

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

# POLITICS FIRST

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**TOM BRAKE** ON THE FUTURE OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

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## SAFEGUARDING BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE TREASURE:

THE

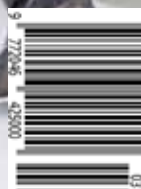
# NHS

JEREMY HUNT, ANDREW GWYNNE, PHILIPPA WHITFORD, VIRENDRA SHARMA, NORMAN TEBBIT, DAVE PRENTIS, SUSANNAH MAKRAM AND JO-ANN CAREY



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**DAVID CAMERON**  
**HARRIET HARMAN**  
**ANGUS ROBERTSON**  
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INTERVIEWS: ANDREA JENKYNs AND DR MARC ABRAHAM





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Photograph by Richard Davies. Researchers at the University of Manchester, 2013.

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# CLEAR BRITAIN FOR TAKE-OFF



Welcome to the autumn party conference edition of *Politics First*! And what a party conference season it is set to be, following this May's shocking and monumental general election result.

With the Conservatives having won a majority, Labour still reeling from its defeat, the SNP riding the crest of a wave and the Liberal Democrats in a state of paralysis, UK politics has not been this fascinating, or exciting, for decades.

In the Leaders section, David Cameron, Harriet Harman, Angus Robertson and Tim Farron discuss the current state of their respective parties, the impact and significance of the general election result and how they intend to move forward.

The future of the NHS is one of the most pressing and potentially dangerous issues facing the new Conservative government and, indeed, the country as a whole. And with the opposition parties sensing political gain from the government's policy on the NHS, the debate over this vexed issue will feature very prominently in this Parliament. To add to that discussion, the Spotlight of this edition is on how best to safeguard the NHS in the long-term. Jeremy Hunt, Andrew Gwynne, Philippa Whitford, Virendra Sharma, Norman Tebbit, Dave Prentis, Susannah Makram and Jo-Ann Carey put forward their proposals.

Jon Snow, presenter of Channel 4 News, gives us an exclusive interview on how this year's conference season will compare to previous ones and discusses what the Conservatives, Labour, the SNP and the Liberal Democrats will be seeking from their respective conferences.

Philip Hammond sets out how the UK will meet its challenges in what is an ever-changing and ever-dangerous world, while Tom Brake reflects on where next for the Liberal Democrats. Gloria De Piero argues that transparency is key to reducing the gender pay gap, and Liam Fox argues that the Eurozone constitutes a major threat to global economic stability.

Given that this is the conference edition of *Politics First*, there are many more articles to read, from members of the Cabinet to members of the Shadow Cabinet to prominent backbenchers in both the House of Commons and House of Lords.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition, and I look forward to seeing you in Bournemouth, Brighton, Manchester and Aberdeen.

**Dr Marcus Papadopoulos, Publisher/Editor**

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW:

# JON SNOW

## *A conference season to remember*

**Jon Snow, presenter of Channel 4 News, discusses with Marcus Papadopoulos the autumn party conference season in the context of this May's monumental general election and what the public can expect to see happening in Bournemouth, Brighton, Manchester and Aberdeen**

**A**t the beginning of this year, few people at Westminster, and elsewhere across Britain, would have predicted that going into this year's autumn party conference season, one of the UK's main political parties would be in government alone, having achieved a majority at the general election.

The Conservative Party's victory at the general election this May constitutes one of the most extraordinary results in British electoral history and has heralded the decline of the Liberal Democrats, while sending the Labour Party into free fall. The UK has a Conservative-majority government pursuing and implementing very Conservative policies, against the backdrop of a marginalised opposition.

However, while commentators refer to Labour, the official opposition, as being "marginalised", the same commentators

consider the Scottish National Party to be actually leading the charge in providing rigorous and effective opposition to the Conservative government. Indeed, the SNP's 56 MPs at Westminster can potentially derail numerous policies of the government, such is the small majority which David Cameron commands in the House of Commons.

Has the Conservatives' honeymoon period finished? Can Labour recover from its emphatic defeat at the general election? Where next for the SNP? And are the Liberal Democrats a spent force in British politics?

Those pertinent questions, in the context of the autumn party conference season, are addressed in an exclusive interview here by one of the most prominent political journalists and commentators in the UK: Jon Snow.

Jon, who has been the face of Channel 4 News since 1989, has been on the political circuit for nearly four decades, having covered numerous turning points in history, such as the fall of the Berlin Wall (and the subsequent collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe) and the release of Nelson Mandela from prison.

Jon's open-minded take on domestic and international affairs, and how he is undeterred in questioning the mainstream narrative, such as on the Syrian conflict, has earned him widespread applause and respect from people up and down the UK.

With the autumn party conference season before the country, Jon offers his analysis and thoughts on what could happen when the Liberal Democrats, Labour, the Conservatives and the SNP converge on Bournemouth, Brighton, Manchester and Aberdeen, respectively.





**Q** How will this year's autumn party conference season compare to previous ones in recent years?

**A** This conference season will be like no other. We are in the midst of a political firestorm in which the disconnect between Westminster and the electorate has never been more clearly set out. Who could have predicted that the Scottish National Party would so upheave the body politic in the way they have in 2015? Or that Jeremy Corbyn would so dominate the pre-conference season reporting with his unexpectedly startling dash for the Labour leadership?

Who could have predicted that the Liberal Democrats would be so ferociously punished by the electorate for establishing a most stable and, at times, productive coalition.

Labour's unexpectedly dramatic leadership campaign has ensured that their conference will be thick with debate over the party's soul. Jeremy Corbyn not only became the darling of the social network, but threw into the contest issue after issue which many in New Labour had hoped had been buried for all time. Corbyn connected with alienated voters, both young and old. Whether the conference decides to travel with any of the ideas which seem to have captivated so many party members in the leadership election, or try to hang on to what once served New Labour so well, will be one of the many great floor and fringe debates that will dominate this conference in Brighton.

As the most seasoned party leader at this year's conferences, David Cameron, after ten years in charge of the Tories, has a problem. Close scrutiny of the maths from the 2015 election leave him in charge and in power, but with only 36 per cent of the votes. His party may be tempted to rest on their laurels, and it will be hard for them not to, given the challenges facing Labour and the Liberal Democrats. But Mr Cameron has his own problems – not least an expanded band of very seriously anti-European MPs. And that, as John Major would be able to tell him, can, and probably will, spell a lot of trouble for him both in the hall in Manchester and on the fringes.

As for the SNP conference in Aberdeen, the mood there will be exuberant and



Photo: Hayley Barlow

**Which of the four parties will truly connect with the public outside their assorted conference halls?**

slightly disbelieving. Those attending will likely be both younger and more stimulating than has been seen at any political party conference in recent times. By having 56 MPs at Westminster, the SNP is, without a doubt, a mover and shaker in UK politics...and they are letting the other parties know it.

**Q** Where next for the SNP?

**A** They have to sort out serious issues in the Scottish Parliament and continue to represent the demands and needs of alienated voters across the UK – and I stress the whole of the UK, not just Scotland, as the SNP's stance on the Hunting Act and the Welfare Reform and Work Bill has demonstrated. In Nicola Sturgeon, they have a leader respected well

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beyond the Scottish border.

**Q Will Labour have come to terms with its emphatic defeat at this May's general election by the time party delegates arrive in Brighton?**

**A** They have two things to come to terms with. Firstly, the defeat, and secondly, the individual who they have elected to be their new leader. Both will take some time to come to terms with. Despite the passage of time since the election, and the tumultuous process of electing their new leader, the defeat may now prove very secondary to the issue of who now leads them. It will also be interesting to see if Ed Miliband appears. However, the past was not just Mr Miliband. I would also add that Labour has never come to terms with the Blair inheritance, which, after all, domestically was very successful but externally was, eventually, utterly ruinous for the party. One senses that every time ISIS strikes, the electorate is reminded of the catastrophe which was the decision to go to war in Iraq. It is one central issue which arguably contributes to the current alienation of the electorate to which I have already referred. Mr Blair is likely to go down in UK history as having run the most disastrous foreign policy since, and including, Anthony Eden.

**Q Could the Liberal Democrats' much spoken about "fight back" begin, in earnest, in Bournemouth?**

**A** I believe that some kind of fight back will begin at their conference. While the Liberal Democrats will be saddened that they paid the price for having done the decent thing, I suspect that out of the four party conferences, the Liberal Democrat one might have the most fight

back aspect to it. That, in part, is because some of the old warhorses, largely unseen since the election, could be back on stage – people who had ministerial power and now do not have a seat, such as Vince Cable, Ed Davey and Danny Alexander. However, Tim Farron's 'ambivalence' about the rights and wrongs of gay sex may wreak some continuing damage to the party.

**Q What soundbites will come out of the Liberal Democrat, Labour, Conservative and SNP conferences?**

**A** Well, you have not mentioned the Green Party Conference, and UKIP had theirs this February. So a Green soundbite might be: 'With the UN Paris Summit on Climate Change opening this November, there has never been a more important time to join us'. For the Liberal Democrats: 'It ain't over till it's over'. For Labour: 'Thank you, Jeremy Corbyn, for what you have done for us!'. From the Conservative conference, this: 'After 40 years, can we please bury Europe as an issue'. And from the SNP conference: 'If you want devolved power across the UK, learn from us!'

**Q How will the four party leaders use their respective conferences to appeal to the public?**

**A** David Cameron will most certainly use his conference to extensively appeal to the public, which he is extremely good at doing – after all, his roots in public relations come into full bloom when he is at a Tory Conference. The new Labour leader will somehow have to bury the worst of the past, apologise for the Iraq war, and come to terms with the Blair legacy, and move on. As for Tim Farron, he will want to ensure that his name gets an identity attached to it – a brand. And finally, Nicola Sturgeon will talk about the issues which people really care about - housing, education, foreign affairs, nuclear deterrence and more.

**Q Finally, can you provide a snappy dictum for the four party conferences.**

**A** Potentially explosive!

And the big question is: which of them will truly connect with the public outside their assorted conference halls?



## Jon Snow

**Born on 28 September 1947, in Ardingly, Sussex;**

**Attended The Pilgrim's School, Ardingly College, St Edward's School, Yorkshire Coast College and the University of Liverpool;**

**Prior to a career in media, worked at the New Horizon Youth Centre, a day centre for homeless young people in central London;**

**From 1983 to 1986, served as ITN's Washington correspondent, and from 1986 to 1989, served as ITN's diplomatic editor;**

**Since 1989, presenter of Channel 4 News;**

**Author of *Shooting History: A Personal Journey*.**

## JON CRAIG

Eye in the Sky



# Corbyn and Osborne: the darlings of conference

If anyone had told you a year ago that the darlings of the 2015 party conference season would be Jeremy Corbyn and George Osborne, you'd have thought they were mad.

Jeremy was pursuing apparently lost causes, handing in worthy but dull petitions at 10 Downing Street, raising obscure foreign issues at Prime Minister's Questions and was a figure of little influence on what's often called the "loony left".

Posh boy "Gideon", meanwhile, was so unpopular that he'd been booed by spectators at the Paralympics, was written off as a successor to David Cameron and was widely assumed to have given up any ambitions to be Tory leader or Prime Minister.

Yet this summer, "Corbyn-mania" gripped the nation as "Stormin' Corbyn" swept through the country playing to packed audiences and made political commentators look like mugs and his three leadership rivals appear lacklustre and very ordinary.

Osborne, meanwhile, basked in the glory of masterminding a shock Conservative election victory this May and in then delivering a summer Budget that was lauded for seizing all Labour's best policies and exploiting the post-election disarray in Her Majesty's Opposition. Along the way, he lost weight, got a new haircut and donned a hi-viz yellow jacket in every TV interview and photo-op.

So in just a few short months, Corbyn stormed from 200-1 as an outsider for the Labour leadership to bookies' favourite and front runner, while Osborne suddenly elbowed rivals Boris Johnson and Theresa May out of the way and installed himself as the clear front runner to be the next Tory leader.

Corbyn is portrayed by his detractors as a humourless Trot who doesn't tell jokes.

But in my experience, he can be quite amusing, in a modest and self-deprecating way.

I remember him telling me a funny story about a smart dinner party in his Islington North constituency attended by Tony and Cherie Blair. One of the guests said to Blair, who was then Prime Minister: "Our MP is Jeremy Corbyn." Blair sighed and said: "Ah, Jeremy. Jeremy hasn't made the journey."

I also remember chatting to Jeremy a few years back and asking him if he'd signed a Commons Early Day motion which was lambasting the Blair government for its latest sell-out. "Oh yes," he replied proudly. "I'm one of the usual suspects!"

George Osborne has been on the Tory journey with David Cameron for more than a decade now. But this year, for the first time, he will head for the Conservative Party Conference, being hailed by many of the party's MPs as the heir apparent.

While Labour's conference, in Brighton, will be a bitter inquest, with plenty of knives out for Ed Miliband, the Tories', in Manchester, will be a victory rally and celebration. David Cameron will get plenty of plaudits, but it will be Osborne - architect of both economic policy and election strategy - for whom the applause will be sweetest.

Not only has his star risen, but Boris Johnson's has waned. In recent years, Boris has been greeted like a rock star at Tory conferences. But this year, back in Parliament, he's finding there are other rising stars on the Conservative benches.

And while the Tory party has always adored a glamorous blond(e) - think Margaret Thatcher, Michael Heseltine, Boris - most activists are savvy enough to realise that when David Cameron steps down, they'll be choosing a Prime Minister, not a circus entertainer.

All political parties have their dissenters, too. While Cameron, Osborne and the Tories' top team enjoy their celebration, there will be plenty of grumbles from the excluded hard men of the Tory right, such as David Davis, Liam Fox and Owen Paterson.

The Conservatives sat back and watched Labour self-destruct during its leadership contest in the summer. But Tory hostilities over the European Union referendum, such as the argument about Cabinet ministers being free to campaign for Out as well as In, will resume in Manchester.

But Labour and its new leader have even bigger problems. The left will condemn the "austerity-lite" economic policies of Ed Miliband and the departed Ed Balls, while the Blairites will claim Miliband's "anti-business" agenda was a turn-off to voters.

There will also be bitter recriminations over the party's rout at the hands of the Scottish National Party in Scotland, and no doubt a vicious blame game with some bitter defeated ex-MPs wanting to settle old scores.

There will be recriminations, too, at the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth, which, with the party down to eight MPs, will be more like a wake than a political rally.

Tim Farron's election as leader was predictable and he has always been popular with party activists and so will do his best to pick party morale up off the floor. But don't expect to see many corporate sponsors or political journalists in Bournemouth this year. Bubbly and bookings will be well down and will almost have dried up.

It's the unpredictable that will be grabbing the attention and the headlines at the conferences this autumn: "Stormin' Corbyn" and "Yellow Jacket George".



# IN THE KNOW

The Government Knowledge Supplement

Issue 3

“IN MY FIRST INTERVIEW AFTER COMING INTO THE POST EARLIER THIS YEAR, I SAID THAT I WANTED ALL CHILDREN TO EXPERIENCE THE JOYS OF CHILDHOOD.

THAT IS THE CHALLENGE WE MUST SET OURSELVES TO ACHIEVE.”

ANNE LONGFIELD OBE  
The Children's Commissioner for England

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IN THE KNOW

## GOVKNOW EVENTS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES 2015

[childrenandyoungpeople2015.govknow.com](http://childrenandyoungpeople2015.govknow.com)

Thursday, 29th October 2015 | Central London

With a growing emphasis on taking a holistic approach to children and young people's services, so as to provide a foundation of emotional as well as physical well-being, this event will bring together representatives from across the CYPS sector and provide an opportunity for discussion on the emerging priorities, challenges and solutions.

With presentations from: The Office of The Children's Commissioner; Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health; The Children's Society; Institute of Child Health, University College London; Barnardos; Alliance for Children in Care and Care Leavers; British Association of Social Workers; and Adoption UK.



### MENTAL HEALTH – NEW VISIONS FOR PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND SUPPORT

[mentalhealth.govknow.com](http://mentalhealth.govknow.com)

Thursday, 12th November 2015 | Central London

The day will offer an opportunity for delegates to examine the way ahead for UK mental health policy. The event takes place in the context of serious concerns over the funding allocated to mental healthcare but also in the context of an election commitment for an extra £1.25 billion over 5 years, as well as a firm commitment in the Queen's speech to end the use of Police cells for those experiencing mental health crisis.

With presentations from: NHS England; Mental Health Foundation; Hammersmith and Fulham Mind; NICE; Centre for Mental Health; and the Richmond Fellowship.



### INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CONFERENCE

[healthandsocialcare.govknow.com](http://healthandsocialcare.govknow.com)

March 2016 | Central London

Delegates will focus on the key issue facing health and social care: how to ensure it has sufficient funding, the ways to support the commissioning of services which meet the needs of users as well as the implications of integration to the frontline workers.

With presentations from: Skills Care; Royal College of Nursing; NHS Alliance; Flexicare UK; and NHS England.

**Currently in development:** The Procurement and Efficiency Conference, Wednesday, 2nd March 2016, Central London. With a keynote presentation from the Crown Commercial Service.

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# IT IS OUR JOB TO ASPIRE FOR EVERY CHILD TO HAVE A POSITIVE CHILDHOOD

Ask any parent and they will say that, above all, they want their children to be happy, healthy, loved and fulfilled in life. How we achieve that is a subject of much debate. Public health and education are key, as is support for families and action to protect children from harm. Those are the mainstays of our public policy discourse.

But the experience of childhood itself, and with it the happiness and fulfilment of children as they navigate the joys and challenges of what it is to 'grow up', is one that we find a more difficult notion to grasp. That complicated and ever changing concept is one which does not fit neatly within narrow policy boundaries and the short timescales of our political system.

In my first interview after coming into post earlier this year, I said that I wanted all children to experience the joys of childhood. That is the challenge we must set ourselves to achieve.

We should, of course, remember that the vast majority of England's 12 million children are active, well-rounded individuals who are raised in warm, stable, loving family homes; who contribute hugely to their communities as children; and who will continue to do so into their teenage years and adulthood.

However, taking happiness as a barometer of our children's health and wellbeing, children in the UK are among the least happy in the developed world; levels of anxiety and mental health conditions are at record levels; and bullies make many children's lives unbearable.

A survey I undertook of over 700 children and young people found that the things they most value include having someone to care for them; being able to play (and not have the responsibilities of adults); and around a quarter say friendships and socialising (including on social media).

Children also have clear messages about how to improve childhood. For half, more freedom and independence to make their own decisions and be who they want to be is a priority. Just under half think that school could be improved, with less emphasis on examinations and more lessons focused on life skills.

And just under a third of children and young people say that childhood would be better if they were respected and had their views taken seriously. Those messages must inform our thinking in all that we do.

Although the majority of children continue to thrive in an increasingly complex world, the number of children left behind is already too large. The statistics on obesity, children at risk or experiencing harm, and those where the odds are stacked firmly against them, are at worrying levels. For all children, the quickening pace of change is relentless and is set to continue. As we look to the future, we need to think more carefully about the challenges we will be asking them to face.

