

# Final Conference 2016 Brief: 12:30, 5 October 2016

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# Conservative Party Conference Key Messages and Narrative

***This Conservative Government is determined to build a country that works for everyone. We are getting on with the job and working hard every day to deliver the change people want: striking the right deal for Britain abroad and a better deal for ordinary, working-class people here at home.***

*We are working hard to strike the right deal for Britain abroad:* making a success of Brexit and shaping an ambitious global role that puts Britain's interests first.

*We are working hard to strike a better deal for ordinary, working-class people here at home:* giving them control of the things that matter most in their lives; building an economy in which everyone plays by the same rules and ordinary working people have the chance to share in the country's economic success; creating a society that rewards work and helps anyone, regardless of background, go wherever their talents will take them.

The right deal abroad and a better deal at home. This is the change ordinary, working-class people want and they can trust us to deliver it.

By putting their interests first and being driven by their concerns and priorities, we will build a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.

## ***The right deal abroad***

This conference takes place at a significant moment for Britain: a moment of great national change.

The result of June's referendum was clear. People said they wanted to be given more control over the decisions that affect them, and that's what we are working hard to deliver.

People can trust this Conservative Government to deliver the change they want. They can trust us to strike the right deal for Britain.

We will make it a priority to control the number of people who come here from Europe – but also to allow British companies to trade with the single market in goods and services. And at the same time, we are going to make the most of the opportunities that our departure from the EU presents – getting out into the world and doing business right across the globe.

## ***A better deal at home***

But it is clear that people also want change here at home.

The referendum showed that ordinary, working-class people feel they have too little control over the things that matter most in their lives and the decisions that affect them.

They're getting on with their lives, often quietly and without complaint, but sometimes it's a struggle. They're getting up early and working around the clock, but still they worry about being able to pay the bills and giving their children the best start they can. They're doing their best, but sometimes it feels like things work well for other people and not for them. They're just about managing but they would like a little help. They would like to know someone is listening; someone is on their side.

## ***This Conservative Government will deliver for ordinary, working-class people***

This Conservative Government is getting on with the job and working hard to deliver for them. They can trust us to make the changes they want – striking a better deal for ordinary, working people and giving them more control of the things that matter most to them.

We have achieved a lot over the past six years: stabilising the economy, reducing the budget deficit, helping more people into work than ever before - and taking people on the lowest wages out of income tax altogether.

But we know there is much more to do if we are to create a country that works for everyone.

So while we deliver change abroad, we will also deliver change here at home: building an economy and society that works for everyone, and a country that serves the interests not of the rich and powerful, but of the ordinary, working-class people of Britain.

We will do everything we can to give them more control over their lives, to tackle the injustices and barriers that hold people back, and to take on vested interests – wherever they are found – that put the interests of the few above the concerns of the many.

***We will build a country that works for everyone***

That is why with Theresa May as our Prime Minister, this Conservative Government will build:

- **An economy that works for everyone**, through economic reforms that focus on increasing productivity so that more people can share in the country's prosperity, getting tough on irresponsible behaviour in big business to ensure the free market truly works for all, and actively shaping an industrial strategy that serves the interests of Britain and of ordinary, working people
- **A society that works for everyone**, through ambitious social reforms that ensure the talent you have and how hard you're prepared to work matter more than where you were born, who your parents are, what your accent sounds like, what god you worship, or whether you're a man or a woman, gay or straight, black or white.
- **A democracy that works for everyone**, in which we recognise there are some things that only the state and politicians can do, where politicians face up to the tough decisions that need to be made, and in which the interests of ordinary, working people are put before those of the privileged few.

***By being a united team, dedicated to serving the people and getting on with the job***

This is a significant moment for Britain: a moment of great national change at home and abroad.

This united Conservative Government is ready to seize that moment: making a success of Brexit, forging a bold, new positive role for ourselves in the world, and changing our economy and our society here at home to ensure they serve the interests of ordinary, working-class people. The right deal abroad and a better deal here at home.

While other parties are frankly too divided or distracted to deliver the leadership Britain needs, the Conservative Party under Theresa May's strong, proven leadership is knuckling down and getting on with the job – delivering the change ordinary, working-class people want and building a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.

# A Country That Works For Everyone – The Good that Government Can Do

- Today the Prime Minister explained in more detail her vision of a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.
- She set out the clear case for the good that government can do while stating that political visions need to be accompanied by hard work and practical implementation.
- The referendum was not just a vote to leave the EU, it was something broader.
- It was about a deep, justified sense for many people that the world works well for a privileged few, but not for them.
- This is a genuine turning point in Britain's history and it is for this party to respond in a way that meets the challenge.
- While being proud of our achievements over the past six years, it is clear that more needs to be done to put government at the service of ordinary working class people.
- A new approach that accepts government does not have all the answers but that it can and should be a force for good, providing what individuals, communities and markets cannot. Where markets are dysfunctional, we should be prepared to intervene.

## In practice that means things like:

- **Reforming corporate governance** – to be announced later in the year – to ensure all businesses are run accountably and with long-term interest clearly in mind. We will publish our plans to have not just consumers represented on company boards, but workers as well.
- **A proper industrial strategy** – identifying the industries that are of strategic value to our economy and supporting and promoting them through trade, tax, infrastructure, skills, training, and research and development policies.
- **Building more houses** – meaning that more people have the opportunity to buy a home of their own and that less of the monthly family budget is poured into accommodation costs. On Monday we announced a new package of measures to get Britain building which include using more public sector land for housebuilding and further reforming the planning system so more houses can be built, more quickly.
- **Strengthening workers' rights** – as announced on Saturday, we're going to review our laws to make sure that, in our modern and flexible economy, people are properly protected at work.
- **Bold new education reforms** – so that every child has the chance to go to a good, local school and that they are not held back by where they live or how much money their parents have. The Government will end the ban on new grammar schools – as well as a range of other reforms to create more good school places.
- **Getting immigration under control** – leaving the EU gives us an opportunity to control the numbers of people coming here from Europe and the Government will be consulting over the next few months on steps to reduce non-EU migration too across work and student visa routes.
- **Continuing to invest in our NHS** – £10 billion extra over this Parliament, which is only possible because of the strong economic foundations we have built. We believe in public service. We believe in investing in and supporting the institutions that make our country great.

- **Protecting those who cannot work** – we will end the mandatory retesting of work capability for those with chronic health conditions that not only induces stress but does nothing at all to help.

# PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Opportunity Areas

**Summary:** We are giving ten areas in England that are facing challenges to social mobility priority access to a package of education programmes. Giving more young people opportunities and supporting them from nursery, throughout their school years and into the world of work.

- **This Conservative Government is determined to build a country that works for everyone. Thanks to the hard work of teachers and the action we have taken over the past six years, there are 1.4 million more pupils in good or outstanding schools than in 2010. But for too many children, the chance of getting the best start in life depends not on their talent or hard work but on where they live or how much money their parents have.**
- **That is why we are announcing new Opportunity Areas in England, where we will focus the Department for Education’s energy, ideas and resources on providing children and young people with the chances and choices to fulfil their potential. We will work with each Opportunity Area to respond to local priorities and needs – because each area will have its own challenges.**
- **We are making sure every child can access high quality education, suited to their individual needs, so that everyone has the opportunity to succeed and excel no matter where they are from.**

## Background

- Children and young people are successful when they are able to:
  - Build their knowledge and skills – starting in the early years, through schools and into further or higher education and beyond.
  - Access the right advice, so they can make the best choices for them when they are progressing through education and in to employment.
  - Benefit from wider experiences and opportunities outside home and school.
- Ensuring children in every area can access high quality education at every stage is critical. We need to do more to reach the most disadvantaged children and those from families who are just managing.

## We are announcing

- **The first six Opportunity Areas across England.** These are West Somerset, Norwich, Blackpool, Scarborough, Derby and Oldham. We will open bids for the next four in the coming months.
- **This is a new policy building on Achieving Excellence Areas proposal outlined in the March White Paper.** The Achieving Excellence Areas strategy was designed to improve primary and secondary standards in areas with low levels of good school places, by building the educational capacity in that area. The Opportunity Areas policy is a broader approach to social mobility, which pilots a range of interventions, including working with early years, higher education providers and employers.
- **£60 million of new funding to support work across the Opportunity Areas.** We will make available up to £60 million of new funding to support targeted, local work in ten Opportunity Areas to address the biggest challenges each of these areas face.
- **We will launch an innovation fund to improve teaching and leadership in the most challenging areas**

**of the country.** This fund will also benefit the Opportunity Areas and is worth £75 million.

- **We will invest in improving careers and enterprise provision in Opportunity Areas.** The Careers & Enterprise Company will invite organisations to bid to deliver programmes in these areas that are proven to have a positive impact on careers-related outcomes.
- **The first set of successful bidders for the National Collaborative Outreach Programme, worth £22 million.** The National Collaboration Outreach Programme will help raise aspirations for disadvantaged children through summer schools, organising school visits and providing academic mentoring.
- **This policy applies to England.** Legislation is not required.

## Conservative record

- **More children are in good schools.** Record numbers of children go to schools rated as good or outstanding, according to Ofsted. Over 1.4 million more children are now attending the best schools than in 2010.<sup>1</sup>
- **More young people from disadvantage backgrounds are going into higher education.** The proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds going into higher education is up rising from 13.6 per cent in 2009-10 to 18.5 per cent in 2015-16. This means that young people from the most disadvantaged areas in England were 36 per cent more likely to enter higher education in 2015 than in 2009.<sup>2</sup>

## Costing and funding

- *Opportunity Areas:* £60 million for ten Opportunity Areas. This will be used to fund local, evidence based programmes, local project management and evaluation.
- *Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund:* Education leaders and organisations will be able to bid into a pot of £75 million to fund innovative professional development projects aimed at strengthening teaching and leadership. The Fund will prioritise those projects that will directly benefit pupils in Opportunity Areas.
- *The National Collaborative Outreach Programme:* This is an area based programme that constitutes a £60 million per annum investment in improving the opportunities for young people in some of our most disadvantaged communities. This is already funded for two years (2017 and 2018).
- *The Careers & Enterprise Investment Fund:* £1 million of existing funding will be committed to Opportunity Areas.

## Political points to make

- **We have created almost double the number of apprenticeships than Labour did in their last term.** Between 2005-06 and 2009-10, there were 1,103,800 apprenticeship starts. From 2010 to 2015, we created 2,140,000.<sup>3</sup>
- **Youth unemployment rose by 45 per cent under Labour – meaning young people were not getting the skills they need to get on in life.** In February to April 1997 there were 652,000 unemployed 16 to 24 year olds. By February to April 2010, this had risen by 287,000 to 939,000.<sup>4</sup>
- **The number of young people not in education, employment or training rose by a third under Labour.** There were 655,000 NEETs – 16 to 24 year olds not in education, employment or training – in England in

<sup>1</sup> DfE press release, 29 June 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> UCAS End of Year Report, accessed 3 October 2016, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> BIS, FE data library: apprenticeships, 30 January 2015, [link](#); BIS, Press Release, 29 January 2015, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> ONS, Labour Market Statistics, 17 April 2015, [link](#).

the second quarter of 2000. This had risen to 874,000 in the second quarter of 2010 – an increase of 33 per cent.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Data Service, *NEET estimates by labour market status*, 24 February 2011.

# Immigration consultation

**Summary:** The Government will shortly be consulting on the next steps needed to control immigration. We will be looking across work and study routes to refocus these routes on the brightest and best, building a system that works for everyone, while Britain remains open for business.

- **When we leave the EU we will be able to reduce European immigration, but in the meantime we need to take further steps to reduce the number of people who come here from outside the EU while making sure we still welcome and attract the brightest and best who contribute to the British economy.**
- **These proposals will look across work and study routes and will include looking for the first time at whether our student immigration rules should be tailored to the quality of the course and the quality of the institution. They will also examine whether we should introduce tough US-style rules to make sure people who come here are not doing jobs that could be done by British workers.**
- **We are doing this so that we get net migration back to sustainable levels – helping build confidence in our immigration system and relieving pressure on our schools, hospitals and infrastructure. But also so our immigration system continues to attract the brightest and the best. Immigration has been good for this country, it has boosted our economy and enhanced our culture, but net migration at current levels is not in Britain’s interests. Businesses and universities now have the opportunity to engage with this consultation to help us get these reforms right.**

## Background

- **Uncontrolled immigration puts pressure on schools, hospitals and transport.** That’s why the Conservatives are committed to delivering annual net migration in the tens of thousands, not the hundreds of thousands.
- **We have always been committed to ensuring Britain attracts the brightest and the best.** Over the past five years, while we have tackled abuse of the student route, the number of students coming to our best universities has increased.

## Our solution

- **We will consult later this year on the next steps to bring down net migration from outside the EU, while ensuring we still attract the brightest and the best.** Although non EU net migration is down on its peak under Labour, we need to take further steps to deliver on our manifesto commitment.<sup>1</sup>
- **The consultation will propose a number of measures across the work and study routes.** It will also seek the views of universities, colleges, and businesses on the best way to deliver our commitments on immigration: bringing down net migration to sustainable levels, while continuing to attract the brightest and the best.
- The Home Secretary set out some early details on what will be in the consultation, including:
  - **Looking for the first time at whether our student immigration rules should be tailored to the quality of the course and the quality of the university.** For people who come to study we will continue to ensure our world class universities attract the best international students, but we will review whether all 150 different universities providing thousands of different courses to hundreds of thousands international students really are doing that.

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<sup>1</sup> Non EU net migration has fallen by 28,000 since 2010; ONS, *International Passenger Survey*.

At the moment if you come to study in this country, irrespective of your talents or the value of the course to this country, you automatically get favourable treatment when you apply for a job after completing your study; there is no restriction on the kind of work your family can undertake while you are here as a student; foreign students, even those studying English Language degrees, do not even have to be proficient in English. With 160,000 people arriving as students each year and tens of thousands remaining after their studies we need to ask whether these rules applying uniformly across the education sector really are in Britain's best interests.

