going into higher education and would therefore be paid through general taxation.

**A single degree qualification exam board.** Just as we support a single government exam board for GCSE's and A-levels, there should be a single body to mark degree level exams and coursework. This would help to reduce biases that may affect the marks of individual students and will also help to standardise the marks of students in different universities.

**Support two-year degree schemes.** We support universities offering degree schemes of two, rather than three, years. This would involve teaching during the summer break. This has benefits for students wanting to enter the world of work or for mature students wanting to take shorter periods of time off from work.

**Increase funding for lifelong learning.** This would make it easier to learn new skills during or after work. We believe that education should be accessible to those who want to learn at whatever age they may be.

**Increase loans for master's students.** We would increase the loans for master's students, so they cover the full cost of a master's degree.

# Chapter 2

## Economy



Policies in this section only  
affect the UK as a whole unless



We believe in a free-market economy where businesses are less constrained by government. This means reducing regulation, a simple taxation system and giving workers more power to negotiate how businesses are run.

**Create a Minister for Competition.** This minister would oversee the Competitions and Markets Authority ensuring the UK economy remains competitive.

**A better deal for self-employed workers, small businesses and freelancers.** We support a range of measures to create a fairer system for self-employed workers and small businesses. This includes creating a new definition for both the self-employed and freelancers and acting to remove areas that have unnecessarily harmed individuals, move all three onto the PAYE system including to register dividends and using a disability top-up to ensure anyone who needs sick leave and can't afford it is able to receive support.

**A private sector watchdog.** This watchdog would focus on upholding regulations and workers' rights. This would include ensuring minimum wage requirements are met by employers, investigating mistreatment of unions and union members, suppression of unions being formed or operating, companies breaking regulations and protecting collective bargaining. To protect collective bargaining, the watchdog would be able to sanction companies that break the rules on collective bargaining. This includes breaking a collective bargaining agreement, not negotiating an agreement properly, firing and rehiring employees to renegotiate agreements.

**Create an Office of Regulatory Simplification.** This would be similar to the Office of Tax Simplification but instead it would have the task of identifying areas where regulation could be simplified or repealed and how this could be done. It would then report this to Her Majesty's Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer with recommendations each year. It would also review new proposals for legislation looking at how burdensome they are for the economy. This would involve oversight of the Business impact target (BIT) assessments.

**A new business advice hub.** This online business hub would contain all of the information needed to run a business. It would include plain English video and written explanations guiding businesses through every aspect of starting a business, starting an online or high-street store, filing tax returns, accounts and confirmation statements. It would also include a new business advice helpline with advice on starting, running and growing a business along with changing how a business is structured. The hub would also include guides on the advantages of different business models including cooperatives and non-profits. Finally, it should provide a space where businesses with similar business models, in similar sectors or providing similar services can exchange advice and ideas. It should also advise businesses on devolved issues.

**Expand the British Business Bank.** The British Business Bank should play a larger role in supporting small and growing businesses. This would include financing more businesses where private lenders won't step in.

**Strengthen the Competition and Markets Authority.** Currently the UK has far too many monopolies and oligopolies in operation. To counter this, we feel the



# Workers' rights

Competition and Markets Authority should be given more power to break up companies. Although no competition may seem initially beneficial to companies in the long term they stagnate and have less drive to make services better for their customers. A more competitive economy means more choice and lower prices for consumers.

**A National Sovereign Wealth Fund.** We propose that ringfenced areas of income tax revenue, which include a pensions and social care fund, should be placed within a wider sovereign wealth fund. This would be with the aim to keep these savings from falling below the rate of inflation.

**Elected members on company boards.** This would include the adoption of a dual board system as is used in Finland and Germany. It would have a management board which looks at the short-term operations of the company whilst the supervisory board would look at the long-term strategy of the company and will keep the management board in check. 50% of the supervisory board must be elected by all members of the company in a one person one vote secret ballot of everyone in the company that wishes to stand.

If companies don't do this, then they will face a levy from the government making it economically beneficial to allow workers on their company boards. It would also only apply to companies on the stock market as is the case in Germany.

This is moving towards a system where the workforce knows what is going on inside their place of work and it can lead to easier resolution of conflicts between management and the workers without needing trade union action. Workers will also add to the company board as they are more likely to look at the long term with a possible risk of unemployment whereas shareholders can sell their shares more easily.

**A national framework for collective bargaining.** This would involve the employer and a group of employees negotiating the conditions they are employed under. In order to ensure all employees can access this we propose a new national framework for collective bargaining which will ensure negotiations on both a sector by sector and business by business level. This will allow businesses to remain flexible whilst giving workers more say over their working conditions. The deals themselves would be negotiated by collections of workers and trade unions. This would however allow employees to negotiate on areas such as wages, employee benefits, types of

employment contracts such as whether employees have zero-hour contracts and working conditions.

**The right to flexible working must be guaranteed.** Employees must be able to request flexible working conditions - such as working from home, compressed hours, part-time working - from day-one of a job and *unless this would obstruct the performance of their duties* the requests should be considered and either agreed to or negotiated. No employee can be denied a flexible working request without a reason, and employers must make all efforts to accommodate employee preferences when it comes to flexible working.

**Allow employees six months leave to start up a business.** This would copy Sweden by allowing the employees of a business a six-month period of leave if they want to start up a new business. It would only be available if the new business is not in direct competition with the business they are currently in. In this time the position that person is in within the business can't change. Just as it works in Sweden, it would be available to employees after they have spent six months in a business, businesses can only reject this leave if the person is absolutely vital to the functioning of the business and it would only apply to business of over 250 people.

**To be an independent contractor, a minimum standard of 'work freedom' must be met.** This would prevent businesses from designating de facto employees as independent contractors or workers although employees themselves could class themselves as independent contractors. Any party who is obliged to follow a corporation or senior's day to day instructions in order to obtain and generate work cannot be classified as an independent contractor. Those obligated to a corporate entity for their shift patterns, hours and work are employees, regardless of whether they use their own equipment in the course of work. The only exception to this would be when a set number or pattern of shifts are agreed in advance between contractor and corporate entity and can be revoked by the contractor at any time.

Corporate entities will no longer be allowed to rely on employees to finance the running of vehicles and equipment to be used in the course of employment, unless that entity can prove to the private sector watchdog that it does not employ an individual or direct their working patterns.

**Overtime must be compensated either with financial remuneration or with time off in lieu.** No employee or worker should be carrying out duties for an employer without being compensated for it. Carrying out 'free' work is not in the essence of a free and fair society and nor does it bode well for employees across a workforce. Any employer enforcing unpaid overtime can be fined.

**Enshrine a minimum living wage in law for everyone over the age of 16.** This wage should be the same for all over 16s, so as to avoid age discrimination in employment decisions. The wage should be calculated in line with the living wage and there should be an increased minimum wage for London and other regions with a high cost of living. This will ensure that everyone who is earning is earning a fair minimum and is able to live a decent and comfortable life, while removing loopholes for employers to give out poverty pay to younger workers. The number of HMRC staff conducting



# Taxation

investigations into the minimum wage must be increased in order to ensure that employers failing in their duty to pay a new minimum living wage are caught and know that they will be caught.

**Enshrine a right to disconnect and a right to a personal life in law.** No employee may be penalised in any way for failing to respond to work demands outside their contracted hours. This would exclude professions where this is required such as nurses on call.

**Unified Income Tax.** We support merging National Insurance, capital gains tax, dividends taxes and taxes on Cryptocurrencies into the existing income rates. Capital gains tax, dividends taxes and taxes on Cryptocurrencies would be paid at the same rate as other forms of income and National Insurance be combined with Income Tax. This would take gradually aligning the exemptions from each of these taxes and then eventually merging them completely. There would also be a review of certain investments that are currently untaxed capital gains.

Tax brackets would also be replaced with a 'formula-based' system as has been proposed by the [IPPR](#). This would help to remove cliff edges between tax brackets and would vary depending on people's total earnings.

**A Proportional Property Tax.** Stamp duty, business rates and council tax should be replaced with a single flat tax on the value of a property, a proportional property tax. This would be the same rate that has proposed by Fairer Share of 0.48% and would only be paid by owners of properties rather than renters.

However, second homes, empty and non-resident owned homes will be charged a rate of 0.96%. This would allow a proportional property tax to be both revenue neutral and to provide an additional 595,000 new homes with second homes released onto the market, empty homes that would be occupied, more transactions with the abolition of stamp duty and houses being built that already have planning permission.

This would be neutral in terms of the revenue lost from council tax, stamp duty and business compared to the new revenue from a Proportional Property tax. To ensure this system is fair for all homes regardless of when they were built there will be annual revaluations each year.

In Scotland Stamp Duty was replaced by the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax and in Wales it was replaced by the Land Transaction Tax. These would all be replaced with a proportional property tax if supported by Scotland or Wales.

A proportional property tax can then be replaced by a Land Value Tax in the long term. As a result, it will replace a Proportional Property Tax and the Annual Tax on

Enveloped Dwellings. This will be a 1% rate on all land and a Land Value Tax can also be used during recessions to increase spending without reducing productivity.

**A fairer VAT system.** Currently mobility aids and products to end smoking are given a reduced rate of VAT but we would either push from them to be exempt from VAT. VAT rates on essential items should also be cut being funded by increased rates on luxury products.

