

NO TO INDYREF2

**THE SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVE AND
UNIONIST PARTY**

MANIFESTO 2019

Our Guarantee

1. We will stop Nicola Sturgeon's plan for a second independence referendum next year.
2. We will get Brexit sorted so that we can move Scotland on.
3. We will deliver additional funding for Scotland's public services.
4. We will introduce an Australian-style points-based immigration system that works for every part of the UK.
5. We will not raise rates of VAT or National Insurance.

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**The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
Manifesto 2019**

Introduction

Foreword from Boris Johnson

For the last decade Scotland has been trapped, like a lion in a cage. You have been like some super-green supercar blocked in the traffic. You can see the way ahead. You know where you want to go – and you know why you are stuck.

You have been paralysed by Nicola Sturgeon and the SNP who simply refuse to accept your decision to keep our United Kingdom together. And that is why this election is so essential.

Stop a second independence referendum – and we restore confidence and certainty to businesses and families.

Stop a second independence referendum – and we will see a pent-up tidal wave of investment into Scotland.

Stop a second independence referendum – and politics can get back to your priorities like Scotland's public services and the cost of living.

Stop a second independence referendum – and we can release that lion from its cage and Scotland can move forward.

There is only one way to stop a second independence referendum and get

Brexit done and that is to vote Scottish Conservative on December 12th.

If the outcome of this election is a strong Conservative majority Government – then I can guarantee that we will reject any request from the SNP Government to hold an independence referendum. There will be no negotiation – we will mark that letter return to sender and be done with it.

You already made your decision five years ago, when two million Scots said no to independence. Nicola Sturgeon promised you this was a once-in-a-generation decision and I will hold her to that.

I am very proud of the achievements of this Government in its first 100 days. We have mapped out a fantastic programme for the years ahead: to unite and level up, spreading opportunity across the whole United Kingdom.

The UK has extraordinary advantages. We lead the world in 21st-century technologies, from batteries to bioscience. We have many of the best universities on earth. There are parts of this country that are more productive and more innovative than anywhere else in Europe.

And yet there are parts of the country

that feel left behind. Talent and genius are uniformly distributed throughout the country. Opportunity is not. Now is the time to close that gap – not just because it makes such obvious economic sense, but for the sake of simple social justice.

If this Conservative Government is returned to office, we will have an infrastructure revolution for this country. Now is the time to invest in gigabit broadband for every home and business.

We will invest in technology and innovation. And we will invest in Britain's people by giving them the tools and training to flourish in the economy of the 21st century.

We will build on our £211 million of additional support for Scottish farming and our £1.25 billion contract to continue the great tradition of Royal Navy shipbuilding in Scotland with five new Type 31 frigates being constructed at Rosyth.

We are the only party that can deliver this programme, because we are the only party that understands the balance and symmetry at the heart of the UK economy.

We believe in superb public services and infrastructure, not just because they are

good things in themselves, but because they are the bedrock of a dynamic free market economy.

And there is only one way to deliver well-funded public services – and that is to foster and encourage the millions of British businesses, large and small, that create the wealth of the nation.

Their success is our success. It is thanks to the innovations of British battery-makers and turbine designers that we are able to cut CO2 – and achieve our goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.

It is precisely because we understand the concept of aspiration, and enterprise, that the UK is now leading a new green industrial revolution.

The tragedy of the modern Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn is that they detest the profit motive so viscerally – and would raise taxes so wantonly – that they would destroy the very basis of this country's prosperity.

If you want to understand the impact of a Corbyn Government on ordinary people, remember that he has voted against tax cuts worth £7,800 for people on modest incomes. He is already committed to putting up corporation tax to one of the highest levels in Europe.

Worse than that, he will have to do a shady backroom deal with Nicola Sturgeon to get into government.

And the price of that deal will be an independence referendum in 2020.

In contrast, we will defend and protect our United Kingdom – the awesome foursome that make up the most successful political partnership in history.

We are proud of our Armed Forces, and will always fund them properly.

We will stand up for our country and our values around the world.

Above all, we Conservatives will respect the democratic will of the people. We will finally get Brexit done by January 31st and end the threat of a second independence referendum.

We are able to deliver all the advantages of leaving the EU: making our own laws, controlling our own borders, taking back control of our fishing waters, and exercising all kinds of new freedoms.

From freeports to free trade deals, from abolishing the cruel live shipment of animals to cutting VAT on tampons, we in the UK will be able to remain close to our European friends and partners; but where we choose, we will be able to do things differently and better.

With a new Parliament and a sensible majority Government, we can get that deal through in days. It is oven-ready – and every single Conservative candidate at this election, all 635 of them, have pledged to vote for this deal as soon as Parliament returns.

And what is Jeremy Corbyn's alternative? A new negotiation, and then a new referendum – and he still cannot tell us what side he would be on: in or out, Remain or Leave.

It is a recipe for chaos – compounded by a second independence referendum

Scotland has had enough of the independence debate taking priority over everything else.

We don't want to waste 2020 on two acrimonious referendums.

We want next year to be a year of hope, of prosperity and growth.

We want to move on, with our programme of investment in infrastructure and technology, to create a high-wage, high-skill, low-tax economy.

We want to get Brexit done so that we can get on with our work of making Britain the greatest place in the world to live, to start a family, to own a home, to start a business – with the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth.

Let's end the threat of a second independence referendum for good, get Brexit done and enable Scotland and the rest of the UK to move forward together.



Boris Johnson
Prime Minister



Jackson Carlaw MSP
Leader of the Scottish Conservative
& Unionist Party

Foreword

from Jackson Carlaw

As we approach the election on December 12th, it's clear that Scotland is facing the very real risk of another divisive referendum on independence – within months.

Nicola Sturgeon has said she wants another referendum next year. Jeremy Corbyn – and countless other Labour politicians – have made clear they will not stand in her way.

If the SNP and Labour win a majority of seats in the UK Parliament between them, a Corbyn–Sturgeon pact is on the cards. The SNP will hand the keys of Number 10 to Mr Corbyn in return for the referendum they long for – with a second EU referendum thrown in for good measure.

This real and present risk is why all pro-UK Scots should, at this general election in particular, vote Scottish Conservative – to stop Sturgeon and Corbyn taking us back to yet more division.

The Scottish Conservatives unashamedly believe in the Union. We are the only party in Scotland who have that at the centre of what we do. We're

also the only party with the strength to take on the SNP and win.

So voting for us can stop that second referendum. In doing so, it will also help bring an end to the division and feuding of the last decade.

It's time to unite this country and move forward.

Because we want to start concentrating on what matters to Scots in their everyday lives.

We believe that there is an urgent need to restore our public services in Scotland, after years of neglect from an SNP government that has prioritised breaking up the United Kingdom above all else.

Most people in Scotland want the Scottish Government and UK Government to work together for the common good and to act constructively in the interests of the people they represent.

That's why Scottish Conservatives MPs elected on December 12th will champion

their constituents above all else.

Scottish Conservative MPs have always acted as local representatives first and foremost, working hard in the UK Parliament to deliver practical outcomes for the parts of Scotland they were elected to represent. Whether it's achieving Growth Deals for our cities or securing additional funding for our farmers, in recent times Scottish Conservative MPs have worked tirelessly for their communities, the length and breadth of Scotland.

We now have the chance to reject, once and for all, the SNP's attempt to drag us back to another referendum on independence.

We now have the chance to get Brexit sorted so the United Kingdom can move forward together.

On December 12th, I urge you to take this opportunity to elect Scottish Conservative MPs who will achieve just that.

Jackson Carlaw

Leader of the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

Strengthen our Union

Opposing a second independence referendum

In 2014, people in Scotland voted decisively to keep our United Kingdom together, on a promise from Nicola Sturgeon that it was a once in a generation decision.

Ever since then, Nicola Sturgeon and her SNP Government have been ignoring that vote with the intention of putting Scotland through the division and uncertainty of a another independence referendum all over again.

They say that Brexit gives them the mandate for a second referendum, but have admitted that even if the UK were to stay in the EU there should be another vote. It is clear that there will always be a new excuse or grievance for the SNP to demand an independence referendum.

So long as this SNP Government continues to put their independence obsession ahead of Scotland's public services and our economy, the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party will oppose another referendum.

By voting for our party in 2017, hundreds of thousands of Scots sent a clear message that they wanted this SNP Government to put their independence agenda to one side and get on with the job of managing our schools and hospitals. This forced Sturgeon to abandon her plans for an independence referendum in 2018.

Now Nicola Sturgeon and her SNP Government again want to hold an independence referendum next year.