- **Looking at how we can reward our world class universities and those that take steps to stop overstaying.** We do not want our very best universities to lose out on the top talent to their international rivals, so we will look at how we can improve their offer to the brightest and the best. An immigration system that treats every student and institution as equal only punishes those we want to help. This will include looking at whether we can support our very best, and most compliant universities, with less regulation and tailored support.
- **Tightening the test used to ensure people coming here really are adding value and not filling gaps in the labour market that could be filled by British people.** Currently, employers have to undertake a Resident Labour Market Test if they want to fill a vacancy with a non EU migrant. This only requires them to advertise the job in the UK for 28 days and confirm that no suitable resident workers are available. It does not provide a clear incentive for the employers to conduct an exhaustive search of the UK labour force or to invest in training to ensure that a local person could be trained so that they could do the job.
- The consultation will look to tackle weaknesses in the current test (where salaries may be concealed in the advert so they can offer something different to a migrant). It will also consider whether employers should have to set out the steps they have taken to foster a pool of local candidates, the impact on the local labour force of their foreign recruitment and the proportion of their workforce which is international, as is the case in the US. Reforming the system will help individuals, but also help us build a more productive economy with a more skilled workforce.

## Conservative record

- **Introduced a cap on non-EU migration to this country.** We have capped the Tier 2 (General) route for skilled non-EU workers at 20,700 a year.<sup>1</sup>
- **Cut the abuse of student visas whilst still welcoming the brightest students.** We have stopped 920 bogus colleges from bringing in overseas students, whilst still approving 163,000 visa applications for study at UK universities in the year to June 2016.<sup>2</sup>
- **Protected public services – so hardworking taxpayers can rely on them when they need them.** We are clamping down on health tourism, making temporary migrants pay into the NHS and making sure local authorities set a residency requirement before a person qualifies for social housing.<sup>3</sup>
- **Where we do have control we have cut non EU migration.** Immigration by non-EU citizens has fallen by 13 per cent (-44,000) since the year ending September 2010 and immigration of non EU students has fallen from 132,000 in 2013 to 111,000 now [Data does not go back before 2013]. However, visa applications to Russell Group universities are 39 per cent higher than in 2010.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Home Office, 23 November 2010, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> Home Office, *Immigration Statistics*, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> DH Press Release, 22 October 2013, [link](#); DCLG, *Providing social housing for local people*, December 2013, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> Home Office management information.

## Political points to make

- **Labour's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, thinks net immigration levels are 'actually very small'.** 'The amount of net immigration is actually very small. And immigrants as a whole are net contributors to the economy'.<sup>1</sup>
- **A Corbyn aide said that Labour are not aiming to reduce immigration.** 'Jeremy is not concerned about numbers. Jeremy wants to ensure that people who come to work here have the same rights as British people and there is no undercutting of pay or conditions, which is driving wages down. It is not an objective to reduce the numbers, to reduce immigration'.<sup>2</sup>
- **Labour in Government wants no limit to freedom of movement with Europe - leaving us without control of our borders.** Jeremy Corbyn has said: 'I don't particularly want us to go down the road of having to have a hard border between Britain and Europe for people who wish to travel, for holidays for work, for anything else...we need to maintain that free movement'.<sup>3</sup>
- **Labour sent out 'search parties' to encourage mass immigration.** Labour's Lord Mandelson said 'we were sending out search parties for people and encouraging them ... to take up work in this country'.<sup>4</sup>
- **Labour's former Home Secretary Jack Straw described not imposing transitional controls in 2004 as a 'spectacular mistake' which left Labour with 'red faces' for a policy they 'messed up'.** He said: 'One spectacular mistake in which I participated (not alone) was in lifting the transitional restrictions on the Eastern European states like Poland and Hungary which joined the EU in mid-2004'. This decision meant 'lots of red faces, mine included'. He also admitted this was a policy 'we messed up'.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Channel 4 News Labour Leadership Hustings, 1 September 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Press Association, 27 September 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Sky News, 14 September 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Daily Mail, 14 May 2013, [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> Lancashire Telegraph, 7 November 2013, [link](#).

# Controlling Migration Fund

**Summary:** The Government has outlined a £140 million fund to deliver on our manifesto commitment – to help ease pressures on public services in communities affected by high levels of immigration and reduce illegal immigration across the country.

- **We want to build an immigration system that puts Britain first and builds a more cohesive society. Although we will not be able to bring immigration down overnight, there are some things we can get on with now to help communities affected by high levels of immigration.**
- **This £140 million fund will help ease pressures on public services in communities affected by high levels of immigration and reduce illegal immigration across the country. Local authorities will be able to bid into this fund with their ideas on how to reduce pressures resulting from high levels of immigration.**
- **Funding will be made available to increase the work we are doing to stop housing benefits going to people who have no right to be here, reduce rough sleeping by migrants, tackle anti-social behaviour and further crack down on ‘beds in sheds’. For those that are here legally, funding will also be available to provide more English language training to help communities integrate.**

## Background

- **Uncontrolled immigration in certain areas puts pressure on public services.** It can also cause social tensions if communities find it hard to integrate.
- **This delivers on a manifesto commitment.** ‘To help communities experiencing high and unexpected volumes of immigration, we will introduce a new Controlling Migration Fund to ease pressures on services and to pay for additional immigration enforcement’.

## Our solution

- We will introduce a £140 million fund to deliver on our manifesto commitment to help ease pressures on public services in communities affected by high levels of immigration and reduce illegal immigration across the country. The fund will be delivered by the Home Office and DCLG, and will:
  - **Build on the work we have already done to stop housing benefits going to illegal migrants.** The Government has already been working with local authorities to ensure councils are not mistakenly paying housing benefits to people with no right to be here. In one case when a Home Office member of staff was embedded in a local authority, over £1.5 million was saved by denying public funds.<sup>1</sup> This funding will allow us to roll this out more widely with councils able to bid for funding to pay for Immigration Enforcement officers to ensure public money is not being misused.
  - **Help to reduce rough sleeping by migrants.** Rough sleeping by foreign-nationals is a significant concern to local communities in many areas; we have introduced a new more assertive approach to allow Immigration Enforcement to deal with foreign nationals who are rough-sleeping, more quickly. Through the fund we will commit enforcement resources to respond to local authorities' requests to ensure that rough sleeping does not become a problem in their areas.
  - **Crackdown on beds in sheds and overcrowded houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs),** through the fund providing new money for councils to identify overcrowded houses and share more intelligence with the Home Office if they suspect these people are here illegally. This will lead to joint operations to target the rogue landlords breaking the law and providing this accommodation to

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<sup>1</sup> Home Office management information.

people who have no right to be here. There are good examples of this already taking place in Newham and Ealing, and this approach builds on the new powers in the Immigration Act and could complement work to tackle anti-social behaviour. This builds on the initiatives undertaken by the Government in the last Parliament.

- **English language training to help migrants learn English and integrate.** Local authorities will also be able to come forward with specific proposals by bidding into the Fund. We have not sought to limit the type of bids local authorities can put into the Fund as we want local areas to come forward with their solutions, which we will assess on a case by case basis. We will, however, encourage bids that include increasing provision for English language support because this will help improve integration, as well as reduce pressures on public services resulting from translation costs. Such translation also undermines integration by discouraging people from learning English, which is essential for people to get a job and get involved in community life.
- **Help illegal migrants to leave the UK voluntarily.** Investing in local authority capacity to engage with families and former unaccompanied asylum seeking children leaving care (who have no lawful basis to remain here) to prepare them for departure and co-ordinate with Immigration Enforcement could significantly reduce pressures.
- **Devolution:** The policies on Home Office Immigration Enforcement will apply across the UK as immigration is reserved. The funding being made available for councils through DCLG to bid into is for England only.

## Conservative record

- **Introduced a cap on non-EU migration to this country.** We have capped the Tier 2 (General) Route for skilled non-EU workers at 20,700 a year.<sup>1</sup>
- **Cut the abuse of student visas whilst still welcoming the brightest students.** We've stopped 920 bogus colleges from bringing in overseas students whilst still approving 163,000 visa applications for study at UK universities in the year to June 2016.<sup>2</sup>
- **Protected public services – so hardworking taxpayers can rely on them when they need them.** We are clamping down on health tourism, making temporary migrants pay into the NHS and making sure local authorities set a residency requirement before a person qualifies for social housing.<sup>3</sup>
- **Where we do have control we have cut non EU migration.** Immigration by non-EU citizens has fallen by 13 per cent (-44,000) since the year ending September 2010 and immigration of non EU students has fallen from 132,000 in 2013 to 111,000 now [Data does not go back before 2013]. However, visa applications to Russell Group universities are 39 per cent higher than in 2010.<sup>4</sup>

## Costing and funding

- £100 million will be made available for local authorities to bid into from DCLG's budget for England only. This money was part of DCLG's spending review settlement. The DCLG Secretary of State will announce the opening of this pot to bids shortly.
- £40 million is being made available from the Home Office for immigration enforcement purposes across the United Kingdom focused in particular on alleviating pressures on local communities. This money has been made available from existing budgets and involved prioritising the use of current resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Home Office, 23 November 2010, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> Home Office, Immigration Statistics [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> DH Press Release, 22 October 2013, [link](#); DCLG, *Providing social housing for local people*, December 2013, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> ONS, *International Passenger Survey*; Home Office management information.

## Political points to make

- **Labour's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, thinks net immigration levels are 'actually very small'.** 'The amount of net immigration is actually very small. And immigrants as a whole are net contributors to the economy'.<sup>1</sup>
- **A Corbyn aide said that Labour are not aiming to reduce immigration.** 'Jeremy is not concerned about numbers. Jeremy wants to ensure that people who come to work here have the same rights as British people and there is no undercutting of pay or conditions, which is driving wages down. It is not an objective to reduce the numbers, to reduce immigration'.<sup>2</sup>
- **Labour want no limit to freedom of movement with Europe - leaving us without control of who comes here.** Jeremy Corbyn has said: 'I don't particularly want us to go down the road of having to have a hard border between Britain and Europe for people who wish to travel, for holidays for work, for anything else...we need to maintain that free movement'.<sup>3</sup>
- **Net immigration under Labour was more than twice the population of Birmingham.** Between 1997 and 2010, net immigration to the UK was more than 2.5 million and up to 2 million people settled here.<sup>4</sup>
- **The Labour Government wanted unlimited immigration.** Labour Home Secretary David Blunkett said he saw 'no obvious upper limit to legal immigration'.<sup>5</sup>

**Labour position: Jeremy Corbyn:** 'Labour will reinstate the migrant impact fund, and give extra support to areas of high migration using the visa levy for its intended purpose.'<sup>6</sup>

**Rebuttal:** Labour's scheme was ineffective, focusing on funding *for* migrants rather than addressing the pressures on communities caused by migration. Money was spent on translation services, rather than focusing on English lessons. Councils were given money to promote recycling, rather than the support they need to ease housing pressures.<sup>7</sup> But more than that, Labour support unlimited immigration and do not want to reduce numbers, which would only mean greater pressure on communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Channel 4 News Labour Leadership Hustings, 1 September 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Press Association, 27 September 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Sky News, 14 September 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics, *Long Term International Migration*, 1997 to 2010, [link](#); Home Office, Immigration Statistics [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> BBC TV, *Newsnight*, 12 November 2003.

<sup>6</sup> *Labour Press*, 28 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>7</sup> Analysis of schemes, further to *Hansard*, 2 March 2010, Col, 1148WA.

# Unduly Lenient Sentencing

**Summary:** The Government is extending the existing Unduly Lenient Sentencing scheme so that it applies to sentences given for the majority of terrorist offences.

- **We want to tackle those terrorism cases where judges get the sentence wrong. We promised in our manifesto that we would extend the scope of the Unduly Lenient Sentencing scheme. The Lord Chancellor and Attorney General are considering how best to do that, but extending the scheme to cover sentences given for the majority of terrorist offences is the first step towards meeting that commitment.**
- **Under the existing Unduly Lenient Sentencing scheme, any member of the public has the right to ask the Attorney General to look again at sentences passed in certain Crown Court cases where they believe an error has been made. We are extending that right to cover all terrorist offences sentenced in the Crown Court.**
- **People need to have confidence in the criminal justice system. To that end, we are giving them the power to challenge, and have the Court of Appeal correct, the grossest errors in sentencing.**

## Background

- The Attorney General has powers under Sections 35 and 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, to refer a sentence in certain Crown Court cases to the Court of Appeal for review on the basis that it is unduly lenient. The Court of Appeal will then review the sentence and may decide to dismiss it replacing it with a sentence which it considers more appropriate. Prior to its introduction (in the Criminal Justice Act 1988), there was no means of increasing a sentence for any criminal offence once it had been passed by the Courts.
- The scheme currently applies only to certain offences sentenced in the Crown Court. This includes all *indictable* only (i.e. those that always passed to the Crown Court) offences and a specified selection of ‘either way’ (i.e. can be heard at either magistrates or Crown Court) offences sentenced at the Crown Court.
- The scheme is effective – with an increase in cases referred to the Attorney General from 342 in 2010 to 713 in 2015. Of those, 136 were referred by the Attorney General’s Office to the Court of Appeal as potentially unduly lenient, with the Court agreeing to increase the original sentence for 102 offenders.
- However, various offences have come within the scope of the scheme over time, in a piecemeal way. To date, the scheme has been extended several times. Most recently, offences under the Modern Slavery Act were added to the Scheme in 2015.
- At present, some terrorism offences in the Terrorism Act 2000 are within scope, and some are not.
- The Ministry of Justice has policy responsibility for the Unduly Lenient Sentencing, though its operation lies with the Attorney General’s Office. The Ministry of Justice has been working with the Attorney General’s Office on options for extending the scheme to a wider range of offences as per the 2015 manifesto commitment.

## Our solution

- Some terrorism offences are currently included in the Unduly Lenient Sentencing scheme. Other terrorism offences that are either-way and not at present specified in the Unduly Lenient Sentencing scheme will be brought within scope. This can be done by statutory instrument and we will look to have this in place by early next year.
- Terrorism offences that extending the Unduly Lenient Sentencing scheme would bring into scope include:

- **Proscription offences** (Sections 11 & 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000) – e.g. being a member of, or supporting a banned organisation. If the individual is convicted on indictment the sentence can be imprisonment for up to ten years and/or a fine. If it is a summary conviction it is up to six months and/or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.
  - **Possessing information useful to a terrorist** (Section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000) – e.g. having a Daesh magazine that includes advice on how to make a bomb. Sentencing options as above.
  - **Encouragement of terrorism** (Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006) – publishing information or making statements which encourage others to become engaged in terrorist acts. On conviction or indictment the sentence can be imprisonment for up to seven months and/or a fine. On summary conviction in England & Wales the individual can be imprisoned for up to twelve months and in Scotland or Northern Ireland it is up to six months. All summary convictions can also be given a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum as well as/instead of imprisonment.
- We are also considering a wider expansion of the scheme to include a range of either way offences sentenced in the Crown Court.
  - The policy applies to England and Wales.