**The top level for inheritance tax should be 50% and the bottom rate should be 25%.** Inheritance tax is taxation paid on someone's estate (money, property and possessions) after they have died. Inheritance tax will be paid on any money over £200,000 regardless of the recipient unless it is a charity in which it would start at £300,000.

We would add in brackets:  
Exempt below: £200,000  
25%: £200,000 - £500,000  
50% above: £500,000

**Progressive corporation tax rates.** We would exempt small businesses from paying corporation tax rates whilst ensuring larger businesses pay their fair share. For smaller businesses this would involve a tax-free rate on corporation tax for small businesses. If this is prevented by the Global Minimum Corporation Tax then we

This policy affects the UK as a whole  together.

would instead seek to exempt them from corporation tax all-

We would support brackets of:

Exempt below: £60,000  
Lower rate: 20% between £60,001 and £250,000  
Higher rate: 26%

**Tax Based Regulation.** Tax based regulation is where the government places a tax on a harmful product and uses the revenue for one of the following: funding research into better alternatives, tax breaks for better products or treatment. This means that rather than a complete ban on something, it makes it more profitable to move to better alternatives. This will be used in several areas. The first is existing policy which includes areas such as product market regulations where we would use tax-based regulation rather than standard regulations. The second is to promote a switch away from environmentally harmful products and towards products that are less harmful. The revenue from this would be used for environmentally friendly alternatives and

research into alternatives. There would be several existing taxes involved in this: the Vehicle Excise Duty would now fund tax breaks for cars running off of electric, hydrogen or long-range hybrids, Air Passenger Duty which would fund research into greener aviation fuels or hydrogen power and the Landfill Tax would all go towards making more easily recyclable products cheaper. For the Hydrocarbon Oil Duty where the money goes would depend on the type of fuel and its possible uses. We also support introducing new taxes such as a carbon tax which would go towards subsidising renewable energy sources. Finally, funding from alcohol and tobacco duties will go into NHS treatment whilst we would abolish gambling duties.

This policy only affects England 

**Tell people how their taxes are spent.** This will be done using spreadsheets to show how the government spends taxes. It will be based off the system already used by some Nordic countries. England would have this system administered by the House of Commons.

**End the backdated IR35 (loan charge) tax on individuals rather than businesses.** The loan charge is being used to change tax on people who paid tax through another business rather than directly with their client. Whilst many of the businesses who have offered these loans have not been forced to pay money back, individuals have been. We disagree with backdated taxes and would end the loan charge on past taxation.

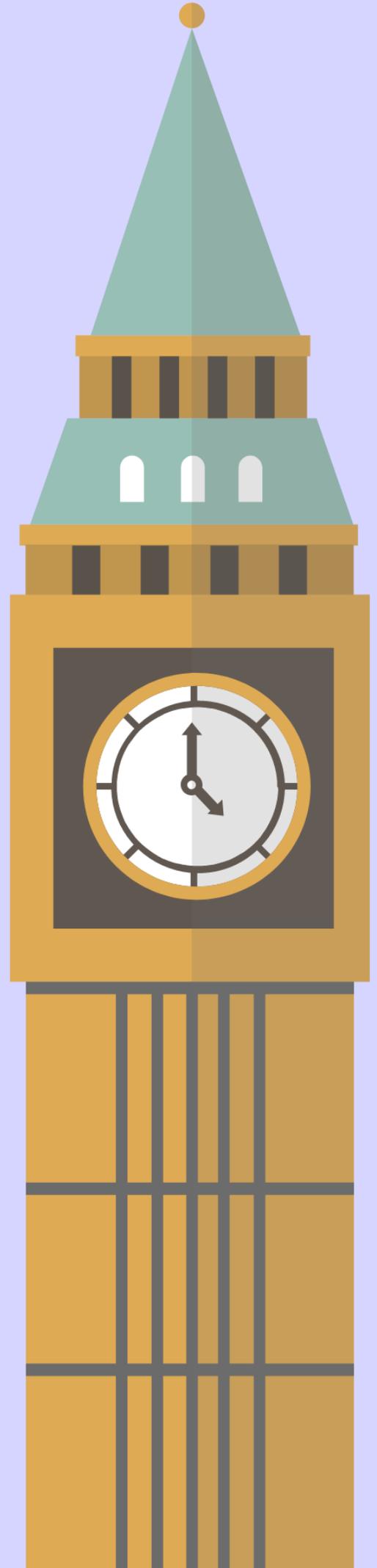
**Scrap the marriage allowance.** The marriage tax allowance allows married couples to share some of their personal allowance for income tax purposes, normally if one person is earning below the personal allowance. This allows them to save money on tax, but we would instead use the money saved to cut taxes for everyone.

# Chapter 3

## Democracy



Policies in this section only affect the UK as a whole unless specified.



Our vision is for a more democratic and open system of government. We believe in a fairer voting system and devolving power across the UK. Our system also needs to ensure ordinary people have more access to the system by simplifying government, making it more accountable to the people and enabling individuals to be involved in the policy making process.

**Move to three tiers of government.** This would mean single tiers for: local, regional/state and national government levels. These tiers would be the House of Commons, Devolved Parliaments and County Councils. This would also involve a large-scale overhaul of government in the UK with the scrapping of: Police and Crime Commissioners, Metro Mayors, Ceremonial mayors, District Councillors, Parish Councils, Town councils, Community councils, Borough Councils, The House of Lords and City Councils.

**Use Proportional Representation to elect the House of Commons.** Mixed-Member Proportional Representation works by most seats being filled by representatives elected using First Past the Post and then topped up with members of a party list to ensure the system is proportional. This would be an open list allowing voters to either vote for the party they prefer just accepting how they have ranked the list or they can request a longer ballot to change the order of the list. If a party wins more seats under this system than they were originally allocated, then extra levelling seats are then added on.

This gives voters a simple way to cast their vote whilst keeping local representatives. It also means MPs are answerable to either the country as a whole or just to constituencies rather than trying to balance the two. Any difference in the amount of case work MPs receive can be resolved by ensuring constituency MPs are given a larger budget for their office.

**A UK Federacy.** This would consist of two levels of devolution, parliaments and assemblies. The powers of both would be written into a future constitution so the House of Commons couldn't remove powers from them without their consent.

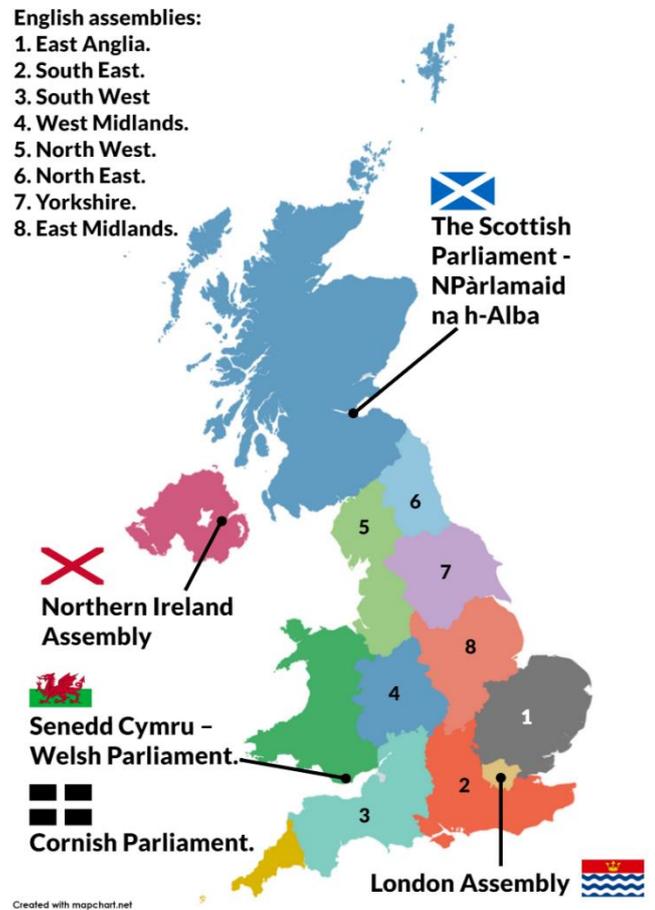
The first level of devolution would be nine new assemblies covering all of England apart from Cornwall. These assemblies would have power over regional transport links, social security spending, sport, the arts, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and health and social services in that area.

They would also include the powers in the House of Lords including the power to review new Westminster laws, Police and Crime Commissioners whose powers would be held by the justice ministers in these assemblies and the powers of Metro Mayors.

The second layer of devolution will be for the existing Scottish and Welsh parliaments, the Northern Irish assembly and a new Cornish parliament. All of these parliaments and assemblies will have the power to call their own independence referendums and would be highly autonomous with full powers over areas other than foreign affairs, immigration taxation, defence and the constitution.

To establish these assemblies and parliaments, referendums would be held as it would involve the House of Commons giving away powers. For each English assembly or parliament, it would involve a referendum to create the new assembly or parliament.

They would be elected every five years using Mixed-Member Proportional Representation. Each English region would have 100 members whilst the number of members for existing devolved parliaments and assemblies would remain the same. Each parliament and assembly would receive half of the revenue from a Land Value Tax along with arrangements for income tax similar to what the Scottish parliament currently has.



This policy only affects England 

**A single layer of local government.** We support the creation of unitary authorities for all areas of England, where all local government powers would be held by county councils. County councils would have the powers of: Parish, Borough, City, Town, Community, District councils and all of the local council powers held by the City of London Corporation. The mayor and cabinet model along with the leader and cabinet model will both be replaced with a single system for council governance. This will be with the committee system which involves committees with a similar makeup to the council as a whole making the decisions. With this change the pay for councillors should also be increased if their responsibilities also increase.