Across Scotland, only the Scottish Conservatives have the strength and the will to stand up to the SNP. Labour would sell out Scotland to get SNP support for a Jeremy Corbyn government, with a second independence referendum as the price. Voting for the Liberal Democrats will result in an SNP MP being elected in your constituency, which Sturgeon says will strengthen her mandate for demanding another independence vote.

Just like in 2017, the only way that Scottish voters can send a clear signal to Nicola Sturgeon that they do not want another divisive referendum is by voting Scottish Conservative and Unionist.

Enhancing the benefits of the Union

The United Kingdom is the most successful political and economic union in history. Together, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are safer, stronger and more prosperous. For over 300 years, our people have built this great country together and we believe our best days lie ahead.

By getting Brexit sorted, we will deliver certainty so that all four nations of the UK can move on together. This will allow us to strengthen the Union, by making it our mission to be a government working for the whole of the United Kingdom, delivering for all of its people wherever they live.

We believe in devolution. It was a Conservative government that passed the 2012 and 2016 Scotland Acts, which gave new powers over tax and borrowing, and made the Scottish Parliament one of the most powerful devolved parliaments in the world. The Scottish Government can now create new benefits and taxes, but it will have to justify them to the Scottish people.

But this does not mean the UK Government has no role in Scotland. Far from it: the UK Government has a moral duty to protect Scotland's interests. The SNP would like the UK Government to abdicate its responsibilities to Scotland – but Scotland should have the right to benefit from UK-wide investment every bit as much as England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

We understand that Scotland's two governments can achieve far more when they work together. So as we leave the EU, we have the chance to think strategically about the shape of the whole Union and how to make us a stronger, more united country.

- ▶ **UK Shared Prosperity Fund:** The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will tackle inequality between communities across the whole of the United Kingdom. It will replace the overly bureaucratic EU structural funds and at a minimum match the size of those funds in each nation. This meets the central request of the Scottish Government to maintain funding levels to Scotland at their current allocation and means that the core purpose of structural funding – to reduce inequalities between different places – will be the same.
- ▶ **Strengthening the Union:** Conservatives have a proud history of upholding and strengthening the

devolution settlements in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We want to ensure that the institutions of the UK Government are working effectively to realise the benefits of our four nations working together as one United Kingdom. We will consider carefully the recommendations of Lord Dunlop's Independent Review into UK Government Union capability when it is published, as we look at how we work to strengthen our Union going forward.

- ▶ **Protecting the UK's single market:** As we leave the EU, significant powers will return to the UK that were previously held in Brussels. Our approach to new powers will be that they are devolved by default: as a result, the Scottish Parliament will receive sweeping new powers in a range of policy areas. All parties in Scotland agree that we need to maintain UK-wide approaches in some areas – so we can protect our own internal market and ensure our reputation as a credible trading partner outside the EU. Scottish Conservative MPs will protect the integrity of the UK single market and the ability of businesses to trade across the UK.

Delivering for Scotland

In 2017, 13 Scottish Conservative MPs were elected on a pledge to take a fresh approach and deliver for Scotland in the UK Parliament. We believe that constructive engagement with the UK Government is more likely to deliver for Scotland than endless grievance.

Where the SNP have made a lot of noise but failed to deliver for their constituencies, Scottish Conservative MPs have pushed the UK government to invest in Scotland's vital industries and local economies:

- ▶ **We have committed £1.4 billion to Growth Deals across Scotland.** We have committed £500 million to the Glasgow Deal, £125 million to the Aberdeen Deal, £53 million to the Inverness Deal, £300 million to the Edinburgh Deal, £45.1 million to the Stirling Deal, £150 million to the Tay Cities Deal, £103 million for the Ayrshire Deal, £32.5 million for the Moray Deal and £25 million for the Argyll and Bute Deal. We have also delivered £265 million in funding for the Borderlands Growth Deal. We are also continuing to work towards Deals for Falkirk and the Islands.
- ▶ **We delivered an extra billion pounds to spend on Scottish public services**

next year. The Scottish Government will receive an additional £1.2 billion in day-to-day spending next year, as a result of our investments in public services in England.

- ▶ **We backed Scotland's whisky and gin industries by delivering a freeze in Spirits Duty over two years.** After sustained campaigning by Scottish Conservative MPs, the UK Government announced that spirit duty would not rise with inflation, saving 30p on an average bottle of Scotch.

On some issues, the SNP spent years complaining – but made little effort to find a resolution. They were more interested in getting a headline than working to find a solution.

The Scottish Conservatives took a different approach. We took forward campaigns in good faith, engaged constructively – and won real results:

- ▶ **We are delivering £211 million in additional funding for Scottish farmers.** The UK Government has resolved the historical issue of convergence uplift funding and ensured that Scotland's farmers will receive their fair share of funding in the future.
- ▶ **We delivered an extra £35 million a year to the frontline of police and fire services.** Scottish Conservative MPs persuaded the UK Government to refund VAT on equipment and vehicles purchased by Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, saving the two services an

estimated £35 million each year. The SNP's plans for a centralised police force were "predicated on VAT not being provided for", meaning that they originally planned to pay VAT. This is a mess of the SNP's own making that we managed to clear up.

- ▶ **We delivered a seasonal workers scheme for Scottish agriculture.** Scottish Conservative MPs campaigned for the pilot as a first step to securing Scottish farmers access to the labour they need after Brexit. The pilot meant fruit and vegetable farmers are able to employ 2,500 non-EU migrant workers for seasonal work of up to 6 months.

Scottish Conservative MPs will continue to press a UK Conservative government to invest in and deliver for our vital industries:

- ▶ **Alcohol Duty Review:** Scotch whisky is our national export that supports 42,000 jobs across the UK. Yet the tax on each bottle of Scotch sold in this country represents almost three quarters of its price. That is why over the past two years we have frozen the duty on spirits, cutting the price of a bottle of Scotch by 30p. Now, we want to do more for Scotland's national drink, so we will review alcohol duty to ensure that our tax system is supporting British drink producers.
- ▶ **A post-Brexit deal for Scottish fishing:** As outlined above, we will leave the Common Fisheries Policy, become an independent coastal state, and take back control of our waters in December 2020.

- ▶ **Oil and gas sector deal:** The oil and gas industry employs over 100,000 people in Scotland. We believe that the North Sea oil and gas industry has a long future ahead and know the sector has a key role to play as we move to a net zero economy. We will support this transition in the next Parliament with a transformational sector deal.

- ▶ **Protect the Armed Forces from SNP tax rises:** Income tax is devolved to Holyrood. The Scottish Government has full flexibility to change rates and bands as it wishes. In 2017, they decided to raise taxes for anyone in Scotland earning over £26,000. That was particularly unfair on 8,000 Armed Forces personnel resident here who would have had to pay those higher taxes. They are required to serve where their country needs them, yet may take home less money than comrades they serve alongside because they are resident in Scotland or live in a Scottish base. Over the past two years, we have paid the difference, saving Armed Forces personnel up to £2,200 each. We will now ensure that this tax mitigation is permanent – giving certainty to our troops that they will never have to pay higher taxes simply for doing their duty.

- ▶ **Support agriculture by expanding the seasonal workers scheme:** We will quadruple the seasonal workers pilot scheme, so that farms and agricultural businesses will now be able to employ 10,000 seasonal workers under the scheme. This will ensure that soft fruit and vegetable farmers in Angus and Aberdeenshire have the workers they need next year.





Get Brexit Sorted

When the new Government entered Downing Street, the Prime Minister made a simple promise: to get Brexit done. Many said it would be impossible. But he swiftly negotiated a great new deal – despite Parliament’s best efforts to block his progress.

And then, when he put it to MPs, they insisted on yet more delay.

We must move on. No more renegotiations. No more referendums. Every week is costing us. Investment is waiting to come into the country. Families and businesses cannot make vital decisions. The public services cannot get the attention they deserve.

Our priority as Conservatives is to get Brexit sorted – so that we can unleash the potential of this great country. So that we can push past the obstacles that other parties have put in our nation’s way. So that we can deliver on the decision of the whole country in 2016 and use our new post-Brexit freedoms to transform the UK for the better.

If we elect a majority of Conservative MPs, we will start putting our deal through Parliament before Christmas and we will leave the European Union in January.

The Prime Minister’s new deal takes the whole country out of the EU as one United Kingdom. It takes us out of the customs union, allowing us to set our own tariffs and do our own trade deals. It allows us to pass our own laws and ensures that it is our courts that enforce them.