## Conservative record

- **This Government has an extremely strong record on protecting the security of the country and taking action against terrorists.**
- The **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, and increased resources announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review have helped to ensure that our services have the powers and capabilities they need to respond effectively to the changing terrorist threat. It has also provided new powers to disrupt the travel of foreign fighters by temporarily seizing their passports.
- Through our **Prevent and intervention programmes**, we have worked to safeguard people at risk and challenge the twisted narratives that support terrorism.
- We have **made borders and civil aviation more secure** – for example, by requiring a greater use of explosive detection equipment at UK airports.
- We have **strengthened our existing response to marauding terrorist firearms attacks**, by extra funding of £35 million for more armed police, and the Armed Forces have established plans to provide support in the event of a large scale attack.

## Costing and funding

- Costs may vary year on year, in line with the fluctuation in the number of terrorism offences being committed that are now being brought into scope.
- Given the relatively small number of these types of offences that are committed, downstream costs (for example, prison places) are likely to be very manageable (note - offences being brought into scope are in any case ‘either way’, i.e. not most serious ‘indictable-only’).

## Political Points to make

*Labour cannot be trusted with the security of our country.*

- **Jeremy Corbyn described Hamas and Hezbollah as ‘friends’.** He said: ‘It will be my pleasure and my honour to host an event in parliament where our friends from Hezbollah will be speaking...I’ve also invited friends from Hamas’.<sup>1</sup>
- **In March 2001, the then Labour Government introduced a Statutory Instrument that added 21 terrorist organisations to those proscribed in the Terrorism Act 2000.** This included Al-Qa’ida, the PKK and ETA.<sup>2</sup> Jeremy Corbyn repeatedly opposed banning the 21 terrorist organisations and with, Diane Abbott, John McDonnell, and 14 other MPs voted against the Statutory Instrument.<sup>3</sup>
- **Jeremy Corbyn has repeatedly voted against legislation drawn up to allow the removal of persons found to be prejudicial to the interests of the United Kingdom.** He voted against:
  - **The Immigration Bill 2014** – allowing removal of a person not ‘conducive to the public good because the person, while having that citizenship status, has conducted him or herself in a manner which is seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the United Kingdom’.<sup>4</sup>
  - **The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, Section 52 Deprivation of Citizenship** – allowing removal when ‘deprivation is conducive to the public good’.<sup>5</sup>
  - **The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Bill 2002** – allowing removal of a person deemed ‘seriously prejudicial to the vital interests’ of the UK.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Stop the War Coalition Public Meeting*, 3 March 2009, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> *Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 1261*, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> *Theyworkforyou*, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> *Hansard*, 30 January 2014, Cm 1130, [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> *Hansard*, 16 November 2005, Cm 1058, [link](#).

<sup>6</sup> *Hansard*, 12 June 2002, Cm 964, [link](#).

# Removing European Criminals

**Summary:** We are toughening the rules on free movement so we do what we can to put Britain first while we are still members of the EU. We will introduce new secondary legislation that seeks to toughen how our courts interpret the rules governing free movement. This should make it easier to exclude extremists and terrorists, deport criminals and help to ensure that Europeans who repeatedly commit minor offences in this country can be deported. We will also be able to deport those who abuse free movement for the first time.

- **We are going to make a success of Brexit and there will be no attempts to remain inside the EU. Whilst we are still members of the EU, we are obliged to comply with the law and rules around free movement; yet we can still do more to ensure free movement works more in line with Britain's interests. Our steps will give us more control over who can remain in this country and help keep British citizens safer.**
- **We will introduce new secondary legislation in the autumn that seeks to toughen how our courts interpret the rules governing free movement. By introducing a legal statement about what is in the fundamental interests of the UK we will make it easier to deport European criminals, aligning our approach more closely with how we treat non EU offenders, as well as those who abuse their free movement rights by facilitating illegal migration or engaging in immigration abuse.**
- **We will also clarify that we can deport Europeans who repeatedly commit minor offences in this country. They will now face a 5 to 10 year deportation, rather than a 12 month re-entry ban. Those who abuse free movement will face a 3 year deportation order for the first time.**

## Background

- **We are obliged to continue to operate the current free movement regime until we leave the EU, but we can take tougher action within that legal framework.** These new rules will give us greater control over who can be in this country and help ensure we can keep people safer.
- **This delivers on a Conservative manifesto commitment.** ‘We will...introduce stronger powers to deport criminals and stop them coming back, and tougher and longer re-entry bans for all those who abuse free movement’.

## Our solution

- **We will introduce new secondary legislation that will toughen how our courts interpret the rules governing free movement.** By introducing a legal statement about what is in the fundamental interests of the UK, we will make it easier to deport European criminals, aligning the approach more closely with that for non-EU offenders, as well as those who abuse their free movement rights by facilitating illegal migration or engaging in immigration abuse. Under free movement rules, in order to deport or exclude someone they have to be a ‘genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat affecting one of the fundamental interests of society’.
- We will make clear that a threat does not need to be imminent to make it easier to exclude extremists or terrorists. We will also set out in domestic legislation what is in our fundamental interests, and bring this in line with how we treat non-EU criminals (who are generally deported if they commit a serious crime, receive a custodial sentence of 12 months or longer, or are a persistent offender).

This more aggressive interpretation of the existing law means that, for the first time, we will seek to deport Europeans who repeatedly commit minor offences in this country. They will now face a 5 to 10 year deportation, rather than a 12 month re-entry ban. Those who abuse free movement will face a 3 year deportation order.

- **Devolution scope:** These policies apply to the whole of the United Kingdom, as immigration is a reserved matter.

## Conservative record

- **We have already taken action to ensure there is no gold-plating of the free movement directive to put the interests of Britain first.** We have stopped jobseekers accessing Job Seekers Allowance when they arrive here, and created a 12 month re-entry ban to prevent the UK border being used as a revolving door by those abusing their treaty rights.

## Political points to make

- **We deport nearly 3 times more European criminals than we did under Labour.** The number of EEA foreign criminals being removed from the UK has increased by more than 250 per cent since 2010. Last year (2015), we removed 3,310 EEA Foreign National Offenders.
- **Labour oppose changes to free movement.** Labour's Shadow Chancellor has previously said: 'We should have open borders. We should be allowed to travel right the way across the globe wherever we want. It should be a basic human right.'<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John McDonnell, *South London Peoples Assembly*, 7 August 2013.

# Forces' Help to Buy Extension

**Summary:** Conservatives launched our Forces' Help to Buy scheme in April 2014 to help members of the Armed Forces afford a deposit to buy their first home. 10,000 personnel have already had their applications approved. We are extending the scheme until 2018 so that more can benefit.

- **Our Armed Forces keep us safe and we are committed to giving our service personnel and the unsung heroes – their families - the support they want in return for all they do for our country.**
- **Through our £200 million Forces' Help to Buy Scheme, 10,000 personnel have had their applications approved to buy their first home or move up the property ladder.**
- **By extending this scheme more troops will get this extra help, they will be able to give their families the stability that many of us take for granted. This is part of our plan for a country that works for everyone.**

## Background

- **Fewer than half of the Armed Forces own their own home.** Overall home ownership rate in the Armed Forces is around 47 per cent<sup>1</sup>. Amongst non-officer other ranks (i.e. non-commissioned officers – warrant officer rank and below), only 40 per cent own their own home, falling to only 30 per cent for other ranks in the Army.
- **Service personnel are leaving the Armed Forces to buy their own home.** Service personnel leaving the Armed Forces frequently cite their desire to own their own home as one of the key reasons for their departure.

## Our solution

- **Extending Forces' Help to Buy.** This £200 million scheme helps military personnel get onto the property ladder by enabling them to borrow a deposit of up to half of their annual salary, up to £25,000, interest free. It was due to end in April 2017 but with 20 per cent of service personnel considering using the scheme we are extending it by a year to allow more personnel to benefit.<sup>2</sup>
- **Over 10,000 applications have been approved.** At last year's conference Michael Fallon set an ambition for 10,000 personnel to be approved - 10,584 applications have now been approved. Over £127 million has been paid to over 8,300 military personnel, an average of £15,200 per claim<sup>3</sup>. The remaining claims are ready to pay on completion of property purchases.
- **It has proved most popular with non-officers.** In August, 81 per cent of payments were made to other ranks. The scheme is supporting those troops that need our help to get onto the housing ladder.<sup>4</sup>
- This policy applies to all regular members of the Armed Forces personnel to buy a property in the UK (or Republic of Ireland for those recruited that are of Irish parentage).

## Conservative record

- **Supporting our Armed Forces.** We have enshrined the Armed Forces Covenant in law and are strengthening it by doubling operational allowances and abolishing council tax relief for Forces on

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<sup>1</sup> MOD, *Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey 2014*, 19 May 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> AFCAS 2016, p.33 [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> MOD, *Forces Help To Buy Monthly Statistics*, 22 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

operations; spending over £1 billion providing better accommodation for Service personnel, which includes 2,000 new homes and over 8,000 new single rooms, and improving healthcare provision and mental health support for veterans.<sup>1</sup>

## Costing and funding

- **£200 million has been allocated to Forces' Help to Buy with £127 million paid out to date.** The remaining funding will meet expected take up levels. If the scheme proves more popular then costs will be met from within MOD budget agreed in the Spending Review. £200 million is the upfront cost with the expectation that borrowing will be repaid within a maximum 10 years and 6 months of service personnel receiving the advance.

## Political points to make

- **Labour's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, thinks Britain should abolish its armed forces.** He said: 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if every politician around the world instead of taking pride in the size of their armed forces did what the people of Costa Rica have done and abolished their army and took pride in the fact the fact they don't have an army... Surely that is the way we should be going forward'.<sup>2</sup>
- **Jeremy Corbyn couldn't think of a circumstance in which the UK would use its armed forces.** He asserted: 'I'm sure there are some but I can't think of them at the moment'.<sup>3</sup>
- **Jeremy Corbyn says British taxpayers should be able to opt out of funding the army.** He has said; 'British taxpayers have a right of conscience not to participate in the armed forces in time of conscription and should have a similar right in time of peace to ensure that part of their tax goes to peace, not war'.<sup>4</sup>
- **In office, Labour neglected the welfare of the Armed Forces.** Labour failed to enshrine the Military Covenant in law, leaving it as a commitment with no foundation or protections. They gave little educational support for children of Service personnel forced to move location during the transition period and failed to provide mental health support for veterans following their discharge from the military.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> MoD, *Top Level Messages*, February 2015, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> 'Hiroshima Remembrance', *YouTube*, 6 August 2012, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> Sky News, Leadership Hustings, 4 September 2015.

<sup>4</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 5 September 2015, [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> Conservative Party, *Armed Forces Manifesto 2010*, p.13, [link](#).

# New State School Cadet Units

**Summary:** Our manifesto committed to increasing the number of cadet units in state schools to 500 by 2020. We are announcing the first 25 new units across the country, giving more young people the opportunity to develop essential skills to help them get on in life.

- **Cadet units in schools have a vital role to play in developing young people’s character skills; raising their aspirations; and motivating them to engage and succeed in their education.**
- **We want more young people to have the opportunity to benefit from the cadet experience in school, and to increase the number of state schools benefiting from having a Combined Cadet Force Unit as part of school life.**
- **So we are increasing the number of Combined Cadet Force Units in schools, to 500 by 2020. The first 25 new schools units are focused in areas where young people haven’t had the opportunity to benefit from the cadet experience.**

## Background

- **Being a cadet is a fantastic opportunity that gives young people the skills you need to get on in life.** Research shows that being a cadet helps children to achieve academically and reduces anti-social behaviour through an improved attitude, school attendance and classroom behaviour. Children who have been cadets also have higher self-esteem, self-confidence and organisational skills.<sup>1</sup>
- **The creation of 500 Combined Cadet Force units by 2020 will give more people the opportunity to develop essential life skills.** Achieving this target would mean that our cadet expansion plan will have almost doubled the number of Combined Cadet Force units across the UK by 2020, since its inception in 2012.

## Our solution

- **Increasing the number of cadet units in schools to 500 by 2020.** The 25 new units approved in state schools will bring the total number of units to 382. There are already a further 124 expressions of interest in the Combined Cadet Force programme.
- **Focusing Combined Cadet Force expansion on state schools.** The additional funding will be available to any government-funded state secondary school and 16- to 18- college across the UK to apply to open a new Combined Cadet Force Unit.
- **Extending the opportunity to be part of a Combined Cadet Force.** The 25 state schools approved for a Cadet force since November 2015 focus on areas of high deprivation and areas where there is currently limited access to the cadet experience.

## Conservative record

- **We met our commitment to deliver 100 new Combined Cadet Force Units.** In 2012 there were 255 Combined Cadet Force Units in schools across the UK. In June 2012, the then Prime Minister set a target of opening an additional 100 new Combined Cadet Force Units in state schools. Those 100 new units were approved by March 2015 and opened by September 2015, bringing the total of Combined Cadet Force Units in state schools to 355.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 10 Downing Street Press Release, 18 June 2014, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> Hansard, 8 June 2015, Written Question 900130, [link](#).

## Costing and funding

- **The Government have committed £50 million of LIBOR funding to increase the number of cadet units in schools to 500 by 2020.** Funding beyond 2020 will be considered as part of the next Spending Review.<sup>1</sup>

## Political points to make

- **Jeremy Corbyn's disdain for anything military-related meant he refused to join his school cadets.** 'We were all supposed to join the cadet force at 15 and prance around in uniform every Wednesday. The big thing was to visit an Army camp. I was again in a minority and refused to join this thing. I was put on gardening duties.'<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Combined Cadet Force, accessed 2 October 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> *Daily Mail*, 4 September 2015, [link](#).

