

A photograph of Boris Johnson, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. A red poppy is pinned to his lapel. He is gesturing with his right hand, pointing upwards. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a formal setting.

**Get Brexit Done**

**Unleash Wales'**

**Potential**

Welsh Conservative Party  
Manifesto 2019

# My Guarantee

If there is a majority of Conservative MPs on December 13th, I guarantee I will get our new deal through Parliament. We will get Brexit done in January and unleash the potential of our whole country.

I guarantee:

- Record funding for the Welsh NHS to fund more doctors, nurses and general practice appointments.
- 20,000 more police and tougher sentencing for criminals.
- An Australian-style points-based system to control immigration.
- Millions more invested every week in science, schools, apprenticeships and infrastructure while controlling debt.
- Hundreds of millions in capital funding for Wales to invest in transport, broadband and improving our communities.
- Reaching net zero by 2050 with investment in clean energy solutions and green infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions and pollution.
- We will not raise the rate of Income Tax, Vat or National Insurance.

If Jeremy Corbyn's Labour and Nicola Sturgeon's SNP team up and take control on December 13th, we will have two referendums on Brexit and Scotland in 2020.

Please support a majority Conservative Government so our country can move on instead of going backwards.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page.

# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction.....                           | 2  |
| Get Brexit Done .....                       | 7  |
| We Will Focus On Your Priorities .....      | 11 |
| We Will Unleash Wales’ Potential.....       | 27 |
| We Will Strengthen Wales In The World ..... | 45 |
| We Will Put You First.....                  | 53 |

# Introduction

## FOREWORD FROM BORIS JOHNSON

For the last three and a half years, this country has felt trapped, like a lion in a cage. We have all shared the same frustration – like some super-green supercar blocked in the traffic. We can see the way ahead. We know where we want to go – and we know why we are stuck.

**We have been paralysed by a broken Parliament that simply refuses to deliver Brexit. And that is why this election is so essential.**

Get Brexit done – and we end the division and deadlock that have been so bad for our politics.

Get Brexit done – and we restore confidence and certainty to businesses and families.

Get Brexit done – and we will see a pent-up tidal wave of investment into our country.

Get Brexit done – and we can focus on the priorities of the British people, funding the NHS and tackling the cost of living.

Get Brexit done – and we can release that lion from its cage and take this amazing country forwards.

And as things stand, there is only one way to get Brexit done – and that is to return a Conservative Government with a working majority on December 12th.

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.

We Conservatives believe passionately that every child should have the same opportunity to express their talents and make the most of their lives.

I want everyone to have the fundamental security that comes from safe streets and safe neighbourhoods – so we are backing our police, putting 20,000 more officers on the streets, and giving them the powers to tackle crime with stop and search.

Everyone in the UK should have the peace of mind and confidence that come from world-class health care – and so this new One Nation Conservative Government is giving the NHS its biggest ever cash boost, worth £1.9 billion extra for Welsh public services.

If this Conservative Government is returned to office, we will have an infrastructure revolution for this country. Now is the time to invest in Northern Powerhouse Rail, and the Midlands Rail Hub, and so many more projects, as well as a massive programme of improvements for our roads and 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 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 pay for world-class health care and outstanding infrastructure – 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.

And what will he do for an encore? Embark on a spending and borrowing spree that would cost every taxpayer £2,400, as well as confiscating 10 per cent of the value of our most prominent businesses and putting those assets in the hands of John McDonnell. What madness.

We will run an ever stronger and more dynamic economy.

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.

Jeremy Corbyn is prepared to break up the UK – to disband the Armed Forces, and even when it comes to cold-blooded murder on British soil, he cannot stand up for our country and do what is right.

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. After three and a half years of procrastination, we have a great new deal that is ready to go – so that we will be finally out of the EU by January 31.

We are able to deliver all the advantages of leaving the EU: making our own laws, controlling our own borders, taking back our money, 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 referendum on Scotland.

This country has had enough of dither and delay, of defeatism and despair.

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 education, 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 go to school, 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 get Brexit done, and take this country forward.

**Boris Johnson**  
Prime Minister

## FOREWORD FROM PAUL DAVIES

Wales always benefits from a Conservative UK Government. Since 2010, we have seen unemployment fall to record lows, our economy has grown and the Welsh Government receives more money each year than ever before.

**Under the Conservatives, for every £1 spent on devolved services such as schools, hospitals, and council services in England, Wales receives £1.20 to spend on services here. Hundreds of millions more is also being invested in growth deals across the country helping communities across Wales to thrive.**

In Wales, many policy areas are the responsibility of the Welsh Labour Government. Where this is the case our manifesto sets out the action which would be taken by a Welsh Conservative Government to deliver positive change for the people of Wales.

Our plan for the NHS and education in Wales will reverse the poor performance we've seen under successive Welsh Labour Governments and make our public services the envy of the world.

We would build more homes, transform social care, and invest in infrastructure such as roads, rail and broadband, to make Wales a modern connected nation. And our commitments to veterans and the armed forces would ensure that our heroes, and their families, are afforded the honour they deserve.

Welsh Conservatives are proud of our Welsh language and culture and will

continue to celebrate and champion efforts to increase the number of Welsh speakers in every corner of the nation. We will continue to protect and invest in Welsh institutions such as S4C, our National Library and Museum, the Urdd and the National Eisteddfod.

This is our Wales, our future; we will change Wales for the better.

### **Paul Davies**

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the National Assembly for Wales





# Get Brexit Done

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 done – 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 country’s way. So that we can deliver on the people’s decision in 2016 and use our new post-Brexit freedoms to transform the UK for the better by focusing on your priorities.**

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

Boris Johnson’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 high standards of workers’ rights, environmental protection and consumer rights.

**The only way to deliver Brexit is with a Conservative majority in Parliament.** A vote for any other party or candidate is a vote for Jeremy Corbyn – and a vote for more chaos.

Above all, it is the only way that we can get on with the task of transforming Wales and the whole United Kingdom for the better.



**Mohamed Ali**  
Candidate for Cardiff North  
Youth Engagement Worker

# Unleash Wales' Potential

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

**In Wales, 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.**

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 need to see that same level of ambition and vision from the Welsh Government.

For the past 20 years, public services in Wales have been run by the Welsh Labour Government in Cardiff, but they have been running them into the

ground, with the performance of our Welsh NHS and education system falling behind those in other parts of the UK.

Across Britain 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 strategically to level up every part of the United Kingdom, while strengthening the ties that bind it together.

We will also **prioritise the environment** in the next Budget, investing 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 done, so we can change Britain for the better.