Our deal is the only one on the table. It is signed, sealed and ready. It puts the whole country on a path to a new Free Trade Agreement with the EU. This will be a new relationship based on free trade and friendly cooperation, not on the EU’s treaties or EU law. There will be no political alignment with the EU. **We will keep the UK out of the single market, out of any form of customs union, and end the role of the European Court of Justice.**

This future relationship will be one that allows us to:

- ▶ **Take back control of our laws.**
- ▶ **Take back control of our money.**
- ▶ **Control our own trade policy.**
- ▶ **Introduce an Australian-style points-based immigration system.**
- ▶ **Raise standards in areas like workers’ rights, animal welfare, agriculture and the environment.**
- ▶ **Ensure we are in full control of our fishing waters.**

We will negotiate a trade agreement next year – one that will strengthen our Union – and we **will not extend the implementation period beyond December 2020**. In parallel, we will legislate to ensure the highest standards of workers’ rights, environmental protection and consumer rights.

The only way to get Brexit sorted is with a Conservative majority in Parliament.

A vote for any other party is a vote for a Jeremy Corbyn government propped up by the SNP – leading to a second independence referendum next year.

Unleash Scotland's Potential

For the past nine years, the Conservatives have been cleaning up Labour's mess. Because of the tough decisions that our party made, the economy has continued to grow even as the public finances have been restored. Thanks to Conservative policies, employment is at a near-record high.

In Scotland, we've helped tens of thousands of people into work, halving the unemployment rate in the process. We've doubled the personal allowance to £12,500, meaning that every worker gets to keep more of what they earn. We've raised the National Living Wage - and will raise it still further.

But the strength of the UK's balance sheet - the hard work done by all of us in this country - means that we are now in a position to invest properly in our future.

A Conservative UK Government will give the public services the resources they need.

We will help people and families throughout their lives, by bringing down the cost of living and making sure that work always pays.

We will keep costs down for small businesses - rather than hiking their taxes and crushing Britain's prosperity.

We will not borrow to fund day-to-day spending, but will invest thoughtfully and responsibly in infrastructure right across our country in order to increase productivity and wages. Our fiscal rules mean that public sector net investment will not average more than 3 per cent of GDP, and that if debt interest reaches 6 per cent of revenue, we will reassess our plans to keep debt under control.

This means that debt will be lower at the end of the Parliament - rather than spiralling out of control under Labour. And we will use this investment prudently and responsibly to level up every part of the United Kingdom, while strengthening the ties that bind it together.

We will invest in the infrastructure, science and research that will deliver economic growth, not just through the 2020s, but for decades to come.

Above all, we will listen to the people who have felt left behind by the last few decades of economic growth and want to have more control of their future.

We will get Brexit sorted, so we can change Britain for the better.

David Duguid
Candidate for Banff
and Buchan



We Will Tackle Your Priorities

Restoring Scotland's public services

Scotland has a long history of public service innovation and excellence.

- ▶ In education, Scotland was one of the first countries to have a system of free public schools which fuelled the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. For decades, we had a reputation for robust, respected education. We boasted proudly of the breadth of our school system and its democratic intellect.
- ▶ The NHS might have been created across the UK in 1948. But in Scotland, it had a predecessor: the Highland Medical Service, founded in 1913. Our medical schools exported doctors around the world for centuries. Our medics have pioneered new treatments and techniques, from Alexander Fleming to Elsie Inglis.

- ▶ In policing, the UK's first professional police force was set up in Glasgow in 1800. More recently, in the 2000s the Violence Reduction Unit introduced new methods aiming to tackle violent crime and keep our streets safe.

Yet under Nicola Sturgeon, that hard-won reputation has started to falter.

We still have the best professionals in the world – but they frequently report a lack of policy direction, funding not going to right places, and a workplace culture that undermines their professional autonomy.

- ▶ Schools are limiting the number of qualifications children can sit because there are not enough teachers.
- ▶ Children are travelling 200 miles for cancer treatment because major building projects are delayed.
- ▶ Violent crime has been rising for the past four years and victims feel sentencing isn't clear and honest enough.

We pride ourselves on being a nation that led the world in creating high-quality, trusted public services. We still have the professionals to restore that reputation: but we have lacked an ambitious Scottish Government with the vision and energy to drive forward change.

Why is this?

The simple answer is that fixing the GP crisis, expanding core subject choices, or tackling violent crime have never been Nicola Sturgeon's priorities. **Scottish nationalism is not an ideology built on improving the way our hospitals run. It is not a creed that obsesses about the best way to run schools. Its activists do not go on marches to protest for victims of crime. It is about breaking up the United Kingdom above all else: and everything else gets relegated to the in-tray for another day.**

Scotland needs a better approach. That is what the Scottish Conservatives are offering.



Our approach would have four crucial aspects.

First, funding.

The firmest foundation for investment in public services is a strong, growing economy. This is particularly the case for Scotland, where the fiscal framework rewards Scotland growing faster, relative to the rest of the UK.

The spending decisions in the 2019 UK Conservative manifesto would result in significant Barnett Consequentials for Scotland's public services:

- ▶ A UK Conservative government will enshrine in law our fully funded, long-term NHS plan for England. This will be the largest cash settlement in NHS history and ensures funding increases year on year – **with Barnett Consequentials for the Scottish Government of £3.3 billion** between 2018 and 2023.
- ▶ In his first 90 days the Prime Minister announced £14 billion extra funding for schools in England – an extra £150 million a week – by 2023, with a minimum of £5,000 for each secondary school pupil and £4,000 for each primary school pupil. In addition, there will be £700 million of new funding to support children with special educational needs. This will result in **Barnett Consequentials of £1.4 billion.**

- ▶ In England, a UK Conservative Government will invest in improving infrastructure in the North of England, restore many of the Beeching lines, and invest in superbus networks with lower fares, flat fares in urban areas, and increased frequency. It is also investing £28.8 billion in strategic and local roads.

This would be transformational for our public services. As a result of decisions taken by a Conservative UK Government, the Scottish Government would have substantially more funding to invest in public services. **This year's Spending Round alone resulted in an additional £1.2 billion of additional investment into Scotland public services, the largest ever increase in the Scottish Government's Block Grant.**

With funding secure, any shortfall or deficient use of these funds can only be as a result of decisions taken by the SNP Government.

The second policy response is smart investment in staff.

Scottish Conservative MPs would work with their MSP colleagues to push the SNP Government to use this funding in the right way and invest to tackle the staffing challenges that underpin so much else:

- ▶ Falling teacher numbers leads to other problems. Teacher shortages make it more likely a school will limit subject

choice for pupils. Greater reliance on supply teachers makes it harder to achieve consistency in the classroom and increases stress and workload for any full-time staff covering gaps. Fewer teachers mean larger classes and more multi-level classes, which at the extreme can undermine discipline and teaching standards.

So tackling teacher shortages is the key to solving many other challenges in our schools.

- ▶ GP shortages create pressure on the rest of the NHS. GPs are the frontline of our health system: if patients cannot get a GP appointment, they may well go to A&E. Many diseases are easier to treat if they are caught earlier – such as cancer – but are less likely to be picked up if GP services are under pressure. **If we have more GPs, and invest in multi-disciplinary teams, such as locating physiotherapists and pharmacists within General Practice, we are likely not just to improve care but reduce costs too.**
- ▶ **Fewer front-line local police officers reduces the visibility of community policing while burdening officers with ever more responsibilities.** It makes anti-social behaviour more likely. It means officers have to cover wider areas, having to work ever harder to retain vital local knowledge and leading to less intelligence being gathered.

All of this means that recruiting, supporting, and giving space to front-line professionals – at the point at which public services most need them – should be the priority.

The third is focusing on the public's priorities.

Scotland's public services have lacked political leadership: people feel like many services don't even meet the most basic standards.

A good local school that has enough teachers, a GP practice that can offer appointments, and a sentencing system that gives fair and transparent punishment – these are not radical proposals. They are the least the public expect from their government. But because the SNP has been distracted, even that has been too much to ask.

Scottish Conservative candidates seek a mandate to deliver funding for Scotland – and keep up the pressure on the SNP to use it wisely. This would involve:

- ▶ **A greater focus on core skills at schools.** We would refresh Curriculum for Excellence, to make sure that basic literacy and numeracy are right at the heart of a child's education.
- ▶ **A renewed vocational education system.** A responsive skills system means people earning more and

a more productive economy. We would rebalance the system so that every child has to be in education, an apprenticeship or in-work training up to age 18.