# Protecting our Armed Forces from legal claims

**Summary:** We will protect our Armed Forces from persistent legal claims by having a presumption to derogate from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in future conflicts, if the circumstances existing at the time make it appropriate to do so. This will help to reduce the burden of industrial-scale claims we have seen following operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- **When we send troops into battle it is important that they operate within well-established law so they know what they are allowed to do and what they are not.**
- **But action is required to stop them having to worry about legal claims being brought about their military decisions, often years after events happen. We will have a presumption to derogate from articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, if the circumstances prevailing at the time make it appropriate to do so.**
- **This is part of our plan to ensure our Armed Forces can focus on keeping us safe – not worry about ambulance chasing lawyers.**

## Background

- **Court rulings applying the ECHR to the battlefield risk seriously undermining the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces.** Over the past decade a series of damaging court judgments have undermined our operational freedom to conduct military operations. The main driver of this ‘lawfare’ and the ‘judicialisation of law’ is the ECHR being applied in many situations where the Armed Forces operate overseas. In one case a suspected terrorist’s detention was ruled illegal despite him being held under a UN Security Council resolution permitting ‘all necessary measures’.<sup>1</sup>
- **The litigation brought places a considerable burden on our armed forces and is costing the taxpayer millions.** Since 2004, the MOD has spent over £100 million on Iraq-related investigations, inquiries and compensation.<sup>2</sup> We want to spend our defence budget on our Armed Forces, not lawyers.
- **These cases raise serious challenges which need to be addressed.** The Government’s military advisers warn that this litigation trend will have a corrosive effect on the willingness of military personnel to act boldly on the battlefield and take the decisions essential to operational effectiveness.

## Our solution

- **We want to reduce litigation burden on our armed forces.** We will have a presumption in favour of derogating from the ECHR during times of war or other public emergency threatening the life of the nation, if the circumstances prevailing at the time make it appropriate to do so. Had there been a valid derogation from Article 2 (right to life) and Article 5 (right to liberty) applying to UK operations in Iraq and Afghanistan from the outset, a large proportion of the current litigation burden would not have arisen.
- **This would help our Armed Forces to do their job.** Derogating would remove the threat of potential legal action under specific articles and avoid the considerable stress and uncertainty caused by legal claims related to those articles, often filed long after events have occurred. It would free our soldiers from ECHR based limitations on their ability to hold detainees as well as many of the onerous ECHR investigative obligations which arise in certain cases, and instead let our soldiers get on with their job.
- **Our Armed Forces will remain subject to the rule of law.** It is essential that our Armed Forces operate to the highest standards and are subject to the rule of law at all times. They will continue to operate under a

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<sup>1</sup> Serdar Mohammed vs MOD, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> Michael Fallon speech, 8 December 2014, [link](#).

comprehensive legal framework in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (the law of armed conflict, including the Geneva Conventions) and to Service Law, which includes the criminal law of England and Wales, regardless of where they are serving.

- **We will spend our defence budget on our Armed Forces, not lawyers.** Every pound spent on defending meritless legal claims or making payments is a pound that is not spent on our Armed Forces. With a growing defence budget, increasing in real terms every year of this parliament, we want to spend that money on more ships, more planes, more troops ready to act, better equipment on Special Forces, and more on cyber.

## Costing and funding

- We expect this, taken with other measures to tackle ‘lawfare’, would reduce the cost of legal claims against the MOD. Since 2004, the MOD has spent over £100 million on Iraq-related investigations, inquiries and compensation.

## Political points to make

- **Labour failed to protect our Armed Forces when they implemented the Human Rights Act.** Jack Straw, the Home Secretary who took the Human Rights Act through Parliament said: ‘to the very best of my recollection it was never anticipated that the Human Rights Act would operate in such a way as directly to affect the activities of UK forces in theatre abroad.’<sup>1</sup>
- **The Shadow Foreign Secretary received financial support from Leigh Day.** Emily Thornberry declared a donation in kind of £14,500 from Leigh Day & Co.<sup>2</sup> The Solicitors Regulation Authority has referred two Leigh Day solicitors to the Solicitors’ Disciplinary Tribunal concerning allegations about their actions in connection with the Al Sweady Inquiry. That cost the taxpayer £31 million and the Chair of the Tribunal, Sir Thayne Forbes, said the most serious allegations had been ‘deliberate lies, reckless speculation and ingrained hostility.’<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Written evidence from the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, House of Commons Defence Select Committee, ‘UK Armed Forces Personnell and the Legal Framework for Future Operations’ (2014), [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> House of Commons, *Register of Members’ Financial Interests*, 23 February 2015, [link](#).

# Increasing medical student places for a self-sufficient NHS

**Summary:** We will make the NHS in England self-sufficient in doctors by opening up medical training to many more people in our country, thereby broadening opportunity, cutting waste on locums and agency staff, and ending our reliance on importing doctors from overseas.

- **We want to ensure the NHS is always there when you need it and so will take action to ensure the NHS will always have the doctors it needs.**
- **We don't believe it's right to carry on importing migrant doctors while at the same time denying many people in this country the chance to train as a doctor, so we will increase the number of medical student training places in England by up to 25 per cent – from 6,000 to up to 7,500 – to ensure the NHS is self-sufficient. Alongside this we will introduce an obligation that those students who benefit from a taxpayer subsidy for their medical studies are required to work in the NHS for at least four years after leaving university.**
- **We are making sure the NHS is there for you and your family now and in the future. By ensuring the NHS has the skills it needs, and giving an opportunity to more British people with the right qualifications to study medicine, we are helping build a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.**

## Background

- **There is currently a cap on the number of medical training places in England.** Half of applicants are turned down and denied the opportunity to undertake a medical degree because the number of medical student places is artificially limited to 6,000 a year.
- **The NHS is currently reliant on overseas workers – when we could be nurturing more home-grown doctors.** Overseas doctors now comprise 25 per cent of the medical workforce, and often the doctors come from developing countries which need them. Whilst overseas workers play a valuable role in our health service, we think it is right to give more young people in England with the right skills the opportunity to train to become a doctor and make sure the NHS is self-sufficient.<sup>1</sup>
- **At the moment the NHS is spending money on expensive agency staff – when this money could be going on patient care.** Last year hospitals spent £3.3 billion on agency staff, including £1.2 billion on medical locums. Whilst we are already helping hospitals reduce these costs we also need to make sure we prepare for the future by increasing the number of home-grown doctors we train.<sup>2</sup>

## Our solution

- **Expanding medical education training in England – with up to 1,500 more government-funded training places each year.** Removing the current restrictions will increase medical student places from 6,000 a year to up to 7,500 with the first cohort of these additional doctors entering the NHS in 2023.
- **All students who receive NHS funding for their training will now be expected to work in the NHS for a minimum of four years.** This ensures a return for the taxpayer (it costs £220,000 to produce a qualified doctor) in the same way that graduates whose higher education was funded by the armed forces have to commit to staying in the armed forces for a period afterwards.<sup>3</sup>
- **Making sure international students pay a fair price for their training – allowing us to nurture more**

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<sup>1</sup> *NHS Staff by nationality and HEE*, 22 December 2015, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> *DH*, 3 January 2016, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> *Unit Costs of Health and Social Care*, 2012, [link](#).

**home-grown talent.** International students who study in our medical schools will now be charged for the totality of their training, including clinical placements which they are not currently charged for.

## Conservative record

- **Our plan for the economy means we can afford a strong NHS.** We will increase funding for the NHS by £10 billion a year by 2020, of which £6 billion will be delivered by the end of 2016-17. The NHS budget will rise from £101 billion today to £120 billion by 2020-21.<sup>1</sup>
- **We are providing the doctors and nurses the NHS needs.** There are almost 8,800 more doctors and almost 5,600 more nurses and midwives in our NHS compared to 2010.<sup>2</sup>
- **The NHS in England is performing well.** The NHS performed 4,400 more operations a day and treated on average 21,000 more out-patients a day last year compared to 2010.<sup>3</sup>
- **It is the Conservative Party which is giving the NHS the funding it needs.** The NHS has an extra £10 billion by 2020 – more than the Head of the NHS, Simon Stevens asked for in his plan for the NHS, the ‘Five Year Forward View’ and more than Labour promised at the last election.

## Costing and funding

- As with the current medical training system, costs to educate the additional medical undergraduates will fall to both Department of Health and Department for Education. The costs to DfE would be for loan and associate costs, which is an outlay via the Student Loans Company (SLC) and HEFCE teaching grant. DH pays trusts for the clinical placements (international students will now pay their own).
- Initial estimates suggest costs should be limited to around £100 million over this Spending Review period, with savings including charging international students the full cost of their medical training. But in the long run, the increased supply will bring down the medical locum bill which currently costs the NHS £1.2 billion a year.<sup>4</sup>

## Political points to make

- **Labour opposes all the decisions we’ve taken to open up access to the clinical professions as well as higher education more broadly.** We scrapped restrictions on how many people can train to be a nurse and Labour joined the unions in opposition to this.
- **Labour simply cannot attack our record on funding when they promised £5.5 billion less a year for the NHS.** Labour promised £5.5 billion a year less for the NHS, by 2020, than the Conservatives and have also joined the trade unions in opposing all our plans to make savings and efficiencies.<sup>5</sup>
- **Nearly half of the money Labour spent on the NHS in government went on increased pay for staff and higher prices for NHS goods.** It’s because Labour caves to the unions rather than taking the correct long term decisions in the interests of the NHS that nearly half of the extra money Labour spent on the NHS in government went on increases in pay for NHS staff and higher prices paid for the goods the NHS bought, not better care for patients.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> HMT, *Spending Review and Autumn Statement*, 25 November 2015, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> HSCIC, *NHS Workforce Statistics*, May 2016, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> *National Statistics Hospital Outpatient Activity*, 2014-15, [link](#), *Hospital Episode Statistics, Admitted Patient Care - England*, 2014-15, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> DH, 3 January 2016, [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> *Labour Party Manifesto*, 2015, [link](#).

<sup>6</sup> King’s Fund, *Our Future Health Secured*, 2007, [link](#).

- **The BMA doctors' union has long advocated restricting the supply of doctors.** But we are putting patients and the taxpayer first, as well as all those talented students who want to train as a doctor but currently are denied the opportunity.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *BMJ*, July 9 2008, [link](#).

# Team England Commonwealth Games Funding

**Summary:** The 2018 Commonwealth Games are taking place on the Gold Coast, Australia. Sport England are awarding £4 million of National Lottery funding to Team England – so we are well-prepared to beat the Aussies in their own backyard.

- **Team England topped the Commonwealth Games medal table in Glasgow 2014. They secured a record-breaking 174 medals, including golds for future Rio stars like gymnast Max Whitlock, cyclist Laura Trott, and diving pair Jack Laugher and Chris Mears. Australia came second in 2014 and are have dubbed the 2018 competition the ‘revenge games’ as they seek to regain top spot in the medal table on home turf.**
- **The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games will provide opportunities for our athletes to continue building on their past success. Sport England has awarded £4 million of National Lottery money to Team England, so a full-team of 390 athletes, competing across 18 able-bodied and para-sports, have access to the best training and go to the Games ready to defend their crown.**
- **The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are an opportunity for our athletes to showcase their talent and is another example of how the lottery, established by Conservative Prime Minister Sir John Major, is helping sportsmen and women achieve their true potential.**

## Background

- **The Commonwealth Games are a great opportunity for our athletes to compete, gain experience and prepare for other international sporting events.** The Commonwealth Games gives our athletes experience of competing in a major international sporting event, where they can showcase their talents. Part of Team GB's recent Olympic and Paralympic success was due to the experience athletes had at past Commonwealth Games, where they received the best training and experience of international sporting competitions.
- **International success can inspire the next generation of sportsmen and women – inspiring more children and adults to be active.** In 2015/16, 22.5 per cent of active people in England said hosting the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics had motivated them to do more sport or physical activity.<sup>1</sup>
- **This Conservative Government is committed to getting more people involved in sport.** Sport is so important because it encourages children and adults to be active, lead a healthy lifestyle, make friends - and have a lot of fun. We want more people, particularly under-represented groups like women and ethnic minorities to have the opportunity to play sport, benefit from great coaching and be part of a team.

## Our solution

- **Sport England’s £4 million lottery award will enable athletes to properly train and prepare for the Games.** DCMS arms-length body Sport England has approved a National Lottery award to Commonwealth Games England of £4 million, through to 2019.
- **This funding will allow Team England to take a full-team to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.** England topped the medal table in Glasgow 2014 and the aim will be for them to do so again, this time on Australian soil.
- **These Games will promote sport for all.** The team will be the biggest, strongest and most diverse team England has ever taken to a Commonwealth Games. The Games will have a positive legacy for young people and adults across the country, who will be inspired to enter sport by the success of our great athletes.

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Culture Media and Sport, *Taking Part – Statistical Release*, July 2016, [link](#).

## Conservative record

- **Sporting success.** At the Rio Olympics and Paralympics there were 214 medals– our best ever away performance and the only time a country has won more medals in the Games after they were host nation.
- **Hosted major events.** We have staged more than 54 major sporting events since London 2012, attracting over 5.7 million spectators and generating an economic impact of more than £170 million.
- **Increased participation.** More than a half a million extra people are playing sport regularly since 2010. More people from traditionally under-represented groups such as women, disabled people and people from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds are playing sport.<sup>1</sup>
- **Extra funding for sport.** Last year in the Autumn Statement we increased exchequer funding to UK Sport by 29 per cent, building on the success of London and Rio and allowing us preparing for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

## Costing and funding

- £4 million of National Lottery funding allocated by Sport England to Commonwealth Games England.

## Political points to make

- **Labour are too divided to even think about sport.** Jeremy Corbyn made no mention of sport in his keynote conference speech as he was too preoccupied urging colleagues to end ‘trench warfare’ tearing Labour apart.<sup>2</sup>
- **Labour’s Shadow Culture Secretary cares more about renationalising everything, than our country’s sporting future.** Instead of setting out a vision for sport, arts and culture, Kelvin Hopkins used Labour conference to call for the party to bring back nationalisation and Clause IV.<sup>3</sup>
- **Labour’s Shadow Culture Secretary doesn’t even want the job.** Kelvin Hopkins told the same meeting: ‘I have made it clear I want to go to the backbenches as soon as possible to cheer for Jeremy from the backbenches’.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> HM Government, *Sporting Future*, December 2015, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> Jeremy Corbyn, *Speech to Labour Conference 2016*, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> Kelvin Hopkins, *comments at a fringe event held by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy*, September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

# Guaranteeing EU-funded projects

**Summary:** The Chancellor has announced that the Government will provide further guarantees to EU funding schemes. As we prepare to depart the EU, HM Treasury will provide a guarantee for all structural and investment fund projects, including agri-environment schemes (i.e. multi-year public sector projects) that run over the point of departure.