**Amanda Jenner**  
Candidate for Ceredigion  
Qualified Teacher



# We Will Focus On Your Priorities

In his first months, the Prime Minister has shown how he intends to make life better for everyone in Wales. Supporting our police. Delivering record funding for Welsh public services.

We have listened to you, and we have acted. Acted to ensure that we deliver world-class public services so that you can have the help and support you need throughout your life. And we want to take that agenda further.

But none of it will happen without a Conservative majority Government.

## Strengthen the NHS and social care

**The NHS represents the best of this country. It is there for us when our children are born, when our friends and families fall sick, when our loved ones succumb to old age and ill health.**

It is precious to all of us – especially because it is free at the point of use and there for you on the basis of need, not your ability to pay.

We as Conservatives believe passionately in the NHS. Because we believe that everyone deserves the chance to live free of sickness and disease – and to know that if they do fall ill, our brilliant doctors and nurses will be there for them.

Under Labour in Wales over the past 20 years, the performance of the NHS has fallen behind other parts of the UK and been beset by scandals. The Welsh Labour Government has failed to improve failing health boards and patients have suffered as a result.

While the Conservatives took the decision to protect health spending in

England, the Welsh Labour Government, supported by Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats, cut funding for our health service.

A Conservative UK Government will secure the future of the health service in England. It is important that the Welsh Government does the same for our NHS in Wales.

Within the first three months of our new term, we will **enshrine in law our fully funded, long-term NHS plan** in England. This will be the longest, largest cash settlement in NHS history and provides the Welsh Government with

record funding to provide increases for the health service year on year. This money can be used to support frontline services so that you and your family get appointments more quickly and experience improved care.

Under the Conservatives, for every £1 spent on the NHS in England, Wales receives £1.20 to spend on the health service here. By the end of the next Parliament we will make available tens of millions extra each and every week for the NHS here in Wales. This will increase the total funding available for the Welsh NHS by £1.9 billion between 2018 and 2023.

A Welsh Conservative Government would use this funding to deliver a new NHS Improvement and Accountability Plan.

## Our NHS Improvement and Accountability Plan

Our new funding will:

- ▶ **Recruit more doctors, nurses and other health professionals:** Increase workforce capacity to improve access to appointments and treatment, and address the recruitment crisis caused by years of poor workforce planning by Welsh Labour.
- ▶ **Build new Rapid Diagnostic Centres:** Establish new diagnostic centres in North, Mid and South Wales to speed up access to diagnostic tests and reduce the need for repeat appointments and visits to hospitals.
- ▶ **Extend access to new treatments:** Reduce unnecessary bureaucracy so that doctors can use the most advanced, life-saving treatments for cancer, rare diseases, and other conditions such as arthritis.
- ▶ **Transform mental health:** Treat mental health with the same urgency as physical health and legislate to provide extra support for people with learning disabilities and autism.
- ▶ **Improve emergency care:** Review ambulance response times and emergency department performance to ensure that patients get rapid access to emergency care when they need it.
- ▶ **Prioritise public health and prevention:** Overhaul NHS screening and use new technology to prevent ill health. Develop a long-term strategy for lifestyle-related conditions such as obesity and addictions. We will have a national vaccination reminder system for every GP practice.
- ▶ **Address the democratic deficit and invest in Patient Watchdogs:** The system of Welsh Ministerial appointments to health boards will come to an end with the introduction of elected health commissioners. We will protect the independence and capacity of Wales' Community Health Councils.
- ▶ **Ensure that the Welsh NHS learns from mistakes:** There will be a duty on all NHS staff to disclose and record when things go wrong, including providing details to senior managers and reporting them to the healthcare inspectorate.
- ▶ **Eradicate poor NHS leadership:** There will be a Welsh NHS Leadership Council which all senior managers and executives will be required to register with. Those found responsible for serious NHS failings will be deemed incompetent, removed from the register and prevented from working in the Welsh health service.
- ▶ **Improve NHS safety:** There will be a radical overhaul of the healthcare inspectorate to make it entirely independent of Welsh Government and give it new powers to intervene quickly when problems are identified.

## Improving social care

**It is a basic, compassionate Conservative belief that we should care for those in need - helping those who cannot help themselves.**

Thanks to decades of economic growth and scientific innovation, people are living longer, healthier lives. But this, alongside the rise of dementia and other chronic conditions, means that the pressures on the elderly care system are ever-increasing. There has also been significant growth in the number of working-age people with disabilities who need care at a younger age.

We need to have a system to **give every person the dignity and security that they deserve**. This is a significant and complex challenge and in order to lay the foundations, we must plan for the infrastructure, workforce growth and healthcare integration that is required for a care system fit for the 21st century.

A Welsh Conservative Government would appoint a Chief Social Care Officer for Wales and support those who care for their loved ones by providing a guarantee for respite for those with caring responsibilities and practical extra support for the silent army of young carers across Wales by reducing the barriers stopping them from accessing education, training and employment.

But we also want to save millions of people, and their families, from suffering the agony of a slow decline due to dementia. We will make **finding a cure one of our Government's biggest collective priorities** - one of the 'grand challenges' that will define our future along with the impact of climate change or artificial intelligence. This will include **doubling research funding into dementia, doubling funding for the National Dementia Institute, and speeding up trials** for new treatments.

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

## Invest in our schools

**Talent is evenly spread across Wales. Opportunity is not. As Conservatives, we believe absolutely in equality of opportunity - the idea that every child, in every part of the country, should have a fair chance. It is not only the most important thing we can do to unleash the UK's economic potential, but at the heart of creating a fair and just society.**

Under Labour in Wales over the past 20 years our education system has suffered. The OECD's international PISA league table ranks Wales as the

worst education system in the United Kingdom and we are the only UK nation in the bottom half of the global rankings.

Under the Conservatives, for every £1 spent on schools in England, Wales receives £1.20 to spend on schools here. However, funding in Wales has fallen behind with teaching union NASUWT estimating that pupils in Wales receive an average of £645 per year less than their counterparts in England.

In his first months in office, Boris Johnson announced an extra £14 billion in funding for schools in England. This will result in a substantial increase in funding to the Welsh Government. In addition the Welsh Government will receive an extra £35 million in new funding to support children with additional educational needs and the implementation of an Autism Act for Wales.