- ▶ **Prioritising GPs.** We want to see a greater share of NHS funding going to GPs, and renewed recruitment efforts to restore primary care's place in the health service.
- ▶ **Honesty in sentencing,** where victims see a sentence and know how long the criminal will spend in prison. We want life to mean life – with much greater transparency and say for victims over the early release and parole of the perpetrators of crime.

Laws relating to security are reserved, due the need to tackle certain crimes across the UK. **A UK Conservative Government will take action to make sure that Scots are safe** in the face of changing security challenges:

- ▶ **We will embrace new technologies and crack down on online crimes.** We will create a new national cyber crime force and empower the police to safely use new technologies like biometrics and artificial intelligence, along with the wider use of DNA, within a strict legal framework. We will also create a world-class National Crime Laboratory.

- ▶ **We will counter the growing threat of serious and organised crime.** We will strengthen the National Crime Agency so it can tackle the threats we face, from fraud, county lines gangs and child sexual abuse to illicit finance, modern slavery and people-trafficking.

- ▶ **We will keep our country safe from terrorism.** We will invest in the police and security services and give them the powers they need to combat new threats. In the wake of the terrible events in Manchester in 2017, we will improve the safety and security of public venues.

Finally, moving politics on from constitutional division.

We oppose a second independence referendum not just because it would divide us all over again, but because if Scotland spends the foreseeable future arguing about the constitution, we will not be addressing the challenges in our schools, hospitals and police force.

We can divide the country all over again with a second independence referendum, or we can restore our public services to their rightful place as the best in the world. We cannot do both.

Let's get our politics back to the everyday issues that really matter.

Support working families

Since 2010, the Conservatives have helped over 1,000 people on average into work every day.

That is an extraordinary figure. And it has only been possible because of the strong economy we have helped to create; our support for business; and our welfare reforms, which have encouraged more people into work.

Whoever you are, we want to make it easier for you to get a good job – and to be able to combine a rewarding career with raising a family or caring for elderly or disabled relatives, rather than being forced to prioritise between them. We want to make sure that you get to keep more of the money you earn, and that we keep your bills low. And we want to make sure that those who can't work, or have entered retirement, get the level of support they need.

We have focused, over the past decade, on making sure that work always pays – particularly for those most in need of support. We have raised the minimum wage significantly and introduced and consistently raised the National Living Wage. **We have doubled the personal allowance to £12,500**, so that everyone gets to earn a decent amount before they are taxed. And we have made

Martin Dowey
Candidate for Ayr,
Carrick & Cumnock



sure the state pension keeps pace with earnings.

In our first months, we announced an increase in the National Living Wage to two thirds of average earnings, currently forecast at £10.50 an hour, and widened its reach to everyone over 21. That means an average pay rise of £4,000 per year for four million people by 2024.

To help young people get a foot on the employment ladder, we abolished employers' National Insurance Contributions for under-21s and apprentices under 25.

Creating millions more jobs is one of the Conservatives' proudest achievements.

A Labour Government that makes it harder for businesses to grow and to hire – that allows people to sink into dependency rather than encouraging them to work and earn – could undo all of this progress.

A majority Conservative Government will deliver a major package of measures designed to ensure that it always pays to work, while doing everything we can to protect and support those who cannot – and to address the cost of living pressures that we all face.

- ▶ **We promise not to raise the rates of National Insurance or VAT.** This is a tax guarantee that will protect the incomes of hard-working families across this Parliament.

- ▶ We not only want to freeze taxes, but to cut them too. **We will raise the National Insurance threshold to £9,500 next year – the largest increase ever, representing a tax cut for 32 million workers.** Our ultimate ambition is to ensure that the first £12,500 you earn is completely free of tax – which would put almost £500 in people's pockets.

- ▶ For many families, energy costs are a major source of financial pressure. We will keep our existing energy cap and introduce new measures to lower bills. We will also give the Competition and Markets Authority enhanced powers to tackle consumer rip-offs and bad business practices.

- ▶ On entering Government in 2010, the Conservatives acted decisively to protect the UK's pensioners. The 'triple lock' we introduced has meant that those who have worked hard and put in for decades can be confident that the state will be there to support them when they need it. **We will keep the triple lock, the winter fuel payment, the older person's bus pass and other pensioner benefits, ensuring that older people have the security and dignity they deserve.** We recognise the value of free TV licences for over-75s and believe they should be funded by the BBC.

- ▶ A number of workers, disproportionately women, who earn between £10,000 and £12,500 have been missing out on pension benefits because of a loophole affecting people

with net pay pension schemes. We will conduct a comprehensive review to look at how to fix this issue.

- ▶ We will use our freedom from the EU to improve the UK's tax regime – not least by **abolishing the tampon tax.**
- ▶ We as Conservatives believe that everyone who can work, should work – and that it should always pay them to do so. But we also believe that those who truly can't work must be given the help they need. That is why we will continue the roll-out of Universal Credit, which combines multiple benefits into one while building a clearer pathway from welfare into work. We have already acted to increase work allowances, a move worth £630 to working families with children and those with disabilities, and we will do more to make sure that Universal Credit works for the most vulnerable. We will also end the benefit freeze, while making sure it pays to work more hours.
- ▶ At the same time, we will make sure those who cheat the system by committing benefit fraud are punished. There is no excuse for exploiting others who have worked hard and paid in.
- ▶ To help those looking after family members, especially women, we will support the main carer in any household receiving the Universal Credit payment. And we will continue

our efforts through the tax and benefits system to reduce poverty, including child poverty. Children should grow up in an environment with no limits to their potential – which is one of the reasons we are making it a priority to put more money in the pockets of low-paid workers.

- ▶ **We will also extend the entitlement to leave for unpaid carers**, the majority of whom are women, and ensure their pension is protected.

- ▶ As part of our efforts to support the most vulnerable, we will take measures to empower and support disabled people. In particular we will reduce the number of reassessments a disabled person must go through when a significant change in condition is unlikely – because you should not have to provide repeated proof of your disability.

We will publish a National Strategy for Disabled People before the end of 2020. This will look at ways to improve the benefits system, as opportunities and access for disabled people in terms of housing, education, transport and jobs. It will include our existing commitments to increase SEND funding and support pupils, students and adults to get careers advice, internships, and transition into work. We will look to work with the Scottish Government on this Strategy, as we reduce the disability employment gap.

Our Australian-style points-based system

We will prioritise people who:

- ▶ Have a good grasp of English
- ▶ Have been law-abiding citizens in their own countries
- ▶ Have good education and qualifications

Most people coming into the country will **need a clear job offer**. In addition:

- ▶ **We will not allow serious criminals into the country.** If people abuse our hospitality, we will remove them as quickly as possible.
- ▶ **We will keep track of who is coming in and out of our country.**
- ▶ **We will overhaul the current immigration system, and make it more fair and compassionate** – what happened to the Windrush generation was horrific and we will ensure it never happens again. We are committed to the Windrush compensation scheme.

- ▶ **We will treat EU and non-EU citizens equally.** Regardless of whether they are from Europe or another part of the world, we welcome people who meet our criteria.
- ▶ **We want EU citizens who came to live in the UK before Brexit to stay** – and we have committed absolutely to guaranteeing their existing rights and ensuring that they feel a welcomed and valued part of our country and community after Brexit. That is why we introduced the EU Settlement Scheme.

A photograph of Sajid Javid and Priti Patel seated together at a public event. Sajid Javid, on the left, is wearing a dark suit and a light blue tie, looking towards the right with a slight smile. Priti Patel, on the right, is wearing a bright red dress and is smiling broadly, looking towards the same direction. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame. The background is a blurred crowd of people.

Sajid Javid
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Priti Patel
Home Secretary

An immigration system that works for Scotland and the UK

The Scottish Conservatives believe in a UK-wide immigration system that works for every part of our country. The SNP's plan of a devolved immigration system for Scotland would simply not work and is tied to their obsession with breaking up the UK. It would lead to a border at Berwick and undermine the UK internal market. Even under freedom of movement, rural and remote Scotland faced demographic challenges – so there are big differences within Scotland, and no easy solution.

Our MPs' priority will be to push for a system that reflects the needs of the places that need migration most – in particular, remote and rural communities, and the sectors that are most reliant on migrant labour and where there is no domestic workforce available.

That is why a majority Conservative Government will get Brexit sorted, and then introduce a firmer and fairer Australian-style points-based immigration system, so that we can decide who comes to this country on the basis of the skills they have and the contribution they can make – not where

they come from. Migrants will contribute to the NHS – and pay in before they can receive benefits.

