

Our vision:

Our vision to move the UK forwards.

Briefing paper

About Centre:

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

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Contents:

Cover	Page 1
About Centre	Page 2
Contents	Page 3
Acknowledgements	Page 4
Executive summary	Page 5
Introduction	Page 6
Devolution	Page 7
Our principles	Page 8
Education	Pages 9-19
Economy	Pages 20-22
Democracy	Pages 23-26
Health	Pages 27-30
Environment	Pages 31-35
Equality	Pages 36-41
Transport	Pages 42-43
Social Security	Pages 44-45
Justice	Pages 46-48
Foreign Affairs	Pages 49-54
Housing:	Pages 55-56
Culture, Media and Sport	Pages 57

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Executive summary:

A Nordic inspired welfare state. We support a comprehensive welfare state which includes expanding the NHS, a comprehensive education system and a social security system that ensures no one falls through the gaps.

Free Markets. This includes cutting regulations and simplifying the tax system to make business easier.

Free trade. We support reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers to ensure smoother trade between the UK and the rest of the world.

A devolved United Kingdom. Not only do we support increased devolution but this document setting out our vision has also been devolved. It contains how each policy would need to be implemented in each part of the UK.

Introduction:

I started the predecessor to Centre, New Liberals, four years ago and its been fantastic to see it grow into such a large organisation. Over this period, the organisation has put together a document compiling its policy ideas and aims. This started out as a small document that set out a few policies in two main areas: Brexit and the economy. It has now grown into something much larger, a set of policies that show what we would like the UK to look like. Yet, despite this document being added to over such a long period of time, it is still a work in progress, and we will be adding to it as time goes on and as existing policies change.

This is a vision for a country that combines a strong welfare state with a free market economy. It is a system that we know works because its been tried and tested in the Nordic countries. This has meant simplifying systems such as social security, how many layers of government we have and out overly complex tax system. We also learnt from them in areas where individual countries have become world leaders. In creating a free market economy that works we have looked to countries such as Sweden and reforming our education system has been based off Finland which has one of the best education systems in the world.

However, we want to have a system even better than the Nordic countries have because even their system has flaws. We have identified areas such as criminalising the buyers within sex work, where these countries have chosen the wrong policies. In areas such as these we have looked beyond the Nordic countries to find solutions that are shown to work with our solution for this issue coming from the New Zealand.

In short, this vision is about learning from the best and applying those lessons to the UK. Yet, we are not going to simply leave this as words on a page. We are using social media campaigns where we reached almost a million views on Twitter alone in 2020, petitions to push for our policies to be debated in parliament, articles and papers to promote our ideas. We want these ideas to become a reality, so we hope you enjoy reading our vision for the UK and all the policies we hope to push forwards in the future.

Torrin Wilkins
Director of Centre

Devolution:

These aims also account for devolution to devolved parliaments and assemblies within the UK. In areas where a policy is already implemented, we simply won't show the flag of that country. To this we have used each of the following symbols above each policy:

- UK flag: This area is not devolved; it can simply be passed by a law in the UK parliament or it isn't devolved to all nations of the UK.
- England: a new law that affects England but would be passed by Westminster.
- Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland: This law would need to go through either the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments or the Northern Irish Assembly.
- London: Any areas devolved to the London Mayor.

To do this we have used [this](#) briefing document from parliament along with Schedule 7A of the 2017 Wales Act and Schedule 5 of the Scotland Act.

Our principles:

The main principles of Centre are listed below which include centrism, evidence based policy which is mostly inspired by the Nordic countries, building board coalitions across party and tribal lines for policies we support and ensuring policies help to prepare us for automation and AI.

Centrism. This means we mix policies from the left and right of politics where they work. In general, we are left wing when it comes to the welfare state and right wing on the economy. On the economy we favour simpler taxes, less regulation and more competition to create a truly free market economy. Alongside this, we support well-funded and comprehensive public services. Rather than being opposing forces, free markets and strong welfare states complement each other. Free markets help to fund better public services, whilst public services benefit the economy.

Evidence-based policy. We believe that policy should be based on what works, rather than ideology. As a result, we looked at the Nordic countries which include Norway, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and Denmark. We learnt from the strengths of each country as: Norway has a prison system focused on reform which meant it has one of the lowest reoffending rates in the world; Finland has one of the best education systems in the world; Iceland has EFTA+EEA membership giving it access to the single market without membership of the EU and Sweden has a model for growing the economy and creating competition. This means these policies are already tried and tested in other countries although, where needed, we have adapted them for the UK.

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

Moving forward into the future. With automation and artificial intelligence (AI), technology is moving at an incredible pace. For sections such as Social Security, education, health care and transport a further test has been to keep these areas up to date or responsive to new technologies. Our education system needs to use the latest technology and education that allows people to train in new areas needs to be easily accessible. Health care needs to modernise using technology in areas such as caring for the elderly as we have an increasingly aging population. We also need a social security system that can adapt to the possibility of job losses through automation or AI and we need a transport system that uses up to date technology.

Education:

Our top priority is education which affects our economy and our public services. Our model for education is based off of Finland which is one of the most successful countries in the world for education. We have focused on equality and creativity which have both helped Finland improve its own system.

- Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

Increase the Use of Technology in Education. Using technology in education will help to prepare students for the future and it will make education more personalised to individual student's interests. Schools such as 'alt school' in the United States offer a potential format for digital based learning. In education this can include apps to aid with the marking of work, apps that help to analyse the performance of student's, laptops or tablets to write with, subject based games, virtual fieldtrips using virtual reality and using 3D printers to create things. Investment in technology will save time for teachers and it will give them more time for individual help.

- Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

Limit Class Sizes. This is following a study by the centre for public education in the United States which shows that the best number of pupils in a class is 18. This will be for primary and secondary schools and will give teachers more time to interact with students on an individual basis.