We also support county councils connecting more with community sector organisations so they can act at a level that is closer to the individual. Councils should be funded through one quarter of the revenue from the Land Value Tax and will be elected using the Single Transferable Vote system to offer representation for both the area as a whole along with individual wards.

**If the Prime Minister resigns, then a new election must be held.** The Prime Minister has the power to choose their own cabinet and has powers passed down from the monarch. The Prime Minister should therefore be accountable to the public. At the moment the Prime Minister can resign, and a new Prime Minister can take their place without an election. With the power the Prime Minister holds we feel that if they step down from their position there should be a new election called as a result to ensure they are more accountable to the public.

**Abolish the need for the Speaker and Deputy Speakers to be elected as MP's.** The people living in those constituencies don't get represented properly in Parliament by their MP. Instead of this, a member of the Supreme Court will be appointed to the position after each House of Commons election by any Members of the Supreme Court who decide not to stand for the position.

**A system of recall for representatives.** This means that if you think your local representative has done something wrong, you can start a petition to trigger a by-election. To be successful, the petition must be signed by at least 10% of the constituents who are registered to vote in that area for MP's and 30% for county council members.

**Lower the voting age to 16.** We feel that 16-year olds should be able to vote in general elections. It is used in Scotland for some elections and was used successfully in the 2014 independence referendum.

**Limit donations to political parties and candidates.** We will limit the amount of money each individual can donate to a political party per election and restrict all donations to individuals. There will also be a ceiling on how much a candidate can take overall. It would be linked to inflation and we would only allow individuals to

donate a maximum of £4,000 each to a political party per year. During election campaigns political parties would only be allowed to spend a maximum of eight million pounds each.

This policy only affects England



**The monarch should be allowed choose whether they are head of the Church of England.** The monarch should have the choice of leading the Church of England otherwise the church will be able to pick their own leader.

**A written constitution for the UK.** This would write up the current unwritten constitution of the UK into a single document. It would set out exactly how the UK should be governed and would make it far easier to find out what the constraints on the executive and parliament are. The document would be written up by parliament and would be voted on in a UK wide referendum. To change the constitution, it would require a majority of 65% within the House of Commons.

**Remove the political powers of the monarch but retain the monarchy.** The monarch has the power to appoint the Prime Minister, Ministers, dissolve parliament, summon parliament, declare war and peace, to issue passports, they are head of the UK's armed forces, they can create peers, appoint bishops and archbishops and they sign treaties. These should all be given to the Prime-Minister. The queen however owns large amounts of property that she would still own if she wasn't queen and she is also a large generator of income for the UK through tourism. We would therefore still like the monarchy to continue although it would run on a model similar to Japans where they have no political power.

**Automatic voter registration.** Everyone who is eligible should be automatically registered to vote. This will both make it easier for people to vote without having to worry about registering first and will ensure electoral boundaries are representative of the voting population within them. This system would register people at the same time as they receive their National Insurance Number which would then be stored on a central government database.

**A democracy watchdog.** This would absorb the electoral commission and would oversee elections. The powers of this watchdog would include to monitor spending and to ensure the campaigns aren't breaking electoral rules. It would be allowed to sanction campaigns or to refer matters to the police where there is evidence of criminal conduct.

This policy only affects England



**Establish citizens assemblies.** Citizens assemblies would act as a way to engage local people directly in democracy and to allow anyone to propose new policy ideas. They would be open to everyone, would be set up across England and would debate issues

at every level of government. The boundaries for these assemblies would be similar to those of Civil parishes in England. Members would also be able to contribute digitally to proceedings using video calls alongside in person sessions.

They would be able to comment on policies being made by any elected representative and would have the ability to propose new laws for the House of Commons. This would involve ranked votes where policies with high levels of agreement would be put forwards for a debate in Parliament. These can then be amended by MPs to improve the quality of the legislation and then the proposal will be voted on. There would be dedicated slots for these debates and votes to ensure they take place.

Citizens assemblies would allow people to continue being active in the political process even when there isn't an election whilst also helping to shape policy. It would also widen the field where new laws can come from.

# Chapter 4

## Health



Policies in this section only affect England unless specified.



The NHS needs to unify its services under one umbrella covering mental and physical health along with social care. This needs to be alongside modernisation to ensure the NHS is fit for the future.

**Involve doctors and nurses in management decisions.** Just like we wish to involve workers more in decision making we want to do the same thing with the NHS. When decisions are being made around areas like funding and management there needs to be workers there to discuss the changes.

**Care for the elderly and disabled needs to be delivered at home when possible.** Rather than elderly people having to travel from their homes to see a doctor if they prefer or need to see a doctor, they should be able to arrange for someone to come and visit them.

**Focus on illness prevention.** If an illness is treated early on, then it will cost less, so the NHS should focus on giving people treatment to prevent illness where possible.

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**Allow the right to die.** We believe that people who are terminally ill or ill to the extent where they are unable to be independent should have the choice to end their own life. While we prefer that people write in advance what circumstances they would take that choice in, if the patient is still of sound mind and is able to communicate then it should be allowed. For each case that goes through we will require a judge to approve each case.

**A new NHS watchdog.** An NHS watchdog would receive and deal with complaints from patients and NHS staff alongside inspecting hospitals to ensure they are up to a good standard. It would also identify areas where there are unnecessary staff or contractors and report these to the NHS to act on. Finally, there would be an accountability board to investigate failings within the system. The watchdog would absorb the Care Quality Commission, Healthwatch England, assessments of operational performance and financial sustainability of providers which is undertaken by NHS England and NHS Improvement alongside overseeing information governance and data protection which is currently undertaken by NHS bodies and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

**All non-experimental treatments should be NICE-approved.** The National Institute for health and Care Excellence or NICE should have a larger scope and budget so it can ensure that aside from experimental treatments offered under the cancer drugs fund/experimental drugs fund all NHS treatments are NICE approved.

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**Update NHS patient record storage.** The NHS uses the TPP System One, Microtest Evolution, EMIS Web and PS Vision for accessing patient data. This is a disjointed set of systems which need either cross compatibility or to be replaced by a single UK or England wide replacement. This would be through a fund for both NHS Digital and NHSX and could learn from how Scotland managed to move towards a single IT system and the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR).

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**Legalise all drugs for medical use.** All drugs would also be legal for prescribed medical use and medical research. We also support greater availability of prescriptions for medical cannabis.

**Increase the availability of virtual NHS appointments.** Virtual appointment should be available for hospital or GP appointments via a phone or video call. This was part of the NHS Long Term Plan but needs to be extended further with the option of an online appointment for wherever its practical to do so.



# An NHS umbrella

**Social care should be brought under the NHS umbrella.** The UK's social care system is currently disjointed, and we feel over time these services should be incorporated into the NHS umbrella. Services are currently provided by a mixture of local authorities such as councils, charities and the NHS. For existing services, we believe they should have the opportunity to become part of the NHS and the NHS should also cover any gaps with its own services. As part of this they would be under NHS pay scales.

There are a number of services we believe should eventually be under the NHS umbrella including; carers helping out at home with day to day issues, Social care which can also be care that enables you to remain active and can include things like transport, day centres which help people to meet up and sometimes gives people meals, adaptations for your home due to a condition you have and end of life care.

Care home costs also fall under social care. These can sometimes cost huge amounts of money and spaces are often in short supply so we will not only pay for care home costs but we will set up a government run care home service rather than relying on charities, businesses and local authorities to provide the service.

We believe that the focus of social care should be on long term happiness. Therefore, we support using dementia villages, music therapy, animal therapy, Meet and eats and Intergenerational care.

**Mental health care should be brought under the NHS umbrella.** This will place existing mental health care under the NHS umbrella and pay scales. This would both unify the services more and would allow mental health care to work better alongside other forms of health care.

**Integrate CAMHS into the education system.** We believe we must integrate mental health referral into state schools and universities. This would involve at least trained individual within each school or university campus. Integration should also be offered to private universities and schools. This will ensure schools and CAMHS can work closely together to ensure solutions for every child can be adapted into their educational environment.

**Referral units for mental health within workplaces.** Referral units will be implemented within workplaces of over 250 employees. This will be a structured system with a workplace mental health professional who is able to refer employees to appropriate support. These referral units would also include ordinary workers who are trained as pastoral care officers who will ensure individual plans for each worker is kept to and fitted to their work life. Finally, there would be a safeguarding officer to deal with breaches or issues in relation to treatment of employees.

Smaller businesses of less than 250 will have access to free government training for one staff member to act as a referral officer, another to be safeguarding officer and a final safeguarding officer. As businesses increase in the number of employees, the amount of training the government will pay for will decrease until the business has 250 employees.

For businesses with less than three people the process would instead involve advice on how they can refer themselves to mental health services although this training should be of the same quality as larger businesses receive.

These services should be available to those contracting with the company or those who are on internships, apprenticeships or work experience.

**Link st John Ambulance to the NHS more closely.** We believe that groups like st John ambulance should be used to give people pre-NHS employment courses so it can be used as a way into working for the NHS. These will count when applying to work within the NHS or to do a health-related course in a college.

**Create an NHS Air Ambulance.** Just as there is a publicly funded air ambulance service in Scotland, we would create a new publicly funded air ambulance service in England and support one in Wales. This would incorporate any air ambulance services running through charitable donations that would like to be part of the program. This new program would work closely with the NHS ambulance service.