A Welsh Conservative Government would use this new money to eliminate the pupil funding gap between England

## Dr James Davies

Candidate for the Vale of Clwyd  
GP



## Good discipline, high standards, an enriching experience:

Welsh Conservatives would allow schools to decide how they use the additional money we provide. In addition we would:

▶ **Back teachers on discipline.**

We would train teachers in managing behaviour and would back teachers to use exclusions, where appropriate. Estyn would have more funding and time to inspect school safety and behaviour policies. We would pilot no-notice

inspections. We would help teachers tackle bullying, including homophobic bullying.

▶ **Protect parental rights.**

Respect parents' views with regards to sex education lessons.

▶ **Make sure pupils are taught the basics.**

We would introduce checks on reading and maths in primary schools.

## Vulnerable children

Wales has the highest rate of looked after children in the UK. Children who end up in care often end up struggling as adults, too often denied the love and stability most of us take for granted.

A Welsh Conservative Government would prioritise stable, loving placements for those children - adoption where possible or foster parents recruited by the local authority. We would review the care system to make sure that all care placements and settings are providing children and young adults with the support they need.

We would also provide a Looked After Pupil Premium to support children in care to realise their full potential and set targets for looked after children accessing further and higher education.

and Wales to give every child the opportunity to thrive.

## Invest in the people of Wales

**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 Welsh 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.

## Technical education and life-long learning

**University provides a wonderful experience and education, but more than two thirds of young people do not attend university and their education and experience is equally important.**

We want more young people to have the choice of accessing technical qualifications and apprenticeships. A Welsh Conservative Government would introduce:

- ▶ **More funding for highly skilled apprenticeships in Wales**, including degree apprenticeships. We expect this to increase numbers by tens of thousands for large and small employers alike – and we will make sure the system works for all employers.
- ▶ **Apprenticeships for all big new infrastructure projects** – including new hospitals, new schools, roads and flood defences.

We would also put £20 million into Further Education, upgrade our FE colleges and **develop a STEM focused Institute of Technology in North Wales** which connects high quality teaching to business and industry.

We would create an **adult learning allowance** to use on a degree, technical training, or specific courses. This could also be linked to employer support through the apprenticeship levy.

Leaving the EU also means that we can take back control of the money that was being channelled via its Structural Funds. 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 that is fairer and better tailored to our economy. And we will ensure that **£500 million of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund** is used to give disadvantaged people across the United Kingdom the skills they need to make a success of life.

## Universities

**Wales is home to world-class universities which make an important contribution to our economy. To protect and enhance their reputation we will explore ways to tackle the problem of grade inflation and low-quality courses and improve the application and offer system for undergraduate students. Our approach will be underpinned by a commitment to fairness, quality of learning and teaching, and access.**

A Welsh Conservative Government would **review student support with an aim of reducing the burden of tuition fee debt for students from Wales** while protecting the income of Welsh universities through direct grants and an increase in funding for research.

We would also **strengthen academic freedom and free speech** in universities and continue to focus on raising standards.

## Support working families

Since 2010, the Conservatives have helped more than 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 the work.

Whoever you are, we want to make it easier for you to get a good and rewarding 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 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 income tax, National Insurance or VAT**. This is a tax guarantee that will protect the incomes of hard-working families across the next 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** – representing **a tax cut for 31 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 per year in people's pockets**.
- ▶ Raising a family should be the most fulfilling experience of your life. But for too many parents, the costs of childcare are a heavy burden. We want to give parents the freedom, support and choice to look after their children in the way that works best for them. A Welsh Conservative Government would **fund more high quality childcare** before and after school and during the holidays so that working parents do not have to choose between their careers and their children.
- ▶ 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, 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 Welsh Conservative Government would also maintain the older person's bus pass.
- ▶ 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.**



**Matthew Evans**  
Candidate for Newport West  
Community Champion



- ▶ 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. A Welsh Conservative Government would maintain free school meals.

- ▶ 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 the benefits system, but also improving opportunities and support and access for disabled people in terms of housing, education, transport and jobs. We will reduce the disability employment gap.

## Make Wales safer

**Our first duty as a Government is to keep our country safe. One of Boris Johnson's first promises as Prime Minister was to start recruiting 20,000 new police officers, with more than 300 new officers already being recruited by the four Welsh police forces. These new officers will take violent criminals off the streets and protect us and our country.**

The Conservatives will always back the brave men and women of our police and security services, which is why we will empower the police, backing the **increased use of stop and search** as long as it is fair and proportionate. And we will provide them with the equipment they need.

We need a fair justice system – one that stands for the law-abiding majority, not the criminal minority, and that gives a second chance to those who have served their time and wish to make a fresh start.

## Our plan to cut crime

- ▶ **We will back our police** by equipping officers with the powers and tools they need to keep themselves and all of us safe, including **tasers and body cameras**. We will **put the Police Covenant into law** to ensure they have the support they need.



**Rob Roberts**  
Candidate for Delyn  
Self employed

In order to successfully keep our streets safe, we need to turn people away from crime and end the cycle of reoffending:

#### Youth offending

Young people are less likely to get into trouble in a well-disciplined school, which is why we will **back teachers to enforce discipline**. A Welsh Conservative Government would invest in **youth services** for young people. If they endanger others, we will put young people in new **alternative provision** schools. If they are offenders, we are trialling **Secure Schools**. New laws will require schools, police, councils and health authorities to work together through Serious Violence Units to prevent serious crime.

#### Addiction

Drug addiction fuels crime, violence and family breakdown – and new dangerous substances are driving an increase in deaths from drug abuse. We will tackle drug related crime and a Welsh Conservative Government would invest in improving drug and substance misuse services to improve treatment and help break the cycle of crime linked to addiction.

#### Rehabilitation

We will create a **prisoner education service** focused on work-based training and skills. We will improve employment opportunities for ex-offenders, including a job coach in each prison. This approach is proven to reduce reoffending. We are improving prison security to protect staff, stop drug smuggling and reduce violence.