- All UK.

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

- Scotland, Wales, England, Northern Ireland.

Online Education to Allow Anyone to Access Courses for Free. To ensure everyone can access education easily we want to create a new government website that will allow people to access all courses offered by schools and universities to students. This should include video tutorials, interactive lessons and an effort to make as many peer reviewed papers open to all as possible. This program should first be tested in a small number of regions to ensure it works before it is rolled out to the rest of the UK. With different devolved education systems there should be different websites in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

- Scotland, Wales, England, Northern Ireland.

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Replace the Requirement for Collective Worship in Schools. This would involve replacing section 70 of the School Standards and Framework Act of 1998 which requires a collective act of worship in schools of a broadly Christian nature. In Scotland it would involve replacing the requirement for periods of religious observance and in Northern Ireland replacing the time for undenominational worship.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Ensure Students have Access to Bathroom Breaks During Lessons. We would require teachers to allow students to use bathrooms during lessons. This is a result of multiple incidents involving students on their periods or with either bladder issues being unable to leave the classroom.

- Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

Academies and foundation schools:

- England only.

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

- England only.

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

- England only.

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

- England only.

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

- England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Only Allow Non-Profit Organisations and Groups to be Involved in Running Schools. This would include academies, voluntary-aided, voluntary-controlled, foundation schools and free schools with interest groups such as businesses using academy schools to benefit themselves and pay either themselves or companies linked to them large amounts of money. Whilst businesses would still be allowed to donate money to these schools, they would not be allowed to take part in the running of the schools. We would also cap the salaries of those running these schools to ensure they don't

overpay themselves.

Community Schools:

- England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

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

Selective Areas:

- England and Northern Ireland.

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

Types of schools:

Faith Schools:

- England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

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

- England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Faith Schools Should Follow the Curriculum in Full, Including for Religious Education (RE). We believe that all children should have a full education and that includes an education that teaches about all faiths and those of no faith. This only applies to

Voluntary-Aided schools as Foundation Schools and Voluntary-Controlled schools already teach RE using the National Curriculum.

- England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Offer to purchase the land and buildings owned by government funded faith Schools.

As Foundation, Trust, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools often own the land and buildings we support offering to buy both the land and the buildings. The schools would then be converted into accountable community comprehensives.

- England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

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

All schools:

- England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

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

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

- England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Abolish All Girls and All Boys Schools. We believe all schools should be mixed and the idea of single sex schools is outdated.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Expand and Reform Ofsted along with other school inspectorates across the UK. We would make several large changes to both the coverage and the functions of Ofsted. Firstly, the number of schools inspected by Ofsted should include all independent schools replacing the 'Independent Schools Inspectorate' and the 'School Inspection Service'. We would also support Ofsted tests being carried out each year regardless of the schools Ofsted rating. If a school received a good rating one year this does not

mean these standards will continue. They should also include the number of students on free school meals or with additional needs on their reports to check school do not have under-representation in any of these areas.

For Wales the school inspectorate is Estyn who already carry out inspections for independent and special schools. We however support yearly inspections rather than the current system where inspections happen at least every seven years. We also support more detailed breakdowns on free school meal students and students with additional needs.

In Scotland Education Scotland is the inspectorate which already inspects independent schools. Some state schools already include the number of students from deprived backgrounds and with additional needs but we would expand this to all schools inspected. We also support yearly inspections rather than the current system where inspections happen based on a sample of schools each year rather than simply inspecting every school.

Northern Ireland has the Education and Training Inspectorate which also inspects independent schools. However, they already provide statistics on Free School Meal students and those with additional needs. We also support yearly inspections rather than the current system where there is a mix of full inspections along with inspections around monitoring and maintaining standards.

We would also support each of these inspectors setting up a complaints system focused on receiving and investigating complaints about schools or teachers both from parents and students. The inspections themselves would also change with as much focus on physical health and mental health support along with safeguarding as on academic achievements.

Early years education:

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Increase the Age at Which Children Start Education to 7. This gives children more time to be around adults when they are younger so they are more likely to be around people who are mature. This is the same starting age as they already use in Finland.

- England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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

- England only.

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

- England only.

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

Middle years education:

- England and Wales.

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

- England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- England and Wales.

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

- England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

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

- England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

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

- England, and Wales.

Increase the importance of practical and verbal skills in GCSE's and A-levels. This would include increased weight for speaking and listening within English and a focus on practical experiments within science. For Scotland this would apply to Highers and Advanced Highers.

- England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Alter T-Levels for rural communities. We welcome the new T-Levels which will be available in 2020 and we hope these improve vocational education within England. This qualification however needs to introduce more flexibility for rural schools allowing more time to be spent at the college where travelling to an employee is more difficult. In Scotland this would replace the Higher National Certificate within Wales and Northern Ireland we support these replacing BTECs and National Vocational Qualifications.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Mixed ability classes for students. Alongside mixed ability schools, we also support mixed ability classes where students of all abilities are in classrooms together. This will require extra help for students with additional needs along with training for

teachers to work with all ability classrooms. Mixed ability classes are already proven to work well in Finland.

- England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

Higher education:

- All of these policies apply to England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Higher Education Grants. This would mean that 18-year olds would receive a grant for higher education as a replacement for university tuition fees and maintenance loans. The loan would cover either the costs of university education, an apprenticeship, a vocational course or another higher education course. This loan would be available to anyone going into higher education and would therefore be paid through general taxation. The system will also benefit the UK's economy overall with a higher skilled workforce.

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

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

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

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

Economy:

We believe in a free market economy where businesses are less constrained by government. This means reducing regulation, a simple taxation system and involves workers more in the running of companies. This also involves helping companies and workers to work together to improve businesses.