## NHS spending

**Increase funding for 'back to nursing' courses.** While on the course, ex-nurses will be paid a full nurse's salary and this will be used to encourage people to return to nursing. To receive full pay, nurses will need to sign up to work in the NHS for at least 6 months afterwards unless there are exceptional circumstances.

**Increase pay by 5% for all NHS staff.** We believe that all NHS staff should have their pay increased by 5% to improve both their living standards and retention of staff. We also support NHS pay incentives being based fully on outcomes rather than activity as proposed by the IPPR.



## NHS funding sources

**Abolish all prescription charges.** These are charges on prescription drugs that are given to patients. We believe that health care should be free in the UK and charging for prescriptions goes against this. These charges have already been dropped in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**Improve hospital food to meet higher nutritional standards.** This will be achieved by giving out fresh food when feasible and ensuring that hospitals meet food standards by providing them with the money to do so. Not only will this make hospital stays more pleasant but it's likely to help patients to recover faster.

**Offer non-essential operations within the NHS.** This would mean allowing surgeries the NHS would not normally do to be done via the NHS for a payment as an alternative to private hospitals.

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**A long-term social-care fund.** To cover the costs of social care, we propose a ringfenced fund which will be paid for with general taxation. This fund will be offset the effects of population changes on our social care system.

# Chapter 5

## Enviroment



Policies in this section only affect the UK as a whole unless specified.



We want to save our environment. Rather than looking fully to state intervention, we want to harness the power of free markets and to make it advantageous for businesses to be environmentally friendly.

**Renewable energy should be subsidised and given tax reductions.** This would include wind turbines, tidal power, solar power, hydroelectric power and hydrogen energy. These forms of power don't result in nuclear waste; harmful emissions like coal power produces and they won't run out. They will also help the UK to combat global warming. We also believe that where possible wind turbines should on land rather than offshore as a result of the difficulty with the maintenance of offshore wind turbines.

We have an overall aim for the UK to build up its renewable energy base enough to provide all the UK's power. One way to increase the use of renewable energy is to make it more affordable. This can be achieved in two ways, subsidies and tax breaks. Subsidising renewable energy will make it more affordable to buy renewable energy sources. Tax based regulation not only makes it cheaper to buy renewable energy, but it also makes it more costly to use more harmful types of energy.

To overcome the issues arising from the varying levels of power produced by renewable energy there are two solutions. First is grid technology which saves electricity and allows people to feed power into and out of the grid more efficiently. Second is large batteries to store power in times of high electricity production such as the one built in South Australia by Tesla in 2017.

**Invest in renewable energy.** This would involve setting up a government owned energy company which would build new solar farms, wind turbines and tidal power sources when energy prices are high. These could then be sold to private companies or used by the government to produce energy until the energy market has phased out fossil fuels and becomes more competitive.

**Invest in renewable energy research.** Whilst investing in renewable energy is important, we also need to invest in research too. This will apply to the capture, storage and usage of renewable energy. There are two areas we feel need urgent research. First is carbon capture as this could reverse climate change by bringing CO<sub>2</sub> levels down. The main sources of carbon such as factories and areas with higher levels of carbon pollution need to be targeted. Further research is also needed on storing carbon once it has been captured. Second is hydrogen power as a replacement for fossil fuel burning cars. The capture of this needs extensive research as the current methods of capture make it too costly for general use. Finally, whilst grid technology is already widely used, improving it can reduce energy waste and consumption.

**Eventually scrap the energy price cap.** Once the UK has a renewable energy supply and competitive markets the energy price cap should be scrapped. Instead, energy markets will be kept in check with competition rules.

**The UK should cooperate with Euratom.** Whether the UK is inside or outside the EU we should aim to cooperate as much as possible with Euratom. Euratom means that the UK can cooperate with the EU on nuclear power more easily and leaving it may also disrupt the transportation of nuclear fuel.

**Tax products that use excessive amounts of plastic.** This would push consumers to buy products that don't contain as much plastic and would push producers to reduce their use of plastics. The proceeds from this tax could be used to reduce the existing taxes on products that don't use plastic or could go towards research to find more environmentally friendly alternatives.

**Gradually phase out the UK's use of nuclear power.** We support moving away from nuclear power and towards renewable energy once the UK has reached a net carbon energy supply. To do this we would replace the power generated with other renewable energy sources and battery storage. In the meantime, any new nuclear power stations will only be allowed if they plan to use fuel that would have been otherwise stored as waste either from old reactors or from decommissioned nuclear weapons.

**Reward people for recycling plastic bottles.** Just like in Norway, we want an extra charge added to the price of plastic bottles which will be refunded when bottles are recycled in machines that will be inside stores. This will be 5p extra for plastic bottles.

**A gradual ban on non-electric cars.** We would ban the sale of all cars that run using fossil fuels aside from range extender hybrid cars by 2030. This would include bans on the sale of petrol, diesel, parallel hybrid cars which have both electric and fossil fuel engines and plug-in hybrids. This would not affect old petrol and diesel cars leaving a market for second-hand petrol cars as working-class families may not be able to afford a blanket ban on all non-electric cars. This also leaves enough time for a second-hand market for electric cars to form.

This would remain in place until it is replaced by a ban on all cars that run using fossil fuels by 2045. This would now include range extender hybrid cars, second-hand petrol cars, second-hand diesel cars, second-hand hybrid cars and vintage cars. These cars will either need to be converted to electric cars or taken off the road.

**Incentivise electric cars.** This would include tax increases on cars with a combustion engine and the revenue from this would be used to pay for tax cuts to electric vehicles. These tax cuts could include tax cuts to reduce the price of purchasing new electric vehicles, subsidised charging, lower fees for parking spaces, reduced registration fees for electric cars and it may also be possible to invest in charging cars using electrified roads. A scrappage scheme for fossil fuel reliant cars is also an option for people moving to electric and range extender hybrid cars.

**Work within International Organisations on climate change.** Whilst we believe actions to tackle climate change and research taken by the UK alone can help to solve the issue we also need to work at a global level. Unless the levels of pollution drop

globally, we can't fight climate change. We support further agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement to move forward global action on climate change.

**Ban fracking.** Fracking both uses up a large amount of water, causes earth tremors and may contaminate water reserves with chemicals. For fracking to be a possible energy source in the future, there needs to be more evidence that water will not be contaminated by fracking and that this operation can be done without large earth tremors. It also still involves investment in burning and removing fossil fuels from the ground when we should be moving towards renewable energy. This would involve changing the Infrastructure Act 2015 to ban fracking totally rather than simply placing limitations on its use.

This policy only affects England 

**A well-regulated water sector.** Water companies should have their profits controlled by the government to ensure they pass on savings to consumers or invest it into better infrastructure. The government should also increase its investment in sewage treatment plants and infrastructure.



## Wildlife

This policy only affects England and Wales  

**Ban all Hunting with Dogs.** This should include the hunting of rabbits, hares, deer, foxes, mice and rats. We want to strengthen the 2004 ban on hunting with dogs by increasing the sentences for breaking this law to a prison sentence, by removing the exemption that allows for "Use of dogs below ground to protect birds for shooting" and removing the exemption for "research and observation". Drag hunting will however remain legal because it does not involve the killing of animals. Instead, the focus should be on reducing the numbers of animals that foxes live off such as excess mice, rats, voles and shrews.

This policy only affects England 

**Ban badger culling.** Rather than badger culling, which has mixed evidence around its effectiveness, we would support a focus on vaccinations. This would also help in the fight to eradicate tuberculosis. Wales has already moved away from culling to vaccinations.

This policy only affects England, Wales and Northern Ireland



**Include crustaceans and cephalopods in the definition of animals.** This would include crustaceans such as lobsters, krill, barnacles, woodlice, crabs, shrimps, crayfish and prawns. It would also include cephalopods which include squid, cuttlefish, octopus and nautilus. It would also ban practices such as boiling lobsters alive. This would involve updating the Animal Welfare Act of 2006.

This policy only affects England and Wales



**Ban the sale and use of snares and glue traps.** Both would be banned as they cause animals amounts of pain and suffering trapped for long periods of time by glue or snares before they die. Instead, the focus should be on removing household food sources from these animals along with re-introducing animals to the UK that eat mice and rats which these traps are often used for. This would involve amending the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

This policy only affects England



**Ban cage farming by 2035.** Instead, barns and free-range animals should be used with cage farming eventually banned. This would involve changing The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007.

**Ban imports of fur.** Apart for vintage fur, we would support a ban on importing fur adding to the ban on domestic production of fur. This is based on our concern for how these animals are kept and any action such as this should be alongside action internationally to ban the practice internationally.

This policy only affects England and Wales



**Ban the breeding of pheasants where they are used simply for shooting.** This is due to the damage it causes to surrounding wildlife and that the birds shot are not always eaten afterwards. To do this, pheasants would be moved from the Game Act 1831 to the “Protection of birds and prevention of poaching” section in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

This policy only affects England 

**A large-scale reintroduction program of animals into the UK.** To keep populations of rats, mice, voles, rabbits and foxes away from overpopulation, we support the reintroduction of certain animals to the UK. This would include reintroducing or increasing the populations of wildcats, birds of prey and wolves.

# Chapter 6

## Equality



Policies in this section only affect the UK as a whole unless



We believe that everyone should have an equal opportunity to succeed in life and that we can tackle these inequalities with real change. This will involve removing barriers for these groups and ensuring both government support, our economy and society work for everyone.