- ▶ Police will be empowered by a new court order to target known knife carriers, making it **easier for officers to stop and search those convicted of knife crime**. Anyone charged with knife possession will **appear before magistrates within days not weeks**. **Those who use a knife as a weapon should go to prison.**
- ▶ **We will introduce tougher sentencing for the worst offenders and end automatic halfway release from prison for serious crimes**. For child murderers, there will be **life imprisonment without parole**.
- ▶ **We will use our new freedoms after Brexit to prevent more foreign national offenders entering our country**. We will **cut the number of foreign nationals in our prisons**, and increase penalties to stop them returning.
- ▶ **We will back all those who put their lives on the line to keep us safe – police and prison officers and emergency service workers**. We will pass the Police Protection Bill and consult on doubling the maximum sentence for assaulting workers in emergency services such as police officers, firefighters and paramedics.
- ▶ **We will strengthen the accountability of elected Police and Crime Commissioners and expand**

- their role.** People must have an accountable local leader delivering on their crime and justice priorities, who they can vote out.
- ▶ **We will expand electronic tagging** for criminals serving time outside jail, including the use of sobriety tags for those whose offending is fuelled by alcohol.
  - ▶ **We will toughen community sentences**, for example by tightening curfews and making those convicted do more hours of community payback to clean up our parks and streets.
  - ▶ **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 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 add 10,000 more prison places**, with £2.75 billion already committed to refurbishing and creating modern prisons.
  - ▶ **We will conduct a root-and-branch review of the parole system** to improve accountability and public safety, giving victims the right to attend hearings for the first time, and we will establish a **Royal Commission on the criminal justice process.**
  - ▶ **We will combat extremism** and do all we can to ensure that **extremists never receive public money.**
  - ▶ **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.**
  - ▶ **We will tackle unauthorised traveller camps.** We will give the police new powers to arrest and seize the property and vehicles of trespassers who set up unauthorised encampments, in order to protect our communities. We will make **intentional trespass a criminal offence**, and a Welsh Conservative Government would also give councils greater powers within the planning system.

- ▶ **Welsh Conservatives will continue to oppose Labour, Plaid Cymru and Liberal Democrat plans to extend voting rights for prisoners.** The UK Government will maintain the ban on prisoners voting in England and Wales.

## Supporting all victims of crime

**Delivering justice does not just mean treating defendants fairly, but doing right by victims. So we will pass and implement a Victims' Law that guarantees victims' rights and the level of support they can expect.**

- ▶ **We will support all victims of domestic abuse** and pass the Domestic Abuse Bill. We will **increase support for refugees and community support for victims of rape and sexual abuse.** We will **pilot integrated domestic abuse courts** that address criminal and family matters in parallel.
- ▶ **We will continue to fight crime against women and girls**, including rape, Female Genital Mutilation and forced marriage. Our support for the main carer receiving Universal Credit will help give greater independence to individuals, most often women, trapped with coercive partners.
- ▶ **We will protect people from physical attack or harassment** whether for their sex, sexual

orientation, ethnicity, religion or disability, and expand funding for and protect places of worship. We will **vigorously combat harassment and violence** against all religious groups, and against LGBT people. We will ensure that **those who work in countering extremism are protected** from threats and intimidation. We will **ban public bodies from imposing their own direct or indirect boycotts**, disinvestment or sanctions campaigns against foreign countries. These undermine community cohesion.

- ▶ **We will legislate to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online** – protecting children from online abuse and harms, protecting the most vulnerable from accessing harmful content, and ensuring there is no safe space for terrorists to hide online – but at the same time **defending freedom of expression** and in particular recognising and defending the invaluable role of a free press. Also, given how the online world is moving, the Gambling Act is increasingly becoming an analogue law in a digital age. We will review it, with a particular focus on **tackling issues around loot boxes and credit card misuse**.

## Fix our immigration system

**The vote to leave the EU was, among other things, a vote to take back control of our borders.**

That is why a majority Conservative Government will get Brexit done, 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 who 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. These include:**

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Actively recruiting 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.



**Sajid Javid**  
Candidate for Bromsgrove  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

**Priti Patel**  
Candidate for Witham  
Home Secretary

## Our Australian-style points-based system

### We will prioritise people who:

- ▶ Have a good grasp of English and /or Welsh languages
- ▶ 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 portrait of Sadie Vidal, a young woman with long, wavy, light brown hair, wearing a black dress with a white and pink floral pattern. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

## Sadie Vidal

Candidate for Ogmore  
Medical Communications  
Officer

- ▶ 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 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 public services, businesses, 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 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 and Welsh language teaching** to empower existing 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**, with the ultimate aim of helping them to return home if it is safe to do so.
- ▶ 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.

## Contributing to our country

**It is a basic point of principle – and natural justice – that you should not be able to take out before you have put in. Of course we should help those in genuine need – especially those who have fled from persecution. But at the same time, it is both right and fair that, as in other countries, people making the UK their home should pay into the tax system for a reasonable period of time before they can access welfare. Our new immigration system will mean:**

- ▶ 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. We will also enforce charges on those who come to our country and use our health services without contributing, **doubling the budget for our health tourism enforcement unit**. We will continue to offer free emergency care to anyone who needs it.

- ▶ A Welsh Conservative Government would change the planning system in Wales to **ensure that new GP and school places will be built first with new housing developments**, and we will invest in technical skills and work incentives so Welsh workers take up as many jobs as possible.

This is a package of measures that is fair, firm and compassionate – that brings the immigration system, after so many years, into line with the British people's own sense of what is right. But we cannot do any of it unless we have a strong Conservative Government that can get Brexit done.



# We Will Unleash Wales' 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 Wales' potential that we want to unleash, it is that of the Welsh and British 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 UK, 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, building the homes we need, supporting our great science and industry, 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 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 the people working every hour they can, those taking a risk 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, community groups and volunteers 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.

# A new deal for communities

**Our funding will help to support communities which are safe to walk in and a pleasure to be in. Where there are things to do, places to shop, eat, experience, where transport is easy and people feel well connected, and where a community's future is in the hands of the people who live there.**

We are delivering growth deals for every region in Wales, providing £790 million in extra funding to support economic growth and create well paid employment opportunities for people in every corner of the country.

## **A Welsh Conservative Government's priorities would include:**

- ▶ **Regenerating towns.** A Seaside Town Fund and a Market Town Fund would be established to help seaside and market towns to improve their local economy. How that money is spent would be up to the community, but it could pay for free wifi, support for local businesses, and better transport links.
  - ▶ **Safer streets, safer towns.** A new Safer Streets Fund will invest in preventative measures like new CCTV or community wardens. Police will also have more power to break up travellers' camps and make arrests where appropriate.
  - ▶ **New civic infrastructure.** We would invest in a **Cultural Capital**
- ▶ **Programme** to support the development of local libraries and museums. We will also work with local universities to do more for the education, health and prosperity of their local area.
  - ▶ **Community ownership.** We would establish a **Community Ownership Fund** to encourage local takeovers of civic organisations or community assets that are under threat – local football clubs, but also pubs or post offices. We would set up a fan-led review of football governance, which will include consideration of the Owners and Directors Test, and will work with fans and clubs towards introducing safe standing. And we will help communities that want to create 'pocket parks' and regenerate derelict areas.
  - ▶ **Giving people a future.** As well as our investment in schools and technical education, we would put in £25 million into supporting youth clubs and services.
  - ▶ **Community spirit.** Through our Cultural Investment Fund, we would support activities, traditions and events that bring communities together and promote the Welsh language and culture. We would support regional newspapers by extending the business rates relief and explore other ways to support them.