- UK wide.

The Minimum Wage Should be Increased. The minimum wage is the lowest amount you can be paid for an hour of work. The minimum wage should be £9 for people under 18 and £12 for people over 18. It should also be linked to inflation, so it keeps up with increasing or decreasing prices.

- UK wide.

Employees Should Have the Right to Not Answer Work Related Emails After Work Ends. We believe that when work hours end, employees shouldn't have to answer emails from their place of work unless it is extremely urgent or is agreed to when applying to the job. A similar system is already used in Germany to restrict business from interference in people's personal life.

- UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Cut regulations. We support deregulation in areas such as product market regulation, building regulations on areas such as replacements in houses and in areas of regulation that are better controlled using collective bargaining.

- Whole UK.

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

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

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

possible risk of unemployment whereas shareholders can sell their shares more easily.

- UK wide.

Collective Bargaining. This would involve the employer and a group of employees negotiating the conditions they are employed under rather than just being imposed by the employer. This would not affect minimum work standards guaranteed by the government or the minimum wage. It would however allow a way to negotiate the additional benefits that the job offers employees.

- UK wide.

Strengthen the Competition and Markets Authority. Currently the UK has far too many monopolies and oligopolies in operation. To counter this, we feel the Competition and Markets Authority should be given more power to break up companies. Although no competition may seem initially beneficial to companies in the long term they stagnate and have less drive to make services better for their customers. A more competitive economy means more choice and lower prices for consumers.

- UK wide.

Support Businesses Becoming Cooperatives. This includes worker cooperatives where the company is owned by its workers, where the customers own the business such as the co-op and partnerships where businesses are owned by their workers through stocks along with a say in the business such as the John Lewis Partnership. These types of companies give the workers more influence within the business and for models where employees own the business, greater incentive to work towards the business as a whole succeeding.

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

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

been. We disagree with backdated taxes and would end the loan charge on past taxation.

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

Give workers greater powers over working from home and flexible working. At the moment workers have a legal right to request to work from home or to work on a part time or flexible basis. We would add to this by making sure companies that deny these requests must prove they have no way to allow their workers to work from home. Rejections may be for reasons such as for work with time sensitive cases such as health work where it may not be possible to have flexible working or to work from home. We should also encourage working from home with the government helping to provide faster broadband as part of this and collective bargaining will also help workers to negotiate flexible hours with employees.

Taxation:

- Scotland, Wales and UK wide.

Consolidated Income Tax. We support merging National Insurance, capital gains tax and dividends taxes into the existing income tax system. For the capital gains tax and dividends taxes these taxes would be paid at the same rate as other forms of income whilst National Insurance be combined with Income Tax. This would take gradually aligning the exemptions from each of these taxes and then eventually merging them.

Tax brackets would also be replaced with a 'formula-based' system as has been proposed by the [IPPR](#). This would help to remove cliff edges between tax brackets and would vary depending on people's total earnings. In Scotland and Wales this system should be partially devolved to their Parliaments replacing their existing tax raising powers.

- Scotland, Wales and UK wide.

A Land Value Tax. This would be a twostep process which would introduce a Proportional Property Tax followed by a Land Value Tax. This would replace Stamp duty, business rates and Council Tax with one single tax. In Scotland Stamp Duty was replaced by the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax and in Wales it was replaced by the Land Transaction Tax.

The Proportional Property tax would be the same has proposed by Fairer Share as it would only be paid by owners, would place a flat tax rate on all properties of 0.48%

with a rate of 0.96% on second homes, empty and non-resident owned homes and revaluations of all properties and land with annual revaluations each year. This would be neutral in terms of the revenue lost from council tax, stamp duty and business compared to the new revenue from a Proportional Property tax.

With the value of land estimates with a Proportional Property tax a Land Value Tax can then be introduced. This will be a single rate of 4% on all land which would be paid by landowners.

Both a Proportional Property Tax and a Land Value Tax are fairer for taxpayers and are more proportional meaning people with less land or property will pay less in tax. A Land Value Tax can also be used during recessions to increase spending without reducing productivity.

- UK wide.

A Fairer VAT System. When a good or service is sold a business may have to pay VAT on it. On most goods VAT is 20% although some items have a reduced rate of 5% or on other items 0%. VAT is charged on the full price something is sold at. If a business produces a product or service that isn't charged VAT, they can't be refunded for purchases they make that incur VAT.

If a business has a turnover of less than £150,000, they can just pay a fixed amount to the government.

Currently maternity pads, mobility aids, sanitary products and products to end smoking are given a reduced rate of VAT but we would either push from them to be exempt from VAT if this is still under EU control or we will make them exempt if it is up to the UK government. If possible, we feel a business should only be charged VAT with turnover above £80,000 rather than £83,000.

- UK wide.

The Top Level for Inheritance Tax Should be 50% and the Bottom Rate Will be 25%.

Inheritance tax is taxation paid on someone's estate (money, property and possessions) after they have died. Inheritance tax will be paid on any money over £200,000 regardless of the recipient unless it is a charity in which it would start at £300,000.

We would add in brackets:

Exempt below: £200,000

25%: £200,000 - £500,000

50% above: £500,000

- UK wide.

Corporation Tax Will be Changed so Corporations Pay Tax on UK Based Profits. This tax will only be paid by corporations who employ above 500 people worldwide and/or make five million pounds per year.

- Northern Ireland and UK wide.

Progressive Corporation Tax. Corporation tax should be raised to a maximum of 25% and smaller businesses should be exempt. This would mean that corporation tax in the UK would be below the G7 average, so it won't be uncompetitive for the UK when compared to other large and advanced economies around the world.

- Scotland, Wales and UK wide.