**Ban shortlists for the House of Commons.** We are against all shortlists for candidates regardless of whether they are based on gender, disability or any other characteristic. We are firmly against discrimination of all types and whilst shortlists are known as positive discrimination, they are still a type of discrimination. There are huge improvements needed to ensure everyone has equality of opportunity however shortlists create a system where some groups are excluded from running for certain seats making a system with shortlists unfair.

**Official status for the native languages of the UK.** We support recognising, and giving co-official status, to the UK's native languages. These include English, Scots, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Cornish, Irish Gaelic, Shelta, Angloromani, British sign language and Irish sign language. For many of these languages just being given official status will help them and this is the first step to recovering many of the native languages within the UK.

**Nameless recruitment.** This would stop employers from seeing the name of people they are looking to potentially employ during the application process. Discrimination as a result of a person's name can often be through the employer believing a certain name may mean the person they are employing is from a certain place, country or culture. This may then mean prejudices against that area could reduce the chances of candidates with names from certain origins or even those that sound like they are from a certain origin. It makes it more likely the people selected will be selected based on their skills rather than their background.

This policy only affects England and Wales 

**Take the definition of marriage out of the legal framework.** We believe that marriage is a personal choice, and the government should not try to influence people in making that choice. Therefore, we would take the definition of marriage out of the legal framework so governments wouldn't be allowed to benefit, or disadvantage people based on whether they are married.

This policy only affects England and Wales 

**Recognise humanist weddings in law.** This would only apply to England and Wales as Scotland and Northern Ireland already recognise them. All weddings should be viewed equally, and this should include those that are not religious. Recognising them in law would mean allowing couples to just have a humanist wedding, rather than just a humanist celebration and a civil ceremony to be married in law.

This policy only affects England 

**England should not have a state religion.** England's current state religion is the Christian Church of England. This would be removed as state church as the UK is both religiously diverse and includes those without religion at all. Therefore, no religion should be placed above all others by the state.

This policy only affects England 

**Provide free sanitary products and contraceptives.** It is extremely concerning that issues such as period poverty still exists within the UK today. Therefore, we propose that condoms, femidoms, tampons, the pill, sanitary towels and menstrual cups should be provided free of charge. For distribution providing them through; schools, universities, food banks, toilets, homeless shelters, women's refuges, workplaces and through the NHS GP surgeries will be a priority.

This policy only affects England 

**Cap the cost of child care.** Childcare costs in the UK are far too high and this affects women who end up quitting their jobs to stay at home. Childcare includes both child minders looking after children at home and nurseries. Childcare is extremely beneficial to parents, society and the economy. It means parents have more money to spend on other things and can work with the peace of mind that their child is being cared for. This means more people in work growing the economy and it will reduce the number of people moving away from the UK due to unfavourable childcare policies. This policy would cap the cost of childcare at £140 per month and poorer families will get it for free, a policy currently used in Sweden. This would be available until children start education, under our plans this would be at age 7.

This policy only affects England and Wales  

**Decriminalise sex work.** Whilst prostitution itself is legal in the UK, many of the activities related to it are illegal. A new law should be based off of New Zealand's 2003 Prostitution reform act which decriminalised prostitution. The new law would aim to protect sex workers from violence, abuse, allow for the enforcement of safer practices and it would also try to reduce discrimination against prostitutes. The primary focus would be on protecting those who take part in prostitution from harm. Management of brothels would be decriminalised, and strict rules would be placed on their management practices. It would also further ensure no one under 18 is able to buy prostitution or become a prostitute.

This policy only affects England, Scotland and Wales



**Remove the two doctors' rule on abortions before 20 weeks pregnancy.** We believe that women should have control over their bodies and their own private medical decisions. Whilst the 1967 abortion act means women who want an abortion must have the approval of two doctors, we would make abortions available simply on request within the NHS before 20 weeks into a pregnancy. After this time, they should be available with the approval of two doctors as is currently the case.

This policy only affects England, Scotland and Wales



**Ban protests of medical decisions outside hospitals and clinics.** This would be a one-mile exclusion zone and protesters would not be allowed to approach those going to clinics or hospitals regardless of how far away the clinic or hospital is. This would also ban the protest of abortions outside clinics by introducing buffer zones around all clinics.

**Remove sanctions for those receiving abortions from criminal law.** Those receiving abortions should only be regulated under medical regulations rather than under criminal law as it currently is under the Abortion Act of 1967.

This policy only affects England, Wales and Northern Ireland



**Ban non-consensual and unnecessary intersex operations.** We would ban operations on intersex people if they are both not medically necessary and are done at an age where consent cannot be asked of the person who is having that operation.

This policy only affects England



**Ban parents from smacking their children.** Whilst this is already the law in Scotland and Wales, we support extending the ban on smacking to England and Northern Ireland. This is because children should be protected from physical punishment in the same way adults are protected.

This policy only affects England



**Relationship and sex education (RSE) that ensures all students learn about LGBTQ+ issues.** RSE in schools must include students learning about the LGBTQ+ community, including teaching about different identities, different prejudices that members of the community may encounter, different types of sex and promoting awareness of past and current LGBTQ+ movements. We are pushing for the rest of the UK to adopt a RSE curriculum like Scotland's, which does all of these things. As well as this, it does not let parents 'opt-out' their children from partaking in any part of this curriculum.

This policy only affects England, Wales and Northern Ireland



**Reform the GRA to allow self-determination.** We would simplify the process for someone to change their gender. The current system is lengthy and difficult requiring people to provide evidence they have lived in their new gender for two years, a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria, details of medical treatment they have had, legally declaring they will live in that gender until death and finally to pay a small fee.

To replace this, we are advocating for self-determination where, rather than it being left up to other people to decide whether someone is the gender they say they are, the person themselves gets to decide. This has already been successfully used in multiple European countries such as Portugal and the Republic of Ireland. The Equality Act will also still be in place which allows single-gender services to exclude transgender people in limited circumstances and other protections will also still exist such as protections against indecency.

This policy only affects England, Wales and Northern Ireland



**Remove gender markers on legal documents.** There is currently no non-binary or intersex option on legal documents, meaning that often people are forced to identify themselves using a gender that they are not. We therefore support removing gender markers on legal documents, including passports. Whilst an alternative solution would be to use a statutory declaration system where people could choose between male, female and an 'X' marker, we have concerns about creating a list of people who identify as neither male or female.

This policy only affects England, Scotland and Wales



**End the spousal veto.** Divorce and annulment legislation already exists. Couples should be free to make the decision of whether to continue the marriage, yet this should not be tied to one of their gender. It is open to abuse and instead leaves the person who is legally changing their gender at a huge disadvantage- with them often having to wait a long period of time. This has already been abolished in Scotland.

**Ban conversion therapy.** This has not been done, even though it has been widely condemned, even by healthcare professionals. Conversion therapy refers to “*any form of treatment or psychotherapy which aims to change a person’s sexual orientation or to suppress a person’s gender identity.*” It should be noted that this was written in the Conservatives LGBT+ action plan from 2018, yet still hasn’t been implemented.

**Separate prison units for transgender inmates to provide specialised support.**

Separate prison units will allow the staff for these units to be specifically trained in dealing with transgender prisoners. They would be trained both in how to be sensitive to trans issues and how to give them support if needed.

**Participation in competitive sports at a for Transgender athletes will be up to individual sporting bodies.** As each sport is different in most cases it should be left down to individual sporting bodies to decide whether transgender athletes are able to compete in the sport as is already the cause under the Equality Act. However, this must have clear evidence behind it and the government may step in if it believes Transgender athletes have been wrongly denied participation in certain sports.

This policy only affects England 

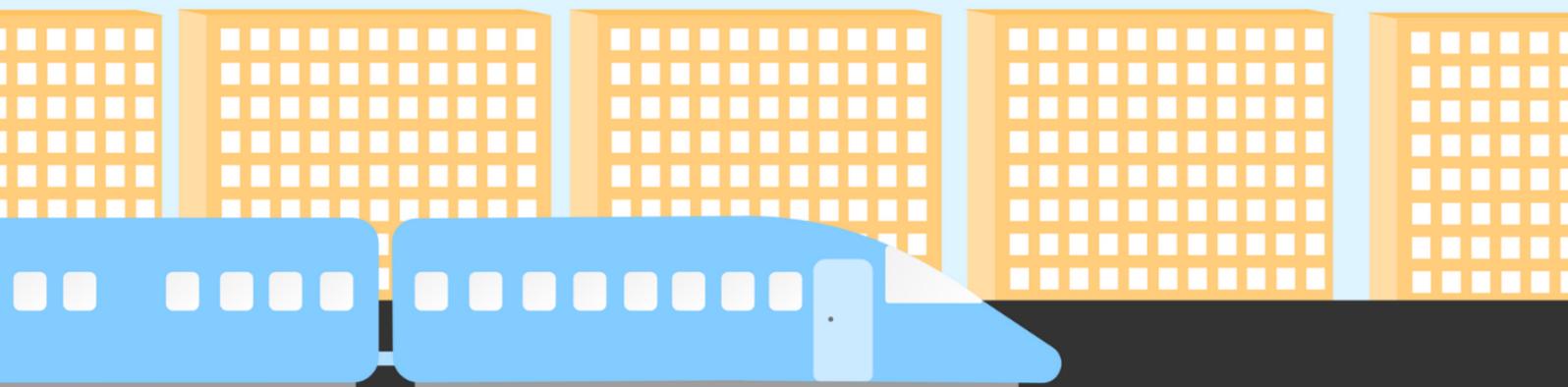
**Increase the quality and number of gender identity clinics.** The current state of gender identity clinics within the UK has led to enormous wait times which is why the system needs to be drastically improved. There should be three key goals in improving gender identity clinics. Firstly, to increase both the number of gender identity clinics and the number of staff within them. This increase the number of staff will be achieved both with a general increase in pay and clinics but also by a one-time payment for those that move to a gender identity clinic. The second is to ensure that GPs are aware that they both can and should diagnose gender dysphoria and handle Hormone Replacement Therapy prescriptions. Finally, we should abandon the gatekeeping method used now in favour of informed consent as a model for healthcare provision much like used by indigo has been using in Manchester. This will reduce wait times and increase the quality of care delivered.