- **This Government will make a success of Brexit. We will ensure British businesses and universities will have additional certainty over future funding as the UK departs from the European Union.**

## Our solution

- Where departments – as determined by their relevant Secretary of State – are content that EU-funded projects meet the following high-level criteria, this funding will be subject to a Treasury guarantee. They must:
  - provide value for money, in a way that had a comparable benefit to other domestically-funded programmes;
  - support domestic strategic priorities, specifically projects that fit with department’s own priorities and the Government’s agenda.
- These conditions will only be applied in such a way that the current pipeline of committed projects are not disrupted, including agri-environment schemes due to begin this January.
- Each government department will be accountable for ensuring that they deliver on these criteria, as they commit EU funding through their various schemes.
- Where necessary, further details of the criteria will be provided ahead of the Autumn Statement.

### *Devolution scope:*

- Where the Devolved Administrations sign up to structural and investment fund projects under their current EU budget allocation prior to Brexit, the Government will ensure they are funded to meet these commitments. Given that the administration of EU funding is largely devolved, it will be for the Devolved Administrations to decide what criteria to use to assess projects.

## Conservative record

- In August this year, the Chancellor announced that all structural and investment fund projects, including agri-environment schemes, signed before the Autumn Statement will be fully funded, even when these projects continue beyond the UK’s departure from the EU.
- This previous announcement also guaranteed competitively bid projects directly with the European Commission, for example universities participating in Horizon 2020; and the current level of direct farm payments (CAP pillar 1) until 2020.

## Costing and funding

- The final cost of this measure will be subject to our exit negotiations. Given the uncertainty, we intend to treat this as a contingent liability for now.
- Where departments ensure that EU funded projects meet the criteria set out by the Chancellor, these agreements will be guaranteed by the Treasury.

- The UK economy is fundamentally strong and we can afford to take this action to provide stability and maintain confidence.
- Given that the UK is a net contributor to the EU budget, all the current funding from the EU is recycled UK taxpayers' money. The UK is likely to be able to fund these liabilities from the savings from our contribution to the EU budget.

### Political points to make

- **Unlike Labour, we are giving people certainty and security to allow them to continue with these projects.** Under Labour, the economy would not be able to afford the security and guarantees that come with a Conservative Government that lives within its means.

# Public finances

**Summary:** The Chancellor has delivered a speech to Conservative Party Conference outlining his approach to managing the public finances.

- **The British people elected us on a promise to restore fiscal discipline and clean up the mess left behind by Labour. And that is exactly what we are going to do. But we will do it in a pragmatic way that reflects the new circumstances we face.**
- **The fiscal policies set out by George Osborne were the right ones for the time. But when times change, we must change with them. At the Autumn Statement in November we will set out our plan to deliver long-term fiscal sustainability while responding to the consequences of uncertainty in the short-term and recognising the need for investment to build an economy that works for everyone. A new plan for the new circumstances Britain faces.**
- **But make no mistake. The task of fiscal consolidation must continue. And it must happen within the context of a clear, credible fiscal framework that will anchor expectations, control day-to-day public spending, deliver value for money and get us back living within our means.**

## Background

- Through the tough choices of the last Chancellor, we've reduced the deficit, cut the welfare bill, kept mortgage rates low, cut income tax for 30 million people and taken four million low-paid workers out of income tax altogether.
- But the work that we began in 2010 is not finished. The deficit remains unsustainable and last year, the government borrowed £1 in every £10 we spent.
- Piling up debt for our children and our grandchildren to pay off is not only unsustainable, it's unfair.

## Our solution

- We will restore fiscal discipline in a pragmatic way that reflects the new circumstances we face. We will no longer target a surplus at the end of this Parliament, but the task of fiscal consolidation must continue.
- At the Autumn Statement in November the Chancellor will set out a new plan to deliver long-term fiscal sustainability that responds to the consequences of short-term uncertainty and recognises the need for investment to build an economy that works for everyone.

## Conservative record

- **Cutting the deficit by two thirds.** Between 2009/10 and 2016/17, public sector net borrowing is forecast to fall from 10.1 per cent of GDP – the highest since records began in 1948 – to 2.9 per cent. Borrowing has been falling since its peak in March 2010 in part due to greater efficiency savings and confidence in our long-term economic plan (OBR, *Public finances databank*, 27 July 2016, [link](#)).

## Costing and funding

- The Chancellor will set out details at the Autumn Statement.

## Political points to make

- **Labour left Britain with a record deficit.** At 10.1 per cent of GDP, public sector borrowing was at its highest since records began in 1948 (OBR, *Public finances databank*, 27 July 2016, [link](#)).

- **Labour would spend, borrow more than last time – they’ve even print money to pay for it.** Labour would spend an extra £500 billion and borrow and even print money to pay for it (*Jeremy for Labour*; Accessed 4 August 2016, [link](#); *New Economics Manchester*, 20 April 2016, [link](#)).

# Midlands Connect funding

**Summary:** The Department for Transport is announcing funding of £12 million for Midlands Connect.

- **This Government wants better transport to help people get on in life. That is why we are heavily investing in transport across Britain to bring our country closer together and spread growth across our nation.**
- **Midlands Connect, a partnership between local authorities and enterprise, will now have funding guaranteed for the next three years. The organisation works with the Department for Transport and transport operators to identify investment priorities that will contribute towards developing the Midlands into an engine for growth. Transport will create a significant number of jobs and improve productivity and this announcement follows other big investments in the Midlands.**
- **With its position at the heart of the country, the Midlands is worth over £220 billion and is vital to the country's success. Midlands Connect is making great progress to build evidence of the region's transport needs and help make the Midlands an engine for growth and we are pleased to make this commitment to finding their work.**

## Background

- Midlands Connect was formed in 2014.<sup>1</sup> It is a collaboration with central government that brings together 28 local authorities and 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships from across the Midlands.
- Together, the Midlands Connect Partnership and the Department for Transport is developing a transport strategy that identifies the major infrastructure projects needed to improve the connectivity of the region's key locations to help drive economic growth and power the Midlands Engine.
- In the Summer Budget 2015, the Government provided £5 million funding for Midlands Connect.<sup>2</sup>
- Midlands Connect published their initial report, *Picking up the Pace*, in July this year.<sup>3</sup> They will publish an emerging strategy in October and a final strategy by spring 2017.
- Budget 2016 announced that the Government will aim to put Midlands Connect on a statutory footing by the end of 2018.<sup>4</sup>

## Our solution

- **We are providing additional funding of £12 million until the end of the Spending Review period (2019-20).** This means we are placing Midlands Connect on a similar financial footing to Transport for the North, which also has funding committed until the end of the Spending Review.

## Conservative record

- The £5 million we have already given Midlands Connect has allowed them to develop their strategy, which will recommend projects such as the Midlands Road Hub and Midlands Rail Hub.
- In Nottingham, £370 million has been invested extending the tram network.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Midlands Connect, *Picking up the Pace*, July 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> HMT, *Summer Budget 2015*, 8 July 2015, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> Midlands Connect, *Picking up the Pace*, July 2016, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> HMT, *Budget 2016*, 16 March 2016, [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> *DfT press release*, 15 December 2011, [link](#).

- In Birmingham £75 million has been invested extending the Metro from Snow Hill through the city centre and £750 million to transform Birmingham New Street.<sup>1</sup>

## Costing and funding

- £12 million until the end of the Spending Review period (2019-20) which will be delivered through the Transport Development Fund.

## Political points to make

- In thirteen years in office, Labour failed to significantly invest in Midlands transport infrastructure, leading to the economy in the region being held back. This partnership model gives local priorities a voice.

**Likely Labour position:** This is just a talking shop, the funding is a good start but the Tories need to put real money into transport infrastructure in the Midlands.

**Rebuttal:** This Conservative Government is heavily investing in transport across the country to bring our country closer together and spread growth across the nation. The Midlands generates an economic output of £220 billion and is home to a number of major manufacturers, such as Jaguar Land Rover in Wolverhampton and Solihull and Toyota, Rolls Royce and Bombardier in Derby. With its position at the heart of the UK, the Midlands is an engine for growth and Midlands Connect is making great progress.

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<sup>1</sup> *DfT press release*, 16 February 2012, [link](#); *DfT press release*, 18 September 2015, [link](#).

# Housing package

**Summary:** The Communities Secretary Sajid Javid, and the Chancellor, Philip Hammond, have announced a package of new measures to build more houses, more quickly, in the places people want to live. This is a £5 billion package of investment.

- **This Conservative Government is getting on with the job of building a country that works for everyone. We have made great progress fixing the broken housing market we inherited from Labour, but now is the time to go further.**
- **We want to ensure everyone has a safe and secure place to live and that means we have got to build more homes. It is only by building more houses that we will alleviate the financial burden on those who are struggling to manage.**
- **There has been a housing shortage in this country for decades, and this Government is determined to take action to tackle it. We'll use all the tools at our disposal to accelerate housebuilding and ensure that over time, housing becomes more affordable.**

## Background

- **Since 2010, we have been turning round the housing market from the mess left by Labour.** By reforming the planning system and increasing investment in housing we have turned around the housing market from the mess we inherited from Labour – with over 700,000 net additional homes delivered between April 2010 and March 2015 (DCLG, *Net Supply of Housing*, 12 November 2015, [link](#)).
- **But there's much more to do – the simple fact is in recent years, under successive governments, we have failed to build enough houses in England.** In the 20 years from 1969 to 1989, 4.7 million homes were built in England. Between 1992 and 2012, 3.0 million were completed. There is a longstanding gap between housing supply and demand which has led to worsening affordability. In almost 30 per cent of local authorities, median house prices are over 10 times median incomes.
- **Traditional builders take too long to build houses.** Currently five firms account for 30 per cent of all housebuilding and their 2014 output was only marginally above its 2008 level. Their model relies on acquisition of land, being released over extended periods– building out of homes on a site can take over twenty years.
- **The housing market is not diversified and finance continues to be an issue.** There are far fewer small and medium sized builders (SME) active now compared to before Labour's great recession. According to the National House Building Council, in 2005 SME builders were responsible for the building over 40,000 homes across Great Britain, in 2015 it was less than 20,000. Following Labour's financial crisis, the number of custom and self-build properties completed in the UK fell by around a third from its peak – which is why we committed in our manifesto to double the number of custom and self-build homes by 2020. The expansion of innovative house building techniques such as offsite is restricted because of caution from lenders.
- **The state has not spurred competition.** State bodies have compounded this problem through its traditional approach to releasing public sector land in large parcels to generate the highest one-off receipt. This has generally meant selling to larger developers or even non-developers (e.g. land traders). This can mean land ends up in large developer (or non-developer) landbanks, rather than being used strategically to help address the supply gap – particularly in areas of high demand – and drive advanced methods of construction in the market.
- **We want to ensure developers do not have an incentive to develop on greenfield over brownfield land.** It is better for our economy, and the environment, when new homes are instead built on former employment

and industrial sites. Currently though the extra costs of developing on brownfield land – which requires upfront work to make it suitable to build on – means that developers prefer to build on greenfield land, particularly outside of London.

## Our solution

- **A package of initial measures, ahead of a Housing white paper later this year:**

### *Accelerated Construction*

- **The Government will step in to address failures in the market.** Government will take direct action, using public land to encourage new developers with different models into housebuilding, and support SMEs. This will help us close the housing supply deficit.
- **We will make more surplus public land available and ready to build on.** We will identify sites within the Government’s portfolio which can be built on by 2020, and will work with local authorities to help them bring forward their own sites. We will deliver outline planning permission and undertake the costs of some remediation work to reduce development risks on our sites, and work with local authorities to ensure they do the same on theirs.
- **We will diversify the market.** We will partner with new entrants, SMEs, custom builders and offsite manufacturers and build out sites at up to twice the rate a large developer might. By using our land as equity rather than expecting an upfront receipt, we lower developer risk and overcome issues with access to finance.
- **This will deliver up to 15,000 new homes on surplus public sector land by 2020, and 30,000 in total** – ensuring that valuable public sector land is used to generate the homes that people need.
- In the long term we expect this policy to deliver value uplift for the Government. In the short term, the costs of Accelerated Construction are £2 billion of new public sector net borrowing.

### *Homes Building Fund*

- **We are opening a £3 billion Home Building Fund.** This Fund will deliver housing growth through direct Government support for those who cannot access financing in the market.
- The £3 billion Home Building Fund will provide:
  - £1 billion of short term loan funding for small builders, custom builders and innovators, delivering 25,500 homes this Parliament.
  - £2 billion of long term funding for infrastructure and large sites, unlocking a pipe line of up to 200,000 homes over the longer term – with the emphasis on developments on brownfield land.

### *Urban Regeneration*

- **We will take action to radically increase brownfield development and to bring life back to abandoned sites.** That means high quality housing for families in town centres, breathing new life into our high streets, turning abandoned shopping space into new communities and increasing density of housing, including around transport hubs, to build homes that people want to live in.
- **There will be a ‘de facto’ presumption in favour of housing on suitable brownfield land.** By strengthening national planning policy we will create a ‘de facto’ presumption in favour of housing on suitable brownfield land and drive up density levels in high demand areas while ensuring that developments

are well-designed and respect the character of the local area. This could deliver an addition 25,000 new homes by 2021.

- **We will allow local planning authorities to grant permission in principle on sites suitable for housing-led development identified in the new Brownfield Registers.** This will make development of up to 140,000 homes per annum on brownfield land less risky for developers, identified in the Brownfield registers we introduced to help housebuilders quickly identify suitable brownfield sites in their area for new housing.
- **We will also build on the existing benefits of our recent permitted development rights on office to residential development.** The permitted development rights for office to residential, which gives a general permission for developing office space into housing, will be extended it to allow for demolition of the offices and replacement with housing on a like-for-like basis. This could provide around 4,000 new homes by the end of 2021. We will explore other opportunities to make underused land available for new homes.