Tax Based Regulation. Tax based regulation is where the government places a tax on a harmful product and uses the revenue to reduce the tax on another product. This means that rather than a complete ban on something, it makes it more profitable for a business to follow government policy. This will be used in several areas. The first is existing policy which includes areas such as product market regulations where we would use tax-based regulation rather than standard regulations. The second is to promote a switch away from carbon usage, non-renewable energy sources and materials that damage the environment. The revenue from this would be used for environmentally friendly alternatives and research into alternatives. Finally, existing taxes such as Air Passenger Duty (which may be replaced by the Air Departure Tax in Scotland and the Landfill Disposals Tax already exists in Wales), Vehicle Excise Duty, the Landfill Tax along with the Scottish Landfill Tax and Hydrocarbon Oil Duty would all be merged into tax-based regulation with the revenue going back into environmentally friendly alternatives. The primary advantage of this system is that it is cost neutral both for the government and in terms of the amount of tax placed on products overall.

- Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England.

Tell People How their Taxes are Spent. This will be done using spreadsheets to show how the government spends taxes. It will be based off the system already used by some Nordic countries. This should be run by devolved parliaments in Scotland and Wales with the option for Northern Ireland to also introduce its own system should it vary corporation tax rates. England would have this system administered by the House of Commons.

Democracy:

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

- Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- UK as a whole.

The House of Commons Will be Elected Using Mixed-Member Proportional Representation. This is a proportional system which means that if a party receives 30% of the vote it would also receive 30% of the seats. It works so that a number of representatives are first elected through First Past the Post which is then topped up with members of a party list to ensure the system is proportional. This will also include levelling seats to ensure the result is proportional. If a party wins more seats than they were originally allocated, then extra seats are added on. For the House of Commons this means MPs are answerable to either the country as a whole or just to constituencies rather than trying to balance the two.

- UK, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- England only.

A Single Layer of Local Government. We support the creation of unitary authorities for all areas of England, where all local government powers would be held by county councils. County councils would have the powers of: Parish, Borough, City, Town, Community, District councils and all of the local council powers held by the City of London Corporation. The mayor and cabinet model will also be abolished with the powers of both ceremonial and locally elected mayors being given to council leaders under the leader and cabinet model. With this change the pay for councillors should also be increased if their responsibilities also increase.

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

- UK as a whole.

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

- UK as a whole.

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

- UK as a whole, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A System of Recall for Representatives. This means that if you think your local representative has done something wrong, you can start a petition to trigger a by-election. To be successful, the petition must be signed by at least 10% of the constituents who are registered to vote in that area for MP's, 20% for members of devolved parliaments and 30% for county council members.

- UK as a whole.

Initiatives for the Proposal of New Laws. Initiatives are currently used in some US states. If a petition is set up and 5% of the UK electorate sign it then there will be a vote in the House of Commons on that particular proposal. This would allow people to continue being active in the political process even when there isn't an election and it would give people the right to propose new laws which would widen the field where new laws can come from. These can then be amended by MP's to improve the quality of the legislation and there will be a few dedicated slots for these votes depending on which petitions received the most votes. The same proposal can't be put to a vote more than once per year.

- UK as a whole and Northern Ireland.

Lower the Voting Age to 16. We feel that 16-year olds should be able to vote. It is used in Scotland for some elections and was used successfully in the 2014 independence referendum. This should be in local council, assembly and house of commons elections.

- UK as a whole, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Limit Donations to Political Parties and Candidates. We will limit the amount of money each individual can donate to a political party per election and restrict all donations to individuals. There will also be a ceiling on how much a candidate can take overall. It would be linked to inflation and we would only allow individuals to donate a maximum of £4,000 each to a political party per year. During election campaigns political parties would only be allowed to spend a maximum of eight million pounds each.

- England only.

The Monarch Should be Allowed Choose Whether they are Head of the Church of England. The monarch should have the choice of leading the Church of England otherwise the church will be able to pick their own leader.

- UK as a whole.

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

- UK as a whole.

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

- UK as a whole.

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

Health:

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Care for the Elderly and Disabled Needs to be Delivered at Home When Possible.

Rather than elderly people having to travel from their homes to see a doctor if they prefer or need to see a doctor, they should be able to arrange for someone to come and visit them.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- UK as a whole.

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

- England and Wales.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Take the NHS Out of Party Politics. This would involve giving the NHS a Royal Charter and allowing it to act independently much like the Bank of England or the BBC. This would preferably handle the internal running of the NHS and how the money it receives is spent.

- England and Wales.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

An NHS umbrella:

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

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

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

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Mental Health Care Should be Brought Under the NHS Umbrella. This will place existing mental health care under the NHS to both unify the service and allow mental health care to work better alongside other forms of health care.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Link St John Ambulance to the NHS More Closely. We believe that groups like St John Ambulance should be used to give people pre-NHS employment courses so it can be used as a way into working for the NHS. These will count when applying to work within the NHS or to do a health-related course in a college. This would include St John Ambulance, St John Ambulance Cymru, St John Ambulance Scotland and St John Ambulance Northern Ireland.

- England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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

NHS spending:

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Focus Any Pay Rises on Low Paid NHS Staff. The NHS has staff who are on low pay like physiotherapists, radiologists, administrative staff and ambulance staff who should be given a pay rise.

- England.

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

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

New funding sources:

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Allow Companies to Sponsor Their Local Hospital in Return for Their Name Being Mentioned on the NHS Websites as a Sponsor. This would give the NHS a free source of income and it would allow companies or wealthy individuals to give money to the NHS. This will not only mean that the taxpayer pays less but the people giving money will have an increased profile.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Offer Non-Essential Operations Within the NHS. This would mean allowing surgeries the NHS would not normally do to be done via the NHS for a payment as an alternative to private hospitals.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A Long-Term Old Age Social Care Fund. To cover the costs of social care, we propose a ringfenced fund which will be paid for with general taxation. This fund will be offset the effects of population changes on our social care system.