# Chapter 7

## Transport



Policies in this section only  
affect England unless specified.



We need significant upgrades to both our rail and road infrastructure so traveling long distances is easier. This will both help with moving towards greener transport and connecting up businesses.



# Railways

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**Invest in rail infrastructure across the UK.** Railways in the UK are already owned by the government through Network Rail which deals with improvements for railways. They should receive extra funds to increase rail electrification, reopening stations that have been closed due to previous railway cutbacks where the routes aren't better served by buses or other forms of public transport and increased capacity on overcrowded routes.

Whilst large investments in the railways will mean increased taxation in the short term, they may actually be outweighed by increased trade in the long term. It helps businesses transport goods and will have particular benefit for businesses in rural areas.

**Publicly owned railways.** Whilst the tracks and the railway infrastructure are currently owned by Network rail the trains are franchised out to different companies. With the introduction of Great British Railways timetables and fares will also be placed into public hands with only the operation of the trains themselves in private hands. We believe that the trains, tracks and railway infrastructure should all be run by the government. To do this as franchises end the government will take over running the trains for each company.

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**A review into the trains used by HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail.** The HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail lines should be completed as they are too far into development to cancel them. To potentially improve these lines, we support a review into whether faster trains can be used on the lines including maglev trains as are being built within Japan.

**A transport watchdog.** This watchdog would deal with train delays and whether train companies should repay tickets. It could then compel train companies to repay tickets where it thinks a repayment is clearly due or the service was below standard.



# Roads

**Invest in roads.** Extra investment in roads means the government allocating more money for highways England. This funding should be targeted at rural areas. It may also be possible for new roads to be white to reflect more heat and to cool the surface temperature during hot weather.

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**Support self-driving vehicles.** These have several benefits which include reducing mistakes resulting from human error and making longer journeys easier for drivers. This can be alongside the switch in the future to electric cars. Google is already testing self-driving cars and Tesla uses autopilot features in its cars.

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**Allow local councils to run either private or public bus services.** Local councils should have more powers over their local bus services including not just to regulate bus services but also to set up council owned bus services. This would involve changing The Bus Services Act to allow local councils to own bus services in the local area.

This policy only affects the UK and London.  

**Support autonomous buses.** Self-driving buses are more efficient, allow for people to request specific stops and the switch can be alongside a switch to electric buses. This technology is still in early stages although the technology is already being tested in the UK.

**Focus on building new roads rather than smart motorways.** Smart motorways sometimes use the hard shoulder for traffic which can cause accidents if cars need to use the hard shoulder in the event of an accident. This would include both 'all lane running' systems where the hard shoulder is removed permanently and 'dynamic hard shoulder' systems where it is removed when there is heavy traffic. However, this does not apply to 'controlled motorway' schemes which do not use the hard shoulder.

# Chapter 8

## Social Security



Policies in this section only affect the UK as a whole unless



We believe that the main issue with the UK's social security system is its complexity. Therefore, this plan seeks to simplify the system to ensure more people who need help from the government receive it. It creates a level below which no one can fall whilst also reducing the costs the existing system spends on administration.

**A Guaranteed Minimum Income.** A Guaranteed Minimum Income ensures that anyone out of work or on a low income will receive enough money to live above the poverty line. If you start to earn money from a part time job or one that pays below a living wage, the Guaranteed Minimum Income will decrease by 30p for every £1 earned until an individual is earning a living wage. This means work will always pay more than being on benefits unless you are receiving extra support. The payment itself would be made once per week and would increase during periods of cold weather to pay for heating bills. If possible, we support these payments being decided on a regional level, so payments keep up with the living costs and housing costs in different areas.

This will be available to anyone earning below a living wage, who is over 18 years of age and has below a certain amount in savings. The payments will increase with inflation and there are several circumstances in which the payments will be larger. They need to cover any training, job interviews or travel for NHS treatment people need. It would replace Universal Credit system, housing benefits, jobseekers' allowance, Income Support, the Cold Weather Payment, the Warm Home Discount Scheme and the Winter Fuel Payment.



## Top-up systems

**The parental leave top-up.** If you have children, the top-up will work so it is either added to statutory paternity pay given to you by your employer or your Guaranteed Minimum Income so it pays a living wage. This will last a year in total although the person giving birth to the child will have an extra 4 weeks off before the child is born. This will be at 90% of normal pay, 25% of which will be paid by the employer and 75% of which will be paid by the government. It will be split between partners with both partners having to take at least 30% of the total time with the rest being split however they want. The first payment will be larger to deal with the initial costs of having a child and after that payments will increase with inflation. They will then reduce as the child gets older and allows for part time parental leave. For those that are on a Guaranteed Minimum Income, after the year comes to an end they will

receive a smaller payment at the same rate as child benefits for the next 5 years. This would replace statutory paternity pay, statutory Shared Parental Pay, paternity leave, shared parental leave, child benefits, maternity pay and maternity allowance.

**Retirement top-up.** The retirement age would be set at 65 for both men and women. When you reach this age, you would receive payments from income tax contributions. Savings made into the Income Tax will be increased with the triple lock formula although private pension funds would be an alternative to this. This would replace the basic state pension and pension credit.

This policy only affects England and Wales 

**Carers top-up.** If you are a carer, then you will be able to receive a Guaranteed Minimum Income top-up. This will supplement either your wage or regular Guaranteed Minimum Income payments. This is regardless of age and for any period whilst you are a caregiver. It will top up wages minus costs incurred as a career, so you reach a living wage. This would replace the Carer's Allowance.

This policy only affects England, Scotland and Wales 

**Bereavement top-up.** If a member of your immediate family dies, then you will be able to take Bereavement leave with a Guaranteed Minimum Income for four weeks. There are no maximum savings or earnings to receive this. This will increase with inflation and would replace the bereavement support payment.

**Disability top-up.** If someone is unable to work due to disability, then they can receive a Guaranteed Minimum Income. We would link NHS services to this program to assess who is eligible for this payment and how much money they will require. This can include smaller support payments for those in work, a living wage payment for those out of work as a result of injury or disability and payments for those with extra requirements such as equipment or individual carers on top of this if needed. This would also be available to people who are self-employed and are unwell. There is no time or age limit for how long someone can receive this payment and the individual, or if need be, a guardian, will receive the money. Whilst short term conditions would be reassessed based on how long lasting it is likely to be, lifelong disabilities or conditions will not be reassessed. It would replace the disability living allowance, the personal independence payment, Attendance Allowance and the Employment Support Allowance.

**Child support top-up.** This would top-up a Guaranteed Minimum income with support for anyone who has children. The top-up would be a reformed version of Child Income Support and it would decrease as someone's income goes up in the same way as a Guaranteed Minimum Income.

**Replace the Department for Work and Pensions with a Department for Social Security.** The department of work and pensions will be replaced with the smaller department for social security as a Guaranteed Minimum Income means less administrative work.

**A social security watchdog.** This watchdog would check whether social security, support and benefits payments have been made in full and on time. If they haven't then they can compel the Department of Work and Pensions to make payments that haven't been made or compensate those who have missed or received delayed payments.

# Chapter 9

## Justice



Policies in this section only affect England and Wales unless specified.



The justice system in the UK needs to be based off a system of reforming prisoners and helping them to move away from crime. The focus here is on reducing the number of people reoffending. We also seek to reduce the disadvantages people may face due to their background.

**Focus on reforming prisoners.** We support a justice system would be much like the Norwegian model which has shown that rehabilitation of prisoners can result in only a very small number of prisoners reoffending. This would hopefully reduce the amount of money that needs to be spent on the prison service overall. Just like the Norwegian system, we would offer education for inmates to help them find work once they have left prison and to help them not to fall into a cycle of reoffending. To reduce prison culture, we also support copying the idea of larger prisons with houses containing multiple rooms rather than cells. These would have separate toilets and showers.

For high-risk prisoners, there will still be high security prisons as the more open prisons will be targeted at minimal crimes. However, offenders who are in prison for larger crimes can apply to go to these prisons when they reach the last four months of their sentence if they have been very well behaved.

**Expanded Restorative Justice Programs.** This is where, if the victims agree to it, victims and criminals can discuss the crime that has taken place. This gives the criminal a chance to understand the impact their crime had on the person and the community. The offender then gives back to the community through programs such as community service.

**Before Prison Sentences Are Handed Out, People Must be Given a Full Mental Health Check.** In order to ensure our prison services are effective we need to implement full checks when prisoners enter prison rather than the current system of rushed tests, so we know what help needs to be given to prisoners. This would take place before any judgment is made so it can be considered if a sentence is delivered.