## Conservative record

- **We are accelerating housing supply** – with 170,690 additional homes in 2014-15, up 25 per cent from the previous year. Our reformed locally-led planning system has given **planning permission to 277,000 new homes** in the year to June 2016 (DCLG, 12 November 2015, [link](#); 15 September 2016, [link](#)).
- Taking into account the extra homes from our ‘change of use’ reforms, a total of **205,000 extra homes** have been delivered in England in 2015-16 (Valuation Office Agency, *Council Tax: Stock of properties 2016*, 30 June 2016, [link](#)).
- **Government backed schemes are helping people into home ownership.** We are helping anyone who aspires to own a home to achieve their dreams. Since 2010, over 330,000 households have benefitted from government backed schemes like Right to Buy and Help to Buy.
- **We have delivered almost 300,000 new affordable homes since 2010.** 293,000 new affordable homes delivered since 2010 (DCLG, *Affordable Housing Supply, Live Table 1000*).
- **We have taken action to make it easier to build new housing on brownfield land.** Through planning reforms we have removed unnecessary burdens. The Housing & Planning Act legislated for ‘Permission in Principle’ and brownfield registers, which makes it easier for developers to identify, and build on brownfield land.

## Costing and funding

- **Accelerated Construction.** In the long term we expect this policy to deliver value uplift for the Government. In the short term the costs of expanding the pilot are £2 billion of new investment.
- **Home Building Fund.** Of the £3 billion Fund now opened, £1.15 billion is new, additional money. £800 million of the £2 billion for long term loans and £325 million of the £1 billion for short term loans).
- **Urban Regeneration.** Planning policy measures have no fiscal implications.
- This policy applies to England only.

## Political points to make

- **Housebuilding under Labour fell to levels not seen since the 1920s.** Between June 2008 and June 2009 only 75,000 new homes were started, the lowest level of housebuilding in peacetime since the 1920s. (DCLG, *House Building: September Quarter 2013 England*, 21 November 2013, [link](#)).

- **Promised to build 240,000 homes a year and barely reached half that number.** In 2007, Gordon Brown promised to increase house building to deliver 240,000 houses a year. But in Labour's last year in office the total number of houses started was only just over 124,000. (Gordon Brown, *Labour Party Conference Speech 2007*, 24 September 2007, [link](#); *DCLG Live Tables 208*, [link](#)).
- **Labour's plans to spend, borrow, and tax more would see housebuilding collapse again.** Labour's policy for billions in extra borrowing show they would follow even more extreme policies of reckless spending that got us into the last crisis. That saw housebuilding fall to its lowest level since the 1920s. Repeating the same mistakes would risk seeing that all over again.
- **Labour in contrast want to make it harder for people owning their own home – by suspending the right to buy.** While the Conservatives in Government have been taking action to help more people realise their ambition to own their own home Labour policy is to make that harder. They want to axe the Right to Buy (as the Welsh Labour Government are doing in Wales), which has helped tens of thousands of families to own their own home, with 63,000 sales under the scheme since April 2010.

# Brexit – Article 50 and ECA Repeal

**Summary:** On the first day of the conference the Prime Minister set out more detail on the Government’s plan for Brexit covering three areas: timing, process and the Government’s vision for Britain after we leave the EU.

- **On 23 June the British people voted to leave the EU and the Government will deliver on their verdict. We are not going to give a running commentary on every twist and turn of our exit negotiations. But when there are things to say we will keep the public up to date.**
  - **First on timing: there will be no unnecessary delays in invoking Article 50. We will invoke Article 50 no later than the end of March next year.**
  - **Second, on process: the Government will shortly introduce a Great Repeal Bill to remove the European Communities Act from the statute book on the day we leave, meaning that the authority of EU law in Britain will end.**
  - **Third, our vision for Britain outside the EU is clear: a fully-independent, sovereign country with freedom to make our own decisions. We will do what independent, sovereign countries do. We will decide for ourselves how we control immigration. And we will be free to pass our own laws. We want to give British companies the maximum freedom to trade with and operate in the Single Market – and let European businesses do the same here. But let’s be clear: we are not leaving the European Union only to give up control of immigration again. We want our deal with the European Union to reflect the kind of mature, cooperative relationship that close friends and allies enjoy.**
- **Let’s now have the confidence in ourselves to go out into the world, securing trade deals, winning contracts, generating wealth and creating jobs. This vision for a ‘Global Britain’ is possible and it is in our sight.**

## Key Points

- **Our vision is for a fully-independent, sovereign country with freedom to make our decisions.** The process we are about to begin is not about negotiating all of our sovereignty away again. It is not going to be about any of those matters over which the country has just voted to regain control. It is not, therefore, a negotiation to establish a relationship anything like the one we have had for the last forty years or more.
  - We will do what independent, sovereign countries do. We will decide for ourselves how we control immigration. And we will be free to pass our own laws.
  - We want to give British companies the maximum freedom to trade with and operate in the Single Market – and let European businesses do the same here. But let’s be clear: we not leaving the European Union only to give up control of immigration again.
  - We want our deal with the European Union to reflect the kind of mature, cooperative relationship that close friends and allies enjoy.
- **We will invoke Article 50 no later than the end of March next year.** By this point, Britain will begin its formal negotiations to leave the European Union. This will provide certainty that there will be no unnecessary delays and no attempt to stay in the European Union by the back door, as well as certainty for other European countries on when this begins.
  - It is up to the Government to trigger Article 50. When it legislated to establish the referendum, Parliament put the decision to leave or remain inside the EU in the hands of the people. And the

people gave their answer with emphatic clarity. So now it is up to the Government to get on with the job.

- Those people who argue that Article 50 can only be triggered after agreement in both Houses of Parliament are not standing up for democracy, they're trying to subvert it. They're not trying to get Brexit right, they're trying to kill it by delaying it. They are insulting the intelligence of the British people. That is why, next week the Attorney General himself will act for the Government and resist them in the courts.
- **The European Communities Act will be repealed on the day we leave the European Union – meaning that the authority of EU law in Britain will end.** We will soon put before Parliament a Great Repeal Bill, which will remove from the statute book – once and for all – the European Communities Act. This historic Bill – which will be included in the next Queen's Speech – will mean that the 1972 Act, the legislation that gives direct effect to all EU law in Britain, will no longer apply from the date upon which we formally leave the European Union. We will convert the body of existing EU law and Parliament will be free to amend, repeal and improve any law it chooses.
  - This process will give businesses and workers maximum certainty as leave the European Union. And we are absolutely clear: existing workers' legal rights will continue to be guaranteed in law.

## Political Points

### Labour cannot be trusted to deliver on leaving the EU

- **Many Labour MPs do not even accept that we are going to leave the EU.**
  - Over two third of Labour MPs back Owen Smith for leader. Smith said: 'We should be saying we're not going to put up with that, we're going to stay in the European Union' (*Labour leadership hustings Birmingham*, 18 August 2016).
  - Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry said: 'I think that we have to have some form of democratic, an injection of democracy in some way' (*Sky Murnaghan*, 11 September 2016).
  - David Lammy said: 'We do not have to do this...The referendum was an advisory, non-binding referendum' (*The Independent*, 26 June 2016, [link](#)).

### Liberal Democrats want to ignore the British people over their vote to leave the EU

- **Tim Farron wants Britain to re-enter the EU.** Tim Farron said: 'The Liberal Democrats will fight the next election on a clear and unequivocal promise to restore British prosperity and role in the world, with the United Kingdom in the European Union, not out' (*The Independent*, 25 June 2016, [link](#)).

### UKIP are making themselves irrelevant by being so divided, distracted and incompetent

- **They offer nothing on making sure we succeed as we leave the EU, or on any other issue.** After a leadership contest where two candidates were barred, UKIP's major donor threatened to stop his funding and its only MP is in open rebellion against the party hierarchy. UKIP's former deputy leader Paul Nuttall said the party now resembles 'a jigsaw that has been emptied on to the floor' (*ITV News*, 16 September 2016, [link](#); *BBC News*, 26 July 2016, [link](#); *BBC News*, 1 August 2016, [link](#); *The Week*, 4 August 2016, [link](#); *The Guardian*, 9 September 2016, [link](#)).

## **The SNP are exploiting the Brexit vote for their own separation agenda**

- **The SNP only care about exploiting Brexit to further the cause of independence.** Just hours after the declaration of the EU referendum result, Nicola Sturgeon claimed a second Scottish independence referendum was ‘on the table’ and ‘highly likely’ (*BBC News Online*, 24 June 2016, [link](#)).

# More funding to tackle mental health stigma

**Summary:** The Health Secretary has announced that the Government will be committing an extra £12.5 million to the Time to Change mental health campaign over the next 4 years.

- **We want to ensure that everyone with a mental health issue can get the help they need quickly – and a key part of that is about reducing the stigma that surrounds mental health conditions.**
- **So we are investing £12.5 million over the next 4 years, supplemented by funding from Comic Relief and the Big Lottery Fund, in Time to Change. That campaign, run by charities Rethink and Mind, has proven success in reducing stigma – 3.4 million people’s attitudes have improved towards mental health since the initiative started. This funding gives certainty their work can continue in future years.**
- **We know that anti-stigma campaigns have worked in other key areas of healthcare like cancer and HIV, breaking societal taboos and ensuring more people get help faster – and ultimately improving the lives of people all over the country.**

## Background

- We know that the attitudes of others can stop the 1 in 4 of those who experience a mental health problem from seeking the help and support they need.<sup>1</sup> But with this funding we are backing a campaign which annually reaches more than 24 million people and to date, 3.4 million people have reported improved attitudes towards mental illness. There has also been a drop in people reporting discrimination as a result of mental health issues from 42 per cent to 28 per cent.<sup>2</sup>

## Our solution

Time to Change is a campaign run by the charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness to change the way everyone thinks and acts about mental health problems.

This funding for Time to Change will be used to create a social movement to empower local communities to tackle stigma. This will include:

- Creating a Time To Change hub in every region – this will be a dedicated centre for people to talk about mental health problems and build their own campaigns to tackle stigma in their areas.
- Training a regional Time to Change Champion – this will see people of all ages working to tackle stigma in their communities, schools and workplaces.
- Part of the training will involve a mental health ‘boot camp’ for young adults where they will learn about the barriers people with mental health problems have to overcome. The five day course will teach participants techniques to help engage their communities and how to have the greatest impact tackling stigma.
- Time To Change will also work in schools to create a head teacher peer support network. This will link up school leaders so they can discuss the issues they face, share experiences and discuss the best ways to address them.
- A series of social media campaigns will also work to target negative attitudes in the general population. Time To Change will focus particularly on men, children and young people, African and Caribbean communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Mind website, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> Time to change website, [link](#); [link](#) and [link](#).

## Conservative record

- Since 2010, we have increased by five times the number of people accessing treatment for conditions like depression and anxiety<sup>1</sup>; raised our dementia diagnosis rates to one of the highest in the world; legislated for parity of esteem with physical health; introduced waiting times targets; and we now treat 1,400 more people for mental health conditions every single day. We are also the first Government to put mental health on an equal legal footing with physical health by introducing the law for parity of esteem.

## Costing and funding

- This initiative will cost £20 million over the next four years – with £12.5 million coming as a grant from the Department of Health. The rest of the money is from Comic Relief and the Big Lottery Fund.

## Political points to make

- It is only because we have a strong economy, and have been prepared to make difficult decisions, that we can afford to fund the NHS and invest both in better mental health care and this campaign. We are spending record amounts on mental health - £11.7 billion in 2014-15, and have pledged an extra £1 billion a year by 2020.
- Labour have no plan to grow the economy, and no plan to invest in our NHS. They stood on a manifesto pledging to spend £5.5 billion less than this Government, and have not committed an extra penny since then. Asked on Sky News on 26 August ‘how do we afford the NHS?’ the Shadow Health Secretary’s answer was: ‘We have to make savings’.

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<sup>1</sup> IAPT NHS, [link](#); IAPT Dataset, [link](#).

# Prison Staffing

**Summary:** The Government will boost staffing in 10 of our most challenging prisons to ensure prisons remain safe and provide meaningful opportunities for reform.

- **Prisons keep dangerous people off our streets and punish those who commit serious crimes. But they should also be places of safety and reform. Without safety there is no chance of meaningful reform, and reform will in turn ensure we have safety in our prisons and on our streets. Current levels of violence and drugs in our prisons are unacceptable.**
- **That is why we are taking immediate action to boost staffing in 10 of our most challenging prisons and launching a nationwide roll-out of new working practices so staff in every prison spend more time supervising prisoners. We will also launch a new programme to increase the number of ex-service personnel working in our prisons.**
- **These measures form part of our prison safety and reform plan which we will launch in the coming weeks. We are determined to make prisons work, so that offenders come out of prison better able to find work, better able to support their families and less likely to re-offend. To put something back into society rather than forever taking out.**

## Background

- **There has been a rise in dangerous new psychoactive substances (NPS) in prisons.** The rise of NPS has been a major shock to the prison system, making already dangerous offenders even more volatile and their reactions more difficult to judge and manage. The former Chief Inspector of Prisons has said that NPS are ‘the most serious threat to the safety and security of our jails’.
- **This increase in NPS has contributed to a rise in prison violence.** In the last year attacks on prison officers rose by 40 per cent, assaults on inmates by other inmates were up by 31 per cent and self-inflicted deaths of prisoners increased 28 per cent.

## Our solution

- **Immediate staff increases in 10 of our most challenging prisons.** We will invest £14 million a year to increase staffing in 10 of the most challenging prisons, boosting staffing levels by over 400. Staffing levels will be ramped up over the coming months and we are planning for all staff to be in place by March next year.
- **Nationwide roll-out of new working practices so staff in every prison spend more time supervising inmates.** There is a clear link between higher levels of staff engagement with prisoners and lower violence. We will roll out a new staff deployment model across the entire prison estate. This model will increase the amount of time staff spend engaging with and supervising prisoners.
- **Boosting the number of ex-service personnel working in prisons.** We will increase the number of service leavers applying for prison officer posts through targeted work experience schemes. We will ensure that service leavers continue to receive their Armed Forces salary whilst undertaking a work experience placement and, if accepted as a prison officer, during their initial training.
- **Prison safety and reform plan to be launched in the coming weeks.** We will be launching a comprehensive plan for prison safety and reform in the coming weeks, followed by legislation early next year.