Environment:

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

- UK wide.

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

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

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

- UK wide.

Invest in Renewable Energy Research. Whilst investing in renewable energy is important, we also need to invest in research too. This will apply to the capture, storage and usage of renewable energy. There are two areas we feel need urgent research. First is carbon capture as this could reverse climate change by bringing CO₂ levels down. The main sources of carbon such as factories and areas with higher levels of carbon pollution need to be targeted. Further research is also needed on storing carbon once it has been captured. Second is hydrogen power as a replacement for fossil fuel burning cars. The capture of this needs extensive research as the current methods of capture make it too costly for general use. Finally, whilst grid technology is already widely used, improving it can reduce energy waste and consumption.

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

Gradually phase Out the UK's Use of Nuclear Power. We support gradually moving away from nuclear power and towards renewable energy. The first step would be to require new nuclear power stations to only use fuel that would have been otherwise stored as waste either from old reactors or from nuclear weapons. We would also aim to decommission older nuclear reactors that don't run on waste as soon as is possible. This not only provides a transition period where the UK can move fully to renewable energy sources, but it also reduces the amount of waste the UK will need to store in the long term.

As soon as renewable energy sources and battery storage can take over from nuclear power, we would then decommission all remaining nuclear power plants.

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

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

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

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

Work Within International Organisations on Climate Change. Whilst we believe actions to tackle climate change and research taken by the UK alone can help to solve the issue we also need to work at a global level. Unless the levels of pollution drop globally, we can't fight climate change. We support further agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement to move forward global action on climate change.

- UK as a whole.

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

Wildlife:

- Northern Ireland, Scotland and the UK.

Ban all Hunting with Dogs. This should include the hunting of rabbits, hares, deer, foxes, mice and rats. We want to strengthen the 2004 ban on hunting with dogs by increasing the sentences for breaking this law to a prison sentence, by removing the exemption that allows for "Use of dogs below ground to protect birds for shooting" and removing the exemption for "research and observation". Drag hunting will however remain legal because it does not involve the killing of animals. Instead, the focus should be on reducing the numbers of animals that foxes live off such as excess mice, rats, voles and shrews. We also support strengthening the Scottish Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 to the same standards and introducing a bill in Northern Ireland that replicates the same restrictions.

- England only.

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

- Scotland and the UK as a whole.

Include crustaceans and cephalopods in the definition of animals. This would include crustaceans such as lobsters, krill, barnacles, woodlice, crabs, shrimps, crayfish and prawns. It would also include cephalopods which include squid, cuttlefish, octopus and nautilus. This would ban practices such as boiling lobsters alive. This would involve adding to the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 whilst in Scotland it would involve changing the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

- Scotland, Northern Ireland and UK wide.

Ban the sale and use of snares and glue traps. Both would be banned as they cause animals amounts of pain and suffering trapped for long periods of time by glue or snares before they die. Instead, the focus should be on removing household food sources from these animals along with re-introducing animals to the UK that eat mice and rats which these traps are often used for. This would involve amending the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

- England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Ban cage farming by 2035. Instead, barns and free-range animals should be used with cage farming eventually banned. This would involve changing The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010, The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2007 and Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.

- UK wide.

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

- England and Wales.

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

- Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.

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

Equality:

We believe that everyone should have an equal opportunity to succeed in life. Whilst this runs through all of our policies, especially with more equal access to education, health care and justice but we also have some policies more specifically surrounding equality.

- UK wide, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

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

- UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- England and Wales.

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

- England and Scotland.

England should not have a state religion and the Church of Scotland should no longer be the national church of Scotland. England's current state religion is the Christian Church of England and the national church in Scotland is the Church of Scotland otherwise known as the Kirk. Both of these would be removed as state or national churches as the UK is both religiously diverse and includes those without religion at all. Therefore, no religion should be placed above all others by the state.

- England, Wales Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Provide Free Sanitary Products and Contraceptives. It is extremely concerning that issues such as period poverty still exists within the UK today. Therefore, we propose that condoms, femidoms, tampons, the pill, sanitary towels and menstrual cups should be provided free of charge. For distribution providing them through; schools, universities, food banks, toilets, homeless shelters, women's refuges, workplaces and through the NHS GP surgeries will be a priority. Whilst Scotland has a law for free period products and most of the UK has free contraceptives, for Scotland this would involve increasing the availability of free contraceptives and for the rest of the UK it would also include free sanitary products.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- Northern Ireland, Scotland and the UK.

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

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide.

Remove abortion from criminal law. Abortions should be regulated under medical regulations rather than under criminal law as it currently is under the Abortion Act of 1967.

- Scotland and the UK as a whole.

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

- England and Northern Ireland.

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

LGBTQ+ rights:

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Remove the delay in implementing the new curriculum in England. In June 2020, the Government pushed back the requirement for schools to start teaching their new LGBT+ inclusive curriculum from September 2020 to the summer term of 2021. We are asking for the Department of Education to move this date back to September, as this means that an inclusive LGBT+ education is taught sooner.

- UK and Scotland.

Reform the GRA to allow self-identification. To be able to change your gender, you need to have lived as your preferred gender for 2 years and get a diagnosis of gender dysphoria by 2 different doctors. This is a lengthy and difficult process that self-identification would prevent. We are advocating for a version of self-identification like Portugal uses, where people are allowed to change their gender by making a statutory declaration. In order to achieve this, different measures would need to be taken by different bodies depending on their jurisdiction due to devolution.

- Scotland and the UK.

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

- UK and Northern Ireland.

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

- UK parliament and Northern Ireland.