Our new system gives us real control over who is coming in and out. It allows us to attract the best and brightest from all over the world.

Only by establishing immigration controls and ending freedom of movement will we be able to attract the high-skilled workers we need to contribute to our economy, our communities and our public services. There will be fewer lower-skilled migrants and overall numbers will come down. And we will ensure that the British people are always in control.

Attracting the best and brightest

We want the UK to be a magnet for the best and brightest, with special immigration routes for those that will make the biggest contribution. We will create bespoke visa schemes for new migrants who will fill shortages in our public services, build the companies and innovations of the future, and benefit Britain for years to come:

- ▶ **The NHS Visa.** Qualified doctors, nurses and allied health professionals with a job offer from the NHS, who have been trained to a recognised

standard, and who have good working English, will be offered fast-track entry, reduced visa fees and dedicated support to come to the UK with their families.

- ▶ We will actively **recruit leaders in their field to come to the UK.** The small number of the best technology and science graduates from the top universities in the world and those who win top scientific prizes will be offered fast-track entry to the UK – these people can do more than any others to drive scientific progress and help our NHS and our economy.
- ▶ Our **student visa** will help universities attract talented young people and allow those students to stay on to apply for work here after they graduate.
- ▶ Our **start-up visa**, alongside our new rules for those of exceptional talent, will ensure that we can attract the entrepreneurs of the future who want to start great businesses here in the UK.

Integration and openness

We want our party, and our Government, to represent modern Britain – a diverse and tolerant country with confidence in its own identity and values. We believe

Contributing to our country

New arrivals almost always pay the taxes that support our vital services. But we believe, as is true in other countries, that it is only fair for people to pay into the system for a significant period of time before they can access welfare. For this reason:

- ▶ People coming into the country from the EU will only be able to access unemployment, housing, and child benefit after five years, in the way non-EEA migrants currently do.
- ▶ We will no longer allow people to claim child benefit for children living overseas.
- ▶ We will require new arrivals to contribute to the funding of the NHS and will increase the health surcharge to ensure it covers the full cost of use, while clamping down on health tourism. However, we will continue to offer free emergency care.

the enduring beliefs that unite us are far more important than our differences.

Our society has been enriched by immigration and we will always recognise the contribution of those who have helped build our businesses, public services, culture and communities.

We will ensure no matter where in the world you or your family come from, your rights will be respected and you will be treated with fairness and dignity.

We will tackle prejudice, racism and discrimination and do more to address the complex reasons why some groups do less well at school, earn less at work, or are more likely to be victims of crime. We will act to improve the lives of all and reject the politics of division. Our priority is to focus on practical solutions that make a real difference to people's lives.

- ▶ We will boost English language teaching to empower new migrants and help promote integration into society.
- ▶ We will improve the quality of evidence and data within Government about the types of barriers different groups face, ensuring that fairness is at the heart of everything we do.
- ▶ We will continue to grant asylum

and support to refugees fleeing persecution.

- ▶ We will champion freedom of expression and tolerance, both in the UK and overseas.
- ▶ We will ensure that the historic contribution of migrant groups is recognised. We will maintain our support for a memorial recognising the contribution of the Windrush Generation in a prominent site in London.

We Will Unleash Scotland's Potential

Getting Brexit done allows us to focus on making this the best possible place to live and work – to use our post-Brexit freedoms to build prosperity and strengthen and level up every part of the country.

Because it is not just Scotland's potential that we want to unleash, but that of the Scottish people.

Our plan means making sure people have access to world-class public services, that they feel safe on the streets, that working families get to keep more of their own money, and that we help with cost of living pressures.

But it also means making sure that we share prosperity across the country, addressing the longstanding economic challenges in parts of the country. We will invest responsibly and prudently in the infrastructure that can make a difference and ensure communities in every corner of the United Kingdom are pleasant, safe and prosperous. And we will invest far more in helping workers train and retrain for the jobs and industries of the future.

Investing in people, restoring the fabric of our towns and cities, supporting our great science and industries, strengthening the great Union between the United Kingdom's four nations – that is how we will unleash our country's full potential.

We are the only party that can deliver this programme, because we are the only party that understands the symmetry at the heart of the UK economy. That the only way to fund world-class public services, training for everyone and outstanding infrastructure is to encourage the millions of British businesses that create the wealth of the nation – especially small businesses, family firms and the self-employed.

We stand for working people, those doing their best to provide for their families, those risking their savings on a new idea, those challenging existing markets. Their success is our success.

And we stand for those who give their time to help others – the charities, volunteers and philanthropists who already do so much to make our country a better place.

We believe, in other words, that Britain is a great country – the greatest place on earth. But together, we can make it greater still.

Supporting local communities

It is our strong ambition to bring **full fibre and gigabit-capable broadband to every home by 2025 across the whole of the UK**. We know how difficult it will be, so we have announced a raft of legislative changes to accelerate progress and £5 billion of new public funding to pay for premises which are not commercially viable.

This will be hugely beneficial for Scottish communities who have been told that it is not commercially viable to roll out broadband to their homes. Meanwhile, the SNP Government's R100 Scheme continues to be delayed and it is on track to fail its 2021 targets.

The number of bank branches has dropped across the UK. But Scotland has been particularly affected: over the past nine years, RBS has reduced its branch network by 70 per cent, Clydesdale by 53 per cent, and Santander by 42 per cent. According to Which?, there are 130 "cash deserts" in Scotland where communities have no access to a bank branch or ATM within a reasonable distance.

Scottish Conservative MPs will continue to campaign for rural communities' access to cash and local banking services. We want the Access to Banking Standard, which guarantees

basic rights to access banking, to be placed into law. We will campaign for better procedures around ATM closures, and push the UK Government to explore imaginative solutions, such as community banking hubs, or better use of the Post Office network.

Invest in Scotland's people

The 2020s will see a transformation in jobs. Automation and computing will change how businesses function. Our plan to deliver clean energy and a carbon-neutral future means new kinds of jobs in new industries. And our departure from the European Union means we can tailor our regulations to ensure that we are first in line to develop and benefit from the technologies of the future.

This requires a dramatic rebooting of our training system – to support public services, existing businesses and the businesses of the future. But above all, to ensure that Britain's workers have the skills they need to flourish – and that every citizen of this country has the opportunity to express their talents to the fullest.

We will make it a requirement for apprentices to be hired for all new big infrastructure delivered through UK Government contracts

– new hospitals, new schools, the refurbishment of the Houses of Parliament, big transport projects and so on, being built with pride by British workers.

We have already announced a UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to ensure that no part of the UK loses out from the withdrawal of EU funding (which was, of course, only a small part of the billions of pounds we were contributing), and to replace the EU programme with one better tailored to our economy. We will ensure that £500 million of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is used to give disadvantaged people the skills they need to make a success of life.

Help make Scotland the best place to start and run a business

We want Britain to be the best country in the world to start and run a business – a place where entrepreneurs know they can build on their ideas and find success.

Not only because businesses are good for society – creating the jobs that put bread on the table, and generating the tax revenue that funds our vital public services.

It's because we believe that we should do everything we can to support those who want to start their own company, strike out on their own, have an idea that grows into a world-leading business. Because our mission as Conservatives is to give everyone, across the UK, the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

We have many strengths. We are a highly competitive economy with a strong education system and well-respected regulatory framework. We have more world-class universities than the rest of Europe combined.

We are a magnet for talent, and home to more innovative and successful

new companies than anywhere on the Continent – especially in the technology sector. In areas such as tech, financial services, law and the creative industries we lead the world – and will continue to do so after Brexit.

And by cutting corporation tax from 28 per cent to 19 per cent, we have encouraged more businesses to invest and grow in the UK.

Of the nearly six million businesses in this country, the vast majority are small and medium sized. Small and family businesses are the backbone of the economy and Britain is immeasurably stronger for their contribution.

Once we get Brexit sorted, we can use our new freedoms to ensure that Britain's businesses can unleash their enormous potential – that they can invest, hire, export and grow, rather than being crushed by Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell's inexorable hostility towards aspiration and entrepreneurship.

Driving down costs and supporting small businesses

We understand the challenge of increasing running costs, especially for smaller firms, and are committed to reducing them.

Our plan to upgrade infrastructure will make it easier for businesses to operate – to move goods about the country and to connect to customers around the world via gigabit broadband.

But we also want to tackle the other everyday obstacles that they face.