Therefore we should focus on the best outcomes for children's' health, education, poverty and safety. But we must also aspire for something higher - a nation of children who are happy and are able to enjoy a full and positive childhood. The latter will not be achieved without the former but the happiness and joy of childhood cannot be something we ask our children to 'trade off' as a consequence.

That will require the political will to focus on the whole child and their family. It will require a focus on the long-term – not always a popular message during conference season – and a bipartisan approach as a national priority. Most of all, it will require us to listen and understand children's experiences of growing up. They are ready and waiting.



ANNE LONGFIELD OBE  
Children's Commissioner for England



The Office of The Children's Commissioner will be speaking at the GovKnow Children and Young People's Services Conference on Thursday 29th October 2015.

# GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE INNOVATORS IN TRAINING AND PUBLIC POLICY EVENTS

Government Knowledge is a prime supplier of training to Central Government through the Civil Service Learning contract, and offers an extensive portfolio of highly informative and in-depth training courses and conferences which cater for the public, private and third sectors.

We also specialise in designing and delivering bespoke courses across the UK and overseas and have supplied in-house training to organisations such as the Care Quality Commission, UK Trade and Investment, the Post Office and the Greater London Authority.

Below is a list of our upcoming events.

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STATISTICAL AWARENESS: WHAT CAN STATISTICS DO FOR MY PROFESSIONAL EFFECTIVENESS	LONDON	17/09/2015
LOBBYING FOR THE NOT FOR PROFIT SECTOR	KENSINGTON	22/09/2015
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SECTOR	LONDON	23/09/2015
UNDERSTANDING LAW: THE BASICS FOR PUBLIC AND THIRD SECTOR BODIES	LONDON	25/09/2015
INFLUENCING AND PERSUADING	BIRMINGHAM	07/10/2015
ADVANCED POLICY DEVELOPMENT: CREATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT	LEEDS	08/10/2015
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES (MSP)	CARDIFF	13/10/2015
INFLUENCING BEHAVIOUR THROUGH POLICY	LONDON	13/10/2015
STRATEGIC THINKING	LONDON	29/10/2015
THINKING ON THE SPOT	LONDON	03/11/2015
UNDERSTANDING CONTRACT LAW FOR PROCUREMENT	LONDON	10/11/2015
HOW PARLIAMENT WORKS	LONDON	10/11/2015

If you can't find what you are looking for please visit our website to view our full schedule or call **0845 647 7000** for further information.



# My name is Tom and I am undecided...

**In 2015, I made the decision to become disloyal and selfish. I joined the majority in the UK, who decide elections and skew the opinion polls. I became a floating voter.**

I made the decision to no longer support any single party and only cast my ballot for the manifesto which offers my family most – and it made me more engaged and interested in politics than ever before.

I have been active in politics since before I was able to vote so it was a massive shift. My usual party no longer spoke to me; they made all the right noises but there was something off in the delivery concerned more with telling me why not to vote for the other team, rather than vote for them. I need vision, not instruction.

I am not alone - a number of colleagues, friends and family members made a similar decision this year. Die hard Labour and Conservatives supporters turned to the Greens and UKIP because “other” parties were now in with a chance – particularly with the polls predicting Farage, Sturgeon and others would be kingmakers. I began to think that my singular vote may change the fate of an election where there were no “safe” seats. It was my responsibility to take my vote seriously because the person I elect may find themselves as holding the deciding vote on the NHS, education system or a war.

The 2015 election took on a new dimension. I threw myself into my new responsibility - I watched the leader debates/interviews (without internally booing and hissing candidates), read the manifestos of all the parties (without looking for holes) and, perhaps, my favourite new experience was taking a dispassionate view of the media coverage – incidentally social media this year was amazing, both the official and unofficial.

I found I was enjoying politics again. I engaged with each of the candidates when they knocked on the door (none, however, accepted the offer of a cup of tea and a sit down), and I took pleasure in the exasperation in their eyes as I questioned each one on local as well as national issues. I particular enjoyed the candidate who three minutes into an exchange said: “I’m polling third, I want to help but it’s unlikely” (honesty I suppose?). I was that guy, the one I feared when canvassing, the one who was ‘too interested’, ‘too happy’, the one you suspected had a shrine to you made from torn up pieces of newspaper in their basement.

So come Election Day, I weighed up all I had read and voted ‘freely’ for the first time. I felt guilty because I did not cast my ballot for my ‘usual’ party. I left the community centre feeling proud that I had made a dispassionate choice – I think I may have placed a happy face emoji in the box, instead of the more casual X. Voting felt like a game of skill.

In the end, the election was not particularly close. My constituency was very safe - the eventual winner won by more than 20,000 - and the UK political system failed to change (there is still time, I suppose). However, I have found a new ideology which increases your political engagement and makes you focus on the issues important to you, rather than the politics.

I am undecided and I could not recommend it more.

**Thomas Raynsford**  
**Director, Policy-UK**

# I urge you to look at your TV and cinema screens with a questioning mind - something has to change

Whatever your political party, however the voters treated you in the latest elections and no matter how many difficulties you currently confront, you can almost certainly be proud of one area in which you have made startling improvements. In recent years, your party has become much better at identifying and promoting talented women.

Across the political spectrum, women have become much more prominent. They run for – and sometimes win – the leadership of their party. Their voice is heard in policy discussions and their personal style is rapidly changing the tone of political discourse. Most importantly, all of that is becoming unremarkable. It is entirely normal. Among the new generation, there are women everywhere and no one seriously questions that it is to the benefit of all politics.

But not every sector is improving quite so fast. Boards of large companies are, at last, recruiting female talent, but middle management often fails to reflect the changes at the top. Pay equality still lags on and, while women now outperform men both academically and in the early years of their careers, somehow they slip back later – right around the time they have to think about whether or not they are going to have children.

In my own area of film and television, women have made great progress in becoming producers and production executives. Media professionals like to think of themselves as progressive. They can be positively smug about their liberal fair-mindedness. But, under the surface, all is not well. An executive of a major payroll company recently analysed the salaries she was processing. Not only were the women being paid less but even in the areas traditionally dominated by women - such as wardrobe and makeup – the men were being paid more. Who knew a male make-up artist was worth so much more than a woman? Apparently, they are.

The way we portray men and women in our stories must affect the way we see ourselves and others. Because of that, the actress Meryl Streep has funded efforts to train more women screenwriters, while Thelma & Louise star, Geena Davis, has directed fascinating research into the portrayal of women on screen. But all of that may be in vain, unless we can change one truly shocking statistic. Only 8 per cent of all drama – whether on film or television - is directed by women. Let us turn that around: 92 per cent of all drama is directed by men.

The watchword of our time is diversity. We are all anxious that minorities are treated fairly and that our politics and media reflect the full range of our people – black, white, gay, straight, whatever. But where is the diversity in 92 per cent of our stories being told by men? At the very least, that represents a staggering waste of talent. And because our media – like our politics – seeks to reflect our society, there is a catastrophic deficit here. If you are a politician or an activist, I urge you to look at your TV and cinema screens with a questioning mind. And start asking our broadcasters and film-makers about what they intend to do about it.



**Kate Kinninmont MBE**  
CEO, Women in Film & Television (UK)



Kate will be speaking at the Policy-UK forum Women in Television: On Screen, Off Screen and Leadership on Wednesday 30th September 2015

## Early years identification and intervention

Early intervention is important in improving the long-term health, emotional, educational and social outcomes of young people and reducing the risk of negative outcomes. High quality early education, which supports home learning and access to necessary support, improves school readiness.

The recent Public Health England report Improving school readiness – Creating a better start for London highlighted the importance of children achieving a good level of development (GLD) in the Early Years and the negative effects of not investing in quality early care and education.

Those children will struggle with social skills, reading, maths and physical skills, which, in turn, all impact on their future outcomes and life chances. In London, that will be the case for about 2 in 5 children.

Inequalities for children reaching five, particularly children eligible for Free School Meals and children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND), are outlined in the report and are confirmed by results from the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.

Just 19 per cent of SEND pupils achieved a GLD compared, with 66 per cent of those pupils with no identified SEND. Pupils with a special educational need have the largest attainment gaps when compared to those without SEND - and it has widened.

The Parliamentary Inquiry into childcare for disabled children (2014) highlights a significant shortfall of knowledge, skills and confidence in providing quality childcare and education to disabled children. With the changes outlined in the new SEND Code of Practice (2015), successful implementation will require greater cooperation between education, health and social care and early years practitioners.

From September 2015, the Integration of the EYFS 2 year progress check and the Healthy Child Programme 2-2 ½ year Health Review will provide a holistic assessment of the child and, where appropriate, identify additional support to improve outcomes for young children.

One year on from the introduction of the SEND 0-25 Code of practice, practitioners are calling for advice and support to best support the most vulnerable children and their families and help them close the gap for these children.

NDNA responded to the Government's consultation on the new SEND Code of practice and welcomed the joining up of education, health and care for children from birth to age 25. As well as providing ongoing advice and support, factsheets and training for Early Years Practitioners NDNA has embarked on a SEND Champions project with funding from the Department for Education (DFE). The project was launched in 2014 and now 100 early years practitioners have signed up as SEND champions.

The aim is to drive improvement in choice and quality of childcare for children and families across nine English regions. That will be achieved by increasing the confidence and skills of SEND Champions situated in early years who will, in turn, help to increase the skills and confidence of fellow practitioners.

NDNA recognises the challenges settings sometimes face with managing Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) children. The intention of the SEND Champion network is to enable settings to support parents in accessing early education entitlement through the "Local Offer" and to support individual practitioners across the whole setting.

The SEND Champions are also vital in helping NDNA to continue to identify the type of training, support and guidance that early years settings require through case studies, sharing ideas and regular audits.



**Hazel Davies**  
NDNA Early Years Adviser



Hazel spoke at the Policy-UK Forum on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - EHC Plans, New Code of Practice and Post 18 support, Tuesday, 8th September 2015

## Policy-UK Events Schedule

Public policy conferences, seminars and roundtables – bringing together central and local government, business, charities and consumer-citizen groups to examine the future direction of legislative and regulatory reform.

Below is a list of our upcoming events.

### Women in Television: On Screen, Off Screen and Leadership

30TH SEPTEMBER | BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, W1J 0BA

### The Future of Art, Craft and Design in Schools: Next Steps for Cultural Education

22ND OCTOBER | CENTRAL LONDON

### The Way Forward for Copyright – European Reform and Implications to the UK

27TH OCTOBER | BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, W1J 0BA

### Health Tourism – The Challenges for European Cross-Border Access, Data Handling and the NHS

29TH OCTOBER | CENTRAL LONDON

### 21st Century Assessment: A Way Ahead for High Stakes Testing, eMarking and eAssessment

3RD NOVEMBER | CENTRAL LONDON

### Computing in Schools: Supporting, Assessing and Inspiring Learning Through Technology

10TH NOVEMBER | CENTRAL LONDON

### Improving Social Mobility in the UK – From Education to Employment

18TH NOVEMBER | CENTRAL LONDON

### Delivering Dignity at the End of Life

3RD DECEMBER | CENTRAL LONDON

### Public Service Content – Online, On Television, On Demand

8TH DECEMBER | CENTRAL LONDON

### General Data Protection Regulation – Harmonisation, Implementation and Business Challenges

THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER | CENTRAL LONDON

### The Next Steps for UK Tourism: Competition, Regulation and Regions

4TH FEBRUARY 2016 | CENTRAL LONDON

### Initial Teacher Training – Addressing the Shortage, Improving Standards and Implementing a Content Framework

23RD FEBRUARY | CENTRAL LONDON

For further information about any of the above events please visit [www.policy-uk.com](http://www.policy-uk.com), or alternatively call **0845 647 9000**. You can also email us at [info@policy-uk.com](mailto:info@policy-uk.com)





# Whaling on our doorstep!

Commercial whaling was banned worldwide in 1986 yet record numbers of whales and dolphins are being cruelly slaughtered in the north-east Atlantic, on Britain's doorstep. This large-scale whaling is escalating in the absence of any meaningful opposition.

Norwegian and Icelandic whalers are targeting some 1,500 whales for slaughter in the next few months. In the Faroe Islands, just 200 miles from Scotland, up to a 1,000 pilot whales and dolphins or more are driven ashore and cruelly slaughtered each year even though high levels of toxic pollutants threaten the whales and the people eating them.

While Australia has successfully taken Japan to the International Court of Justice over its whaling in Antarctica, whaling in the UK and Europe's backyard is escalating virtually unchallenged. Shipments of whale meat from endangered whales killed in Iceland have even passed through the ports of Southampton, Rotterdam and Hamburg on their way to Japan!

Increasing numbers of whales will be slaughtered, including whales that migrate through our waters, so long as no meaningful action is taken. While the EU was prepared to sanction both Iceland and the Faroes over unilateral herring quotas, there is seemingly no interest in applying political and economic sanctions against whaling that would end it overnight. Yet the fishing vessels, companies and individuals involved in this whaling actually depend on selling their fish catches to the UK and the rest of Europe where public opposition to whaling is greatest.

Campaign Whale is calling on all MPs to support a tougher stand against this mass slaughter of whales and dolphins taking place on Britain and Europe's doorstep.

For more information please visit [www.campaign-whale.org](http://www.campaign-whale.org), Tel **01273 515416** or email [enquiries@campaign-whale.org](mailto:enquiries@campaign-whale.org)

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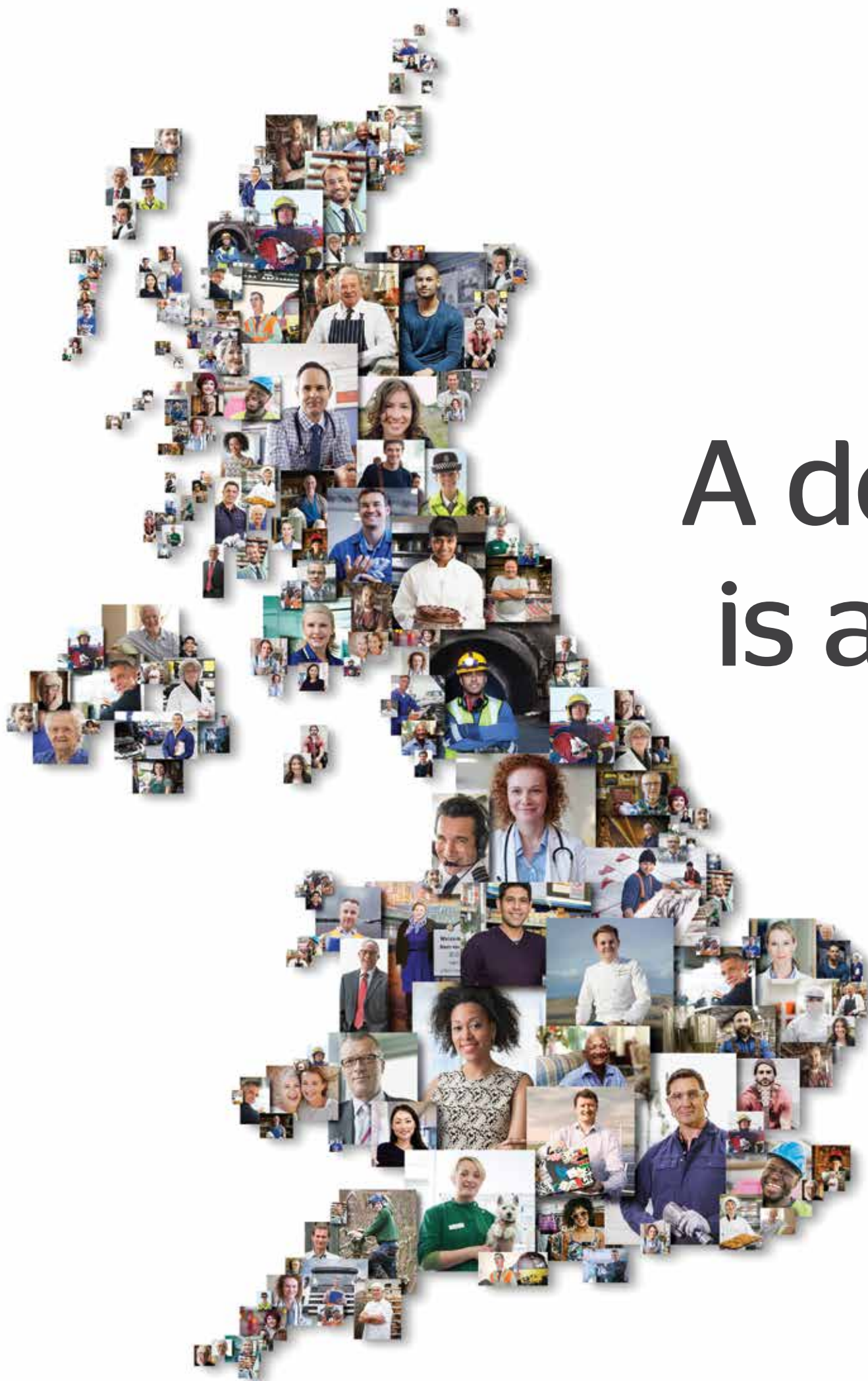
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# Not a soft option: how statutory PSHE could develop the skills employers need

**The government is due to respond shortly to a Commons Education Committee recommendation that Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education be made a statutory part of the school curriculum. Joe Hayman, Chief Executive of the PSHE Association, the leading national body for the subject, explains how this move could have significant benefits for pupils, employers and the economy.**

PSHE education is the school subject which teaches vital skills for life and work including communication skills, teamwork and resilience, yet it is often seen as a soft option because it is a non-statutory, non-examined subject. When taught well, however, it is anything but soft: PSHE education takes on the big issues, from tackling low aspirations to managing debt, and helps to prepare pupils for the world of work.

The evidence of the importance of the skills taught through PSHE education is overwhelming: an analysis of over 200 programmes developing these skills demonstrated improved attitudes and behaviour in pupils and an 11% improvement in academic achievement. The Education Endowment Foundation now recommends such programmes as a way to improve literacy and numeracy amongst disadvantaged pupils.

A 2011 study showed that soft skills are more important in determining life chances at age 30 than academic qualifications, and one study backed by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) estimates that such skills could make an £109 billion contribution to the UK economy over the next five years. Nobel-Prize-winning economist James Heckman has conclusively demonstrated that these skills are not innate and that they can be taught. This is, therefore, a huge opportunity for the education system.

There is a problem, however: research by YouGov on behalf of the PSHE Association shows that just one in three business leaders think schools are doing enough to equip pupils with the skills they need for the workplace. The CBI, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Institute of Directors have all made this point in recent months.

Pupils should be developing these skills in PSHE education, but according to Ofsted, provision is “not good enough”, with lessons often taught by teachers who have had no training in the subject. In some schools, PSHE falls off the curriculum altogether because the subject is not a statutory part of the curriculum. To tackle this problem, the Commons Education Committee recommended statutory status for the subject earlier this year. According to independent surveys, this move is supported by 85% of business leaders (not to mention 90% of parents and 92% of pupils).