Reform the census so that data on the amount of LGBTQ+ people is collected.

At the moment, we are unaware of how many people are LGBTQ+ in the UK. We believe that this data should be collected in our next census, which is in 2021, with this already being done in Scotland.

- UK parliament.

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

- England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Abolish the ‘gay blood ban’ that stops sexually active gay and bisexual men from donating blood. Currently, there is a ban that prevents men from donating blood if they have had oral or anal sex with another man in the last three months. We believe that this legislation is outdated and discriminatory, hence we advocate for it to be scrapped.

- England, Wales Scotland and Northern Ireland.

To support local councils and devolved bodies in creating accessibility grants.

Currently in the UK there is a lack of LGBTQ+ venues that are fully accessible to those who are disabled, one example is that there are currently no LGBTQ+ venues that have disability access in central London. In order to solve this, we are pushing for central government and the devolved assemblies to provide grants to local authorities. These will be granted to local venues, to ensure that they remain accessible.

- Northern Ireland.

Ensure that transgender people are able to have fair access to social housing in NI.

At the moment, transgender people in NI can be refused social housing as transphobia is not recognised by the Housing Executive, meaning that transgender people are often unable to gain social housing points.

- UK as a whole.

Stop transgender people from being put in the wrong prisons. At the moment, if a prisoner hasn’t fully completed the GRA process and obtained a GRC (Gender Recognition Certificate), they will be put in the prison that is for the gender that they were born as. This issue would be solved by a GRA reform that allowed people to self-identify. How to do this within the UK was stated previously in this section.

- Scotland, Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole.

Have accommodation provided for non-binary and intersex people. Our proposed GRA reforms would mean that people have the ability to identify as being non-binary and be recognised as intersex, with this being a legally recognised gender identity. Therefore, our prison system would need to reflect that, with non-binary and intersex people also being accommodated.

Transport:

As countries around the world invest in new transport infrastructure, the UK is falling behind. We believe the UK needs to invest in new technologies to update its infrastructure and to ensure we manage the railways properly. This will allow us to connect communities, rural businesses and the UK as a whole.

Railways:

- UK (network rail).

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

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

- Wales (Transport for Wales) going to be nationalised, Scotland (Transport Scotland) franchises, Northern Ireland (Department for Infrastructure) nationalised, England (Department for Transport).

A Mixture of Public and Private Providers Running Trains. One of the largest issues with the UK's train system is the lack of competition which has ended in delayed services, higher prices and poor customer satisfaction. Although we still believe in the government issuing contracts to private companies to run an area of railway, they need to be strengthened.

If a company fails in properly providing the service, then they will be replaced by nationalised trains until a suitable company to run the railways can be found. This should include poor customer service or excessive delays. Secondly, the government should allow charities, community organisations and other organisations to bid to run railways.

This will help both ordinary people and businesses that use the railways as extra competition should drive down fares.

- UK (network rail).

A review into the trains used by HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail. The HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail lines should be completed as they are too far into development to cancel them. To potentially improve these lines, we support a review

into whether faster trains can be used on the lines including maglev trains as are being built within Japan.

Roads:

- Wales, Scotland, England, (Northern Ireland?).

Invest in Roads. Extra investment in roads means the government allocating more money for highways England along with extra money for the Welsh and Scottish governments which can be used to increase funding for Transport Scotland, the North and mid Wales trunk road agent and the south Wales trunk road agent. This funding should be targeted at rural areas, especially in Wales and the Highlands. It may also be possible for new roads to be white to reflect more heat and to cool the surface temperature during hot weather.

- UK wide.

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

- UK wide, London (Transport for London).

A Mixture of Public and Private Providers Running Buses. If a bus company has low customer satisfaction ratings or have caused excessive delays as a result of that company's fault, then public buses can be run as an alternative option. We should also allow charities, community organisations and other organisations to bid to run bus routes. This would help to create competition between different bus providers. This will drive down fares especially helping students and the elderly who rely on our bus services.

- UK wide, London (Transport for London),

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

- Only applies in England,

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

Social security:

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

- Northern Ireland, Scotland and the UK,

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

This will be available to anyone earning below a living wage, who is over 18 years of age and has below a certain amount in savings. The payments will increase with inflation and there are several circumstances in which the payments will be larger. They need to cover any training, job interviews or travel for NHS treatment people need.

A Minimum Income is a simple system that would streamline social security. It would replace Universal Credit system, housing benefits, jobseekers' allowance, Income Support, the Cold Weather Payment, the Warm Home Discount Scheme and the Winter Fuel Payment.

A series of top-up systems:

- UK wide.

The Parental Leave top-up. If you have children, the top-up will work so it is either added to statutory paternity pay given to you by your employer or your minimum income so it pays a living wage. This will last a year in total although the person giving birth to the child will have an extra 4 weeks off before the child is born. This will be at 90% of normal pay, 25% of which will be paid by the employer and 75% of which will be paid by the government. It will be split between partners with both partners having to take at least 30% of the total time with the rest being split however they want. The first payment will be larger to deal with the initial costs of having a child and after that payments will increase with inflation. They will then reduce as the child gets older and allows for part time parental leave. For those that are on a minimum income, after the year comes to an end they will receive a smaller payment at the same rate as child benefits for the next 5 years. This would replace statutory paternity pay, statutory Shared Parental Pay, paternity leave, shared parental leave, child benefits, maternity pay and maternity allowance.

- UK wide.

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

- Scotland, Northern Ireland and the UK.

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

- Northern Ireland and the UK.

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

- Northern Ireland, Scotland, and the UK.