- ▶ **We will increase the Employment Allowance for small businesses** – a tax cut for half a million small firms.
- ▶ **We will support start-ups and small businesses via government procurement**, and commit to paying them on time. We will also clamp down on late payment more broadly, not least by strengthening the powers of the Small Business Commissioner to support small businesses that are exploited by their larger partners.
- ▶ **We will expand start-up loans**, which have particularly benefited women and BAME entrepreneurs. The British Business Bank has supported 90,000 smaller businesses with over £7 billion in investment or loans, and will continue to grow.
- ▶ **Good regulation is essential to successful businesses**: we will strive to achieve the right regulatory balance between supporting excellent business

practice and protecting workers, consumers and the environment. Through our Red Tape Challenge, we will ensure that regulation is sensible and proportionate, and that we always consider the needs of small businesses when devising new rules, using our new freedom after Brexit to ensure that British rules work for British companies

Of course, supporting enterprise is not just about championing businesses – more people than ever are moving into self-employment, especially women. We will therefore **launch a review to explore how we can better support the self-employed**. That includes improving their access to finance and credit (not least mortgages), entitlement to parental and carer’s leave, and making the tax system easier to navigate.

Backing entrepreneurs and innovation

Every day, people risk their savings and their future by becoming entrepreneurs.

They invent the new goods and services that improve our lives. From decarbonisation to expanding the frontiers of artificial intelligence, they are tackling some of the great challenges of our time. We want to be a nation of start-ups, and of successful

scale-ups. We have more ‘unicorns’ – new billion-dollar tech companies – than any other nation in Europe.

We are proud of the work we have done to support entrepreneurship and want to see more entrepreneurs, including women and those from BAME backgrounds. Some of our work has been spectacularly successful – such as the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme and Enterprise Investment Scheme, which we will continue in the next Parliament.

Some measures have worked, but need to go further – as with R&D tax credits. **We will increase the tax credit rate to 13 per cent** and review the definition of R&D so that important investments in cloud computing and data, which boost productivity and innovation, are also incentivised.

We also have to recognise that some measures haven’t had exactly the impact we hoped, so we will review and reform Entrepreneurs’ Relief.

Of course, supporting enterprise is not just about championing businesses – more people than ever are moving into self-employment, especially women. We will therefore launch a review to explore how we can better support the self-employed. That includes improving their access to finance and credit (not least mortgages), making

the tax system easier to navigate, and examining how better broadband can boost home-working.

Building a fairer taxation system

Conservatives believe in a corporate tax system which rewards entrepreneurship and punishes evasion. We will always be wholeheartedly on the side of business, while making sure everyone pays their fair share of tax. Already, the top 1 per cent of income taxpayers pay over 29 per cent of income tax – higher than at any time under the last Labour Government.

We will continue to build on this to tackle tax evasion and reduce opportunities for aggressive tax avoidance.

Since 2010, we have introduced more than 100 anti-avoidance measures and secured more than £200 billion which would otherwise have gone unpaid – £24 billion in the last year alone. We have led the international fight against aggressive tax avoidance and offshore tax havens, rewriting global rules to ensure tax is paid where profit is made. This has included committing 100 jurisdictions to ending bank secrecy.

But we can go further still. The gap between the amount of tax that

should be paid and is actually collected stands at £35 billion – still too high. Hard-working families and businesses who do pay their fair share should know that we will not permit evasion to go unchecked. So we will set out a new anti-tax avoidance and evasion law. This will:

- ▶ **Double the maximum prison term to 14 years** for individuals convicted of the most egregious examples of tax fraud.
- ▶ **Create a single, beefed-up Anti-Tax Evasion unit in HMRC** that covers all duties and taxes, from individual errors to deliberate non compliance – which is put on a legislative footing.
- ▶ **Consolidate existing anti-evasion and avoidance measures and powers.**
- ▶ **Introduce a new package of anti-evasion measures**, including measures to end tax abuse in the construction sector, crack down on illicit tobacco packaging and further measures to tackle profit-shifting by multinational companies to avoid paying taxes.

Major multinational companies should pay their fair share of tax. As part of our approach, **we will implement the Digital Services Tax.**

While always backing entrepreneurs that choose to make the UK the place to invest and set up a business, we will take further action to redesign the tax system so that it boosts growth, wages and investment and limits arbitrary tax advantages for the wealthiest in society.

We are also strengthening the UK's corporate governance regime, and will reform insolvency rules and the audit regime so that customers and suppliers – and UK taxpayers – are better protected when firms like Thomas Cook go into administration. We will also carefully study the results of the ongoing investigation into its collapse. We will improve incentives to attack the problem of excessive executive pay and rewards for failure.

We will reintroduce legislation that protects pension pots from being plundered by reckless bosses, helps savers be better informed with pension dashboards, and create a new style of pension scheme which is more sustainable for workers and employers.

Fairness in the workplace

As well as making Britain the best place to start a business, and the best place to learn and develop your skills, we want to make the UK the best place in the world to work.

The increase in employment that the Conservative Government has overseen since 2010 is proof that there is no contradiction between high employment and high standards – between dynamic growth and protecting employees from unfair policies and discriminatory treatment. Over the last year, for example, unemployment has continued to fall, even as average real wages have increased.

We have raised the personal income tax allowance, increased the minimum wage and introduced and consistently raised the National Living Wage to ensure that people get to keep more of what they earn and that work always pays. And we have struck the right balance between the flexibility that the economy needs and the security that employees deserve, introducing new protections for workers while preserving the dynamism and job creation that drive our shared prosperity.

Once we have got Brexit sorted, we will go further. Because people cannot fulfil



Alister Jack
Candidate for Dumfries and Galloway
Secretary of State for Scotland

their potential if they do not have jobs that treat them with dignity and respect, and if they are not in control of their lives and their futures.

As Conservatives we will always prioritise the principle of fairness in the workplace, whether it is in the job application process, ensuring equal pay for equal work, or people's working conditions.

We will therefore build on our existing employment law with new measures that protect everyone, especially those in low-paid work:

- ▶ **We will create a single enforcement body** and crack down on any employer abusing employment law, whether by taking workers' tips or refusing them sick pay.

- ▶ **We will ensure that workers have the right to request a more predictable contract** and other reasonable protections.

We also want to look at more radical ways to support working families in the UK. Our lifestyles have been transformed over the last four decades – many families today have two working parents who are juggling work and other responsibilities. They have to stretch themselves daily to care for children, elderly relatives and those with disabilities. For women, who still tend to be the main carers in households, this can have a big impact on their careers and limit their participation in the workplace.

But while the modern workplace is adapting as a result, we can do more as

a Government to make things easier, learning from sensible approaches adopted in other countries. We will therefore introduce a raft of measures that balance the needs of employees and employers:

- ▶ **We will encourage flexible working** and consult on making it the default unless employers have good reasons not to.
- ▶ **We have reformed redundancy law** so companies cannot discriminate against women immediately after returning from maternity leave.
- ▶ **We will legislate to allow parents to take extended leave for neonatal care**, to support those new mothers and fathers who need it during the most vulnerable and stressful days

of their lives. And we will look at ways to make it easier for fathers to take paternity leave.

- ▶ **We will extend the entitlement to leave for unpaid carers**, the majority of whom are women, to a week.
- ▶ **We will continue to ensure that we update Britain's employment rules** to reflect the needs of modern families and modern workplaces.

Our vision for the labour market, in other words, is not one where the state does everything for you. It is one where the state does everything it can to help you help yourself – by upgrading your skills, or by being able to balance work and family life. It is one in which a deep commitment to entrepreneurship and business is matched by a desire to ensure that the jobs that are created are highly skilled, well-paid and fulfilling.

Unleash innovation

The UK has a proud record of innovation and discovery. We are the country that gave the world penicillin, the World Wide Web, the theories of gravity and evolution, that unravelled the structure of DNA. Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Aberdeen are regularly accounted among the best universities in the world.

That spirit of discovery is still alive in this country today. But we have not always turned our genius for innovation into jobs and companies here in Britain. EU regulations have been another barrier to innovation.

We need to use science and research to unite and level up our country, giving people opportunity and hope.

Once we have got Brexit sorted, we will turn our attention to the great challenges of the future such as clean energy and advanced energy storage; a cure for dementia; and solving antibiotic resistance. To do this we will make an unprecedented investment in science so we can strengthen research and build the foundations for the new industries of tomorrow.

We are committing to the fastest ever increase in domestic public R&D

spending, including in basic science research to meet our target of 2.4 per cent of GDP being spent on R&D across the economy. Some of this new spending will go to a new agency for high-risk, high-payoff research, at arm's length from government. We will continue to support our outstanding science sector as we leave the EU.