The PSHE Association is calling on business and education leaders to work together to develop a PSHE curriculum which equips pupils with the skills employers need. Such a curriculum coupled with statutory status could have a huge impact for pupils, employers and our economy.

We hope government will listen to business leaders and make PSHE education statutory: the soft option would be to ignore them.



**Joe Hayman, PSHE Association Chief Executive**



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# Making our One Nation vision a reality for Britain



David Cameron MP

Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party

This conference will be the first time in 19 years that the Conservative Party has come together under one roof with a Conservative majority in power. After our victory this May, I said on the steps of Downing Street that we would govern for One Nation – helping every person, no matter where they are from, make the most of their life. And the next few days are about setting out how we will do that.

**“A strong economy is what will allow us to deliver security at every stage of people’s lives”**

It starts with finishing the job we started - building the strong, balanced economy that Britain needs. That means continuing to take the difficult decisions on public spending, so we can clear our deficit and start to run a

surplus. It means getting behind our entrepreneurs, so that they carry on starting and growing businesses - and creating jobs. And it means boosting enterprises in every corner of our country – including our great northern cities, our Northern Powerhouse – so our economy really does fire on all cylinders.

That strong economy is what will allow us to deliver security at every stage of people’s lives.

Of course, the most important source of security is a job. In the last Parliament, the private sector created 2.4 million more of them – driving up employment to an all-time high.

This time, we want to go much further, taking Britain towards full employment. That way, even more people will have the peace of mind of being able to provide for their families.

But security does not stop at a pay packet. People feel secure when they have a decent home. So we will build more of them, and help more people to buy them. They feel secure when their income gives them enough to get by each month. So we are doubling free childcare, cutting income tax for 29 million people and introducing a National Living

**“After our victory this May, I said on the steps of Downing Street that we would govern for One Nation”**

Wage, to lift up the lowest paid in our society. And people feel secure when they know the health service is there for them, whenever they need it. So we are increasing NHS funding by £10 billion a year by the end of the decade, and making it a truly 7-day service.

Our One Nation mission goes beyond simply helping people to feel secure. We want them to also feel that Britain is a place where they can go as far as their talents will allow. So we are unlocking opportunity – and education is crucial to this.

One of the most important steps we are taking is this: putting not just failing schools into the hands of new leadership, but coasting ones, too. Look at the impact reform has had: inner cities which were once the worst

P.T.O

charis  
inspiring welfare solutions

## Charis Grants: A profile....

Charis Grants Ltd provides businesses with expertly tailored welfare solutions to support vulnerable individuals and families. Our schemes are aimed initially at helping those in real hardship meet essential needs, which may be through financial assistance for debt or provision of other goods and services. However the ultimate goal is offering a chance for future financial sustainability and improved well-being.

Owned and managed by Allyson Broadhurst, ‘Charis’ as it is known, helps its clients, which include commercial organisations and Local Authorities, deliver practical support to meet their corporate goals and social responsibilities for their vulnerable customers in need.

Charis has a successful history of supporting energy and water companies deliver criteria-based welfare solutions. Today, we assess over 60,000 applications annually for charitable trusts and hardship funds for payment of energy and water debt, and to provide other forms of assistance. In addition we process over half a million applications for rebate schemes, many being subject to regulatory inspection under the Warm Home Discount programme. As one of its many bespoke projects, Charis has developed a unique network of support for two of its charitable trusts which sees specialist energy debt advisors placed in community across the UK, including debt advice in GP surgeries.

Charis has taken the same tailored approach to its supply networks, working with a large number of UK charities to take referrals and provide rapid delivery of essential products

and services to meet immediate need. These include energy efficient ‘A’ rated white goods, essential household items, emergency utility credit, clothing and food vouchers. But help does not stop there, with Charis now providing information and advice packs and e-learning programmes around basic skill development designed to help with budget management and future employment.

Under all these various initiatives, Charis facilitates millions of pounds worth of support for low income and vulnerable individuals and families.

*“Charis has a successful history of supporting energy and water companies deliver criteria-based welfare solutions. Today, we assess over 60,000 applications annually for charitable trusts and hardship funds for payment of energy and water debt, and to provide other forms of assistance.”*

Our unique expertise ensures the ambitions and aims of our clients are met through flexible and responsive welfare solutions that put the customer at the centre of the process.

Charis would welcome the opportunity to discuss new ideas and proposals.

To find out more about us: [www.charisgrants.com](http://www.charisgrants.com)  
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## PARTY LEADERS:



for GCSEs are now among the best, while state schools' A Level results are now rivalling private schools' results. Just think about what continued reform could do for the life chances of our young people.

Of course, keeping all our people safe is the first duty of government. That is why we are increasing our defence budget in real terms – meeting that two per cent NATO target throughout this decade.

In fact, we are the only country in the world that is keeping that commitment, as well as its promise to the poorest in the world, by spending 0.7 per cent of GDP on aid.

We are also the ones negotiating a better deal in Europe; by the end of 2017, the British people will have their say on the European Union: in or out. And we will continue getting out there and selling to the most dynamic, emerging markets across the globe,

**“People said we would never change – we did. They said we would never see our long-term economic plan working – it is”**

making it clear that we are open for business.

That is Britain under a One Nation Government: engaged in the world, meeting our commitments, standing up for our country and standing tall.

Ten years ago, I stood on stage at conference and told our party that to

win, we needed to change. We did.

We now have 68 women MPs, and a third of those around the cabinet table are women; we are keeping our promises to the poorest in the world; and we have extended the opportunity of marriage to all.

Ten years on, I will stand before them once again and say that, now we have done those things, we can go on changing our country for the better.

And we can be bold. People said we would never change – we did.

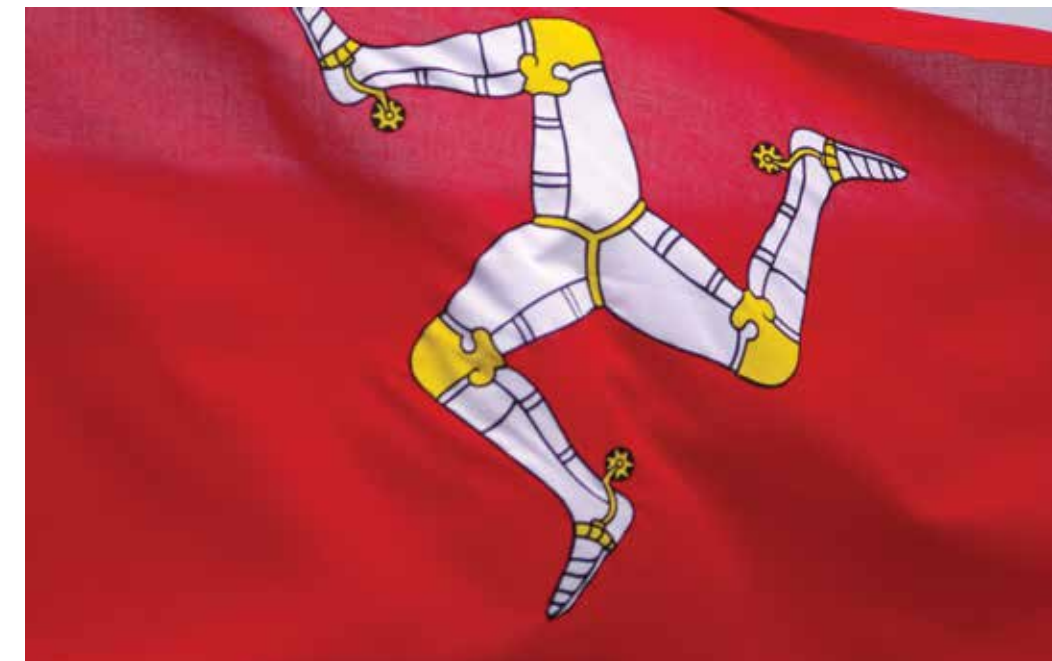
They said we would never see our long-term economic plan working – it is. They said we would not get a majority – we have.

With our determination, drive and our deep belief in our values, I know we can prove the critics wrong once more, and make our One Nation vision a reality.

# Enterprise Isle is open for business



**Allan Bell MHK,**  
Chief Minister of the Isle of Man



As you meet to discuss your plans for the future, I want to highlight the steps being taken by the Isle of Man to strengthen our position as a dynamic and trusted partner to the United Kingdom.

The Island is a proud British Crown Dependency, with long-standing political, commercial, cultural and historical ties to the UK.

A vibrant and successful Isle of Man economy is good for the UK and I believe there are exciting new opportunities to attract investment, employment and growth on both our shores.

Creating the right environment for business to flourish and introducing ground breaking ways of working will support our drive to build on 31 consecutive years of economic expansion.

As we work towards a more sustainable future for our Island, we will be seeking to collaborate with the UK on a range of mutually beneficial projects.

We have forged strong alliances with the City of London and North West region in many sectors, particularly financial services and aerospace engineering, and are developing our business proposition in areas such as e-business, offshore energy generation and crypto currencies.

I see these emerging industries having the potential to make a significant contribution to the Northern Powerhouse initiative, as well as the wider UK economy.

I recently announced the Isle of Man's 'Enterprise Isle' package of measures to stimulate new business and jobs. The proposals include a £50 million Enterprise Development Fund, new financial incentives and improvements in business regulation, land use, work permits and online services for business.

Entrepreneurs and innovators are the engine room of the Island's economy and we will nurture local start-ups and companies entering the next phase of their growth. This will be helped by fresh initiatives on crowdfunding, grant-based support and accelerator schemes, and digital verification of identity – allowing companies to accept new clients in hours rather than weeks.

We are also making our work permit system more responsive to business and will be releasing more land for companies to expand and thrive.

Our aim is to provide the space, workforce, incentives, robust and transparent regulatory environment and Government support needed to grow the economy.

We have many qualities that set the Isle of Man apart from other small jurisdictions and make us the modern and progressive business partner of choice.

As a leading international business centre, the Isle of Man is known for its innovation, professionalism and long-standing policy

of positive engagement with global initiatives and standards. We remain at the forefront of work to promote tax cooperation and transparency and support efforts to combat money laundering, fraud and corruption.

The Island is also a democratic, resilient and resourceful country with a distinct national identity, independent spirit and strong sense of community loyalty.

We have a good story to tell and I will continue to lead a programme of political and business engagement in the UK.

I will be encouraging people to take a fresh look at the Isle of Man to see that we truly are a place 'Where You Can'.



**Isle of Man**  
**Government**

*Reiltys Ellan Vannin*



# Holding the Government to account with effective and rigorous opposition

Harriet Harman MP

Acting Leader of the Opposition and Acting Leader of the Labour Party



We had hoped that we would go to our 2015 Labour Conference as a newly-elected government. It is deeply disappointing to be the Opposition, to have seen our support so thin in the South-East, the Eastern Region and the South-West and to lose all but one of our MPs in Scotland.

Although we are not in government, we have a vital role to play, as the Opposition holding the government to account. To be effective, we need to challenge the government where they are not doing what they promised, or where what they are trying to do is unworkable or downright unfair. They made big promises on the NHS and they said they would protect the most vulnerable. We will highlight where they fall short of those promises.

To be effective, we will focus our opposition so that we can build successful, popular campaigns - rather than oppose everything. So we will oppose the abolition of maintenance grants for students from low income families, as well as opposing the cuts in tax credits which, despite the increase in the National Minimum Wage, will leave three million families £1,000 worse off. We will also oppose the cuts which will hit people who have difficulty working because they have health problems - like cancer or Parkinson's.

We will need to learn the lessons from our defeat - and debate why we lost. And while we carry out that painful task, we need to stay united. The task of the new Labour leader is hard, and loyalty and support for the leader is important. The best we can do for the people we represent, and who voted for us, is to be a strong opposition and to get back into government.

We have lost the 2015 General Election but there are further elections ahead. We will be electing a new Mayor for London in 2016. It will be great progress for London and a real boost to the Labour Party to have a Labour mayor. We also have elections for the Welsh Assembly. And, in Scotland, our MSPs face a big challenge from the SNP. Furthermore, we have council elections in May 2016, and at this time a Labour council is even more important to strive to regenerate local areas and to protect people from the worst of the Tory cuts. Our councillors are important not just for the work they do in their local community but also because they are Labour's elected representatives on the ground. Finally, we have the European Referendum - probably sometime late in 2016 - and, under Alan Johnson's leadership, we will be working in support of Labour's "Yes" campaign to stay in the European Union.

The government have promised that they will help our businesses to increase

their productivity. That productivity has fallen so we are now down at the bottom of the competitiveness league table. Higher productivity is the route to secure jobs and better pay. Businesses say they need good infrastructure. But the government have cancelled the electrification of the Trans Pennine Leeds/Manchester railway. And they are dithering over Heathrow expansion. Businesses say they need more and highly-trained people. Yet the government have cut further education and their apprenticeship programme focusses on getting the numbers of apprenticeships, rather than the quality of the skills achieved.

And to try and rig the election in their favour in the future, the Government are seeking to choke off Labour's funding by clamping down on the political levy. What the Government is doing amounts to one rule for the Labour Party but something completely different for the Tories. The simple principle should be that it is fair.

So our task over the next 12 months is to look both inwards and outwards. Inwards to learn the lessons of defeat and agree the changes we need to make. Outwards to give hope and confidence to people in this country that there is a strong Opposition which is in touch with their lives and will, on their behalf, hold the Government to account.

# PAPER

## Let's Reverse the Decline



The Paper Industry, along with seven other EIs, has spent the past year working closely with BIS and DECC to produce a 2050 Roadmap. Whilst more work needs to be undertaken on defining costs it, along with the other Roadmaps, should now be used as a basis for developing an industrial strategy for these sectors.

This work is vitally important particularly in light of the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. Unless a binding global agreement can be reached on emissions reduction we face the prospect of losing more production capacity to our international competitors.

It is not as if the UK's Paper Industry has stood still over recent years. Since 1990 energy consumption and carbon emissions per tonne of production have fallen by 31% and 50% respectively. Two-thirds of UK production now comes from plants that have installed on-site power generation and recycling rates have doubled in twenty years - to 67% of the waste stream.

In the short-term we need to be concentrating on energy efficiency. Energy and carbon tax revenues need to be redirected to support manufacturers in installing current best practice energy efficient technologies and in developing the break-through technologies that we are going to need if we are to meet longer-term climate change targets.

Paper is a globally traded product. UK manufacturers need to be able to compete on a level playing field if we are to halt and reverse the decline that we have witnessed over recent years.

The UK now imports more paper than any other country in the world. This is not a record of which we should be proud. Over the last fifteen years half of our paper mills have closed with the loss of several thousand well paid skilled jobs. This came after two decades of year-on-year growth in UK production during the 1980s and 1990s.

As paper production is an energy intensive process, the industry has been subject to a plethora of energy and carbon related measures designed to help the UK meet its very challenging climate change targets. However, the irony of this situation is that in allowing this important industrial sector to decline we have, in all probability, increased UK carbon consumption because of the amount of embedded carbon held within imported products. Conversely, this decline has helped the UK to reduce its recorded carbon emissions.

If we are to measure the success of our climate change policies we cannot continue to ignore the issue of carbon consumption. Many of the UK's Energy Intensive Industries (EIs) have suffered a similar fate. UK production has been replaced by imports mainly from countries that have either sheltered their EIs from the true cost of decarbonising the power supply or where there are few, if any, restrictions on emitting carbon.

Indeed, such is the emerging gap now between the cost of burning fossil fuels and sourcing energy from renewable sources that we need to reassess the part that EIs can play in reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions whilst remaining internationally competitive.

**cpi** confederation of paper industries

**The Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) is the leading trade association representing the UK's Paper-based Industries. CPI represents an industry with an aggregate annual turnover of £6.5 billion, 25,000 direct and more than 100,000 indirect employees.**

For further information call 01793 889600, email: [cpi@paper.org.uk](mailto:cpi@paper.org.uk) or visit [www.paper.org.uk](http://www.paper.org.uk)



# Standing up for Scotland and progressive politics across the UK

Angus Robertson MP  
Scottish National Party  
Westminster Leader



The Scottish National Party has the honour of representing 56 out of 59 Scottish seats after picking up 50 per cent of the vote at this May's general election.

David Cameron may have returned to Number 10 with a majority Tory government but it was certainly not with the support of voters in Scotland, and already our team of 56 MPs have been able to provide a strong voice for Scotland at Westminster.

The SNP is proud to stand up for Scotland and to work with others to deliver a platform of progressive politics – both in Scotland and across the UK.

And now, with a hugely increased Westminster SNP group, we have an unprecedented opportunity to build links and promote understanding throughout England, Wales and Ireland, both north and south.

Interest in politics and the important changes happening for Scotland right now has never been higher.

And with the huge amount of goodwill towards the SNP and First

Minister Nicola Sturgeon, we have a real opportunity to promote our positive vision.

**“ The SNP, while standing up for the people of Scotland, has much to say at Westminster which is relevant to our friends and neighbours across the UK ”**

The SNP, while standing up for the people of Scotland, has much to say at Westminster which is relevant to our friends and neighbours across the UK, such as our opposition to austerity, promotion of better transport links and sustainable economic growth.

Our team of 56 SNP MPs have proved that they are the effective

opposition in the House of Commons with a progressive policy agenda that is relevant to stakeholders and communities across Britain and Ireland. And as David Cameron reflects on the first few months of his new Government, he can reflect on the fact that the SNP has already forced him to back down or U-turn on a number of issues.

The Government has been forced to rethink the scrapping of the Human Rights Act.