Disability top-up. If someone is unable to work due to disability, then they can receive a Negative Income Tax. This would include a living wage payment for those out of work as a result of injury or disability with payments for those with extra requirements such as equipment or individual carers on top of this if needed. This would also be available to people who are self-employed and are unwell. There is no time or age limit for how long someone can receive this payment and the individual, or if need be a guardian, will receive the money. We would also link NHS services to this program to ensure those who need help receive it. It would replace the disability living allowance, the personal independence payment, incapacity benefit, Attendance Allowance and the Employment Support Allowance.

- Whole UK.

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

Justice:

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- Whole UK, Northern Ireland

A Drug Legalisation and Decriminalisation Program. This would involve making most class C and B drugs legal whilst decriminalising class A drugs. Legalisation will remove any penalties on the supply or consumption of drugs. Decriminalisation, on the other hand, is where consumption of drugs will only incur a minor penalty, but supply would still be illegal. We would also include referrals to addiction treatment rather than prison sentences.

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

domestically and any increased tax revenue could be used to increase funding the NHS.

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Set the Minimum Age at Which Someone Can be Charged for a Crime to 13. Currently the minimum age someone can be tried for a crime is 10 years of age which we feel is too low. The age must be appropriate to when an individual can tell right from wrong. This level is extremely low compared to other countries around the world, so we feel that it needs to be increased to an age where children are more likely to understand their actions.

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

Foreign Affairs:

We support the UK being an outward looking country that supports free trade and globalisation. With the UK exiting the European Union, although we do not take a view on the UK's EU membership, we feel the UK should align itself to the European Free Trade Association.

- All UK wide.

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

Support a Single International Organisation to Run Economic Cooperation. We support the; International Standards Organisation, CODEX and the WTO being amalgamated into the United Nations regional bodies. We would seek to replace regional blocs like NAFTA with three broad stages of integration. The first will be equivalent to having a free trade deal with the other countries in the bloc, the second a bloc with no trade barriers to goods, services or capital and the third an economic union like the EU. This would also involve the United Nations being strengthened so it can play a large role in promoting peace around the world and allow different groups to appeal to the United Nation more effectively when they feel they have been mistreated.

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

Agree New Free Trade Deals Across the World. The UK should begin free trade negotiations with countries around the world to lower or abolish tariffs and non-tariff barriers. This will hopefully start to from a base of EFTA's set of free trade deals if we join the organisation. New agreements should especially focus on developing countries as whilst aid is important in the short term, in the long-term, trade is incredibly valuable for helping these economies. This will boost the UK economy and the economies of countries we sign free trade deals with.

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

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

A capped and skills-based immigration system. We support a cap on immigration set by a parliamentary debate each year and a points-based immigration system. The points-based system will be configured based on what skills shortages need to be filled which should include consultations with businesses and public services. This system would also prioritise family reunification.

Remove Students from Immigration Statistics. This is due to the high numbers of students that leave the UK after their studies are completed and that students also often only stay a few years.

European Free Trade Association:

Re-Join the European Free Trade Association. The UK was a founding member of EFTA which should make it easier to re-join the organisation. EFTA membership will also give the UK free trade deals negotiated by EFTA as a group along with the ability to negotiate its own free trade deals outside of these. Membership would also give the UK a say in the EFTA and EEA institutions.

Re-join the Single Market. The UK should also re-join the EEA (Single Market) which can be accessed through EFTA membership. This would mean only accepting laws relating to Single Market participation, a large proportion of which comes from global bodies making the UK's relationship with the EU simply an economic one. While we would participate in the Single Market we would be outside the Common Agricultural policy, the common fisheries policy, the EU's security policies, EU foreign policy, justice policies and home affairs policies. Although the UK would be outside all these areas, we would still be free to agree deals with the EU on these areas. Re-joining in the Single Market would also mean many of the economic aspects of our EU relationship would remain the same.

Have a Say on EU Laws Both in Global Bodies and in the EU. We would be able to influence new EU laws during their early stages inside the EU and we would have the ability to reject any new EU laws in the EFTA council. However, the UK must choose what laws it contests carefully as the EU does have the ability to retaliate against the use of these measures. Many EU laws also come from global bodies where the UK would have a full vote, seat, the ability to propose new laws and where decisions are made unanimously, a deciding vote.

Participate in EU Agencies. We should seek to remain part of the European Medicines Agency and other relevant agencies to the UK; although agency's related to the Schengen area will not be needed.

Leave All EU Institutions. The two-pillar structure of the EFTA+EEA agreement means the UK wouldn't be governed by EU institutions like the EU Commission, council or the European Court of Justice. Two of the main bodies in the EEA are the EFTA court and council. EFTA court rulings are advisory unlike in the ECJ and we would have more influence with one member one vote still applying and less members overall. It has also made decisions different to those made by the ECJ. The other main body is the EFTA council where decisions are taken unanimously.

Safeguard Measures to Control Immigration. Safeguard measures would be available to the UK as an EFTA+EEA member. These measures have no time limit, it's up to the member state rather than the EU to trigger them and to decide whether they meet the requirements of the safeguard measures. These measures can be used to control immigration through a quota system which would allow the UK to implement a fairer system of immigration. Safeguard measures on free movement have been used before and resulted in Liechtenstein agreeing a permanent deal with the EU on immigration. Even if these measures were challenged by the EU; EFTA council and EEA joint committee decisions are taken unanimously. The eventual aim of this would be to reach an agreement with the EU but until then safeguard measures could be used. The eventual aim would be a permanent deal negotiated in the EEA joint committee on immigration.

There is also some debate around safeguard measures and how much the EU can do to stop countries from using them. However, if challenged by the EU the UK can make its case as to why their use is fair and within the rules set out in Articles 112-114 of the EEA agreement.

Remain Outside Schengen. The UK would not need to be part of the Schengen zone as it's not included in the EEA agreement.