# Restore our communities

People are rightly proud of where they come from and their local areas. But too many communities across Wales feel let down. Violent crime and anti-social behaviour are ignored amid a backdrop of boarded-up shops and pubs on our high streets. In addition, our rural communities need a new deal outside the EU that supports their way of life.

We as Conservatives want to give you freedom – low taxes, opportunity, the chance to realise your dreams. But we also want to give you the security of safe and pleasant streets and of taking pride and comfort from the community around you.

## Launching a transport revolution

**A key part of our plan to level up the UK's cities and regions is to connect them.**

We will consult on the earliest date by which we can phase out the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars. We will end the complicated franchising model and create a

simpler, more effective rail system, with greater control for local leaders.

As in France, we will require that a minimum service operates during transport strikes. Rail workers deserve a fair deal, but it is not fair to let the trade unions undermine the livelihoods of others.

Parliament has voted in principle to support a third runway at Heathrow. But it is a private sector project. It is for Heathrow to demonstrate that it can meet its air quality and noise obligations, that it can be financed and built and that the business case is realistic. The scheme will receive no new public money.

#### **A Welsh Conservative Government would:**

- ▶ Develop proposals to **upgrade the A55** as the main road transport artery for North Wales and improve capacity and resilience on the road.
- ▶ Progress the **dualling of the A40** to Fishguard by 2025.
- ▶ Work with the UK Government to **deliver a Pant/Llanymynech bypass**.
- ▶ Ensure the **delivery of an M4 relief road**.

▶ **Improve cross border and intra-Wales transport links.**

▶ **Give every Welsh local authority extra funding to improve and extend bus services**, making them more frequent, with more electric vehicles which are better-integrated with other modes of transport.

▶ **Invest up to £50 million in completing a fast-charging network** to ensure that everyone in Wales is always within 30 miles of an EV charging station.

▶ **Make extra investment in strategic and local roads.**

▶ Increase funding for **walking and cycling routes**, creating a new cycling infrastructure fund and new design standards which must be followed to receive any money. We would support commuter cycling routes, connecting more people to jobs, and promote cycling for healthier living.

Connecting the UK is not just about transport. We are Europe's technology capital, producing start-ups and success stories at a dazzling pace. But not everyone can share the benefits. We intend to bring **full fibre and gigabit-capable broadband to every home and business by 2025** across the whole of Wales.

We know how difficult it will be, so we have announced a raft of legislative changes to accelerate progress.

and **£5 billion of new UK-wide public funding** to connect premises which are not commercially viable.

Local government is the bedrock of our democracy. We are proud that Conservative councils have led the way in helping keep council taxes low, providing value for money and supporting local communities. A Welsh Conservative Government would maintain this commitment to local government by ensuring services are properly funded and would guard against excessive council tax rises without local consent by legislating for a local referendum on any inflation busting rises.

We are committed to devolution and guarantee that Wales will not lose any powers or funding as a result of our exit from the EU. A Welsh Conservative Government would also seek to **devolve powers from Cardiff to Welsh regions** and explore the establishment of new, directly elected, regional mayoralities in North, Mid and West, and South Wales, whose leaders will stand up for their respective regions and deliver the growth deals in their areas.

## Deliver the housing people need

**Home ownership is one of the most fundamental Conservative values. People are happier, more secure and more rooted in their communities when they own their own home – and know that they can pass it on to future generations.**

For Wales to unleash its potential, young people need the security of knowing that home ownership is within their reach – that they too can have a tangible stake in society, can be rooted in their communities and have a place to raise a family.

A Welsh Conservative Government would seek to rebalance the housing market towards more home ownership while also ensuring fairness for the new generation of renters.

A Welsh Conservative Government would also prioritise ending rough

## Helping people buy and rent

- ▶ The biggest problem that young people face in getting on the housing ladder is the deposit. There are more than three million people, many of them with good jobs and secure prospects, who would have been homeowners before the economic crisis in 2008 but have been locked out of the mortgage market. We will encourage a new market in **long-term fixed rate mortgages which slash the cost of deposits**, opening up a secure path to home ownership for first-time buyers in all parts of the United Kingdom.
- ▶ Reintroduce a **Right to Buy** on a reformed basis, mandating 100 per cent of receipts to be invested in new social housing and protecting any new build social homes from sale for at least 10 years.
- ▶ Reform **leasehold tenures** including implementing a ban on the sale of new leasehold homes, restricting ground rents to a peppercorn, providing necessary mechanisms of redress for tenants.

### **A Welsh Conservative Government would:**

- ▶ Bring in a **New Deal for Renters** including abolishing ‘no fault’ evictions and only requiring one ‘lifetime’ deposit which moves with the tenant.
- ▶ **Offer more homes to local families**, enabling councils to use developers’ contributions to discount homes by a third for local people who cannot otherwise afford to buy in their area.
- ▶ **Extend Help to Buy** to properties in need of renovation, helping to bring them back into use.
- ▶ **Scrap Wales’ Land Transaction Tax (Stamp Duty) for all first time buyers** up to the value of £250,000.
- ▶ Launch an ambitious programme to **build 100,000 new homes** over a decade, including 40,000 new social homes.

sleeping and homelessness to ensure that everyone has a safe and supported home to call their own.

The centre of a Welsh Conservative approach will be **Housing First**, enabling people to have housing immediately, whatever their needs, and then giving them wrap around support and treatment.

Housing First will be the focus of a Welsh Conservative Government's plan to tackle homelessness in Wales, which includes:

- ▶ Legislating to **make Housing a basic human right** in Wales.
- ▶ Committing to **end rough sleeping in Wales by 2026**.
- ▶ Immediately **bring 150 empty social housing properties back into use specifically for military veterans** who are at risk of homelessness.
- ▶ Introducing **statutory housing and homelessness awareness classes** into all secondary schools in Wales.
- ▶ Appointing a **Homelessness Tsar**, ideally someone with experience of homelessness.