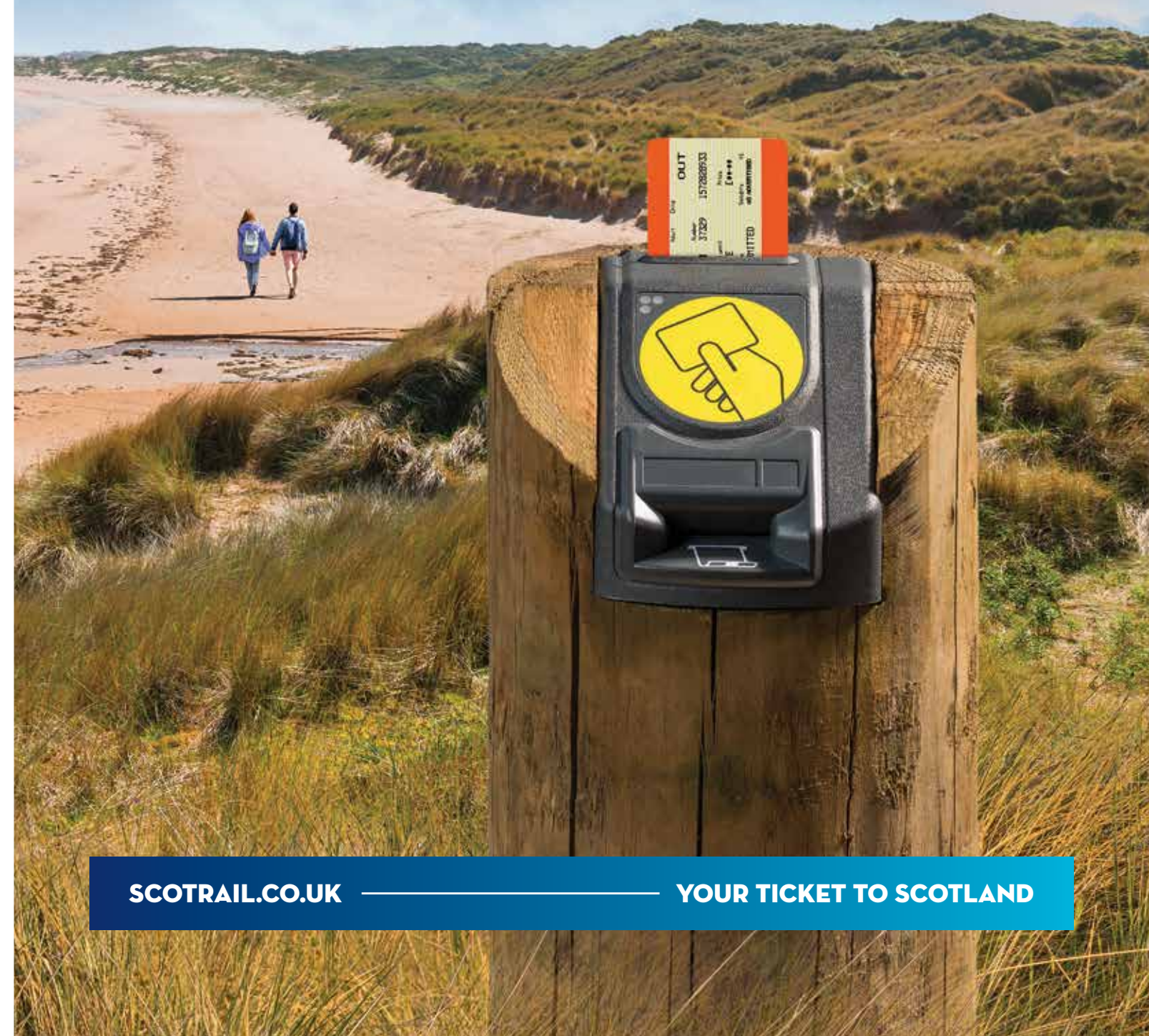
The suggestion that the European Union referendum could have been held on the same day as the Scottish Parliament election has been quashed.

The proposal of English Votes for English Laws has gone back to the drawing board, instead of being imposed before the summer recess.

And, of course, we stopped the fox hunting ban being relaxed south of the border – which brought us widespread praise and gratitude from animal rights activists across the UK.

*Continued on p34*

# YOUR TICKET TO SCOTLAND





## Angus Robertson MP Scottish National Party Westminster Leader



*Continued from p32*

But on other issues, the Tories have failed to deliver.

We must continue to fight for a fairer deal for Scotland. Promises were made to the people of Scotland before last year's referendum that substantial new powers would be devolved to the Scottish Parliament, but these are not being delivered by David Cameron's Government, and a key task for the SNP in the months ahead will be to hold him to account and ensure that Scotland is given the job-creating powers it badly needs.

The Tories' damaging welfare cuts only highlight further the need for an alternative to austerity.

If Labour had voted with the SNP against George Osborne's assault on those on low incomes, then the Tories could have been defeated – instead, they sat on their hands.

Many of the issues in the first months of this parliament have been of particular interest to those in Scotland, and some to those in England or Wales, and some are

**“ As  
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UK-wide issues which proves how committed the SNP are to pursuing progressive politics.

We will always seek to build progressive alliances where we can; for example, 27 Tory MPs rebelled and voted with us on scrapping purdah rules before the EU referendum.

When that issue comes before Parliament again after the recess, we will continue to do everything we can to help build a united opposition.

And an extremely serious matter that must be addressed by the Government is the one I recently raised at Prime Minister's Questions: the dreadful need for women who have had a third child as a result of rape to have to prove this to the Department for Work and Pensions in order to qualify for tax credits.

SNP MPs are working hard to be the leading opposition force to David Cameron's Government at Westminster, and we will continue to do so. And as long as Scotland remains part of the Westminster system, we will be the allies of people and politicians of progressive opinion - from whatever quarter - to shake up and reform it.

## Tourism Delivers

Tourism is more than a holiday experience – it creates jobs, sustains communities and provides an international shop window for Scotland. Our industry also supports other important business sectors, including food and drink; textiles; retail and construction. We provide a ripple effect that is helping these, and many other sectors, flourish.

Scotland's visitor economy is worth an estimated £11.6 billion each year, employing 292,000 people. VisitScotland is committed to extending this success story and ensuring our industry goes from strength to strength. By working closely with partners, we will continue to deliver for Scotland.





# The fightback begins now for a liberal Britain

Tim Farron MP

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party



So conference time is upon us again, and it is fair to say that circumstances have changed quite dramatically. For the Liberal Democrats, we may no longer be a party of government, but we will come together in Bournemouth seventeen thousand members stronger, and absolutely fired up for the fightback.

Since the formation of the Conservative government, a clear course has been set which puts the interests of the haves over the have nots, dismisses issues like the environment and migration as someone else's problem and enthusiastically paints the UK as an increasingly insular and ungenerous country that is ill-fit and unwilling to play its part in Europe. The penny is well and truly dropping on how hard Liberal Democrats fought in government – and how much of a difference we actually made over the last five years.

Heartbreakingly, we have seen the Tories roll back the tides on a whole raft of policies which we blocked in government. Protection of housing benefit for those under 21 – gone; protection of child tax credits for larger families – gone; and protection for the benefit rates for people with disabilities and health problems – gone.

On the environment, there has been a massive downgrade of the agenda that the Liberal Democrats championed in coalition. We have already seen ten key environmental policies, developed by consensus over many years, watered down or completely scrapped. Support

for onshore windfarms – gone; the green deal aimed at improving energy efficiency in people's homes – gone; protection for fracking in precious wildlife areas – gone; and the decade-long plan to make all new homes "zero carbon" by 2016 – suddenly, and inexplicably, gone.

With the UK's housing stock already responsible for almost a third of our greenhouse gas emissions, the last policy puts it on course to rise to more than half by 2050. Sadly, we have seen this bull-headed, unscientific approach spreading through government departments like wildfire.

So, we have a Home Secretary committed to bringing back the snoopers charter that we blocked in government. We have a Prime Minister intent on scrapping the Human Rights Act, despite little information on what it would be replaced with, other than "a common sense approach" which, to many of us, including large numbers in his own party, sounds frankly terrifying.

We have a Chancellor who wants to cull £20 billion from Whitehall budgets with no clear vision for what public services will remain after departments have had their budgets slashed by up to 40 per cent. And a Health Secretary who has silently – and without consultation or parliamentary account – kicked the cap on social care costs, due to come in next year, into the long grass.

In one stroke, it has crushed the hopes of tens of thousands of older people and their families who will now face the catastrophic

costs of care on their own.

On housing, the Tories seem intent on intensifying this crisis, too. We need to build 300,000 homes every year for the next decade. But every policy announced so far seems to be part of a concerted campaign to sabotage the ability of housing associations to play any role in meeting this need.

The independent Office for Budgetary Responsibility has confirmed that the restrictions on housing association rents, that were announced in this June's Budget, will reduce affordable house building by around 14,000. That is at a time when housing associations are also being forced to sell their desperately needed stock – incomprehensibly – at reduced rates, and supported by taxpayer subsidy.

And then we look to the crisis in Calais that has dominated the news. We see a government that is more interested in talking tough, rather than playing its part in developing long-term solutions.

In the face of Labour's shameful lack of opposition, the Liberal Democrats have been the only ones to front up and oppose brutal welfare cuts on the weakest in society. We are the only party showing compassion to desperate asylum seekers from war-torn countries and in calling for an EU-wide solution to a true humanitarian crisis.

This government has already been painfully clear about what it stands for and so the need for a liberal Britain has never been clearer. Join us in the fight back.



Robin Fieth  
BSA Chief Executive



## Supporting an ageing population

**Did you know that on average life expectancy is increasing by five hours every day?\***

An aging population brings many challenges. The topic on everyone's lips of course, is finance and supporting these consumers.

The fact that younger people across the UK are getting onto the housing ladder later is well known, but the implications have received less attention. A recent consumer survey carried out by the Building Societies Association shows that around half of 25-34 year olds believe they will need a mortgage that lasts into retirement.

This new fact of life is not restricted to young people. A quarter of all consumers also believe that their mortgage needs will stretch beyond their working lives. In London, this figure rises to a whopping 51%.

The mortgage market needs to adapt its lending criteria in order to reflect changing demographics and working practices. Products and services that seemed 'niche' in the past will soon be mainstream. Entirely new products may be needed too.

From speaking to a range of building societies we know some do not operate a maximum age limit at all and generally societies prefer to assess each mortgage application on a case-by-case basis, rather than adopting a 'computer says no' approach.

Despite all of this good stuff, you can understand why some members of the public and practitioners are currently confused. The implementation of the Mortgage Market Review a year ago certainly gave the impression that the application process would be trickier. And indeed it is. The process takes longer and is more rigorous. However, as long as the affordability requirements

are met, a proportion of lenders do not have an issue lending into retirement per se.

Of course, more can always be done.

That is why the BSA established its Lending into Retirement project. We kicked off with a roundtable in June with over 30 building societies in attendance. This autumn we are holding an invitation-only breakfast roundtable at the Labour Party Conference on the 29 September and a lunchtime roundtable at the Conservative Party Conference on the 5 October. A range of interest groups will be providing input as well as MPs, Lords and financial providers.

Of course, whilst lending to older borrowers is not necessarily riskier, the risks themselves are different. Income and affordability assessments change, life expectancy is higher profile, as is vulnerability and cognitive decline. Lenders need to satisfy themselves and the regulator that they have the expertise to manage the risks and lend responsibly.

We are working with BSA members, consumer groups, charities and the FCA to give lenders more confidence in this area. Demand is changing slowly and lenders need to operate within a regulatory framework that facilitates innovation in product design to service changing demands and demographics. And above all produces really good outcomes for retirees.

### Next steps

If you would like more information, or would like to get involved please contact Charlie Blagbrough, Mortgage Policy Officer, on 020 7520 5903 | [charlie.blagbrough@bsa.org.uk](mailto:charlie.blagbrough@bsa.org.uk).



# Ensuring British security and the UK's place in the world

Philip **Hammond**,

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Conservative MP for Runnymede and Weybridge



The Conservative Manifesto set out a high level of ambition for our Foreign Policy in this Parliament: to ensure Britain remains a major player on the world stage; to protect the British people's security and prosperity; to maintain world-class armed forces; and to hold an in/out referendum on our EU membership by the end of 2017.

Within just a few months, we have made significant progress. In Vienna, this July, the UK was instrumental in concluding, with the other Permanent five members of the UN Security Council, plus Germany, a landmark agreement to prevent Iran building a nuclear bomb. In the Budget, the Chancellor announced that we will continue to spend 2 per cent of GDP on Defence, and that the Ministry of Defence's budget will increase year-on-year in real terms. We will continue to meet our generous commitments on international aid throughout this Parliament. And the Bill to deliver the in/out EU referendum is already progressing through its final stages in the House of Commons.

But in spite of that rapid progress, the scale and breadth of the challenges to our security, our future prosperity, and to the rules-based international order, on which they both rely, is no less great.

The continued existence of ISIL in Iraq and Syria, the migration crisis still unfolding in the Mediterranean, the conflict and humanitarian emergency in Yemen, Russia's continued destabilisation of Eastern Ukraine and the Greek debt crisis – all of which have an impact on our security and prosperity – underline the fragility of the world order and the extent to which we must be active around the globe in order to protect our people and our interests.

As we conduct the next Strategic Defence and Security Review,

**“We led the efforts to implement and maintain sanctions on Russia”**

we recognise the need to continue to use every tool at our disposal, including the FCO's diplomatic network, which we strengthened in the last Parliament, to keep the British people safe.

Our immediate priority remains tackling, with our international coalition partners, the barbarous terrorist organisation, ISIL, in Iraq and Syria. The UK has conducted the second highest number of strikes against ISIL targets, with British forces providing crucial surveillance, intelligence, advice and training as part of the military effort, as well as contributing over £800 million in aid to help those forced to flee their homes by ISIL in Syria.

In response to Russia's continued destabilising activity in Eastern Ukraine, we led the efforts to implement and maintain sanctions on Russia, demonstrating the serious consequences of undermining the rules-based international system.

Our national security and our economic security are two sides of the same coin. So as well as protecting our national security, our Foreign Policy must also play its part in promoting our prosperity. Reforming the European Union, to make it more competitive, more accountable and ensure greater fairness between Eurozone and non-Eurozone members, is fundamental to that task. Moreover, the democratic mandate for our membership of the EU has worn wafer thin. It is 40 years since the British people had their say on our membership. Only the Conservatives pledged to renegotiate the terms of our membership and hold an in/out referendum – and now we are fulfilling that pledge.

But, of course, as an island trading nation, our economic interests extend far beyond the EU. We have made the promotion of trade a core part of UK diplomacy around the world and we will be stepping up our efforts in this Parliament to help British businesses export more of their goods and services across the globe.

We can only sustainably expand our trade if we also play our part in upholding the rules-based international system: the framework of laws, norms and institutions which regulate relations between nations. That means projecting our fundamental values – freedom, democracy and adherence to the rule of law – using our diplomatic network to persuade, cajole and explain to other countries that it is in their long-term interests, as well as ours, to embrace them.

The next 12 months in global affairs look set to be every bit as challenging as the year just passed.

That is why we are so intent on fulfilling our ambitious Manifesto commitments: to maintain Britain's role as a major diplomatic player with global reach and Armed Forces to back up that diplomacy; to keep our people safe; to promote our core values; to enhance our prosperity; and to play our part in defeating the evil terrorists who promote instability and mayhem.

# BRITISH MUSLIM VALUES IN ACTION



**Islamic Relief is a global organisation with a presence in over 40 countries. We've provided assistance to over 104 million people in our 31-year history.**

We are a proud British institution, founded and based in the UK. We were the first Muslim humanitarian NGO to receive UK government funding (1994) and the first to join the Disasters Emergency Committee (2005).

We are proud to be making an active contribution to the “integrated, democratic, successful, multiracial Britain” that the Prime Minister has said he wants to build.

We deliver aid where the need is greatest, regardless of race or religion. We work hard to ensure that aid reaches its intended beneficiaries, and does not fall into the wrong hands. We collaborate with different faith groups on joint programmes to build community and promote mutual respect.

**Join us at our conference fringe debates chaired by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown – in partnership with World Vision in the BOND Development Hub**

**From Syria to Somalia: What is it to live and work in a forgotten crisis, and why doesn't the world seem to care?**

**LABOUR PARTY 12.45-2.15pm**

**28TH SEPTEMBER**

*With Mary Creagh MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development*

**CONSERVATIVE PARTY 12.45-2.00pm**

**5TH OCTOBER**

*With Desmond Swayne MP, Minister of State for International Development*

**IslamicReliefUK**

**@IslamicReliefUK**

[www.islamic-relief.org.uk](http://www.islamic-relief.org.uk)

Charity No. 328158



# It's time Parliament got its Act together

End the use of wild animals in circuses



[www.bornfree.org.uk](http://www.bornfree.org.uk)

Charity No: 1070906

Photo © Usien

# UNRWA? Whose Responsibility is it?

by Palestinian Return Centre (PRC)



**The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) remains an indispensable element in the life of Palestinian refugees. UNRWA on one side is providing educational, economic and social services to the refugees and on the other; it's a clear recognition from the United Nations of their just cause. Additionally, the existence of UNRWA reflects the failure of the international community in forcing Israel to submit to International law and various related UN resolutions on their plight.**

With 66 years since the UN issued its resolution (302) to create UNRWA; the organisation is now approaching the most critical stage since its establishment as international donors refrain from funding its services. UNRWA's lack of funds is threatening the services provided to the refugees such as schooling and educational services for millions, in addition to halting its aid services in Syria. Add to this, humanitarian conditions are deteriorating for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip which has witnessed wide-scale destruction from the 2014 Israeli war.

Many Palestinian refugees and observers believe that the crisis enveloping UNRWA is politically-motivated and aims at "ending" the issue of Palestinian refugees. Israel is not interested in solving the issue of Palestinian refugees and perceives UNRWA negatively; it has targeted the organisation through negative media campaigns and even bombed its food warehouses and premises multiple times. Others argue that UNRWA is being blackmailed by certain countries that fund some projects in the absence of regular and fixed funds from other countries. For instance, the US and the European Commission fund

half of UNRWA's budget, meanwhile the UN fund the administrative costs of the organisation.

The arguments above lead us to the questions, Why does funding of the UNRWA remain voluntarily? Why is there no international commitment to fund this vital body? The issue of Palestine and its refugees have been caused by key international powers and countries. Such countries should undertake the onus of funding UNRWA. Britain has an ethical and historical responsibility towards this issue. Britain was given the mandate of Palestine in 1922 and issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917 which led us to a stage where millions of Palestinians have become refugees!

The responsibility to look after and protect Palestinian refugees is the UN's responsibility as it is the international body most capable of solving long-standing conflicts. Add to this, the mandate given to Britain in 1922 was by the League of Nations (replaced later by the UN) so the UN can be argued to have played a fundamental role in creating the plight of Palestinian refugees. Furthermore, the UN itself issued a key resolution (194) in recognition of the Palestinian refugee problem.

Thus, funding UNRWA should be an ethical obligation undertaken by the International community to serve Palestinian refugees. Funding UNRWA's budget should be stable to improve the living conditions of refugees and is merely an international justice issue towards them. Indeed, Britain should take the lead in this respect due to its historical involvement in Palestine which has caused the displacement of millions of Palestinian refugees.

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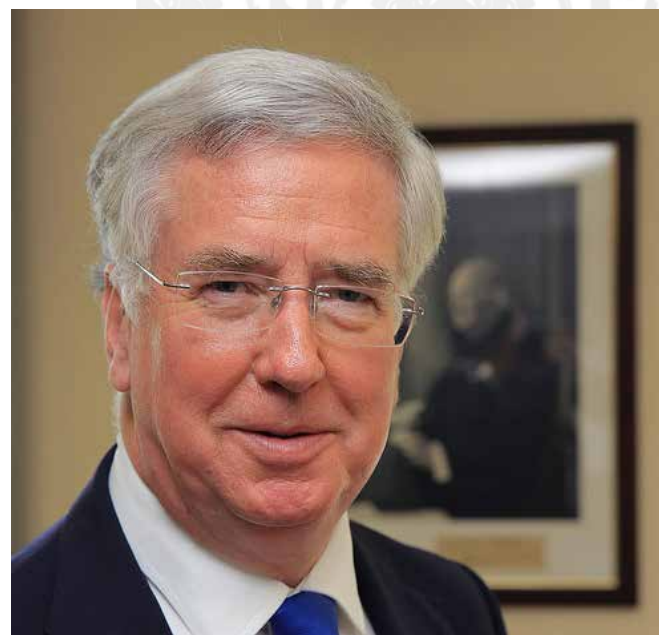


## Responding and investing to protect world peace

Michael Fallon,

Secretary of State for Defence and  
Conservative MP for Sevenoaks

**“The message is clear:  
Britain is back”**



The horrific actions of Islamist extremists in recent months in Tunisia and Nigeria provide yet more stark reminders that the world is becoming a darker, more dangerous, place.