## Conservative record

- **Investing £1.3 billion to improve efficiency and ensure that prisons are better rehabilitating offenders.** Over the next 5 years we will invest £1.3 billion to reform and modernise the prison estate.
- **Creating six new pilot ‘reform prisons’, to empower staff and drive up standards.** These new ‘reform prisons’ will be given full autonomy over how they operate and spend their budget.
- **Protecting the £130 million prison education budget, to improve rehabilitation.** Reoffending costs £13 billion annually. We will give more control over prison education to ‘reform prison’ governors and protect the £130 million budget, to break the reoffending cycle. We will also work with Teach First to encourage high quality graduates to work in prisons to improve education standards.
- **Banning legal highs.** The Psychoactive Substances Act restricts the supply, production, and possession of psychoactive substances and provides harsh penalties for those who flaunt this law. We’ve also given powers to the police to seize and destroy ‘legal highs’, and put in place new penalties for possession of a psychoactive substance in custody.

## Costing and funding

- £14 million per year will be invested in boosting staff numbers in 10 of our most challenging prisons.

## Political points to make

- **Labour risked people’s security because they failed to build enough prison places and had to let out thousands of dangerous prisoners early onto our streets.** They released: 16,335 violent offenders, two terrorists. 494 offenders were recalled to custody.
- **Labour failed to rehabilitate criminals as the prison population increased by nearly a third between 2000 and 2010.** The adult male population increased from 61,252 in 2000 to 80,489 in 2010.

## Labour position

- **Jo Stevens, shadow justice minister:** ‘Staff numbers have fallen, leading to increasing levels of violence, drug use and chaos in our prisons. Swift and urgent action must be taken in order to tackle the astronomical levels of violence in our prisons to help ensure that meaningful rehabilitation takes place, reoffending rates fall, and the public can have confidence in our prison system’.

## Rebuttal

- We are absolutely committed to reducing violence in our prisons. That is exactly why we are taking immediate action to boost staffing in 10 of our most challenging prisons, and launching a nationwide rollout of new working practices so staff in every prison spend more time supervising inmates, as there is a clear link between higher levels of staff engagement with prisoners and lower violence.

# Employment practices review

**Summary:** The Prime Minister has announced that Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the RSA and a former senior adviser to the Labour Party, will lead an independent review of employment practices in the modern economy.

- **We have more people in work than ever before but the growth and innovation in our economy means that there are more people who do not have a traditional ‘employer-employee’ relationship.**
- **Whilst our employment rules work well for the majority, it is vital that they keep up to date with changing employment practices. So the Prime Minister has announced that Matthew Taylor will lead a review of employment practices in today’s economy. This will consider how: employment practices need to change to keep pace with modern business models, and the implications of new forms of work for employee rights and responsibilities; employer freedoms and obligations; and our existing regulatory framework surrounding employment.**
- **To make sure that our economy works for everyone, we need our employment rules to work for people who don’t have the security that comes with a traditional job.**

## Background

- **Types of employment are changing.** An increasing share of the workforce have non-standard forms of employment arrangements: including self-employment (4.8 million people)<sup>1</sup>, zero hour contracts (900,000 people)<sup>2</sup> or temporary work (1.7 million people)<sup>3</sup>. There are overlaps between these categories, but taken collectively it represents around one in five workers.<sup>4</sup>
- **The current set of employment rules works for the majority of these people.** Surveys consistently show that self-employed people are happier with their work than employees. The flexibility of our labour market is also an important strength of our economy. It has played a key role in sustaining the record employment level that we currently enjoy. About two thirds of people on zero hour contracts do not want more hours, and report that they are happy with their work life balance<sup>5</sup>.
- **However the growth of non-standard employment practices can also create problems.** Around 6 million people are not covered by the standard suite of workplace rights, a number that continues to grow. And while 92 per cent of people consider job security to be important, only 65 per cent of people think their job is secure.<sup>6</sup>
- **This flexibility can be both an asset and a potential threat.** The UK’s flexible labour market gives our businesses a competitive advantage internationally. But the growth of the so-called gig economy, and the rise in non-standard working practices, has created problems for a significant minority and tested the limits of existing labour market protections. It is also a problem for employers, who can find it difficult to deliver training without formally declaring contractors as workers, and who struggle with a regulatory and tax system designed for formal and reliable employment.

## Our solution

- **Matthew Taylor, the chief executive of the RSA and a former senior Labour adviser, will lead an independent review of employment practices in the modern economy.** The review will consider whether

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<sup>1</sup> ONS, *UK Labour Market: September 2016*, table 3, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> ONS, *Labour Force Survey: Zero-hours contracts data tables*, 8 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> ONS, *UK Labour Market: September 2016*, table 3, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> ONS, *UK Labour Market: September 2016*, table 3, [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> CIPD, *Policy Report*, December 2015, p.33, [link](#).

<sup>6</sup> British Social Attitudes, *Survey 33 - Work*, [link](#).

our employment rules have kept pace with changes in the economy, such as the growth in self-employment, on-demand working, the practice of contracting rather than hiring, and zero hour contracts. It will make recommendations to government about how to maintain flexibility while supporting job security, workplace rights, opportunities for progression and representation for the growing number of people who do not have traditional employment relationships.

## Conservative record

- **The employment rate at a historic high.** Since 2010 employment has increased by 2.7 million<sup>1</sup> and the number of workless households is lower than it ever was under the last Labour Government.<sup>2</sup>
- **The Government has banned the use of exclusivity clauses in zero hour contracts.**<sup>3</sup> It is now illegal for employers to include exclusivity clauses in zero hour contracts meaning that people have the freedom to look for and take other work opportunities and have more control over their work hours and income. An individual on a zero hours contract can now make a complaint to an employment tribunal if their employer mistreats them for working, or seeking to work, elsewhere.

## Scope of the review

**The review will address six key themes:**

### *Security, pay and rights*

- To what extent do emerging business practices put pressure on non-standard workers, so that rather than making a fair trade off between job security and some combination of flexibility, greater work availability or higher pay, they lose out on all dimensions?
- To what extent does the growth in non-standard forms of employment undermine the reach of policies like the National Living Wage, pensions auto-enrolment, sick pay, and holiday pay?

### *Progression and training*

- How can we facilitate and encourage professional development within the modern economy to the benefit of both employers and employees?

### *Finding the appropriate balance of rights and responsibilities for new business models*

- Do current definitions of employment status need to be updated to reflect new forms of working created by emerging business models, such as on-demand platforms?

### *Representation*

- Could we learn lessons from alternative forms of representation around the world, for example the Freelancers Union in New York which focuses on access to health insurance, or the California App Based Drivers Association which lobbies companies like Uber on behalf of drivers?

### *Opportunities for under-represented groups*

- How can we harness modern employment to create opportunities for groups currently underrepresented in the labour market (the elderly, those with disabilities or care responsibilities)?

### *New business models*

- How can government – nationally or locally – support a diverse ecology of business models enhancing the choices available to investors, consumers and workers?

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<sup>1</sup> ONS, *Labour Market Statistics*, 14 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> ONS, *Working and Workless Households: 2015*, 1 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> *Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015*, Part 11, [link](#).

## Political points to make

- **Less than 3 per cent of workers are on zero-hours contracts.** Between April and June 2016, 903,000 people were estimated to be on zero-hours contracts, 2.85 per cent of people in work.<sup>1</sup>
- **Three-quarters of the rise in employment since Labour were in power has been in full-time jobs.** The number of people working full-time has risen by 2 million since Labour were in power.<sup>2</sup>
- **In office, Labour recognised and welcomed zero hours contracts.** They said that ‘these [zero hour] contracts maximise flexibility for employers and suit some people who want occasional earnings’ and admitted that ‘many employers ensure the contracts are used sensibly’.<sup>3</sup>
- **Labour have since admitted that zero-hours contracts can be useful.** Former Shadow Business Secretary Chuka Umunna has said that ‘sometimes people quite like to use them’.<sup>4</sup>
- **Labour presided over zero hours contracts with exclusivity clauses when they were in government.** Zero-hours contracts were happening under Labour. As early as 2000, using old measures, the ONS estimates that there were 225,000 people on these contracts.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ONS, *Labour Force Survey: Zero-hours contracts data tables*, 8 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> ONS, *Labour Market Statistics*, 14 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> Board of Trade, *Fairness at Work White Paper*, May 1998, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> Chuka Umunna, *ITV Daybreak*, 20 August 2013.

<sup>5</sup> ONS, *Ad Hoc Analysis: Zero Contract Hours*, 2013.

# Stopping benefit reassessments for those most in need

**Summary:** We will stop requiring people with the most severe, lifelong conditions to be reassessed for their out-of-work benefits.

- **We are building a country that works for everyone – not just the privileged few. A key part of that is making sure that all those who are able to work are given the support and the opportunity to do so.**
- **But it also means ensuring that we give full and proper support to those who can't. If someone has a disease which can only get worse then it doesn't make sense to ask them to turn up for repeated appointments to check their eligibility for out-of-work benefits. If their condition is not going to improve, it is not right to ask them to be tested time after time. So we will stop it.**
- **This will remove unnecessary stress and bureaucracy for the most vulnerable in society.**

## Background

- **Employment and Support Allowance is the out-of-work unemployment benefit for people who are unable to work as a result of a health condition or disability.** After having a Work Capability Assessment to determine eligibility, claimants receive up to £102.15 a week if in the work-related activity group and up to £109.30 a week if in the support group.
- **People who are unlikely to ever to get into work are currently required to undergo reassessments.** For example, the benefit system currently requires a claimant with profound brain injuries to have regular re-assessments to confirm their eligibility for Employment and Support Allowance, or additional payments in Universal Credit, even though we know that their condition almost certainly will not change. This creates unnecessary stress for the individual, and unnecessary expenditure for the taxpayer.

## Our solution

- **Exempting those with serious and chronic conditions from reassessments.** We will work with medical professionals, our health assessment provider, and others to develop criteria to stop re-assessments for people with the most severe health conditions. People with illnesses such as severe Huntington's, severe autism or a congenital heart condition, will be amongst those who might qualify to continue to receive Employment Support Allowance automatically.
- **Simplifying the assessment process.** In addition, we will also explore in a forthcoming Work and Health Green Paper how we might simplify and improve the assessment process and how we can use information more effectively to support people with health conditions and disabilities.

## Conservative record

- **We have improved the system we inherited from Labour.** Labour introduced the Employment and Support Allowance to support individuals with a temporary interruption in employment. Since 2010, there have been five independent reviews of the Work Capability Assessment between 2010 including over 100 recommendations. As a result, we have already made considerable improvements to the Employment and Support Allowance assessment process, for example improving the training of assessors to make sure they are able to provide accurate advice on the day-to-day impacts of a range of disabilities and health conditions and reducing backlogs and processing times.
- **We have increased spending on disability support – ensuring we support the most vulnerable.** Our reforms have seen support for the disabled increase. In the last Parliament, spending rose by £3 billion. We are now spending about £50 billion on benefits alone to support people with disabilities and health conditions.

## Costing and funding

- There are minimal departmental costs associated with this measure that will be met from within the department's budget.

## Political points to make

- **Labour would let welfare spending spiral out of control, resulting in increased taxation and borrowing.** Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour party oppose all of the welfare reforms and measures we have taken since 2010 to put welfare on a sustainable base. They want to remove the benefit cap and consult on introducing a universal basic income – meaning a return to something for nothing (*Jeremy Corbyn Speech to the TUC*, 15 September 2015, [link](#); Jeremy Corbyn, *Keynote speech on the economy at Bloomberg*, 15 September 2016, [link](#)).

# Support to boost new technologies

**Summary:** We want the UK to lead the world in the development, commercialisation and adoption of new technologies. So the Government will: (a) provide additional £100 million funding to extend and enhance the Biomedical Catalyst supporting innovative UK life science companies translate research into commercial success, (b) provide additional £120 million funding for universities to fund new tech transfer offices, and (c) expand the Challenger Business Programmes to address regulations that pose the largest barriers to the adoption of disruptive technologies.

- **The Government's long-term strategic goal is for the UK to be the best place in the world to develop and launch innovative technologies.**
- **We are providing financial support to universities and business, and a mechanism to address regulatory challenges to boost the development and commercialisation of new technologies.**
- **We will ensure that the commercial benefits of technological developments stay in the UK, providing economic growth and high value jobs through-out the supply chain, and building a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.**

## Background

The UK has excellent research facilities, but has traditionally been less successful at commercialising these new technologies. The UK performs poorly on SMEs introducing product or process innovations (Global Innovation index 2014).

## Our solution

- The **Biomedical Catalyst** provides grant support at the early innovation stage targeting the funding gap to ensure that emerging disruptive healthcare technologies are delivered to market. The programme offers funding at varying stages of technical and commercial development from proof of concept to feasibility awards. Average grants are £750,000 per company mainly to start-ups and spin outs. It has been hugely oversubscribed with funding applications outnumbering grant awards fourfold. The new funding extends the programme for the next four years.
- The UK has some world class university **tech transfer offices** that support effective transfer of the research carried out at universities and research institutions, into commercially viable business ventures. However, there is a wide variation between universities, and there are significant economies of scale to be reaped from better collaboration. This new programme incentivises universities to bid for funds to collaborate and expand their network of tech transfer centres.
- A key part of developing new technologies is creating a regulatory environment that supports the development of disruptive technologies. The **Challenger Business Programme** was launched in October 2013 to identify and as far as possible remove the barriers that stop insurgent and innovative businesses from setting up and thriving in the UK. This programme will be expanded into new sectors and new businesses as an element of the Industrial Strategy.

## Conservative record

- Since launching in 2012, the biomedical catalyst has awarded more than £250 million funding, matched by £150 million of private finance, to over 300 projects. Post-award funded companies and academics have realised in excess of a further £1 billion pounds in post project financing licensing deals and acquisitions. Frontier economics estimate a 20 per cent rate of return for UK public R&D investments.

- Tech Transfer Offices at Cambridge, Imperial, Edinburgh, Oxford, UCL have delivered huge commercial benefits and delivered new technologies for example in land remediation, pest control, IT systems, and genetic and genome data.
- The Challenger Business programme has engaged directly with some 400 disruptive businesses across 10 sectors (including Fintech, sharing economy, healthcare technology and drones). Actions taken in response to issues identified include tax allowances for money earned from the sharing economy, VAT exemption for cryptocurrencies, and exemptions for the space and satellite sector from Insurance Premium Tax, to match other leading nations.