## Places we want to live in

**The Welsh Government is failing to build the homes that people need, with fewer than 6,000 new homes built in the last year. As well as ensuring 100,000 new homes are built, a Welsh Conservative Government would ensure that our communities are areas we want to live in:**

- ▶ Require local authorities to submit plans to **utilise derelict and undeveloped land** that can be developed into urban green spaces.
- ▶ Create a **Technology Infrastructure Fund** to establish complete wifi coverage in town and city centres across all of Wales.
- ▶ Introduce an **'Urban Litter Prevention Grant'** which trials cutting-edge litter prevention such as river traps, litter cameras and night time economy pollution.
- ▶ **Double the length of cycle and walking routes** in urban residential areas by 2040, prioritising local cycling networks around community anchors.
- ▶ Deliver **10,000 electric charging points** by 2030.
- ▶ Provide funding for a **Smart Homes initiative** to support micro and neighbourhood energy schemes.
- ▶ **Support the creation of new kinds of homes that have no energy bills** and which support our environmental targets. We will also expect all new streets to be lined with trees.
- ▶ **Encourage innovative design** and technology to make housing more affordable, accessible, and suitable for disabled people and an ageing population.
- ▶ **Devolve more planning responsibilities to local communities**, giving them a greater say and redressing the balance between local need and central targets.
- ▶ **Amend planning rules** so that the infrastructure – roads, schools, GP surgeries – comes before people move into new homes.
- ▶ **Establish Blue Belt zones** in areas of flood risk to prevent inappropriate development.

# Make Wales the best place to start and grow a business

**We want Wales 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.

But 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, and have an idea that grows into a world-leading business. Our mission as Conservatives is to give everyone, across the country, 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 anywhere in Europe.

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

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

Of the nearly six million businesses in the UK and 259,200 in Wales, the vast majority are micro, small and medium sized. They are the backbone of the economy and Britain is immeasurably stronger for their contribution.

However, here in Wales we are hampered by a Welsh Labour Government with the least competitive business rates environment in the UK and the highest high street vacancy rate.

Once we get Brexit done, we can use our new freedoms to ensure that the UK'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.**

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

- ▶ **We will commit to real reductions in the burden of business rates on individual firms.** A Welsh Conservative Government would review business rates with a particular focus on how to support small businesses. As a first step we would further lift the burden of business rates for retail businesses and exclude grassroots music venues, small cinemas, and pubs.
- ▶ **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 and strengthen the powers of the Small Business Commissioner to support small businesses that are exploited by



**Charlotte Lang**  
Candidate for Aberavon  
Public Relations Director

their larger partners.

- ▶ **We will expand start-up loans**, which have particularly high take-up from 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.
- ▶ **We will help SMEs to become exporters**, so that they can seize the opportunities that will become available once we get Brexit done.

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.

## **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 frontier 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**. 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.

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**. A **Welsh Conservative Government would also increase funding for the Welsh Development Bank to invest in growth sectors**.

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 avoid 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.**

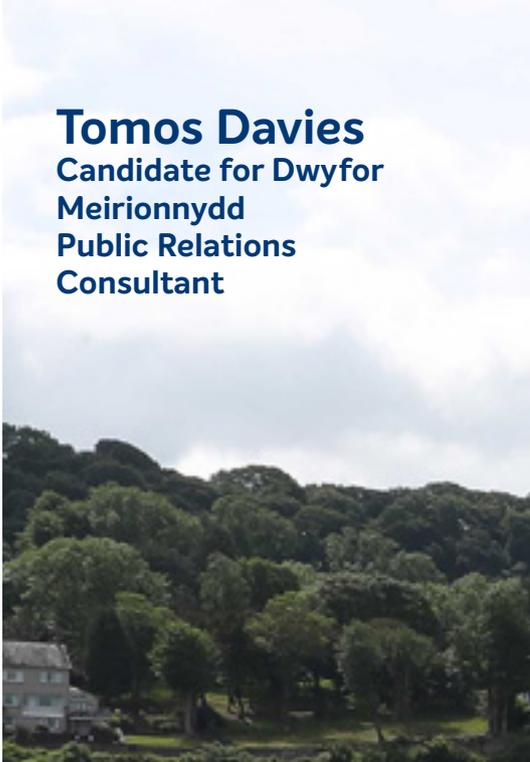
**We are also strengthening the UK's corporate governance regime**, and will **reform insolvency rules and the audit regime** so that customers and suppliers – and UK taxpayers – are better protected when firms like Thomas Cook go into administration. We will also carefully study the results of the ongoing 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 creates a new style of pension scheme which is more sustainable for workers and employers.

## Fairness in the workplace

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

The increase in employment that the Conservative Government has



## Tomos Davies Candidate for Dwyfor Meirionnydd Public Relations Consultant

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 **aimed to strike 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 done, we will go further. Because **people cannot fulfil 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**.



**more Nobel laureates than have been produced by any country in the world bar the United States. More, indeed, than France, Japan and China – combined.**

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 done, 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 commit 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

- ▶ We will **extend the entitlement to leave for unpaid carers**, the majority of whom are women, to a week.

Over the last nine years, we have extended the offer of free childcare hours to more working parents. We know that people value this support, but wish it could be more flexible. A Welsh Conservative Government would fund more high quality childcare before and after school and during the holidays so that working parents do not have to choose between their careers and their children.

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. The University of Cambridge alone has played host to**



**Sara Jones**  
Candidate for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney  
Farm Owner

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, clean energy, space, design, computing, robotics and artificial intelligence.
- ▶ 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 UK teams can recruit **the skills and talent they 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 **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.

A Welsh Conservative Government would host a **Festival of Wales in Wrexham in 2024** to showcase Welsh talent to the world and help to sell our talent overseas through the appointment of Welsh Trade Envoys in cities around the globe.

We will **invest in world-class computing and health 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.

Alongside investing in science, we will maintain our support for the arts and culture, taking pride in the world-beating strengths of the UK's creative industries and its unparalleled cultural heritage. The Welsh Government will receive an extra £15 million which a Welsh Conservative Government would spend on heritage, culture and creative projects which enable regeneration and increased tourism.

## 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 United Kingdom – 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 intend to make their lives much easier.

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ We will use our additional police resources to **tackle rural crime**.
- ▶ For areas – such as some coastal and market towns – which have historically been poorly served in terms of education and public services (among much else), a Welsh Conservative Government would establish a seaside and market towns fund to raise standards and support regeneration. It would also **invest in the bus network** to improve infrequent or non-existent services in the countryside, including with more on-demand services.

Just as in the wider economy we can combine strong employment growth with high employment standards, so we believe that **Welsh farmers and fishermen should be able to profit by producing food and fish that**

## A post-Brexit deal for farming

Once we have got Brexit done, we will free our Welsh farmers from the bureaucratic Common Agricultural Policy and move to a new system. To support this transition, we will guarantee the current annual budget to farmers in every year of the next Parliament.

We will increase the annual quota for the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme we are piloting from 2,500 to 10,000.