We are facing a number of threats on a number of fronts – not just from ISIL and Boko Haram – but from fragile states in Africa and an aggressive Russia with ambitions to expand in Eastern Europe. All of that is undermining the global rules-based system upon which our security and prosperity depends.

Britain's response is clear. We are doing what we have always done. We are continuing to stand up for what we believe in. We are confronting those security challenges head on. Today, 4,000 of our servicemen and women are deployed on 21 operations in 19 countries – double the number than in 2010.

Since last September, RAF planes have carried out more than 1,000 missions in Iraq and more than 250 strikes against ISIL bases. Earlier this year, we announced that we were sending another 125 troops to train Iraqi forces and help them counter roadside and vehicle-borne bombs. Our surveillance aircraft are assisting other coalition countries with their operations over Syria, and British forces are helping to train the moderate Syrian opposition. Overall, we will have more than 900 British personnel in the region.

We have 500 more personnel keeping Kabul safe and training the next generation of Afghan officers. Meanwhile, others are in Ukraine, training this country's armed forces.

At the same time, we are taking the lead in NATO. We will be leading its Very High Readiness Task Force in 2017, and will be committing 1,000 troops to it each year from 2016 until the end of

the decade. Our RAF Typhoons patrolled the Baltic this summer and will go back again next year. Apart from the United States, no other country is doing as much around the world as Britain is.

We are investing as well as acting. We have put aside £160 billion over 10 years so that our people have the best equipment money can buy: hunter killer submarines, world-class frigates, cutting-edge armoured vehicles, upgraded Typhoons and fifth generation F35B Lightning II. And, as we cannot be sure that there will not be a nuclear threat in the 2030s, 40s, 50s, we will build four new ballistic missile submarines and thereby maintain our continuous at sea deterrent.

Britain is also regenerating its carrier-strike capability. We are one of only four countries in the world building aircraft carriers. And the two new flagships of our fleet, the 65,000 tonne aircraft carriers HMS Queen Elizabeth, which floated up last year, and HMS Prince of Wales, are the biggest and most powerful ships the Royal Navy has ever had.

Thanks to the Budget announcement this July, our Prime Minister and our Chancellor have ensured defence and security will continue to have the extra resources needed to keep Britain safe. The defence budget will now grow in real terms each year until the end of the decade. By 2020/21, a new joint security fund of £1.5 billion a year will be available to our Armed Forces as well as to our security and intelligence agencies. And we will continue to meet NATO's investment target, spending two per cent of GDP on defence throughout this parliament.

That means we approach the Strategic Security and Defence Review from a position of strength. Now well underway, that review will assess the complex threats we face; decide the capabilities we need; and work out where best to place our resources.

At the same time, we are not complacent. We have embedded a culture of efficiency in Defence that has set us on course to deliver £5 billion of savings since 2010. But we must continue to do more. We spend £34 billion a year in total on our Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force – the fifth biggest defence budget in the world. We have assets of around £119 billion. Like any large organisation, we should be constantly looking for new efficiencies and to take out unnecessary costs. Now we have an additional incentive to make savings, since we will be able to reinvest all of them back into defence.

So we are stepping up our efforts to deter and, if necessary, respond to aggression whenever and wherever it occurs. We are acting. We are investing. Our budget is growing. Only four countries in the world are building aircraft carriers – we are building two while clearing our deficit at the same time.

The message is clear: Britain is back.

# MAKING THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE

## SURPLUS AND OBSOLETE SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION DESTRUCTION



Small Arms Ammunition (SAA) accounts for a large percentage of any military organisations arsenal. It also contributes significantly to the stockpile of surplus, obsolete and shelf life expired ammunition. Add to this ammunition collected during conflicts around the world and it mounts up to many hundreds of thousands of tons throughout the western world and considerably more in ex Eastern block nations.

EOD Solutions Ltd in conjunction with CALDO engineering have developed the Transportable Ammunition Destruction System (TRADS) to destroy SAA in an environmentally responsible manner. There are two systems available the TRADS 40 and the TRADS 20, both of which employ ceramic filtration backed up with a catalytic filter to ensure complete cleaning of the gases. Both systems are constructed in ISO 20 foot container frames to allow

overseas and air freight delivery and vehicle transportation. The frames also allow for ease of maintenance and observation during ammunition processing.

The TRADS 40 system shown here is designed to undertake large-scale destruction of small arms ammunition where the ammunition is in one depot or at a central receiving station. TRADS 40 will destroy a minimum of five tones of loose ammunition per day. It is environmentally friendly and conforms to the EC Emissions Directive 2007. Recent improvements to the system have allowed the system to clean the gases even more and thus EOD Solutions Ltd are able to comply with the USA Environment Protection Agency guidelines, one of the most stringent in the world.

EOD Solutions Ltd has recently had the pleasure of working for the UK Ministry of Defence in Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, where the TRADS proved itself in the most arduous conditions over a two-year period. During that time the system destroyed all types of SAA up to and including 14.5 mm ammunition. The system destroys all SAA and their secondary effect components except high explosive rounds.

TRADS 40 utilises a rotary furnace to allow constant feed of the ammunition that is collected in bins for further processing such as Free from Explosives inspection. It requires no infrastructure as electrical power and compressed air are built into the system that can be positioned on site and can be working within 36 hours and only requires diesel fuel to begin operations.

TRADS 40 the ideal system for disposing of stockpiled SAA at an affordable cost.

[www.eodsonline.com](http://www.eodsonline.com)



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Image: detail from Cyprus refugee fund postage stamp. Turkey continues to ignore UN resolutions that call for the right of Cypriot refugees to return



# ‘Atilla’ two: the second Turkish invasion of Cyprus

14 August marked the tragic day on which Turkey launched its second invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974

On 20 July 1974 Turkey had already captured part of Cyprus during ‘operation Atilla’ – its initial invasion of the island. It used the flimsy pretext that it was “restoring constitutional order” following a short-lived coup to overthrow President Makarios by the US-backed junta then ruling Greece.

Despite the Athens junta and coup collapsing, and negotiations at Geneva, Turkey launched a second invasion to conquer more Cypriot territory. On 14 August, the Turkish military recommenced its ethnic cleansing of non-Turks in the northern areas of Cyprus through bombing, mass executions (of civilians and combatants) as well as torture and rapes. 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced out of their ancestral lands.

History reveals that Ankara’s real intention in 1974 was – and still is today – the partition of the Republic of Cyprus and the segregation of Cypriots along ethnic and religious lines.

Back in the 1950s the Turkish Cypriots were encouraged by Cyprus Governor General Harding and Colonial secretary Alan Lennox-Boyd to begin demanding privileges such as ‘self-determination’ at the expense of the 82 percent majority Greek Cypriot population. At the same time Turkey was invited, for the first time, to play a more active role in Cyprus as a counterweight to Greek demands for *enosis* (union with Greece) in an attempt to preserve

British influence on the island.

It is hardly surprising that Britain did nothing to halt Turkey’s second invasion in August 1974 (just as it did nothing to stop the first invasion in July). Following Greek Cypriot refusal at negotiations in Geneva to agree to a de facto partition in the guise of a ‘bizonal’ settlement, Turkey ethnically cleansed 37 percent of the island in a brutal aggressive campaign. As President Makarios of Cyprus stated

**The imposition of an unjust and unworkable Cyprus settlement based on ethnic segregation may set a dangerous precedent that could backfire on the very states that continue to appease Turkey**

at the time: “What the Turks failed to achieve at the Geneva conference by blackmail and gunboat diplomacy, they are now attempting to get by brutal force.”

That Britain ignored its legal, moral and military obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee is lamentable but perhaps not too surprising. It should not be forgotten that those responsibilities still exist today.

Yet what is perhaps more disappointing is that the Cyprus government is now expected to ignore the sacrifices made by Greek Cypriots who were ethnically cleansed since

the summer of 1974 and deliver on a plate the ‘bizonal bicomunal’ solution that Turkey wants.

As a guarantor power, Britain together with the rest of the world, failed to prevent the crimes against humanity committed by Turkey, not only during its two invasions but also throughout its unlawful occupation.

The rapes, disappearances, executions and ethnic cleansing have gone unpunished. There has been minimal condemnation and no prosecutions for these crimes.

While 14 August marked a tragic anniversary, we fear even more disaster is looming for Cyprus. The imposition of an unjust and unworkable settlement based on ethnic segregation would reward Turkey for its brutality with ill-gotten gains. It may also set a dangerous precedent that could backfire on the very states that continue to appease Turkey.



[www.lobbyforcyprus.org](http://www.lobbyforcyprus.org)  
[lobbyforcyprus.wordpress.com](http://lobbyforcyprus.wordpress.com)  
 @lobbyforcyprus  
[admin@lobbyforcyprus.org](mailto:admin@lobbyforcyprus.org)

Dear Members & Right Honourable Members,

Some of you will be representing your constituencies for the first time; others will be old hands. So I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome you, and to tell you about the work of ABF The Soldiers’ Charity.

If you have a large military or veteran population in your area, you may know something about the issues faced by our soldiers. There are veterans living in every part of the UK, and many need extra support to feel part of your local community.

Most soldiers leave the Army with more life skills, experience and training to go on to have a successful civilian career. A significant minority face problems as a result of their Service. Frequent moves, a lack of a support network or family breakdown can lead to issues such as financial difficulties, housing crisis or drug and alcohol dependency.

Veterans may have served in the Army many years ago and spent decades in civilian employment; or they may be young men or women who are in the Army for a short time. We are here for them.

We help in a number of key areas; mobility, elderly care, the Army family, housing, education & training and wellbeing. We spot the trends and can quickly identify emerging areas of need.

For every £1 we raise, we spend 87p helping soldiers, veterans and their families in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and beyond.

We have been here for soldiers, veterans and their families since 1944, and have a well established grants and welfare infrastructure that provides emergency grants and signposting, as well as advice, to anyone in the military community.

If you are alerted to any constituents who might be eligible, we’re here to help.

If you would like to discuss any particular aspect of our work, we would be delighted to welcome you to our headquarters in Victoria.

*Martin Rutledge*

Major General (Retd) Martin Rutledge CB OBE

Chief Executive, ABF The Soldiers’ Charity



# THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS 2015

The Public Affairs Awards 2015 is a prestigious black tie event which will take place on **Thursday 10th December** in the Ballroom of the Park Plaza, Riverbank and hosted by Sky News Tonight presenter Adam Boulton.

Visit [www.thepublicaffairsawards.com](http://www.thepublicaffairsawards.com)  
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# Where now for the Liberal Democrats?

Tom Brake,

Liberal Democrat MP for Carshalton and Wallington



I, like many other Liberal Democrats, have, over the past few months, been challenged by journalists, friends, supporters and opponents, alike, with the question: "Are the Liberal Democrats still relevant?"

The answer to that question, as was brilliantly reflected upon by Nick Clegg following our bruising election night this May, is that, in fact, now more than ever, liberal voices are needed in our country.

With liberalism becoming a remarkably flexible term in politics today, we as a party must firmly define and articulate the case for liberalism in the UK.

That means at every opportunity highlighting, firstly, what liberal policies would mean practically for UK citizens, and secondly, how the Government's illiberal policies negatively affect people's lives.

Frustratingly, the important work which we did in Government in regards to that, has only become evident to many in the wake of the new Conservative Government's hasty moves to introduce a number of draconian policies.

Whilst David Cameron announced in 2010 that he was a "liberal Conservative", the first few months of the new Government have already proved that it was the Liberal Democrats who protected hard-fought freedoms and fundamental rights. That was achieved by us time and time again blocking the worst Tory policies in Coalition.

Now, with the introduction of the 'Snoopers' Charter', the proposed abolition of the Human Rights Act and the rolling back of Freedom of Information, we see a Conservative Government driven by an illiberal ideology.

**"Liberal voices are needed in our country"**

The Liberal Democrats' role will be to make it clear that those measures and intrusions are not conducive with the modern liberal society that Britain is and to provide an alternative vision.

We will continue to be a distinctive liberal voice on issues such as civil liberties, migration, European Union membership and a radical voice on issues like housing and the environment.

Where Labour will construct their opposition from is unclear. Already, the majority of Labour MPs have declared their hand as an ineffective and weak counter to the Government.

That was displayed most vividly during the recent Welfare Reform Bill vote, when I and my Liberal Democrat colleagues voted against a bill that will cut the benefits of the most vulnerable families in society. In contrast, the large majority of Labour's MPs meekly abstained, making collective party responsibility their priority.

Labour's silence on those issues highlights their disarray and inability to construct any form of progressive opposition. Instead, they have dangerously acquiesced to the unpicking of our welfare system and locking low wage families and children into poverty.

It is also that absence of support from Labour for the vulnerable and marginalised in society that will help the Liberal Democrats re-forge our identity.

I can draw on our recent history to find assurance that we will always stand up for vulnerable and marginalised groups and individuals. From our introduction of the Pupil Premium, to lifting thousands of the poorest in society out of paying tax, we, as a party, have a strong record on which to build on and move forward with pride.

Since the election, the 20,000 new Liberal Democrat members who have joined the party have given another clear answer to the question of, "are the Liberal Democrats still relevant?" Tim Farron's rousing leadership speech built on that momentum and showed the renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm that is sweeping across the party.

Since this May, in my own constituency and across the country, we have seen important local election successes that prove people are still hungry for liberalism.

It is at the grassroots' level where we have always been strongest and it is here that the fightback is beginning. It should not be beyond the imagination of any Liberal Democrat or Liberal Democrat supporter to believe that we can be successful again, and soon.

British Liberalism was dealt a heavy blow at the general election but it is not down and out for the count. We are back on our feet and sizing up our opponents!

# The UK – the world's largest importer of paper



The UK's Paper Industry has suffered two body blows in recent months with the closure of two major mills – Tullis Russell in Scotland and Aylesford Newsprint in Kent. Another major manufacturer has also announced the early retirement of one of its papermaking machines.

Coming on top of a spate of other capacity closures since 2000, it now leaves the UK in the unenviable position of importing more paper, in absolute terms, than any other country in the world.

So why has this situation come about and what now needs to be done to reverse this unwelcome trend?

The burden of attempting to achieve over ambitious Climate Change targets has fallen disproportionately on Energy Intensive Industries (EIs), like paper, and at a time when they have also had to comply with a plethora of other environmental measures. The UK's lead position on these issues may be laudable but unless our competitor nations follow suit it becomes counterproductive as we end up importing not just goods but embedded carbon.

It is easy to point the finger of blame at the EU but it was not Brussels that introduced the Climate Change Levy, the UK's Emissions Trading Scheme in the 2000s, enshrined Climate Change targets into law or introduced such measures as the Carbon Price Floor mechanism or the Carbon Reduction Commitment. The true cost of replacing fossil fuels in our energy mix with expensive and unreliable renewable sources has been underestimated, particularly when one considers the recent falls in the global price of oil, coal and gas.

## So what of the future?

The good news is that the Chancellor, in his two most recent budgets, announced measures to compensate EIs for some of the costs associated with Climate Change policy. This is a good start, but he needs to go further and abandon the Carbon Price Floor and the Carbon Reduction Commitment. He needs to ensure that EIs are fully compensated for the costs associated with the Renewables Obligation and that they are exempt from Feed In Tariff costs.

The new Ministerial team at DECC needs to concentrate more on the energy side of its portfolio. We need secure, reliable and competitively priced sources of energy. Much more emphasis needs to be placed on energy efficiency with incentives for investment in new boilers and in Combined Heat and Power plants (CHP). More carrot, less stick!!

The Paper Industry, along with other EIs, has spent the past year developing 2050 Roadmaps with officials from BIS and DECC. The new Secretaries of State in these departments need to use these as a basis for developing an industrial strategy aimed at growing energy intensive manufacturing in the UK. This will need to include support for the development of breakthrough technologies.

Finally, we need to achieve a genuine global agreement on climate change at the forthcoming UN conference in Paris. If it turns out to be another fudge, industry will continue to relocate to areas of the world that are not subject to the cumulative costs of achieving ambitious Climate Change and environmental targets.

**cpi** confederation of paper industries

**Confederation of Paper Industries**  
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# How to build a world-class transport system

Drew Hendry,

Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader on Transport and SNP MP for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey

**“The potential exists to be inclusive with transport planning”**



The question of what is “world-class” often depends on its context.

I grew up in Edinburgh, a city that has, in my view, a world-class bus system. Just the way a meaningful transport system should be.

I cannot remember a time when I lived there that you could not get a bus to where you wanted to go to - and at almost any time. Now, every time I visit Edinburgh, I am pleased to see that the legacy is robustly intact. So how was that achieved? Quite simply, by putting those who truly understand the needs of the people at the heart of the planning for the people who lived and worked there. Perfect, in its simplicity.

As a result, as far as I could see, no part of Edinburgh was left un-served and all of the satellite settlements were connected. During its evolution, the network was viewed as a whole, not as a series of profitable or unprofitable routes. That holistic approach delivered a world-class service and, in turn, it happened to make money. That said, this is not about private or public ownership; rather, it is about understanding outcomes and equality of service.

The bus network in Edinburgh is by no means the only example in the British Isles; there are many great examples of where transport networks have achieved the status by simply being good for people.

In an ever changing interconnected transport world, it is easy to forget that the first mass-transit vehicle was the bicycle. The late 1800s saw the first opportunity for ordinary people to get affordable and convenient ways to move between villages and towns and start to broaden their cultural and business horizons. It was a low cost revolution of new technology, and opened the world to many previously disconnected people and led to new opportunities. Identifying our new technologies and developing transport networks should have “opportunity” at the core, to help people to realise their potential across all types of geography.

If we start from the premise that everybody should have the same chances, regardless of where they are, then we could take a different approach to our vision of transport. Planning and tailoring services to the needs of communities. And it need not cost more.

A recent exercise, admittedly borne out of the need to save money, achieved some surprising results in Sutherland, one of the sparsest and most rural parts of Highland. The public were asked what their needs were, not uncommon you may think, but this community was not asked to participate but to lead. They understood the challenges, they knew the budget and, along with local operators, they were given the opportunity to participate on “blank piece of paper” basis. In short, they were told: here is the money we have, what do you need? The result: an enhanced service provided to the local community using less money. The exercise was so successful that it is now being rolled out across Highland. Again, perfect in its simplicity.

There is no reason why the same approach cannot fit with large, or even, huge strategic projects. High Speed rail and the London airports propositions may have “left the station” but there is still plenty of time for more inclusive and, ultimately, more profitable thinking. The key, however, is to not think about the transport network as a transport solution; rather, it should be a community solution, whomever and wherever that community may be, however large or small. Equality of access, and a desire to make opportunities for wider connection, should be at the core of any transport strategy.