**If You've Served a Full Sentence for a Minor Crime, it Shouldn't be on Your Record.** This will help prisoners to get back into work after smaller crimes and will hopefully stop them from reoffending due to poverty.

**We Don't Support the Use of the Death Penalty for Any Crime.** It does not allow for real compensation for those proven innocent, it may end up with the state killing innocent people due to the fact there is never total certainty in almost any case and it does not deter people from committing crimes. While this will lead to some prisoners spending their lives in prison, it will also provide more time to investigate more into cases and for any new information to come to light. We will also campaign for the death penalty to be abolished worldwide as well as within international organisations.

**Set the Minimum Age at Which Someone Can be Charged for a Crime to 13.**

Currently the minimum age someone can be tried for a crime is 10 years of age which we feel is too low. The age must be appropriate to when an individual can tell right from wrong. This level is extremely low compared to other countries around the world, so we feel that it needs to be increased to an age where children are more likely to understand their actions.

**When Someone is Tried for a Crime, They Should Remain Anonymous.** When someone is tried or going to be tried for a crime, they should not have their identity released to the public or through the press unless it is necessary in order to find them. This comes from a belief that justice should be down to the UK's justice system rather than vigilante justice so releasing someone's details and image means that is at risk. Along with this it is very difficult to have a fair trial if the story is widely known about as jurors may be convinced before the trial.

**Increase Legal Aid Funds.** This would involve reversing the cuts in legal aid that have taken place since 2010. This would be alongside reinstating help for cases involving family law and other areas that are no longer covered by legal aid. This would help to reduce some of the inequalities that currently exist in the UK's court system.

**All Police Must Wear Body Cameras.** This would require police officers who are dealing with cases to record their actions. It would allow for a full record of police actions, can help to defend against any accusations of misconduct and makes it easier to review cases afterwards.

**All Prisons Should be Publicly Run.** We do not believe prisons or prison services should be run for profit. We feel a profit-based approach is the wrong motive for prisons to have and that operating under public ownership is a better model. Dangerous individuals should also not be placed under the guard of private companies.

**Fines Will be Proportionate to Income.** Rather than simply receiving a flat fine the amount charged will depend on the person's earnings. It's a system already used in Finland, Sweden and Denmark successfully. This would be used as the method for fining for, Fixed Penalty Notices, for speeding offences and any other fines issues by the police. Under this system those who are poorer will pay less as a fixed fine would likely be a huge dent in their personal finances whilst those who have more money will have a fine that actually make some impact on their finances.

**A justice watchdog.** The justice watchdog would receive and then investigate complaints against the police or the judiciary by members of the public. It would be able to either refer issues for criminal prosecution or to recommend members of the police or judiciary step down.

**Exempt offenders who are pregnant from prison.** Offenders who are pregnant should be exempt from prisons with different routes for serious and non-serious offenders. For those convicted of a minor offence this would involve a suspended sentence rather than prison time, something we would support rolling out for smaller offences more generally. For more serious crimes we would instead support a secure environment rather than prison. This would only be usable one time per prison sentence.

**Use community service more for minor crimes.** Rather than relying on prison community service is where people do jobs for the community. This would be used alongside restorative justice to ensure perpetrators know the effect of their crime.

This policy affects the UK as a whole 

**A drug legalisation and decriminalisation program.** We would reduce the penalties placed on drug use and treat it as a health issue. This would involve legalisation of softer drugs and decriminalising harder drugs. Legalisation will remove any penalties on the supply or consumption of drugs whilst decriminalisation is where those caught taking drugs will receive a minor penalty or referral to a treatment centre. We also want to re-evaluate the A, B and C classifications for drugs. Finally, we would pardon all of those who have previous offences that are now legal or decriminalised under drug laws.

This would change the approach addiction to hard drugs would be treated as a health concern and softer drugs would be treated as recreational. The program would hopefully tackle gangs supplying drugs, ensure drugs do not contain other harmful substances, increase the number of drugs such as cannabis that are grown domestically and any increased tax revenue could be spent on the NHS.

# Chapter 10

## Foreign Affairs



Policies in this section only affect the



We support the UK being an outward looking country that supports free trade and globalisation. This means strengthening the United Nations, signing new free trade deals and joining the European Free Trade Association.

**Require a vote by the House of Commons on all new Free Trade Deals and trade deals.** Whenever a new free trade deal or trade deal is agreed, the UK parliament must agree to the new deal. This will ensure the house of commons always has the final say over these deals.

**Strengthen the United Nations.** We believe that the United Nations needs to be streamlined and strengthened. This would first include making it more accountable by creating a new directly elected United Nations Parliamentary Assembly and a council of ministers where all members can propose new bills. It would then be strengthened by amalgamating the International Standards Organisation, CODEX and the WTO into the United Nations regional bodies.

**Apply to be an Observer Member of the Nordic Council.** We feel that the UK should join the Nordic council as an associated member as long as this doesn't involve free movement. As the UK would be copying the Nordic model in much of its economic and state structures, it is only right that the UK deepens cooperation with these countries. If the UK leaves the EU it would provide the UK with continued ties to the Nordic countries, something EFTA membership would also help to strengthen.

**Our foreign aid budget Should be 1% of Gross National Income.** We believe in increasing our aid budget slightly from its current level of 0.7% of GNP to 1% of GNP. We also support a review into how the UK's foreign aid spending can be improved and where it should be invested.

**Allow asylum seekers to work.** Currently, most asylum seekers aren't allowed to work meaning they are forced to rely on the small amount of money given to them by the government. This can mean asylum seekers are pushed into poverty but also that this system unnecessarily costs the taxpayer money. This should also include those who are refused asylum in the UK but aren't able to return home at that time.

**A fair immigration system.** At the start of each year an immigration target would be proposed by an expert panel including targets for long-term immigration. They would also propose a set of other possible plans for immigration targets of different levels. The House of Commons would then vote on their preferred plan with an indicative vote.

We would then prioritise long term immigration in the following order: first family reunification for those already within the UK where they can support themselves, second those wanting to move to the UK for vital jobs such as NHS jobs who already have an offer, third those with a job offer from non-essential jobs and finally those without a job offer but with the skills needed to do the job.

Temporary immigration including those with job offers that do not need to move to the UK permanently and for students would not be subject to targets. Instead, these

will rely on a job or University offer and will be counted separately unless they decide to move to the UK permanently. The UK should also offer new visa free access deals lasting 120 days allowing both UK citizens and those from another country to travel visa free for longer periods.

Finally, anyone entering or leaving the UK should be scanned in and out of the UK. This will ensure those on short term visas or students leave the UK after their visa has expired.

**A referendum on membership of the EU's Single Market.** We support negotiations and then a binding referendum on re-joining the single market and the European Free Trade Association. This would also include passporting rights and access to EU programs. The UK would have a say over this new agreement with a seat in the advisory EFTA court, the EFTA council, a veto over new EU laws and safeguarding measures which can be used on areas such as restricting free movement or state aid rules.

This arrangement also includes a set of opt-outs. We would be outside the Common Agricultural policy, the common fisheries policy, the EU's security policies, EU foreign policy, justice policies and home affairs policies. The UK would also be able still be able to make its own free trade deals as it wouldn't be part of the EU's Customs Union. We would also only pay the EU for EU programs we take part in, payments to poorer EU countries and payments for EFTA membership.



# Defence

**Meet our NATO spending commitments.** Unless the UK is at war, we should continue to maintain our spending commitment to NATO and ensure we spend 2% of the UK's GDP on defence. Unless there is a situation in which military spending needs to be increased 2% of GDP is likely to be the military budget for the foreseeable future.

**A northern defence strategy.** This will mean working closely with the Nordic countries to secure Northern Europe against potential aggression. This would also include strengthening the new 'Defence Arctic Strategy' with Iceland and Norway. Included in this strategy will be new joint programs, to help secure the North Atlantic against submarines, help to enable the Nordic countries to defend themselves more effectively and possibly offer any equipment the armed forces can't use.

This both spreads out any potential Russian attack and protects US reinforcements. Potential countries the UK could work with include the Nordic countries and the Baltic countries. Some of these countries are not members of NATO, have low levels of spending or are not members of the EU. This would both be an opportunity to build closer military links with these countries, take part in joint programs and allow us to persuade these countries to increase their spending on defence.

**Give military personnel more support.** Both the size of the army and funding should remain the same over time. There should also be an effort to improve vocational education within the army, housing, pay, equipment and care for veterans.

**Stop selling arms to countries that abuse human rights.** This would include countries on the government's list of human rights abusers such as Saudi Arabia, China, Pakistan and Egypt. We would halt the sales of weapons to these countries until they respect human rights. In Saudi Arabia, the ongoing arms sales have helped to destabilise the Middle East further. We are, however, heartened by the reforms to the country being led by Prince Mohammad bin Salman although these need to go further before we feel arms sales could be restarted to the country.

**Keep only a minimal nuclear deterrent.** The reality is that we live in an uncertain world where nations that are hostile or potentially hostile to the UK strive to obtain such weapons for themselves. Unilateral disarmament will both leave us as a target without our own deterrent and will lose the UK international standing. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to retain a nuclear defence system to act as a deterrent.