A Welsh Conservative Government would:

- ▶ Work with Welsh farmers, food producers and environmental experts, and other stakeholders, to devise a new agri-environment system for Wales.
- ▶ Promote our high quality produce and seek to develop an industry-led Welsh Food and Drink Strategy.
- ▶ Develop a new, holistic approach for the eradication of bovine TB.
- ▶ Ensure the strength of the Welsh brand is maintained and enhanced as we leave the EU.

- ▶ Review the Welsh Labour Government's designation of Wales as a nitrate vulnerable zone.
- ▶ Use our exit from the EU to encourage the public sector in Wales to 'Buy Welsh' to support our farmers and reduce environmental costs.

## 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 **increase funding for fisheries across the UK's nations** throughout the Parliament and support the regeneration of our coastal communities.
- ▶ A Welsh Conservative Government would introduce a **new fishing strategy which would be based on the principle of 'maximum sustainable yield'**, and would legally require the Welsh Government to **maintain fish sustainability for every stock**.

**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 Welsh.** 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.

## Stewards of our environment

**A Welsh Conservative Government would work to protect and enhance environmental protection across Wales and ensure that we are not left behind, having been the first country to declare a climate emergency.**

We would:

- ▶ Deliver a Clean Air Act for Wales.
- ▶ Ban single use plastics.
- ▶ Introduce a drink containers deposit scheme.
- ▶ Scrap Natural Resources Wales and replace it with a new and independent environmental watchdog with greater powers and more resources.

- ▶ Impose a moratorium on approvals for new large-scale incinerators in Wales.
- ▶ Promote the planting of trees in urban areas.
- ▶ Introduce tougher penalties for fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering.

A Conservative UK Government will introduce extended producer responsibility, so that producers pay the full costs of dealing with the waste they produce, and boost domestic recycling. 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.

- ▶ We will **make no changes to the Hunting Act**.

## Strengthen our Union

**The United Kingdom is the most successful political and economic union in history. Together, with England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, Wales is 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 done, 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 as a Government to work for the whole of the United Kingdom, delivering for all of its people wherever they live.

## Investing across the Union

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund:** The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be used to **bind together the whole of the United Kingdom, tackling inequality and deprivation in each of our four nations**. It will replace the overly bureaucratic EU Structural Funds – and not only be better targeted at the UK’s specific needs, Wales will receive at least the same level of financial support as it currently receives from the EU.

**Strengthening the Union:** Conservatives have a proud history of upholding and strengthening the devolution settlements in Wales, Scotland 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.

**Freeports:** We will aim to ensure that our **new freeports benefit the people in each of the four nations**. We believe that there are many places across the United Kingdom that have the opportunity to **be successful innovative hubs for global trade**.

## Investing in Wales

**In the 2016 referendum, Wales voted to Leave – yet the Welsh Labour Government and Plaid Cymru are intent on overturning that decision by holding another referendum on our membership of the EU.**

Only the Welsh Conservatives can end the current uncertainty by **delivering on the democratic decision of the Welsh people to Leave** – getting Brexit done so we can unleash Wales’s potential as part of the United Kingdom.

We are ambitious for the Welsh economy and for our Union. We will **ensure that Wales gets a fair deal, with major investments in infrastructure and industry** to deliver real opportunity across the nation.

After Brexit, we will **continue to be a champion for Welsh exports and Wales’s presence on the global stage** as part of a strong United Kingdom.

- ▶ **Marches Growth Deal:** Too often infrastructure is focused on national connectivity within England and within Wales, rather than across the communities which live and work near the border. We will work with the Welsh Government and councils on both sides of the border to negotiate **a transformative Marches Growth Deal, focusing on cross-border infrastructure which supports the local and cross-border economy.** This will be modelled on the successful collaboration between governments and councils through the Borderlands Growth Deal in Northern England and the South of Scotland – building on the work of the **Western Gateway** partnership we have already announced.
- ▶ **Transport:** To support our Union, we will, working with the Welsh Government, **upgrade the A55** as the main road transport artery for North Wales – improving its capacity and resilience to build connections between Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom. A Welsh Conservative Government would **deliver an M4 relief road** which has been mothballed by the Labour administration. We gave financial support to the Welsh Government to build the relief road, yet the Labour administration decided to abandon

those plans out of timidity. This road is a vital economic lifeline and its cancellation shows that Wales is continually being held back by the Labour Welsh Government. We will also deliver on our commitment to **fund the building of the West Wales Parkway Station** outside of Swansea.

- ▶ **Automotive industry:** The automotive industry in Wales sustains tens of thousands of jobs and we believe that it has a bright future ahead. In September, we worked to bring INEOS Automotive to Bridgend, which will create 500 new jobs. We will continue to **back Welsh car manufacturing**, as the industry transitions to building **electric vehicles** in the coming decades.
- ▶ **Supporting steel:** A Conservative UK Government would work with the Welsh Government to maintain a competitive steel industry fit for the 21st century.
- ▶ **Welsh language:** Conservatives are proud of Welsh language and culture. We will **support Welsh institutions** such as S4C, the National Library and Museum, the Urdd and the National Eisteddfod. We will support the ambition for **one million people in Wales to be able to speak Welsh by 2050.**

## 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.**

We are committed to devolution and guarantee that Wales will not lose any powers as a result of our exit from the EU. **Indeed, Brexit will mean that more powers flow to the devolved parliaments, with decisions taken closer to the people they affect.**

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 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 referendum and a second Scottish referendum too, they will lose faith even further.

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

- ▶ We will ensure we have **updated and equal Parliamentary boundaries**, making sure that **every vote counts the same** – a cornerstone of democracy.
- ▶ 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 **continue to support the First Past the Post system** of voting for UK elections.
- ▶ We will **protect the integrity of our democracy**, by **introducing identification to vote** at polling stations, **stopping postal vote harvesting** and measures to **prevent any 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 **maintain the voting age at 18 for UK elections** – the age at which one gains full citizenship rights.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Welsh Conservatives will continue to oppose Labour, Plaid Cymru and Liberal Democrat plans to extend voting rights for prisoners. The UK Government will maintain the ban on prisoners voting in England and Wales.
- ▶ 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 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 Government, 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.



# We Will Strengthen Wales In The World

As Conservatives, we are immensely proud of the UK's history and its standing in the world, especially the long history of the people of Wales' dedication and continued sacrifice to our Armed Forces. 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.