Major strategic developments can, with the right effort and engagement, anticipate the local needs of those people rippled out to the periphery - allowing communities to benefit step-by-step, providing the building blocks for mixed types of transport, current and future. Those can be planned for, instead of reacted to. We can break out of the cycle of links being tacked on, or worse, not included at all.

The potential exists to be inclusive with transport planning. If we recognise and own the potential, then this would be world-class.



A collaboration of Scotland’s colleges and industry partners established to increase Scotland’s capability and capacity to deliver skills for the energy sector.

By working in a cohesive partnership Scotland’s colleges demonstrate a responsiveness and collective expertise to provide the technical skills required by industry.



## Establishing Demand Led Provision

### Engineering

A college sector which works collaboratively with public and private sector partners to develop and deliver the right skills, in the right place at the right time, maximising Scotland’s economic development and jobs growth.

### Energy

ESP has been working with members and partners to support curriculum development across engineering, energy and construction. This activity has stemmed from both industry and member priorities and through a collaborative approach ESP has been able target resources and accelerate development

### Construction



## Building Capability and Capacity Across Scotland’s Colleges

- A focus on innovation in education brought about by demand from members to support new teaching approaches
- Ensuring college programmes support industry and ensuring college courses better align with employers’ skills needs
- Working with member colleges and industry partners to develop focussed curriculum across engineering, energy and construction
- Building a STEM strategy and is partnerships to coordinate activities across Scotland.



## Work Readiness and Industry Led Enhancements

- Ensuring a supply of industry ready employees
- Developing the future workforce
- Supporting members to deliver work readiness programmes, industry required enhancements as well as industry led CPD

### Formal Networks

Working with industry with colleges to establish a number of formal networks including:

- Wind and Marine Training Network
- Power Transmission and Distribution Training Network
- Construction Skills Network
- A strategic partner with the Oil and Gas Academy of Scotland



# Providing real support to SMEs to build a strong and prosperous economy

Michelle Thomson,

Shadow Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills and SNP MP for Edinburg West



**“I want to see a new and imaginative culture”**

For the past 20 or 30 years, the Finnish innovation model has been led from the top down by Finland's Parliamentary Committee for the Future. In the middle is a series of councils and technical economic support systems in every sector. From the bottom up, every citizen supports that culture of new ideas.

In Finland, there are regular competitions and awards in every line of work, from cake baking to national monuments. Commissions for the design of most new public buildings are awarded on the basis of quick “idea” competitions that enable dozens of firms, large and small, to participate. The top two or three ideas are sometimes awarded a modest sum to develop a detailed competitive proposal. Those competitions encourage creativity and innovation in a wide net at low cost, compared to our grinding request-for-proposal system.

In January 1768, one James Craig, a 24 year old architect who never completed his apprenticeship, won an Edinburgh competition for the building of the New Town. Anyone who has visited that wonderful series of ellipses with their shared gardens, surrounded by beautiful classic Georgian buildings, will appreciate how stunning it is. Giving the task to a young architect in a competition was the kind of brave and daring move that made the Scottish Enlightenment such a movement for change.

I want to see a new and imaginative culture that gives today's James Craigs the opportunity to think big thoughts and do great things.

In Finland, the business eco-system sees the elements joined up. Start-ups are linked with big companies, universities and public bodies. Funds are typically a mix of private and public offerings. The inter-relationships between universities and business are crucial in that package. They involve the active transfer of research results and new technologies to industry via R&D projects that are conducted in collaboration with companies. That, in turn, creates a fertile breeding ground for innovation and knowledge-based companies.

There are brilliant, intelligent inventors in Scotland and further afield. They all start out as one person with a clever idea. Let us work to join up the kind of public support system that will genuinely help that 99.9 per cent of small businesses.

Everyone loves the concept of innovation, but this Government seems very unwilling to put its money where its mouth is.

With its relentless concentration on the demands of The City and bankers' bonus schemes, this Government has forgotten that our economy is built not upon the handful of multi-national businesses but on small operators.

According to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills' own statistics, 99.9 per cent of private sector businesses are SMEs, employing an estimated 14.4 million people, 59.3 per cent of private sector employment. Their estimated combined annual turnover of £1,600 billion accounted for 48.1 per cent of private sector turnover in 2013.

The reality is staring us all in the face. If we want to really build our economy and improve prosperity, then it is not the big banks that need our focus or our public money. We must, instead, concentrate upon entrepreneurs with strong, viable concepts that they want to bring to market.

Some will build their ideas into large companies, like Sir Tom Farmer did with Kwik-Fit. Sir Tom started his working life cleaning people's ovens in their homes for two and sixpence a time (that is 12.5p for those too young to remember!). There are many more Scots who have that kind of entrepreneurial imagination.

# The warnings of history for the European Union

Liam Fox,

Conservative MP for North Somerset



**“The Euro and the Eurozone represent one of the biggest risks to global economic stability”**

require a lower exchange rate to allow them to take advantages of global trading opportunities so that their peoples might enjoy the fruits of the global economy.

The third, possibly more logical, but politically impossible alternative, would be a German exit from the Euro, allowing Germany to have a currency more in keeping with its global economic strength and allowing the other Eurozone members to see a depreciation in line with their economic needs.

Although I consider the continuing crisis in the Eurozone to be the most important issue that needs to be dealt with by the EU, it is the issue of immigration that seems to have assumed even greater importance in the minds of European voters.

I believe two things need to happen. Firstly, those who are coming into our country need to wish to integrate. The second is that our own population has to be willing to allow them to integrate. When the numbers become too big, both of those tests are likely to be failed.

Firstly, very large numbers who come in at the same time, are likely to stick together, resulting in high concentrations in selected areas with the potential for ghettoisation and the maintenance of their own culture. I believe that in terms of immigration and integration, different is good but separate is bad. That is primarily a problem relating to those coming from outside Europe but it can be applied here also.

Secondly, very large numbers put pressures on schools, doctors, jobs and housing, and are likely to create resentment among the local population, making integration much more difficult.

Most people in Britain do not have a problem with people coming to work in Britain and to create wealth for our country. But they do have a problem with people coming to consume the wealth of our country, either directly or by the use of our public services, when they have never contributed to them in the first place. If a way is not found to limit either welfare entitlement or the total movement of those coming to seek work, either by a system of permits or by some other means, then the patience of the British public may be pushed to breaking point.

The lesson of evolution is that we must change or die. Those who stick rigidly to the concept of ever closer union, without regard to the changing nature of the world around us, or of Europe itself, risk the fragmentation of the continent with all the risks that this entails.

It is not the Eurosceptics who are out of step but those with a fossilised view of how Europe should be, formed in the 1950s and locked in aspic since. The warnings of history are all around us. We would be wise to heed them.

The concept of “a common market” had, and I believe continues to have, wide support amongst the British people. Where there is widespread resentment, however, is that the concept of an economic community has gradually metamorphosed into a political entity to which the British public have never given their assent.

Yet, even the notion of a purely economic relationship has to be re-assessed in the light of the creation of the Eurozone. The Euro crisis continues to be the most important issue in European politics, and this is unlikely to change any time soon, as the running sore that is the Greek crisis shows. Despite all evidence to the contrary, European leaders continue to treat the problem as a fiscal issue when, in reality, it is the fiscal symptom of economic and cultural differences. The underlying truth is that the economies inside the Eurozone are no closer to convergence today than when the currency was created. There is as much chance of realising the alchemist's dream of turning base metals into gold as there is of turning an economy like that of Greece into one that resembles Germany's.

That matters to all of us, whether we are part of the Eurozone project or not. It is my view that the Euro and the Eurozone represent one of the biggest risks to global economic stability.

It seems to me that there are three potential ways in which the euro can be de-risked. The first is for the Eurozone countries to enter into complete economic, monetary and political union, so that there can be the free fiscal transfers required without the impediments of sovereign governments. If that is regarded as politically impossible, then the second option to consider is the exit of those countries whose domestic economic circumstances



RT HON  
IAIN DUNCAN SMITH MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK  
AND PENSIONS



- Born on 9 April 1954, Edinburgh;
- Educated at Dunchurch College of Management, the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst and the Università per Stranieri in Perugia, Italy;
- Elected to the House of Commons at the 1992 General Election to represent the constituency of Chingford (following the 1997 General Election, the constituency was renamed Chingford and Woodford Green);
- Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Conservative Party from 2001 – 2003;
- Secretary of State for Work and Pensions since 2010;
- As Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, has overall responsibility for the Department for Work and Pensions which is responsible for the administration of the state pension and working age benefits system, providing support to: people of working age; employers; pensioners; families and children; and disabled people;
- Married to Betsy Fremantle and has four children.

**Department for Work and Pensions:**

Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA,  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

**Conservative Campaign Headquarters:**

4 Matthew Parker Street, London, SW1H 9HQ,  
020 7222 9000,  
<https://www.conservatives.com>

**Chingford and Woodford Green Conservative Association:**

64a Station Road, Chingford, London, E4 7BA,  
<http://www.cwgca.org>

WHO'S  
WHO  
IN THE CABINET



CENTRE:FORUM bright blue

FABIAN  
SOCIETY

# HOW CAN WE BE THE BEST COUNTRY TO GROW OLD IN?

With the Spending Review only weeks away, politicians of all parties need to consider the fairest approach to meeting the needs of our ageing population.

Join leading think tanks Bright Blue, CentreForum, and the Fabians, along with national charities Independent Age and RNIB, to take part in what promises to be one of the liveliest debates during Party Conferences.

What we can afford to spend on public services for older people – and what older people can themselves be expected to pay for – has never been more topical. These events will consider what “becoming the best country in the world to grow old in”, which the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, has argued we need to strive for, means in practice in a period of continued public spending restraint.

All too often public policy debates about future spending decisions are framed as if younger and older generations are pitted against each other in a zero-sum game, most recently seen in the reactions to this year's Summer Budget. To look afresh at spending priorities, Independent Age and RNIB, along with Bright Blue, Centre Forum, and the Fabians, will be bringing together politicians, journalists, and experts in the field to have a frank discussion on the very real pressures on public spending, when it comes to making Britain the best country to grow older in.

**Lib Dem**

Monday 21st September, 1-2pm, The Hermitage Hotel, Hardy Suite, Bournemouth.

**Labour**

Monday 28th September, 7.45 – 9pm, The Holiday Inn Hotel, Glyndebourne 2, Brighton.

**Conservative**

Monday 5th October, 7.30 – 9pm, The Midland Hotel, Chester Suite, Manchester.

For more information contact **Javneet Ghuman** at Independent Age on **020 7605 4217** or [javneet.ghuman@independentage.org](mailto:javneet.ghuman@independentage.org)





# Labour must own the devolution agenda

Emma Reynolds,

Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East

**“Labour must give up on hoarding power at the centre”**



Britain remains one of the most centralised countries in Europe. For decades, successive governments have hoarded power in Whitehall. The contrast with our European neighbours, such as Germany and France, could not be starker. As a result, their major cities have powers beyond our British imagination and, as a result, their growth and success is comparable to Berlin and Paris.

We urgently need to rebalance our economy to drive growth and prosperity in other parts of the country. Devolving power and resources to local authorities and communities is central to reforming and improving our public services. And it will help to restore faith in our politics by bringing decision-making closer to people, giving them greater control over services and the future of their communities.

The Tories talk the talk on devolution but, in reality, they lack ambition. George Osborne's approach of doing one-off deals behind closed doors smacks of the classic Tory divide-and-rule approach to politics. That means great swathes of our country risks being left behind, particularly towns and counties, playing catch up with our cities. The Tories are also dictating the terms of devolution by forcing areas to accept a mayor or risk getting a second-class deal.

This government is also deeply centralising, ordering local communities to sell off social housing, trying to control 24,000 schools from Whitehall, and imposing a centralised work programme which is failing to get people back to work because it does not take account of local needs.

So Labour's role over the coming months is twofold. First, we must hold the government's feet to the fire on devolution. We will have to fight for an ambitious package of powers for all parts of the country, not just the chosen few. The presumption should be in favour of devolution, not against it, and the responsibility must come with the necessary resources.

Our second task is to develop a distinctive Labour offer on devolution. We must seek to devolve power out of Whitehall to all areas of the country but it must not stop at local government - it must reach local communities and individuals, too. With greater power over the decisions and services that shape their lives, people can overcome the barriers that hold them back and deny them opportunities. That means decisions over housing, welfare and education.

Keir Hardie built a transformational movement in difficult times, focused on achieving a common goal. Labour must do the same in the twenty-first century. We must let go of any centralising instincts and we must own the devolution agenda. It is time for us to turn the page on centralised control and re-energise our movement in communities across the country.

At this year's Labour Party conference, we mark the centenary of Keir Hardie's death.

As our conference opens, our sixth in opposition since we lost the general election in 2010, we should recall Hardie's belief that the purpose of the Labour Party was to gain power through the ballot box and then to exercise it in pursuit of great causes, most notably greater equality and eradicating poverty.

Enshrined in the core principles of the Labour Party is the commitment to ensure that power is "in the hands of the many not the few". Yet, too often, it has appeared that we believe the opposite.

The uncomfortable truth is that while the last Labour government invested heavily in local services, such as schools, hospitals, Sure Start centres and Decent Homes, we rarely trusted councils or communities to make decisions locally or set their own priorities.

Over the past few years, we have made progress, and at the election we had, by far, the most ambitious offer on devolution of any of the political parties but there remained a sense that it was more to do with political expediency, rather than a genuine desire to devolve power.

Labour must give up on hoarding power at the centre. Not because it is politically expedient, not because devolution is in vogue but because giving people a sense of power and control over their own lives should be a core part of Labour's mission and it will help us achieve our other goals.

# THE **UNLIKELY** OPPONENTS OF A THIRD RUNWAY AT HEATHROW



I would be expected to oppose a third runway at Heathrow. I chair HACAN which provides a voice for many residents under the Heathrow flight paths. But I have found some unlikely – and influential – allies. These are key figures from business and across the political spectrum who do not believe a new runway at Heathrow is the right answer for the country. Their concerns go beyond pollution, noise and nimbyism. They argue that we should not be swayed by the self-interested advertising of Heathrow Airport and put the interests of UK plc first.

**Key figures across the political spectrum simply do not believe a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow is in the national interest**

The Airports Commission, which reported to the Government in July, found that a third runway at Heathrow would only provide 12 additional long-haul destinations by 2050. Many critics argue that would still leave the UK inadequately connected to important business and tourist markets in the emerging economies of the world. The Airports Commission acknowledged that “over the next two decades the market in China alone is predicted to be greater than that in the US, UK and Germany combined.” It is this huge growth in places like China, India, and Brazil that has convinced Boris Johnson and his allies that a brand-new airport is required – or an airport away from areas of population, such as Stansted, where there is room to expand.

Willie Walsh, the chief executive of IAG, the parent company of British Airways, the main user of Heathrow, has branded the third runway as “inefficient & not fit for purpose”. He said IAG is prepared to go to court to challenge Heathrow expansion, adding “We will challenge it by any and every avenue open to us. We are not prepared to pay for it.”

Birmingham and Manchester airports, fierce opponents of Heathrow expansion, believe they have the capacity to tap into the demand from the emerging economies. They argue that it is these direct links to the world's markets, that would help regenerate the midlands and the north.

**It's now clear the number of domestic airports linked to Heathrow will fall from 7 to just 4. Many feel misled**

And it has emerged that a third runway would *reduce* the number of domestic airports Heathrow serves from seven to just four. A two-runway Gatwick would serve seven. At present, Schiphol has direct flights to an astonishing 26. Heathrow will never be able to compete with that! Many business and local authority leaders will feel misled as much of the support for expansion at Heathrow rests on the idea that it will be a hub serving the rest of the country.

Peter Robinson, the first minister of Northern Ireland, Derek Mackay, the Scottish transport minister, and Louise Ellman, the chairwoman of the transport select committee, all support Heathrow expansion because it would improve domestic connectivity. It is now clear that is a myth.

Others, such as former transport minister Steven Norris, argue it is foolish to even consider Heathrow as the opposition to a third runway would defeat any plan to build it. A Mori Poll which came out in the summer showed that, across the UK as a whole, only 13.2% of people back a third runway.

**What has now emerged is that a third runway will not deliver even in its own terms:**

- **It has been sold on the basis it will serve critical new markets in emerging economies. In reality, it will only provide long-haul direct flights to an extra 12 cities.**
- **It was expected to provide better links to domestic airports. In reality, the number linked to Heathrow will fall from 7 to 4.**

**No wonder a respected business figure like Willie Walsh has called it “not fit for purpose”**



Written by John Stewart, chair of HACAN  
[www.hacan.org.uk](http://www.hacan.org.uk)



## Public Sector Spend Transparency IT'S IN YOUR HANDS



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# NATIONAL LORRY WEEK

## THE UK SUPPLY CHAIN ONLY HOLDS 48H OF FOOD STOCK!

Everything we eat, drink, wear and use has to be transported on the back of a lorry.

As part of its drive to raise awareness around the vital role this sector plays in delivering daily life to every part of the UK, the Road Haulage Association (RHA) is staging National Lorry Week (26-31 October 2015).

### WHAT WILL LORRY WEEK LOOK LIKE?

- Hauliers around the UK opening their premises to the public
- The RHA and its members actively engaging with their MPs
- A reception in Westminster
- A powerful week long media campaign

Our aim is to raise the profile of the UK's haulage industry, both as an essential service provider and as an excellent, and often overlooked, career opportunity.



Deliveries don't just happen.  
National Lorry Week will show just what it takes.  
[www.rha.uk.net/events/national-lorry-week](http://www.rha.uk.net/events/national-lorry-week)



# A world-class transport system to support a world-class economy

Patrick **McLoughlin**,

Secretary of State for Transport and  
Conservative MP for Derbyshire Dales



**T**his May's General Election result has allowed us to carry on the vital work we began in Coalition five years ago: renewing Britain's transport system after decades of neglect.

That task is far from easy. But it is necessary and urgent.

In 2010, the World Economic Forum ranked the quality of Britain's railways as 19th in the world, the quality of our air transport infrastructure as 34th and the quality of our roads as 35th.

Since then, our World Economic Forum rankings have improved significantly in each of those categories. But we are still living in the legacy of a historic failure to invest in transport. While our competitors were building new high speed rail lines, new airports and new roads, congestion and overcrowding became a daily fact of life for millions of people in the UK.

What exacerbated those problems was the rapid growth in demand for travel. The number of passengers using the railway doubled in the 20 years since privatisation, and our roads are carrying twice as much traffic as in the 1970s.

It was clear to us that if we wanted to mend our economy, we needed a new vision for transport, backed by unprecedented investment. Today, we have the funding in place to deliver that objective.

We are spending over £15 billion modernising roads, adding 1,300 lane miles to our motorways, and resurfacing 80 per cent of the country's most important routes. For the first time since the 1930s, we are restoring Vehicle Excise Duty to its original purpose: every penny will go to providing a secure income for road maintenance and improvement.