Maintain Passporting Rights With the EU. One of the main issues around the UK leaving the single market for banks is that passporting may not continue, in the EFTA+EEA agreement they would. They allow banks to operate across EU borders more easily.

Keep the Pound. The EEA Agreement does not include adoption of the Euro so the UK would be able to keep the pound.

Continue to Take Part in EU Programs. The UK can still take part in EU science and education programs which are very important to the UK economy along with UK cooperation with the EU.

Payments to the EU Would be Optional. The payment is split into three parts. For any EU programs the UK wants to take part in they will have to pay the EU for them, and we support remaining in programs like Erasmus+. There are also payments to poorer EU countries which are a form of aid along with payments for EFTA membership and neither of these goes to the EU.

Remain Under the EU's VAT Rules. Whilst being in this situation gives the UK the freedom to change VAT levels from EU VAT levels this should only be done if it doesn't create issues that can't be solved with the Northern Ireland border. One of the issues that highlighted the issues with the EU controlling VAT rates was the tampon tax.

Agree New Free Trade Deals Outside the EU's Customs Union. As a member of EFTA, the UK could make its own free trade deals as it wouldn't be part of the EU's Customs Union. For instance, Iceland has agreed a free trade deal with China. We would also try to keep our current EU negotiated free trade deals through presumptions of continuity, at least until we have the time to agree a new deal with them.

Build Up Global Bodies. Brexit will allow the UK to spearhead globalisation and outside the EU, it will be firmly in our interests to do so. Firstly, this will involve the UK supporting developing countries through aid and signing free trade deals with other countries to reduce the UK's reliance on the EU's internal market. Secondly, working to strengthen global bodies will also reduce the UK's reliance on the EU's internal market if good EU standards are applied globally or regionally through organisations such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Thirdly is the existing trend of globalisation, which is opening markets outside of the EU, something we feel the UK can support countries with.

The UK will then withdraw from the EU's Single market. We will trigger Article 127 of the EEA Agreement to leave the EEA. This will give the UK one year to sort out what happens to any regulation that isn't already covered by global bodies and if need be sort out non-economic ties with the EU like security arrangements. The end game would be a full return of powers from the EU covering everything apart from trade and security which would have been taken up by global bodies. The UK will no longer be paying into the EU so the UK should ensure all current subsidies continue.

We Will Then Leave EFTA and the Single Market. The UK will then withdraw from the EU's Single market and EFTA. We will trigger Article 127 of the EEA Agreement to leave the EEA. This will give the UK one year to sort out what happens to any regulation that isn't already covered by global bodies and if need be, sort out non-economic ties with the EU like security arrangements. The end game would be a full return of powers from the EU covering everything apart from trade and security which would have been taken up by global bodies. The UK will no longer be paying into the EU so the UK should ensure all current subsidies continue.

Defence:

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

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

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

Give Military Personnel More Support by Reducing the Size of the Military. We believe that the size of the army should be reduced over time whilst the funding levels will remain the same. Both new technology and there being no large-scale conflicts makes a larger army unnecessary. Rather than being through redundancies, it would simply be a case of hiring fewer new military personnel. This would focus more on quality rather than quantity, a smaller number of military personnel but better equipped and supported. This would give greater ability to improve vocational education within the army, housing, pay, equipment and care for veterans.

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

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

Although keeping some level of deterrent is necessary, we support keeping the number of nuclear warheads the UK has at a minimum. Decreases can be achieved

both through agreements that involve other countries also reducing their nuclear stockpiles along with the reduction of our own stockpile until it is as low as possible whilst still being a deterrent. We would also keep under review the costs and utility of our nuclear defence system in the future. We furthermore support keeping our submarines on which nuclear weapons are housed up to date and therefore we support the Dreadnought replacement for the vanguard submarines.

Housing:

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

- Councils in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- Councils in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A New Purchasing System for Council Houses. Right to buy should be replaced by a new scheme which will allow councils to build more houses. In this system when tenants are earning enough, they will be able to pay money towards a deposit to buy their council house. When the tenant decides to buy the house, the mortgage payments for the property will go to the council to allow them to build new houses or renovate existing ones for new owners. This means people living in council houses are more likely to care for them as they are given the possibility of owning it in the future.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Expand the Help to Buy Scheme. The help to buy scheme helps people buying a property for the first time financially by allowing first time buyers of new houses to borrow money from the government alongside a traditional mortgage. The main aim would be to increase the loans available to house buyers from the government. This would include help to buy which is available in England, help to buy Scotland, help to buy Wales and help to buy Northern Ireland.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

New Houses Should Have Proper Insulation. This would require new houses to follow passive-house standards which means houses are insulated to keep them at a stable temperature. This both makes houses more energy efficient and reduces heating bills.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Support New Garden Cities. Alongside new houses being built in existing towns, cities and villages, new settlements should be garden cities. These give residents more natural space and reduce the overcrowding of houses.

- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

- England and Northern Ireland.

Copy Finland's 'Housing First' Scheme. This should be based on Finland's success in tackling the number of homeless people on its streets. It would also help the estimated that 24% of our homeless population that is LGBTQ+ with this often being due to their sexuality. The UK's current model relies on temporary accommodation and essentially taking steps towards getting a new house. We would copy Finland's 'Housing First' scheme which instead focuses on getting people a house as soon as possible rather than just temporary accommodation. This would be backed up by support workers, a focus on lifelong education and addiction treatment so people leaving homelessness don't return to being homeless. We also support expanding the existing housing first system by the Housing Executives Supporting People program in Northern Ireland.

Culture, media and sport:

The UK needs an open and accountable media, learning from the News International phone hacking scandal is key to reforming our media industry. The government must also keep up with the growth of the internet and protect anyone using it.

- All policies are UK as a whole.

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

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

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

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

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