**And in an uncertain world, in which the threat of terrorism, rogue states and malign non-state actors is ever-present, it is vital that Britain stands up and is counted.**

Getting Brexit done will allow us to do more on the international stage. We will continue to be an outward-looking country that is a champion of collective security, the rule of law, human rights, free trade, anti-corruption efforts and a rules-based international system.

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; the

Commonwealth; Five Eyes; the G20; the 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 state-sanctioned murder on British soil.

A Welsh Conservative Government would sell Wales to the world with a new export strategy for Wales and a network of Trade Envoys around the globe, working within British Embassies to maximise commercial opportunities for Welsh businesses.

# Supporting our veterans and investing in the men and women of today's Armed Forces

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.

**A Welsh Conservative Government would:**

- ▶ **Appoint an Armed Forces Commissioner for Wales**, accountable to the National Assembly for Wales to champion the needs of the Armed Forces community and ensure that Wales upholds the Armed Forces Covenant.

- ▶ **Establish an Armed Forces Card to provide:**

- free bus travel
- priority access to NHS treatment and home adaptations for service related injuries or illness
- free access to leisure centres and CADW heritage sites

- ▶ **Introduce a Service Pupil Premium** for the children of those serving in the armed forces.

- ▶ **Bring 150 empty social housing properties back into use** specifically for military veterans at the risk of homelessness.

- ▶ **Place a duty on local authorities** to ensure the maintenance of war memorials.

## Put our national security first

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

- ▶ 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 such as Rosyth and a new generation of armoured vehicles, made in Britain.

The people of Wales make a significant contribution to the armed forces and Welsh military bases are critical assets in our defence infrastructure. Welsh Conservative MPs will continue to fight for a significant Armed Forces footprint in Wales and to ensure that it is proportionate to the defence estate elsewhere in the UK.

## 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 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 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.**

## Animal Welfare

High standards of animal welfare are one of the hallmarks of a civilised society. We have a long tradition of protecting animals in this country, often many years before others follow. Under a Conservative UK Government, that will continue.

- ▶ We will **not make changes to the Hunting Act.**
- ▶ We will **bring in new laws on animal sentience.**
- ▶ We will **end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening.**
- ▶ We will **continue with the ivory ban and extend it** to cover other ivory-bearing species, and **ban imports from trophy hunting of endangered animals.**

In addition to action taken by a Conservative UK Government, a Welsh Conservative Government would:

- ▶ Introduce Lucy's Law to **ban the third party sale of cats and dogs and compulsory CCTV in Welsh slaughterhouses**, as is already the case in England.
- ▶ **Review pet breeding standards** and registration requirements to ensure adequate protection for animals.
- ▶ **Promote honest labelling** to enhance consumer choice, including distinguishing between stunned and non-stunned slaughter methods.
- ▶ Increase the percentage of **public procurement of higher welfare Welsh produce.**
- ▶ **Ban keeping primates as pets.**

- ▶ A Welsh Conservative Government would replace the Wales for Africa programme with a Wales for the World programme and treble its funding to promote the delivery of the millennium development goals in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and South America.

## Fight climate change and protect the environment

**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 believe that free markets, innovation and prosperity can protect the planet.

**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.

**Our first UK Budget will prioritise the environment:** investing in R&D; decarbonisation schemes; new flood defences, which will receive £4 billion in new funding over the coming years; 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.
- ▶ We will **invest £800 million to build the first fully deployed carbon capture storage cluster** by the mid-2020s.
- ▶ We will **invest £500 million to help energy-intensive industries move to low-carbon techniques**.
- ▶ 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**.
- ▶ We will support **clean transport to ensure clean air**, as well as **setting strict new laws on air quality**. We will consult on the earliest date by which we can phase out the **sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars**.

A Welsh Conservative Government would fund further research to scope opportunities to harness tidal energy

around the Welsh coast and stimulate interest in developing commercially viable tidal lagoons in North, South and West Wales, particularly where they can deliver flood defence and marine leisure benefits.

We would help lower energy bills by **investing in the energy efficiency of homes, schools and hospitals** and we will support clean transport to ensure clean air.

Welsh Conservatives have been clear that there should be a moratorium on approvals of any new large-scale incinerators until a national plan has been developed to deal with such applications.

Wales is facing more frequent risk of flooding from rising sea levels and heavier rainfall. A Welsh Conservative Government would:

- **Establish a National Flood Agency** to coordinate flood risk management and the response to flooding events.
- **Designate Blue Belts in areas of flood risk** to prevent inappropriate development.
- **Invest in flood defence improvements** via a Welsh Flood Defence Fund.

A photograph of Dominic Raab, a man in a dark suit and tie, speaking at a white podium. He is shown in profile, facing right, with his hands slightly raised as if gesturing during a speech. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on him.

## 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.**

**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.

**Dominic Raab**  
Candidate for Esher  
and Walton  
Foreign Secretary and  
First Secretary of State

Our goals for British trade are accordingly 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, with which we already share deep historical and cultural connections. We will use export finance to increase our businesses' access to emerging markets and engage diaspora communities in the UK with this agenda.

The UK is a world leader in many areas such as architecture, engineering, accountancy, information technology, digital services, law and the creative arts. 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, including in Wales**, benefiting some of our most deprived communities, and redouble our efforts to **promote Welsh business and exports**. We will **dismantle barriers to trade and retake our seat at the World Trade Organisation**.

A Welsh Conservative Government would work with the UK Government to bring a major sporting tournament to Wales.

We would also sell Wales to the world with a new export strategy for Wales and a network of Trade Envoys around the globe, working within British Embassies to maximise commercial opportunities for Welsh businesses.

## 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

Getting Brexit done. Investing in our public services and infrastructure. Supporting workers and families. Strengthening the Union. Unleashing Britain's potential.

**The future is there for us to grasp. Not a future in which we endlessly refight the battles of Brexit and the Scottish independence referendum, or in which Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell – propped up by Nicola Sturgeon – lead a Government which rejects everything that has made the UK great.**

The Conservatives offer a future in which we get Brexit done, 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 deliver on the instruction you gave us in 2016 – to get Brexit done. But then to move on to making the UK an even better country – to investing in the NHS, our schools, our people and our towns.

We will build a Britain in which everyone has the opportunity to make the most of their talents. We will ensure that work will always pay. We will create a fair society, in which everyone always contributes their fair share.

Given the Parliamentary arithmetic, a vote for any other party or candidate is a vote for Jeremy Corbyn – and a vote for chaos and delay.

We need to end the paralysis so we can do our job in the way you deserve. That is why we ask you to vote for a Conservative majority Government on December 12th.

So that together, led by Boris Johnson, we can get Brexit done, and move on to unleash the full potential of this great country.











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