**"We are spending over  
£15 billion modernising  
roads"**

We are transforming our railways, too, with the biggest investment programme since the Victorian era. Crossrail services will begin in 2018, and we are pushing forward with plans for Crossrail 2. We are making huge improvements to the northern rail network through the Northern Hub scheme, and we are developing proposals for radically improved west-east rail links between Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull and Newcastle, as part of building the Northern Powerhouse. Brand new inter-city express trains will replace old rolling stock on the Great Western line from 2017 and the East Coast mainline from 2018.

In just two years from now, we will start building HS2 – a new high speed rail network for the whole of Britain. And we are carefully considering the Airports Commission's report so we can take a decision on the way forward by the end of the year.

But our plans are not just about building major infrastructure. They also mean modernising our transport systems to meet the demands of tomorrow. That is why we are investing £200 million to double the number of journeys made by bike, and to make cycling safer. We are developing new smart ticketing systems to make travel easier and more joined-up. And we are supporting the growth of the ultra-low emission vehicle market – this year, sales are up fourfold.

We do not pretend that transport investment on this scale comes without challenges. Most of the work should have been completed a long time ago. On the railways, we are trying to fit decades-worth of improvements into a few short years, on intensively used lines built in the 19th century. Overwhelmingly, though, the future for our transport infrastructure industry is one of sustained growth. And that means we need new recruits to join those already working hard to put our plans into action.

HS2, alone, will create 25,000 jobs during construction and 3,000 jobs when in operation. Our investment in the existing rail and road networks is creating another 20,000 engineering jobs. And as part of the government's commitment to create three million apprenticeships by 2020, we are supporting specialised infrastructure colleges.

The Crossrail Tunnelling Academy has enrolled over 10,000 students since opening in 2012, and the National Training Academy for Rail is about to open in Northampton. And in 2017, the National College for High Speed Rail will open in Birmingham and Doncaster.

So our investment in transport is not just about trains, tracks and tarmac. It is also about building skills and training our young people to be able to work towards a better future. That is how we will get a world-class transport system to support a world-class economy.



## Welcome to the Abellio Way

The ability to move freely, safely and with ease is a precondition for a successful society. This has always been and will remain the role of public transport within communities. At Abellio we believe our responsibility to passengers extends beyond their journey on our trains and buses, so our services are focused on a single objective: delivering the full door-to-door journey requirements of our passengers. This is the Abellio Way: Beyond a-to-b.

Across the Abellio Group, we operate rail and bus services in Scotland, England and Germany. Every day 13,000 of our people ensure that 1.3m passengers reach their destinations safely. Without the diligence and commitment of our people who consistently deliver our core values on a daily basis, we would not have the reputation we do for customer service and partnership working. We take great care, therefore, to invest in them as ambassadors for Abellio.

Our way, the Abellio Way, focuses on talent management and international best practice programmes, which allow our people the freedom to achieve their full potential.

And we don't just encourage excellence, we reward it with our annual Abellio Achievement Awards. Open to employees of all levels, the awards recognise and celebrate outstanding performance in six categories: Excellence, Bringing the Abellio Values to Life, Innovator of the Year, Leader of the Year, Team of the Year, and Employee of the Year.

Our culture, our values, our commitment to customer needs and our dedication to creating world class partnerships represent the very essence of Abellio; it differentiates us in the world of public transport. It is the Abellio Way.

the  
abellio  
way

Beyond  
a-to-b





A billion passenger journeys are made our  
rail and bus services every year.

**We're part of the fabric of the  
communities we serve.**

We take people to work, to school,  
to visit family and friends, and then home  
again after a night out.

**We're proud of our strong commitment  
to protecting the environment.**

And we're the first transport company  
to receive all three Carbon Trust  
Standards for achievements in carbon,  
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**Go Ahead**

# Why the driving test needs to change



**Neil Greig**  
Director of Policy of Research,  
Institute of Advanced Motorists

All of you will have a view on new and inexperienced drivers. There are many opinions out there about the current driving test, whether it needs to change, and if so, how it should change.

As a charity committed to reducing the numbers of people killed and seriously injured on UK roads, the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) believes the current test is not sufficient to reduce the high proportion of people 25 and under involved in serious road accidents.

To set the scene, road accidents remain the biggest killer of young people in the UK, higher than both alcohol and drugs. In 2013 there were 191 people under 24 killed and 20,003 injured as drivers and riders of cars and motorbikes. In the past five years (2009-13) there were 1,037 people under 24 killed and 120,958 injured on UK roads as drivers and riders.

Currently the driving test does not include any assessment of a driver's ability to cope safely with the riskiest situations facing the inexperienced e.g. country roads, poor weather or driving at night – these are crucial omissions which have to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

We have the luxury of being able to look at the best ideas from around the world, pick the best elements of that, and create our own 'super test' for the UK.

Austria, Australia and the USA have many great examples of good practice. Austria's 'second phase' licensing system calls young drivers back to study 12 months after the test for a further three interventions to examine attitude changes and skills and young male driver casualties have dropped by a third as a result of the initiative.

The success of graduated licensing in Australia is well documented and the USA model of young driver tuition literally brings it into the classroom. Driver education is part of the school syllabus, and this part of the syllabus must be passed before going on to take the controls of a car.

Safeguarding younger drivers forms an important part of the IAM Manifesto. It calls for road safety education to be part of the National Curriculum, supports a 12 month minimum learning period prior to taking the practical test, supports limits on peer passenger numbers, suggests that the practical test includes higher speed roads and supports a lower drink-drive limit for new drivers.

The IAM also wants to see learner drivers allowed on motorways so they can learn from an expert rather than on their own after passing the test.

We also believe theory and hazard perception tests could be delivered online and in education establishments to control costs and free up time for more on road experience.

Building on the Austrian model the IAM also wants to see compulsory post-test coaching and assessment during the first six months of driving – acknowledged to be riskiest time for a new driver.

As we all know 'driver or rider error' is a contributory factor in 68% of all road accidents and at the IAM we believe the key to eliminating this is lots of early experience and a commitment to continuous learning.

While new technology will no doubt help, it would be a mistake to believe that it will rescue us from all problems. We cannot rely on technological advances such as black boxes alone to help bring our injury and death rate down on the roads – we also need a much more integrated training system that embeds continuous improvement into new drivers' minds.

**IAM**  
DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

**The IAM is the UK's largest independent road safety charity, dedicated to improving standards and safety in driving and motorcycling. The commercial division of the IAM operates through its occupational driver training company IAM Drive & Survive. The IAM has more than 200 local volunteer groups and over 100,000 members in the UK and Ireland. It is best known for the advanced driving test and the advanced driving, motorcycling and cycling courses. Its policy and research division offers advice and expertise on road safety.**

ADVERTORIAL



# ARE POLITICIANS ‘FRIT’ OF DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

BeemCar high capacity urban transport is disruptive technology, and like its overseas competitors such as SkyTran, its introduction will have a marked impact on global urban transport. BeemCar is second generation PRT, based on proven technology and low technical risk, and has endorsements from international transport experts. But why does it remain unloved when it could provide so many benefits to the UK, and contribute to the Northern Powerhouse through the creation of new industry in the NE? These benefits could all be realised for a relatively trivial sum needed to build a technology demonstrator, something that has been endorsed by OLEV.

However, it seems that all PRT projects have been locked out of the UK's future transport policy and denied any development funding, without just cause or proper investigation. With a capacity of more than twice that of tram at a fifth of the capital cost, why did the last Government fail to act? Was it because it preferred to cosy-up with big business and put all its eggs in one basket; investing vast sums of public funding into EVs and AVs, whilst keeping the disruptive elements at bay for fear of upsetting the status quo? There is no doubt that development of AVs is needed to improve road transport, but in city centres they serve only to perpetuate car-centric design, when the focus should be on developing places for people served by improved public transport, something to which BeemCar could contribute.

**Many economic and social benefits will accrue from BeemCar's introduction, for example:**

- 70% energy savings over other powered transport modes
- Improved mobility for the elderly and those with disabilities
- The potential to provide a cost effective alternative to the BLE and Crossrail 2
- Removing the need for another London runway by providing improved connectivity
- Improved mobility within the Northern Powerhouse - Leeds to Manchester in 30 minutes, at less than a tenth of the cost of a new rail line



BeemCar is game-changing technology, and the UK should not be frit but should step up to the plate. Let's be clear, there are places overseas where people are less frit and would welcome the opportunity to develop BeemCar, an innovation conceived in the UK.

Peter Lovering  
BeemCar Ltd

[www.beemcar.com](http://www.beemcar.com)

[peter@beemcar.com](mailto:peter@beemcar.com)

# BeemCar™

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Paul Kehoe, CEO of Birmingham Airport

## Making the case for the Midlands engine of growth

The new Government is still young but David Cameron and his Cabinet are trying to hit the ground running. It is therefore crucial that our region makes its case to the Government now, before the agenda is set in stone.

In a short few months since the election, David Cameron has set out his stall on extremism and begun the shuttling back and forth from Europe whilst George Osborne has delivered a hefty Summer Budget and, a few days later, produced the much anticipated productivity plan alongside Business Secretary Sajid Javid. Dubbed "fixing the foundations," the Chancellor and Business Secretary have set out their vision for resolving the national productivity problem. If we want to have a say over the future of Government policy, it now falls to our region to set out how we will help to achieve this boost in productivity, including delivering a modern transport system, resurgent cities, a rebalanced economy and a boost in trade and investment.

Three opportunities immediately come to mind. Firstly, we have heard a lot about the Northern Powerhouse, including the announcement that Transport for the North is to be put on statutory footing

with £30 million in new funding allocated to plan the region's transport and new oyster-style ticketing. This is therefore a challenge to our region to take the work completed so far on the West Midlands Combined Authority and to run with it. This is where the HS2 Growth Strategy comes in. When HS2 phase 1 is complete, Birmingham Airport will be the most accessible airport in the UK, and well placed to boost our region's growth, relieve pressure on the congested South East and continue to help overcome the country's current shortfall in long haul connectivity. To maximise this opportunity, our region needs to work together and with the Government to ensure we have the infrastructure, skills and jobs to deliver high value opportunities.

Secondly, we need a national transport policy that seeks to connect every region to global trade opportunities. The Government has set a target of doubling exports to £1 trillion by 2020, including establishing new links with China, India and Brazil. Heathrow cannot support this alone. The Airports Commission has said that South East long haul capacity constraints, mainly at Heathrow, are

costing the economy £30-45 billion, but has not proposed any solutions to resolve this over the 15 years or more it will take to build a new runway. Our growth in long haul, 20% up this June over June 2014, shows that we are part of the answer. This summer, Birmingham Airport has played host to a historic series of 34 direct flights to Beijing, and we believe we can do even more if, for example, the Treasury reforms Air Passenger Duty to encourage more airlines to make best use of existing UK capacity.

Finally, we are still awaiting the final outcome of the Airports Commission process. Sir Howard Davies has submitted his report, and it is up to the Government to decide on how to move forward. We continue to argue for a strategic network of long-haul airports throughout the UK, each supporting the comparative economic advantage of that region, not all our eggs in one basket. The Midlands is a powerful engine of growth at the heart of our country and needs direct aviation to succeed, so we urge the Government to move ahead with caution so as not to damage the ability of airports outside the South East to grow.

ADVERTORIAL



# Port ahoy for the UK economy

Louise Ellman,

Chair of the Transport Select Committee  
and Labour MP for Liverpool, Riverside

“£7.7 billion  
value-added  
contribution to  
UK GDP”

support our ports sector and maximise its contribution to the UK economy.

In the last Parliament, I welcomed the publication of the high-level strategy for ports and the Shipping Strategy.

But the Department for Transport should not be complacent, and must build on those foundations over the next five years.

The risks of failing to do so are serious for UK jobs and import and export costs: if the UK's container ports are not competitive, container ships from Asia will not stop here, and we will be reliant on secondary trade from European ports, such as Rotterdam and Hamburg.

The Government must also continue its negotiations on the proposed European Union port services regulation, which could place unnecessary costs on ports which operate commercially and already with a high level of competition. Standing up for the interests of UK ports will be a key task for new Shipping Minister, Robert Goodwill, over the next twelve months.

Ports, whether large or small, depend on a modern integrated transport system, both locally and nationally. Ports are only as strong as the weakest transport link: they cannot function if hauliers and logistics firms struggle to get goods in and out of them, no matter how modern and efficient the infrastructure is inside the port gates.

The logistics sector often faces a double blockage to effective transportation of goods from port to market: the final few miles to and from the port gates have to be properly streamlined and efficient to prevent bottlenecks.

The national road and rail network must be geared up for freight and in particular for moving freight off the roads and onto the railway, with sufficient train paths and loading gauge.

The issue of who pays for infrastructure access to ports remains contentious, with ports arguing that private sector payment for infrastructure improvements puts them at a disadvantage to major European competitors where the public sector foots the bill.

P.T.O



As an island nation, our ports are crucial to connecting our people and goods with the wider world.

Five hundred million tonnes of freight per year and 28 million passengers pass through UK ports each year.

Nearly all the freight that arrives in the UK does so by water – 95 per cent of freight by volume – and the sector contributes some £7.7 billion value-added contribution to UK GDP.

Strategic leadership is required from Government to



## Operation imPORTant



### The Port of Dover: a national asset and crucial international gateway.

- £100 billion of trade handled
- 2.5 million freight vehicles
- 2.5 million tourist vehicles
- 13 million passengers
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- £120 million committed to revival of Western Docks – a new cargo and port centric distribution facility, creation of greater space in Eastern Docks for ferry traffic, 600 new jobs and a transformed waterfront

### The Port of Dover is:

**Keeping the UK economy moving** – equivalent to the UK's busiest container port and fifth busiest airport by passenger numbers

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**Delivering for Dover** – providing the catalyst for the wider regeneration of Dover

### Contact:

Port of Dover, Harbour House, Dover, Kent CT17 9BU  
t: 01304 240400 • e: [communications@doverport.co.uk](mailto:communications@doverport.co.uk)



“The issue of who pays for infrastructure access to ports remains contentious”



There should be a combination of public and private sector contributions working with Local Enterprise Partnerships and ensuring that ports in different regions are not disadvantaged through the absence of appropriate infrastructure.

There are exciting developments in our ports. In the last Parliament, the Transport Committee visited Felixstowe – the UK’s biggest container port – and the new development at London Gateway; the Port of London at Gravesend; and the port facilities at Hull.

In Liverpool, the SUPERPORT initiative will generate 20,000 new jobs and, by the end of 2015, the new deep water

container terminal will open. Once the port is complete, it will accommodate the “post-Panamax” vessels travelling through the expanded Panama Canal. That is a huge opportunity to rebalance the UK economy, shifting freight which would have arrived in the south of England to the north, reducing congestion on the road and rail networks.

With over 118,000 people directly employed in UK ports, it is vital to ensure that jobs and growth are maximised across the country, offering a future in this vital sector. That cannot be achieved without strategic leadership enabling both the private and public sectors to deliver new and exciting opportunities.

# KEEPING BRITAIN TRADING

Our network of 21 ports provide access to international markets for UK manufacturers, driving trade and growth.

- Supporting 84,000 jobs
- Generating £5.6 billion for the UK economy
- Investing £857 million in the UK
- Handling around 100m tonnes of cargo

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## Food Enterprise Zones: a driver of the UK economy

Elizabeth Truss,

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
and Conservative MP for South West Norfolk



**“Consumers, both here  
and abroad, want to buy  
great British food”**

businesses, boosting local economies and attracting new investment.

The FEZs will give power to local people to decide what kinds of businesses to encourage in the areas in which they live in and to decide where they should be located.

Grants of up to £50,000 have been made available to set up FEZs. In line with local priorities, they will make the planning process simpler and easier for food and farming businesses which want to expand.

Consumers, both here and abroad, want to buy great British food. The zones will ensure that we can produce and sell more of that great British food, and expand our food and farming industry in doing so.

Food and farming is at the heart of our long-term economic plan and is vital to securing Britain's future. Food Enterprise Zones will ensure that both food and farming power our economy forward.

Below is a case study of a Food Enterprise Zone:

Norton Barton Artisan Food Village, near Bude, Cornwall, was confirmed as a Food Enterprise Zone earlier this year.

The village, already home to Popti Cornish Bakehouse, North Coast Cider, Cornish Charcuterie and Whalesborough Cheese, could create an additional 40 jobs for the local community.

Under the plan, the Artisan Food Village will help local food start-ups grow and flourish, offering state-of-the art production units and practical support to develop and trial new products before companies take the leap to their own premises.

The plans for the village also include a new education centre looking at where food comes from and how it is made, adding another attraction to the diverse range of tourist experiences in Cornwall, where food and drink accounts for a third of money spent by visitors.

**W**e are a nation of food-lovers; the popularity of the *Great British Bake Off* is testament to this. Capturing that creativity and passion for what we eat is part of what makes Britain's food industry so great.

But we could do so much more. Food and drink is already our biggest manufacturing industry; indeed, it is bigger than the cars and aerospace industries combined.

The food and drink industry generates more than £100 billion a year, or seven per cent of the whole economy.

However, I want it to grow even further, to become a world leader in innovation, exports and skills.

And I want to make it simpler and easier for those with a passion for good food to set up and grow their business.

So many people share that ambition for the future of British food, particularly in the countryside, and we need to unleash their potential, making food a powerhouse of the UK economy.

I want us to realise that vision together through Food Enterprise Zones (FEZs), which will showcase our wonderful local food and drink, and unlock the potential of food and farming

## EASTON AND OTLEY COLLEGE IS CURRENTLY THE FIFTH LARGEST LANDBASED COLLEGE IN THE UK.



Based across two campuses – one in Norfolk and one in Suffolk – the educational establishment employs around 750 staff and teaches over 5000 students.

Most recent political visitors include Liz Truss who came along to the college to find out about what the college is doing in relation to apprenticeships and Lord Heseltine who came along to see progress on the creation of a new construction centre that is being built thanks to the support of the New Anglia Learning Enterprise Partnership.

The £3.75m building will be opened later in the year as the college looks to train new talent in a range of trades to help counteract a rising population and housing shortage in the country.

The college is also incredibly committed to tackling other issues in industries that are struggling to recruit new generations.

The average age of those working in the farming industry is currently rising so the college is working hard to counteract these issues.

A recent competition with primary schools asked youngsters to draw pictures of what they think a tractor will look like in 100 years.

Working with a local employer (Ernest Doe) and the University of East Anglia has proved very successful – and the college is keen to promote the idea that the brightest minds are needed to help support agriculture – a business where innovation is moving at a pace equivalent to the developments of space travel.

A new principal has just taken over (David Henley). Mr Henley is of agricultural stock, having grown up on a farm in Yorkshire and his mission is to support landbased and associated industries.

He said – “With political support from all parties, anything is possible. It's fair to say that the FE sector has been challenged greatly. However, as a college and a sector, we have proved to be one of the most responsive in terms of ingenuity and resourcefulness to adapt to change. We have an appetite for change and we are always looking for new partnerships and we are driven to succeed - I truly believe that the industries we serve are vitally important - and in East Anglia they are very visible in the view of the LEP and other key partners - where there is change there is opportunity.”