Unlike Corbyn's Labour, we will not spend blindly and wastefully.

- ▶ **We will focus our efforts on areas where the UK can generate a commanding lead in the industries of the future** – life sciences, energy, space, design, computing, robotics and AI.
- ▶ In particular, **we will make the UK the leading global hub for life sciences** after Brexit.
- ▶ **We will use our £1 billion Ayrton Fund to develop affordable and accessible clean energy.** That will improve lives and help us to lead the world in tackling climate change.
- ▶ **We will use our increased R&D funding from government to attract and kickstart private investment.**
- ▶ **We will support international collaboration and exchange** and ensure we can get the skills and talent we need from abroad.

- ▶ **We will reform the science funding system** to cut the time wasted by scientists filling in forms.
- ▶ **We will unlock long-term capital in pension funds to invest in and commercialise our scientific discoveries**, creating a vibrant science-based economy post-Brexit.
- ▶ **We will continue to collaborate internationally** and with the EU on scientific research, including Horizon.

These unprecedented increases to the science budget will be used to drive forward the development of technologies of critical importance to the UK, by investing in clusters around world-leading universities and spreading knowledge.

But it isn't just about laboratory work. The UK is at its best when it allies its extraordinary design and artistic abilities with science and technology. The UK is at its best when it allies its extraordinary design and artistic abilities with science and technology. **The Festival of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2022** – a national celebration which coincides with the Birmingham Commonwealth Games will encourage our leading arts and cultural organisations, universities, research institutes and businesses

to come together to inspire the next generation in British innovation and creativity.

We will invest in world-class computing and data systems that can aid research, such as the ground-breaking genetic sequencing carried out at the UK Biobank, Genomics England and the new Accelerating the Detection of Disease project, which has the potential to transform diagnosis and treatment.

We will use UK Government procurement to support new ideas and new companies.

Support rural life and coastal communities

Even as the UK forges ahead in the future, we must not forget those communities that have not shared fully in the growth generated by our economy.

This Government is committed to levelling up all parts of the economy – and getting Brexit done will enable us to give new support to people in rural and coastal communities, and for our farming and fishing industries.

We want to roll out gigabit broadband

across the country by 2025, with £5 billion in funding already promised, and provide greater mobile coverage across the country.

Just as in the wider economy we can combine strong employment growth with high employment standards, so we believe that Scottish farmers and fishermen should continue to profit by producing food and fish that are the envy of the world – both for their quality and the world-leading standards to which they were produced.

We want people, both at home and abroad, to be queuing up to buy Scottish. And one of the great opportunities of Brexit is the chance to lead the world in the quality of our food, agriculture and land management – driven by science-led, evidence-based policy.

And we want those same farmers and fishermen to act as the stewards of the natural world, preserving the UK's countryside and oceans as they have for generations.

A post-Brexit deal for farming and crofting

- ▶ Once we have got Brexit done, we will free our farmers and crofters from the bureaucratic Common Agricultural Policy.
- ▶ We will guarantee the current annual budget to farmers in every year of the next Parliament.
- ▶ In England, the new system will pay farmers for environmental stewardship including air and water quality, soil health, animal welfare, public access to the countryside and action to reduce the risks of floods, which can prove so devastating to communities across the country. It is for the Scottish Government to design a system for Scotland. **We will urge the Scottish Government to adopt proposals along similar principles**, taking into account Scotland's unique geography and heritage, in particular recognising that much of Scottish farmland is categorised as "less favourable".
- ▶ **When we leave the EU, we will be able to encourage the public sector to 'Buy British'** by default to support our farmers and reduce environmental costs.
- ▶ **We will increase the annual quota for the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme** we are piloting from 2,500 to 10,000.

A post-Brexit deal for fisheries

- ▶ Upon leaving the EU, **we will leave the Common Fisheries Policy**, becoming an independent coastal state and taking back control of our waters in **December 2020**.
- ▶ **We will maintain funding for fisheries across the UK's nations throughout the Parliament** and support the regeneration of our coastal communities
- ▶ **There will be a legal commitment to fish sustainably** and a legal requirement for a plan to achieve maximum sustainable yield for each stock.

Protect our democracy

As Conservatives, we stand for democracy and the rule of law. Our independent courts and legal system are respected throughout the world.

One of the strengths of the UK's constitution is its ability to evolve – as times have changed, so have Parliament, government and the judiciary.

Today, that need is greater than ever. The failure of the UK Parliament to deliver Brexit – the way so many MPs have devoted themselves to thwarting the democratic decision of the British people in the 2016 referendum – has opened up a destabilising and potentially extremely damaging rift between politicians and people. If the Brexit chaos continues, with a second EU referendum and a second independence referendum too, they will lose faith even further.

It is only by getting Brexit sorted that we can start the painful task of restoring public trust in government and politics:

- ▶ **We will get rid of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act** – it has led to paralysis at a time the country needed decisive action.

- ▶ **We will ensure we have updated and equal Parliamentary boundaries**, making sure that every vote counts the same – a cornerstone of democracy.
- ▶ **We will continue to support the First Past the Post system** of voting for UK elections.
- ▶ **We will protect the integrity of our democracy**, though introducing identification to vote at polling stations for UK elections, stopping postal vote harvesting and measures to prevent any future foreign interference in elections.
- ▶ **We will make it easier for British expats to vote in Parliamentary elections** and get rid of the arbitrary 15-year limit on their voting rights.
- ▶ **We will continue to maintain the voting age at 18 for UK-wide elections.**
- ▶ **We will ensure that no one is put off from engaging in politics or standing in an election** by threats, harassment or abuse, whether in person or online.
- ▶ **We will champion freedom of expression and tolerance, both in the UK and overseas.**

- ▶ To support free speech, **we will repeal section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2014**, which seeks to coerce the press. We will not proceed with the second stage of the Leveson Inquiry.
- ▶ **We will ensure redundancy payments in the reserved public sector can be clawed back** when high-paid public servants move between jobs.
- ▶ **We will improve the use of data, data science and evidence** in the process of government.

Once we get Brexit done, Britain will take back control of its laws. As we end the supremacy of European law, we will be free to craft legislation and regulations that maintain high standards but which work best for the UK. We want a balance of rights, rules and entitlements that benefits all the people and all the parts of our United Kingdom.

After Brexit we also need to **look at the broader aspects of our constitution**: the relationship between the UK Government, UK Parliament and the courts; the functioning of the Royal Prerogative; the role of the House of Lords; and access to justice for

ordinary people. The ability of our security services to defend us against terrorism and organised crime is critical. We will update the Human Rights Act and administrative law to ensure that there is a proper balance between the rights of individuals, our vital national security and effective government. We will ensure that judicial review is available to protect the rights of the individuals against an overbearing state, while ensuring that it is not abused to conduct politics by another means or to create needless delays. In our first year we will set up **a Constitution, Democracy & Rights Commission** that will examine these issues in depth, and come up with proposals to restore trust in our institutions and in how our democracy operates.



Luke Graham
Candidate for Ochil and South Perthshire



We Will Strengthen Scotland In The World

As Conservatives, we are immensely proud of the UK's history and its standing in the world. Unlike those currently leading the Labour Party, we view our country as a force for good.

The strength of the Armed Forces, our alliances with like-minded democracies and our willingness to act are all reasons for the UK to hold its head high.

So too is our work in promoting international development and fighting climate change – both issues on which the Conservative Party and Conservative Governments have driven the agenda forward.

After Brexit, we will bolster the alliances and institutions that help project our influence and keep us safe: the UN and the UN Security Council; NATO; Five Eyes; the Commonwealth; the G20; G7; and the World Trade Organisation. We will open new markets and support free trade and global growth.

We will build on our fantastic track record of delivering major international sporting events – including supporting the upcoming Commonwealth Games, UEFA European Women's Championships and Rugby League World Cup – and **we would back a potential UK and Ireland bid for the 2030 FIFA World Cup.**

As we extend our diplomatic network, we will reinvigorate relationships with Europe and seek to strengthen old and new partnerships across the world. We will work with our cultural institutions like the BBC and British Council to expand our influence and project our values. And unlike Jeremy Corbyn, we will stand up to foreign countries that threaten the stability of Europe, or commit cold-blooded murder on British soil.

Supporting our veterans and investing in the men and women of today's armed forces

The security of our nation comes first. We will protect the British people at home and abroad, and ensure the democratic rights of people in Gibraltar, the Falklands and all our overseas territories.

Supporting our veterans

A Conservative Government understands the sacrifices made by Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.

That is why we will introduce new legislation to tackle the vexatious legal claims that undermine our Armed Forces and further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law.