Although keeping some level of deterrent is necessary, we support keeping the number of nuclear warheads the UK has at a minimum. Decreases can be achieved both through agreements that involve other countries also reducing their nuclear stockpiles along with the reduction of our own stockpile until it is as low as possible.

whilst still being a deterrent. We would also keep under review the costs and utility of our nuclear defence system in the future. We furthermore support keeping our submarines on which nuclear weapons are housed up to date and therefore we support the Dreadnought replacement for the vanguard submarines.

# Chapter 11

## Housing



Policies in this section only affect England unless



There is an urgent need for new houses in the UK with high levels of homelessness and unaffordable housing. We believe the government needs to focus on increasing the number of houses available and fight against rising levels of homelessness.

**A zoning system.** A zoning system would split land up into separate areas called zones in which different types of building is allowed or for some areas no building is allowed at all. This system would mean more certainty to those wanting to build houses than the current system which looks at each building project individually. It would also likely lead to land prices being far more stable as what can be done with that land is set out before that land is brought. This system would be set by local councils and we support zones having multiple uses rather than just being for one purpose only. One of the other advantages to this system would be a using it to encourage building on Brownfield sites with the ability to place less restrictions on what can be built on these areas. This differs from the current system which leaves the possibility of other areas receiving more lenient planning permission due to being approved on an individual basis. Finally, we would create specific zone types that could be used by travellers and other communities more easily.

**A new purchasing system for council houses.** Right to buy should be replaced by a new scheme which will allow councils to build more houses. In this system when tenants are earning enough, they will be able to pay money towards a deposit to buy their council house. They can then either buy the house outright with the money going towards the council or pay the money over time in a similar way to a mortgage. The payments for the property will go to the council to allow them to build new houses or renovate existing ones for new owners.

**Expand Help to Buy.** Help to buy supports people financially if they have brought their first home. Help to buy should be reintroduced and extended to cover older properties that need to be repaired along with new build properties.

**New houses should have proper insulation.** This would require new houses to follow passive-house standards which means houses are insulated to keep them at a stable temperature. This both makes houses more energy efficient and reduces heating bills.

**Support new garden cities.** Alongside new houses being built in existing towns, cities and villages, new settlements should be garden cities. These give residents more natural space and reduce the overcrowding of houses. Garden cities should be built on greenfield sites to ensure this land is used effectively whilst allowing some of the area to grow back to its natural state.

**For any housing built, there needs to be sufficient infrastructure.** For new houses to be built, first there must be the infrastructure to support the people moving in. This means that if there aren't enough school places, hospital beds or other public services in place, new infrastructure must be built to ensure existing residents don't see their access to services decrease as a result of extra housing.

**A housing watchdog.** The housing watchdog would receive and then investigate complaints against either tenants or landlords. It would also ensure collective bargaining agreements are negotiated and implemented properly.

This policy only affects England, Scotland and Wales



**Copy Finland's 'housing first' scheme.** This should be based on Finland's success in tackling the number of homeless people on its streets. The UK's current model relies on temporary accommodation and essentially taking steps towards getting a new house. We would copy Finland's 'Housing First' scheme which instead focuses on getting people a house as soon as possible rather than just temporary accommodation. This would be backed up by support workers, a focus on lifelong education and addiction treatment so people leaving homelessness don't return to being homeless. We also support expanding the existing housing first system by the Housing Executives Supporting People program in Northern Ireland.

This policy affects the UK as a whole



**Collective bargaining between landlords and tenants.** This would involve landlords and tenants negotiating the conditions for rented accommodation. This will be done using a new national framework for collective bargaining which would allow for negotiations on both an individual and a group level. These agreements would set out the tenancy agreement, the minimum standards that need to be upheld by both sides and the amount of money due and when it is due.

# Chapter 12

## Culture, media and sport



Policies in this section only  
affect the UK.



The UK needs an open and accountable media. We also need to ensure internet users have more power over their personal information and that we deal with large dominant media companies that have too much control over the media.

**Go ahead with Leveson 2.** Leveson 2 will look into the relationship between the police and journalists. There needs to be further investigation into what went wrong and how phone hacking can be prevented from happening in the future. We also fully support the 'hacked off' campaign that supports Leveson 2.

**Strengthen the Competition and Markets Authority.** We want to strengthen their power to deal with media organisations with too much power and to break up organisations that hold excessive power that threatens competition. Competition is vital both with print media and digital media to ensure monopolies and oligopolies don't form.

**Scrap the BBC licence fee.** The BBC licence fee affects the poor far more than the rich as a result of the fixed fee for a TV licence. It should instead be funded through Income Tax with an independent commission set up to decide how much money the BBC requires.

**An Independent Press Regulator.** The current organisation that has the largest role in regulating the press is the Independent Press Standards Organisation. Its inaction means a new independent organisation needs to be set up in order to regulate the press. We believe changes such as ensuring corrections to newspapers should be in the same size and page as the original story would help to tackle inaccurate stories in newspapers.

**A digital bill of rights.** This would set out the rights people have on the internet which companies would have to follow. This would both protect individuals from abuse and clearly show companies what rules they need to follow. This would both be UK legislation and we would support a bill of rights also being put in place by the United Nations.

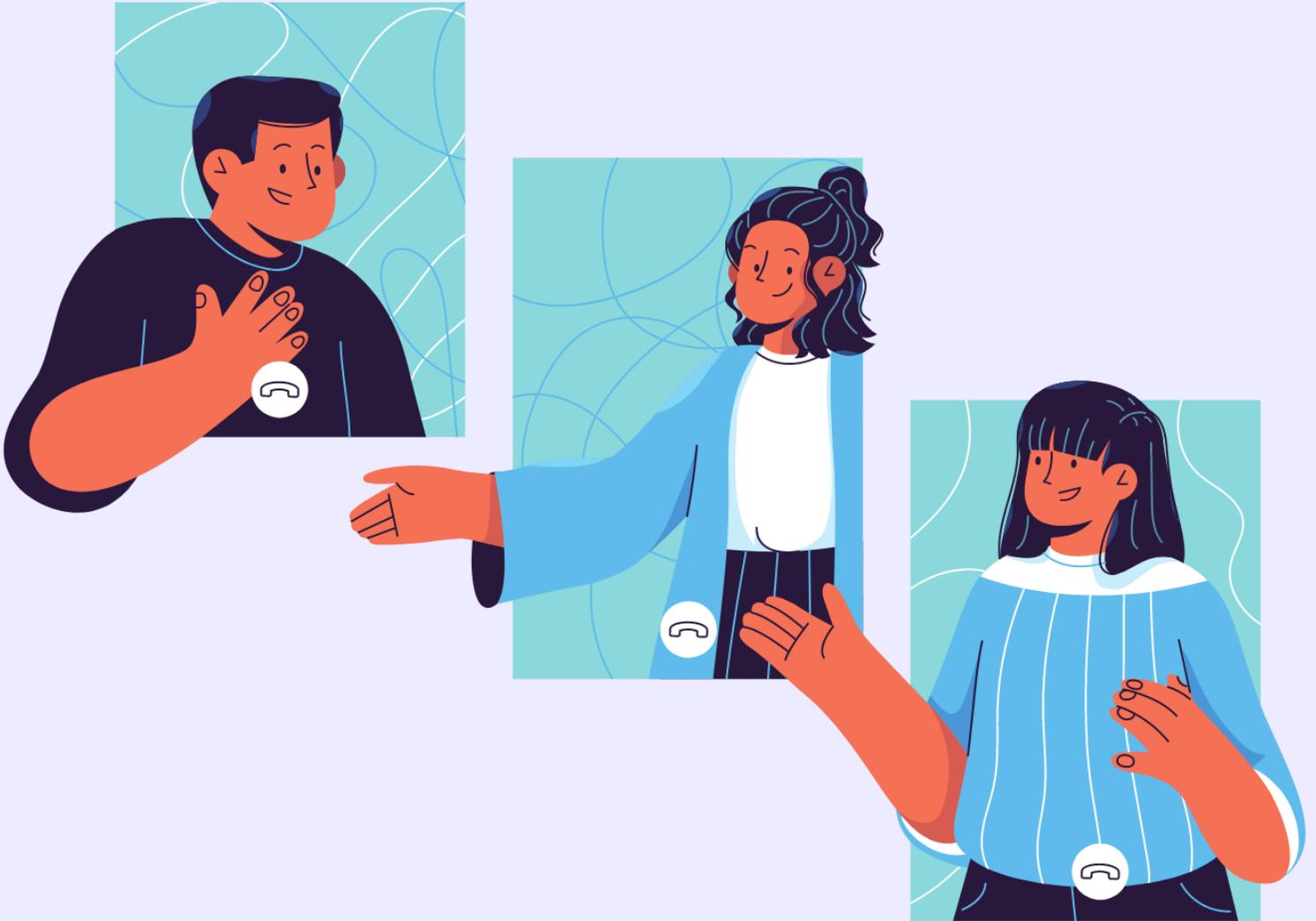
**A BBC watchdog.** This would investigate complaints about the conduct of BBC staff or their programs and then rule on them. Members of staff could then be compelled to step down in the most serious cases.

# Chapter 13

## Community



Policies in this section only affect England.



Whilst the pandemic has isolated people, we need to ensure that once the pandemic is over, we try to bring communities back together. This means helping to create stronger and more connected local communities where people have places to meet up and get to know each other.

**New or expanded community hubs.** We support either creating community hubs in areas that don't have them or expanding existing hubs. The aim would be for these hubs to include provisions that would help pensioners and the wider community to connect more. This includes community kitchens, regular meet and eats, access to free food, cafes and education or music facilities.

## Notes:

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