## Costing and funding

This is additional funding from HMT to BEIS in addition to the budget agreed during the Spending Review:

- £100 million over four years for the biomedical catalyst
- £120 million over four years for the tech transfer programme
- No direct costs for the Challenger Business Programme

## Political points to make

- The Conservative Government is backing British business to succeed. These are successful programmes that we are expanding to deliver more benefit to the UK. Labour's position is simply to tax and spend.
- We want the UK to remain a global hub for new technology. This will drive our economy over the next few decades, creating well paid jobs and paying the taxes that we need to fund public services.
- Support for new technology sectors is a key part of a modern industrial strategy. Further plans will be unveiled over the coming months.

# New support for Afghanistan

**Summary:** The Government is committing up to £750 million from the aid budget to Afghanistan between 2017 and 2020.

## Background

- **This funding will save lives and help build a viable, long-term state – ensuring that the achievements of our brave armed forces are supported. Our commitment shows how we are deploying the UK’s aid budget in a way which is firmly in our national interest and will help protect our national security.**
- **UK assistance over the next four years will strengthen infrastructure and government systems, improve health and education services, support mine clearance within the country and create the jobs and investment needed for the country to turn the corner in realising greater economic independence.**
- **This will create an Afghanistan that is less dependent on aid and is a safer and more secure country that offers increasing opportunities for the Afghan people. This work will protect UK national interests by reducing threats from terrorism, narcotics and illegal migration, and improving prospects for investment.**

## Our solution

- **We will commit up to £750 million, from the aid budget, to Afghanistan between 2017 and 2020.** This will help deliver improved health and education systems and stronger economic growth.
- **We will help clear deadly mines.** Our support will help clear contaminated land, help people make use of that land, and educate people about the danger of un-cleared land.
- **We will meet urgent humanitarian needs.** In addition to this long-term development support, we will help meet the most immediate needs of around a million displaced Afghans before winter hits. By giving £15 million to the United Nations Flash Appeal for Afghanistan, we will provide shelter, food and medicine to vulnerable Afghan families, including people who have returned from Pakistan and women and children driven out of their homes by continuing fighting inside the country.
- **Our support will help bolster the economy and state of Afghanistan.** This development aid is a vital complement to the separate support we provide to the Afghan security forces. Making this commitment will send a clear signal that the international community will not walk away from Afghanistan.

## Conservative record

- **The UK has already offered strong support to Afghanistan’s security.** In July 2016, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to Afghanistan’s security at the Warsaw NATO Summit. The UK confirmed that it will maintain its investment of £70 million a year in the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces to 2020.
- **UK support has improved millions of lives in Afghanistan.** The UK’s presence in Afghanistan over the last decade has helped to stabilise that country and prevent it from becoming a base for global terrorists that would threaten the streets of Britain. We have improved the lives of ordinary Afghans significantly – with millions more girls in school, better healthcare, and greater prosperity. Our support has helped the number of Afghan children attending primary school rise from 4.3 million in 2008 to more than 7.2 million by

2014. Of these, 39 per cent were girls, up from virtually none under the Taliban, when girls were not allowed to go to school<sup>1</sup>.

## Costing and funding

- We are committing up to £750 million between 2017 and 2020. All of this will count as Official Development Assistance, and will come out of the UK's existing commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of national income as aid.<sup>2</sup>

## Political points to make

- **We are deploying the UK's aid budget in a way which is firmly in our national interest.** We are addressing challenges like migration, terrorism and narcotics which affect working people's everyday lives.
- **Labour may claim that we are diverting the aid budget towards narrow security issues.** This is nonsense – this money will help millions of the world's very poorest people. We are helping the poor in a way which is also firmly in our national interest. It is clear that not only would Labour make us less safe at home, it would not take action to ensure the world's poorest are kept safe abroad. Improving the security of fragile states is vital to ensure our aid reaches those at risk and to prevent people from becoming trapped in poverty. If your country is not stable and free from the threat of violence then you cannot get to work, you can't get to the local clinic and your children can't go to school.

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<sup>1</sup> *DFID Press Release*, 8 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> £640 million will come from DFID's bilateral country programme. £60 million will come from DFID's Girls Education Challenge Fund. £36 million will come from the cross-Government Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. £14 million will come from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. In addition to the £750 million of long-term development support, DFID is providing a £15 million to the current UN humanitarian appeal for Afghanistan.

# Building our new nuclear submarines

**Summary:** The Conservative Government was elected on a manifesto commitment to renew our nuclear deterrent – the ultimate guarantee of the nation’s security. Having gained the overwhelming backing of Parliament in July, we will now invest £1.25 billion in order to move to the build phase of the project.

- **Britain’s nuclear deterrent is the ultimate guarantee of the nation’s security. We use it every day to deter our adversaries. It is a critical part of the NATO Alliance that is the cornerstone of our security, and that of our allies.**
- **When there are 17,000 nuclear weapons in the world, we cannot know what threats may emerge in the 2030s, 2040s, and 2050s.**
- **The Conservative Government is committed to maintaining a continuous round the clock underwater nuclear deterrent. Labour’s leadership want to scrap that deterrent. They cannot be trusted with our nation’s security.**

## Background

- **Britain has had continuous-at-sea nuclear deterrent for almost 50 years.** Our current fleet of Vanguard submarines are ageing and we must now start building the four replacements that will ensure we maintain our nuclear capability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year until the 2060s.
- **Those who argue in favour of scrapping our nuclear deterrent unilaterally must be certain no extreme threats will emerge in the next 30 or 40 years.** With an expansionist Russia Building eight ballistic missile submarines and North Korea testing nuclear weapons, we simply cannot be certain of that.

## Our solution

- **Committing to build a new generation of nuclear submarines.** Our election manifesto made a clear commitment to maintain our continuous at sea deterrence by building four new nuclear submarines. This was reaffirmed in our strategic defence review after the election. Now, with Parliament backing our plan by 472 votes to 117<sup>1</sup>, we are announcing £1.25 billion to begin the build phase known as ‘delivery phase 1’.
- **That money will enable us to start building boat 1.** Delivery phase 1 will see us begin building the auxiliary machine space, containing switchboards and control panels for the reactor, as well as carrying prototyping, purchasing material for boats two to four and investing in facilities at the yard in Barrow where they will be built.

## Conservative record

- **Investing in Britain’s defence.** This Conservative Government is able to begin building new nuclear submarines because we are increasing the defence budget every year of this decade, as well as meeting both the NATO commitment to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence and to spend 20 per cent of the defence budget on equipment.

## Costing and funding

- The £1.25 billion investment in delivery phase 1 is budgeted for in the MoD budget and part of the commitment that was confirmed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, published November 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Hansard, 18 July 2016, Division 46, [link](#).

## Political points to make

- **Labour’s leadership wants to scrap Britain’s nuclear deterrent – even though its official policy is to support it.** Jeremy Corbyn said: ‘As you very well know I am not a supporter of nuclear weapons and we are supporting the UN in its ban process.’<sup>1</sup> He has refused to rule out trying to change Labour’s policy and Seumas Milne, Labour’s director of strategy and communications, reportedly deleted the suggestion that Labour ‘would not seek to change’ the party’s formal pro-nuclear policy before a general election from Shadow Defence Secretary Clive Lewis’ speech.<sup>2</sup>
- **Jeremy Corbyn has said he would not use Britain’s nuclear deterrent.** ‘I never want to use a nuclear weapon.’<sup>3</sup> A deterrent only works if you are ultimately prepared to use it, otherwise it ceases to have a deterrent effect.
- **Labour’s leadership wants to withdraw from NATO.** Jeremy Corbyn said: ‘I’d rather we weren’t in it’.<sup>4</sup> NATO is the cornerstone of euro-Atlantic security and has kept the peace in Europe since 1949.
- **Labour’s leader wants to abolish the Armed Forces.** Jeremy Corbyn said: ‘Wouldn’t it be wonderful if every politician around the world instead of taking pride in the size of their armed forces...abolished their army...surely that is the way we should be going forward’.<sup>5</sup>
- **Labour’s leadership wants to appoint a Minister for Peace.** Jeremy Corbyn said: ‘In the ministerial things that we may well be appointing in the future, let’s have a minister for disarmament and a minister for peace.’<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *BBC News*, 27 September 2016,

<sup>2</sup> *The Guardian*, 26 September 2016, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> *BBC News*, 27 September 2016,

<sup>4</sup> *New Statesman*, 29 July 2015, [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> *YouTube*, 6 August 2012, [link](#).

<sup>6</sup> *The Telegraph*, 22 September 2016, [link](#).

# Digital skills for everyone

**Issue:** Karen Bradley announced on Saturday 1 October that the Government will ensure free training for adults who lack basic digital skills in the Digital Economy Bill currently before Parliament.

- **In today’s digital economy, being able to use modern technology and navigate the internet should be considered as important as basic literacy and numeracy. But too many people struggle to get by, with more than 10 million adults in England lacking the basic digital skills they need to send an email, fill out an application form, or even simply browse the internet.**
- **That is why we will introduce a new statutory duty to provide free training in basic digital skills for adults who need support, where it is available.**
- **Our changes will help adults to gain skills relevant to the job market and bring them out of the ‘digital darkness’ – helping to make sure our economy and society work for everyone.**

## The problem

- **Many currently lack basic digital skills.** A recent report by the Commons Science and Technology Committee found up to 12.6 million of the adult UK population lack basic digital skills, while an estimated 5.8 million people have never used the internet at all.<sup>1</sup>
- **The elderly and the least well off are the worst affected by the lack of basic digital skills.** 35 per cent of people in lower socio-economic groups lack basic digital skills, compared to just 13 per cent in upper and middle class groups. Just 43 per cent of over-65s meet the criteria for basic digital skills, compared to 93 per cent of 15-24 year olds.<sup>2</sup>
- **To succeed in the modern workplace everyone needs basic digital skills.** To make sure the UK remains a thriving economy, competitive on the world stage, adults need to have good literacy, numerical and digital skills.<sup>3</sup>

## Our solution

- **We will provide free training in basic digital skills for adults lacking qualifications or capabilities – ensuring everyone can benefit from the digital economy.** A forthcoming amendment to the Digital Economy Bill currently going through Parliament will introduce this, putting digital skills on the same footing as English and Maths. Where adults want and need to improve their digital skills and courses are available, we will offer free training. The digital skills training will be delivered by colleges and other adult education providers.
- **New standards and qualifications will be drawn up to replace the current digital training – so everyone in need can receive the best digital training.** We will consult on the detail of the new offer in due course.
- **This policy applies to England.**

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<sup>1</sup> House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, *Digital Skills Crisis*, June 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> DfE, *Post-16 Skills Plan*, July 2016, [link](#).

## Our achievements

- **Since 2010, the Government has provided £36 million to fund programmes to help people gain basic digital skills.** These programmes have helped more than 1.5 million people to develop their digital skills, with another million adults set to benefit by 2019.<sup>1</sup>
- **We have vastly improved our digital infrastructure by investing in superfast broadband.** We are on track to deliver – and expect to exceed – our target of 95 per cent superfast broadband coverage by 2017. 90 per cent of the UK now has access to superfast broadband and the government has provided access speeds of two megabits per second or more to the whole of the UK.<sup>2</sup>
- **We are strengthening protections in the digital world – so everyone can benefit from the digital economy safely.** Our Digital Economy Bill will ensure consent is obtained for direct marketing to protect consumers from nuisance calls and spam emails. To protect children, age verification will be introduced to access pornographic material online.

## Costing and funding

- **Training will be funded from the existing Adult Education Budget.** Precise details will be set out in due course.

## Political points to make

- **Labour left millions without good broadband services.** In June 2010, almost 3 million homes and businesses did not have access to basic broadband speeds of at least two megabits per second.<sup>3</sup>
- **Under Labour, Britain fell behind other European countries in terms of broadband services.** The UK slipped in terms of internet access and the speed of services available compared with other European countries.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Culture Media and Sport, *written evidence to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee*, January 2016, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> *Hansard*, 26 April 2016, WA, [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> DCMS, accessed on 8 August 2014, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> House of Lords Communications Committee, *Public Service Content*, 8 April 2009, p.92.

## OTHER LINES

### Aid budget

Our aid programme opens doors in many countries. We will make full use of all our influence, as part of our diplomatic relations, to make progress on issues that are important to the UK – including the return of foreign offenders. Crucially, our aid budget helps to build stable and secure countries overseas which improves the ability of those countries to accept foreign offenders from the UK. We won't use the aid budget as a 'blunt instrument' but we will use it to deliver in the interests of UK taxpayers and the world's poorest.

### Grammar schools

Building a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few, means giving every parent the chance to pick the best possible school for their child.

Figures released recently show parents are 50 per cent more likely to pick a grammar school as their first preference secondary school. But the 1998 ban stops thousands of parents and their children benefitting from them.

Our ambitious proposals will unlock more good school places for children, so they get an education that caters to their individual talents, abilities and needs.

### Business rates

This revaluation improves the fairness of rate bills by making sure they more closely reflect the property market and from 2020 all rates raised in London will be spent in London.

We've set aside £1 billion to help businesses in London transition to the new rates and from next year over 60,000 small firms in the capital will be taken out of paying any rates at all – part of a wider package that will save £800 million by 2021.

### Help To Buy: Mortgage Guarantee scheme

Through the Help to Buy schemes, we've helped 185,000 people buy a house and hundreds of thousands have taken advantage of the Help to Buy: ISA, with its generous government bonus.

The Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee scheme was introduced in 2013 as a temporary scheme to increase the availability of high loan to value mortgages following a significant drop off in availability following the financial crisis. As announced in 2013, the scheme will close to new applicants at the end of 2016.

Having supported over 86,000 households, many high street banks are again offering 90-95 per cent loans to first time buyers. The Financial Policy Committee of the Bank of England has also said they think this is unlikely to have any impact on the availability of high LTV mortgages.

We will continue to support people to get on the housing ladder including through the Help to Buy: ISA and the Help to Buy: Equity Loan Scheme which we have already extended to 2020.

### Minimum wage rise

*From Saturday 1 October young workers and apprentices across the country will see their pay rise as new minimum wage rates take effect.*

We promised to build an economy that works for everyone and this increase in the minimum wage means our lowest paid young workers will receive their largest pay rise since the recession.

This pay rise will make a real difference to hard-working young people across the country and means for the vast majority of workers, the National Minimum Wage is at its highest level in real terms.

This pay rise for young workers delivers on the Conservatives' commitment to ensure work pays and builds on this year's increase in the personal allowance as well as the new National Living Wage for those 25 and over.