We will continue to acknowledge and commemorate the invaluable contribution of diaspora communities in previous armed conflicts. We also recognise the contribution in the present day of so many from beyond these shores, such as the Gurkhas.

In addition, we will bring in a range of measures to support former and current Service personnel.

- ▶ **We will reduce National Insurance contributions for employers** if they employ ex-Service personnel
- ▶ **We will offer wraparound childcare for Forces families.**
- ▶ **We have established a new Office for Veterans' Affairs** and we will introduce a Veterans' Railcard.
- ▶ **We will offer a guaranteed job interview for veterans** for any reserved public sector role they apply for.

- ▶ **We will continue to exceed the NATO target of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence** and increase the budget by at least 0.5 per cent above inflation every year of the new Parliament.
- ▶ We will **modernise the equipment** and **improve the capability** of our world-class Armed Forces and intelligence agencies.
- ▶ **We will invest in training and equipping our Armed Forces**, and constantly champion their exemplary contribution to our security and our country.
- ▶ **We will maintain our Trident nuclear deterrent**, which guarantees our security.
- ▶ **We will adapt to new threats**, investing more in cybersecurity and setting up the UK's first Space Command.
- ▶ **We will stand against terrorism and extremism around the world.**
- ▶ **We will support the UK's world-class defence industry by investing in ambitious global programmes**, including building the new Type 31 frigates in British shipyards Rosyth and a new generation of armoured vehicles, made in Britain.

Promote our values

From helping to end the slave trade to tackling modern slavery, the UK has long been a beacon of freedom and human rights – and will continue to be so. We are proud of our peace-building and humanitarian efforts around the world, particularly in war-torn or divided societies, and of our record in helping to reduce global poverty. We will continue to support international initiatives to achieve reconciliation, stability and justice across the world, and in current or former conflict zones such as Cyprus, Sri Lanka and the Middle East, where we maintain our support for a two-state solution.

Once we leave the EU, we will be able to champion these values even more strongly.

- ▶ **We will further develop an independent Magnitsky-style sanctions regime** to tackle human rights abusers head on.
- ▶ **We will stand up for the rights and opportunities of women and girls to be educated and safe.**
- ▶ **We will continue our campaigns to promote international media freedom** and to eradicate human trafficking and the scourge of modern slavery.

- ▶ **We will support marginalised communities in the developing world**, hosting the UK government's first ever international LGBT conference. We will seek to protect those persecuted for their faith and implement the Truro Review recommendations.
- ▶ **We will proudly maintain our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of GNI on development** and do more to help countries receiving aid to become self-sufficient.
- ▶ Building on this Government's existing efforts, **we will end the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030**, and lead the way in eradicating Ebola and malaria.
- ▶ **We will support the construction of the planned UK Holocaust Memorial.**

Fight climate change and protect our planet

Conservation is, and always has been, at the heart of Conservatism. Our Government's stewardship of the natural environment, its focus on protecting the countryside and reducing plastic waste, is a source of immense pride.

But today, the climate emergency means that the challenges we face stretch far beyond our borders.

Thanks to the efforts of successive Governments, the UK has cut carbon emissions by more than any similar developed country. We are now the world's leader in offshore wind – a fantastic success story of Government and the private sector working hand in hand to cut costs and deliver ever more electricity at plummeting costs.

Unlike Jeremy Corbyn, we don't believe that free markets, innovation and prosperity are destroying the planet. We believe that they are what will save it.

Yet we recognise that there is far more that needs to be done.

- ▶ We will lead the global fight against climate change by **delivering on our world-leading target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**, as advised by the independent Committee on Climate Change. We have doubled International Climate Finance. **And we will use our position hosting the UN Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in 2020 to ask our global partners to match our ambition.**
- ▶ We will set up new international partnerships to tackle deforestation

and protect vital landscapes and wildlife corridors. **We will establish a new £500 million Blue Planet Fund** to help protect our oceans from plastic pollution, warming sea temperatures and overfishing, and extend the Blue Belt programme to preserve the maritime environment. We will continue to lead diplomatic efforts to protect 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030.

- ▶ **We will continue to lead the world in tackling plastics pollution, both in the UK and internationally.** We will ban the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries, consulting with industry, NGOs and local councils on the date by which this should be achieved.

Our first UK Budget will prioritise the environment: investing in R&D, decarbonisation schemes, electric vehicle infrastructure including a national plug-in network and gigafactory, and clean energy.

In the next decade, we will work with the market to deliver two million new high quality jobs in clean growth. We have ambitious targets:

- ▶ **Our world-leading offshore wind industry will reach 40GW by 2030**, and we will enable new floating wind farms.

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- A photograph of Dominic Raab, the Foreign Secretary and First Secretary of State, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is gesturing with his hands as he speaks. The background is dark.
- ▶ We will build the first fully deployed carbon capture storage cluster by 2025.
 - ▶ We will support gas for hydrogen production and nuclear energy, including fusion, as important parts of the energy system, alongside increasing our commitment to renewables.

Increase trade and prosperity

For the first time in nearly half a century, the UK will have its own independent trade policy once we leave the EU.

Free trade has been proven time and again to be the best way to increase exports, cut prices for consumers, increase investment and create jobs right here in the UK. We believe we can use this historic opportunity to connect the UK to the world's fastest-growing nations, create new export opportunities and enrich ourselves and our trading partners.

As part of the EU, we were forced into accepting trade deals that put their priorities first. Now, we will be able to tailor our trade deals to the needs of British firms and the British economy.

Dominic Raab
Foreign Secretary and
First Secretary of State

Our trade deals will not only be free but fair – in particular towards the developing nations whose economies could be transformed by access to the UK’s markets and expertise. We can, for example, include provisions in our new free trade agreements that promote the fair treatment of workers and advance women’s empowerment.

Our goals for British trade are ambitious. We aim to have 80 per cent of UK trade covered by free trade agreements within the next three years, starting with the USA, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. These will be negotiated in parallel with our EU deal.

We will also forge stronger links with the Commonwealth, which boasts some of the world’s most dynamic economies such as India. We will use export finance to increase our businesses’ access to emerging markets, especially where there is a diaspora community in the UK.

The UK is a world leader in many areas such as architecture, engineering, accountancy, information technology, digital services and law. Just as we led the way in opening up trade in manufactured goods in the last two centuries, we should open up trade in services, in which the majority of us work and where most new jobs will be created.

We will create ten freeports around the UK, benefiting some of our most deprived communities, and redouble our efforts to promote British business and UK exports. We will dismantle barriers to trade and retake our seat at the World Trade Organisation.

We will also build on our fantastic track record of delivering major sporting events and work towards a potential World Cup bid.

In our trade talks, we will follow the following principles:

- ▶ **We will seek to provide security to the British people in a world of heightened trade tensions and tariffs.**
- ▶ **We will seek to gain market access for British businesses and lower the cost of trade for them.**
- ▶ **We will drive a hard bargain with all of our trading partners – and, as with all negotiations, we will be prepared to walk away if that is in the national interest.**
- ▶ **We will defend British industries from dumping and other anti-competitive practices from overseas.**
- ▶ **In all of our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards.**
- ▶ **The NHS is not on the table. The price the NHS pays for drugs is not on the table. The services the NHS provides are not on the table.**





We Will Put You First

Stopping a second independence referendum. Getting Brexit sorted. Strengthening the Union, Delivering for Scotland.

The future is there for us to grasp. Not a future in which we endlessly re-fight the battles of the independence or EU referendums. Or in which a Jeremy Corbyn and Nicola Sturgeon government rejects everything that has made the UK great.

A future in which we get Brexit sorted, and then move on to focus on our priorities – which are also your priorities.

Because more important than any one commitment in this manifesto is the spirit in which we make them. Our job is to serve you, the people. To uphold and respect the decision you made in 2014 to keep our United Kingdom together. But then to move on to making Scotland an even better nation – to our politics getting back to the issues that really matter: schools, hospitals and jobs.

We need to get Brexit sorted so that Scotland can finally move on from a decade of stagnation, uncertainty and division. So that we can finally move forward together as one nation.

A vote for any other party or candidate, is a vote to strengthen Nicola Sturgeon's hand by electing more SNP MPs, leading to a second independence referendum in less than 12 months' time and a Corbyn-Sturgeon UK Government.

That is why we ask you to vote Scottish Conservative and Unionist on December 12th, to take another independence referendum off the table for good and to finally get Brexit sorted.

Scotland has had enough of division. It is time to move on.

SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST PARTY
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