Easton and Otley College is part of a group of sixth form and college partnerships called the New Anglia College Marketing Group.

This collaboration has come together to promote education in Suffolk and Norfolk and will be launching a new vision document in Westminster for 2015/16.

The document and event will showcase all the fantastic work that our institutions are involved in when supporting hundreds of thousands of students of all ages every year – from primary schools to PhDs and everything in between, we are all focussed on helping people progress into careers or higher education.

With political backing, we can continue to play our part in maintaining the world class reputation of education in the UK.





# Food, farming and foxes: what does DEFRA stand for?

Angela Smith,

Shadow Minister for Water, Marine, Fisheries and Animal Welfare and Labour MP for Penistone and Stockbridge



**“Ministers need to shout out for farming and for wildlife”**

plan, a plan which emphasised the importance of supply chains and the need to think comprehensively about food in all its aspects, including education and health. Ministers are playing catch-up and it is farmers who are paying the price.

Farmers have a critical role to play in encouraging UK biodiversity; in many respects, they are custodians of a large and important part of our countryside. Exactly why, in fact, it is so difficult to divorce the food and farming aspects of DEFRA's workload from its other responsibilities. Progress has been made in recent years in getting this country started on the long, hard journey towards reversing the damage inflicted to our wildlife and its habitats.

We cannot be complacent, however. The reversal of the decline in wildlife needs not just a lot more time but commitment, too, and we need politicians to acknowledge the inseparability of food and farming from these key biodiversity issues. Ministers need to shout out for farming and for wildlife.

Ministers also need to acknowledge that rural England and Wales is much loved by the vast majority of voters. We love our national parks and our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and we are passionate about protecting them; another reason why DEFRA matters is that we look to it to protect our wonderful rural legacy. What is often overlooked, however, is the importance of maintaining those jewels of the countryside as living, working landscapes.

Our beautiful countryside, even in its wildest aspects, is a managed countryside and will continue to be so. Ministers need to ensure, therefore, that they think through the challenges facing those who work in rural areas. How, for instance, can we ensure that there is sufficient affordable housing for those who work on the farms and for other rural businesses?

So DEFRA matters. It matters because our countryside matters, in all its aspects. It matters because it is about the food on our tables and all this entails in terms of our wonderful rural heritage and the need to ensure that this is maintained, enhanced and, indeed, improved.

Ministers, then, need to take a comprehensive, well-rounded view of what DEFRA does and they need to make it strategic in its outlook.

They should not allow ideology to get in the way of what needs to be done in the best interests of our rural economy. And, finally, they ought not to forget that for most people living and working in the countryside, crusades to bring back foxhunting are not central to their existence.

What does matter is jobs, livelihoods and having somewhere to live - and politicians should never forget this.

In recent months, a debate has started about whether or not the Department for Food, Farming and Rural Affairs has a future. There are policymakers, it appears, who believe that many of its functions could be reallocated, saving money in the process.

What, then, is the point of DEFRA?

That question only arises if you believe that its core activities, food and farming, can be allowed to stand in splendid isolation from the rest of the brief. Let us start, however, by reiterating the importance of food and farming to the British economy. According to the National Farmers Union in 2014, the food and farming sector was worth over £103 billion, which is 6.8 per cent of Gross Value Added of the UK economy. Farming comprises some 142,000 farm businesses, which act as a cornerstone for the food sector more generally. That sector supports 3.8 million jobs and stands as the UK's fourth largest exporter. I would be the first to argue, in fact, that we do not do enough to shout about the success of that very important part of the British economy.

We also need to recognise that farmers make a vital contribution to the food economy. The recent controversy over milk prices demonstrates that there is much more to do in terms of building successful, collaborative supply chain partnerships in the UK food and farming sector, and DEFRA Ministers need to do more to encourage this development. As it stands, Ministers have belatedly acknowledged the need for a food and farming strategy and this is about as far as it has got to. But they are only five years late; in 2010, Coalition Ministers decided that they did not need a strategy and abandoned Labour's Food 2030



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Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread abuses of human rights, affecting one in three women worldwide and locking many in poverty. This must stop.

The UK Government has already shown initiative in tackling violence against women globally, but it's time they took the next step.

Ahead of this year's UN General Assembly we are calling on David Cameron to stand with fearless women. He should increase the UK Government's efforts by working with other countries to show that with political will, women in the driving seat, adequate finance, and a decent plan, violence can be a thing of the past.

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Najiba, 32, women's rights  
activist and paralegal  
advisor, Afghanistan

#FEARLESS

Photo: Lorenzo Tognoli/Actionaid

## A message to Whitehall: Libya matters

Daniel Kawczynski,

Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Libya and  
Conservative MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham



**“Human rights abuses  
are taking place on a scale  
that is incalculable”**

peace – the police and the army – have all but given up in Libya. International flights have now been largely abandoned. And human rights abuses – such as random executions – are taking place on a scale that is incalculable.

What is more, Libya's pain is now being referred beyond its borders. In the first quarter of 2014 alone, the number of illegal migrants from the Libyan coastline reached 25,650, resulting in the deaths of 2,447 souls.

In 2015, the number increased to 180,000, 10,000 of which made their way across Europe to enter the UK. People smugglers and others who capitalise on human misery have been quick to take advantage of Libya's porous borders.

Even more alarmingly, ISIS has managed, relatively effortlessly, to take control of two big cities in Libya. Their first conquest was Derna, a coastal city with a functioning port, and, in 2015, the group took control of Sirte, another coastal city with a port, an airfield and substantial oil and gas exporting facilities. It was once, ironically, the hometown of Gaddafi and used to be his citadel of power.

If others have been slow to see the potential of Libya, ISIS has not. In 2015 alone, it was reported that ISIS had lured hundreds of British citizens to join their fight in Iraq, Syria and then Libya. ISIS now has facilities which can help it to lure and recruit still more people – not only from the UK, but from all over the world.

The danger of such a huge land mass, just the other side of the Mediterranean, being controlled by terrorists ought, by now, to be obvious to Europe. Ed Miliband, to his credit, perhaps, raised it as an issue during this year's election campaign.

However, the country's travails seldom, if ever, make the front pages in the UK. To too many opinion formers, Libya seems to be about quarrels in a far-away country between people, of whom, they know nothing about.

The tragedy is that Libya has so much to offer that is good. It is a country that is crying out for development and infrastructure, and its oil resources should be making its people among the most prosperous in the world. It ought, too, to be a natural ally of the UK. Unlike the rest of Maghreb countries, Libya is the only non-Francophone country and regards English as its second language, after Arabic.

The UK is hugely respected by ordinary Libyans as a place of learning and investment. Gaddafi, himself, attended a language school in – of all places – Bournemouth.

Libya's links to civilisation become more tenuous, however, with each passing day. It is time for actions, and not just words, to put the country back on the right track.

Covering an area of almost 1.8 million square kilometres, Libya is a vast, unignorable presence on the atlases of the world, with a population of just over six million people and oil reserves that are exceeded by only nine other countries. At the moment, however, it is, to all intents and purposes, a vacuum: a great country that is waiting to happen.

The overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi, which began with the revolution instigated by his own people in 2011, and subsequently supported by Western powers, was supposed to mark the beginning of an exciting chapter in the country's history. The country's period of pariahship would come to an end.

Sadly, the dream quickly turned into a nightmare – and one so bad that some Libyans are starting to feel nostalgic for their murderous former dictator.

The initial collective government that was established quickly began to show fissures. Soon, power-hungry warlords began taking control of vast swathes of land as the international community – its diplomats, as well as its businesses – began to beat a hasty retreat.

The Libya that they have left behind is a failed state in all but name. Two governments now exist, each with limited sovereignty. Some cities are ruled entirely by local councils and militias, such as Zintan and Misrata, while others are ruled by either of the parallel governments, while others have fallen under the control of the terrorist militias of ISIS.

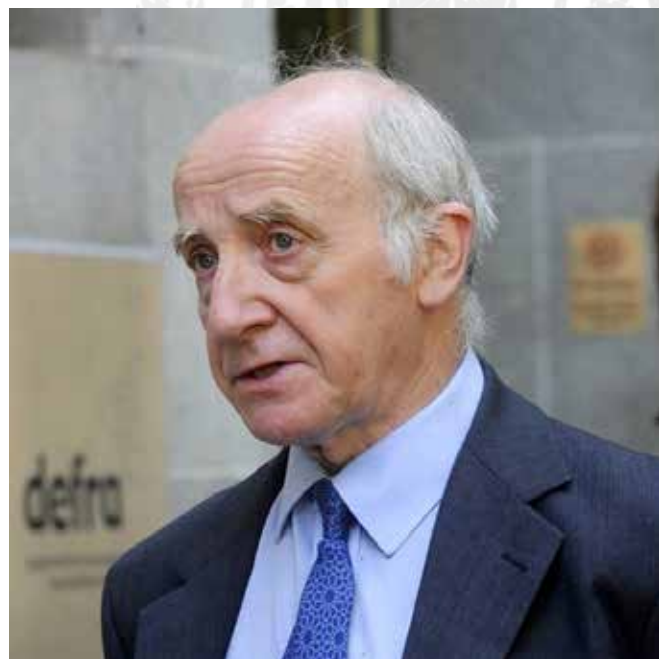
The forces which civilised communities rely upon to keep the



# Innovation: the key to economic growth

Lord John **Selborne**,

Chair of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee and a Conservative Peer



**A**s the Government formulates its long-term strategies for economic growth, we should take stock of our national capacity to support and foster innovation

The longest lasting periods of economic growth in history have been driven by innovation. The mass production system, electrification and the microchip are examples of new technology becoming the dominant driver for long-term growth. In the United Kingdom, as in every other developed economy, innovation will continue to be the key source of economic growth for the next generation and longer.

Successful innovation raises productivity and living standards, expands the range of goods and services available to individuals and society, as a whole, and allows us to live longer, healthier lives.

It is not just businesses that must innovate; governments and social organisations need to innovate to adapt, respond to and shape the evolution of society. Global population growth, continuing climate change and the scarcity of natural resources will all demand innovative technologies to enable us to modify our adverse impacts on the environment.

At one end of the research and development spectrum, we have publicly funded research through the Research Councils and also research undertaken by government departments. Innovate UK is the main vehicle through which the government provides incentives for business-led technology innovation. Thereafter the system becomes complex. Key players include national, devolved and local government, the university system, businesses and the third sector. Each has a role in the UK's research and innovation support system but, as the Dowling Review of Business – University Collaborations has concluded, the innovation support system has become excessively complex.

**“Successful innovation raises productivity and living standards”**

The industrial strategy launched by the coalition government in 2013 identified priority technologies in which the UK has the research, expertise and business capability to become a world leader: big data, space, robotics, synthetic biology, regenerative medicine, agri-science, materials and energy.

Governments have a critical role to play in innovation but picking winners must be avoided. They should not be involved in the micro-detail of innovation processes and should avoid being excessively prescriptive. The essential role for governments is to provide education and training, finance basic research in universities and research institutes in partnership with industry, fund the scientific infrastructure and provide targeted support for innovative activity.

The quality of research undertaken in our universities is one of the nation's key assets in attracting the inward investment on which so many future jobs will depend on. We depend on research excellence to provide the seed corn to incubate new businesses and grow existing enterprises. We are rightly proud of our output from our research-led universities, which is ranked second only to the USA in terms of world class research.

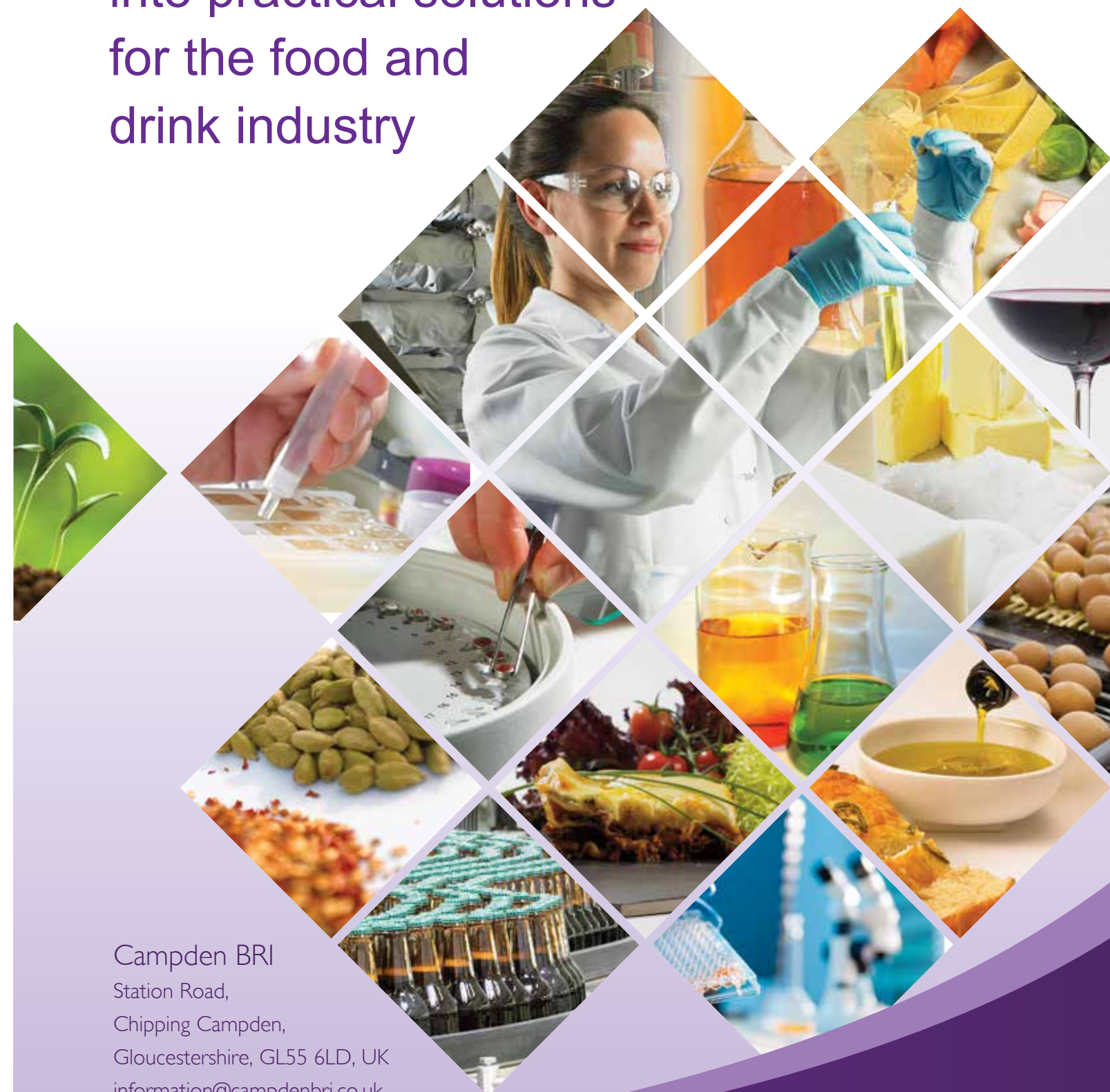
However, Sir Mark Walport, the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, has reported that there is some evidence to suggest that the UK is falling behind many of its major trade competitors when it comes to research and development on which innovation depends on. Our gross domestic expenditure on research and development is below the European Union average, below the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development average and a long way below the United States, Korea and Japan.

Over the coming months, parliamentary scrutiny will be needed to help identify which policies are most likely to deliver economic growth for the next generation. The House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee will play its part in scrutinising the scientific agenda to suggest where best we should deploy our resources and how we should foster the required skills.

Amongst the issues that the Committee might well consider are: what could be done to encourage more women to pursue a career in engineering; how can we reduce the gulf between further and higher education, thereby boosting the formation of human capital; how can we attract more long-term investment in high value innovative companies; how can the excessively complicated research and innovation support system be simplified; and what new technologies will emerge with commercial potential in which the UK can aspire to be a world leader.

Since its inception in 1979, the Committee has done much to raise awareness within government and amongst the general public of the potential for science and technology to contribute to overriding national objectives, and it will continue to do so in the future months ahead.

## Translating science into practical solutions for the food and drink industry



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# Achieving gender equality and ending the gender pay gap for good

Caroline Dinneage,

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Family Justice and Conservative MP for Gosport

**“Working parents can now also share parental leave and pay”**



May 2010. Female employment has increased faster in the UK than in any other G7 country, while the gender pay gap is also now at its lowest ever level – and virtually eliminated for full-time workers under 40.

But we have to go even further. That is why one of the Prime Minister’s first actions in this new Parliament was his commitment to end the gender pay gap in a generation. And whilst that may sound ambitious to some, it is a testimony to how seriously we take this.

There is still too much confusion around what the gender pay gap means, with many still conflating it with equal pay. To be clear, equal pay is about paying men and women the same amount for the same job – something which is already legally required.

The gender pay gap, on the other hand, is far more complex. It measures the difference between men and women’s average pay and is driven by a number of factors, such as the different careers women tend to enter and the levels of seniority they progress to. Women still tend to work in lower paid sectors, and only 34 per cent of managers, directors and senior officials are women. Frankly, that is an outrageous waste of our country’s talent.

That is why we must take action on all fronts – from classrooms to boardrooms, right across the country.

We are bringing in new regulations which require companies with more than 250 employees to publish data on their gender pay gap – something that we pledged to do in our manifesto. That is a vital step – but to truly tackle the issue, we must address the causes themselves.

Our efforts must start early. Nicky Morgan, the Education Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities, is leading the change in schools, working to raise aspirations so that no girl thinks a career is off limits because of their gender.

We are also ensuring workplaces are fit for the 21st century, so that more women can progress in work. We are extending the amount of free childcare available to working parents, and have extended the right to request flexible working to all employees. Working parents can now also share parental leave and pay.

It is only by tackling the causes themselves that we can end the gap for good. That is not just good for women – it is good for Britain. I do not believe that there is such a thing as “women’s issues” – I believe that women have a stake in all issues. That is why our efforts must span across society, and involve men in the conversations, too. And together we can achieve equality.

I was lucky to grow up in a family where I was told that I could achieve anything I set my mind to, and to grow up in a country which had a female Prime Minister for most of my childhood. There was nothing to suggest that if I worked hard, there was no career that was off limits, and no aspiration too high.

That is why I am proud to be part of a Conservative majority government that wants to see every member of society fulfil their potential – regardless of gender, race or background.

As the Prime Minister said when he stood on the steps of Downing Street following that remarkable election result this May, we will be a one nation government that puts social justice at its heart.

That is why ensuring more women can reach their potential is an absolute priority for us as a government. We need to have a strong economy where everyone can play their part. That means we cannot afford to waste the skills of half our population. Striving towards greater gender equality is therefore not just the right thing to do for women - it is essential for Britain’s future.

We know that equalising women’s productivity and employment to the same level as men’s could add almost £600 billion to our economy, helping to clear a third of our national debt; and that over one and a half million women already in work would like to do more hours. If they worked just one extra hour each week, that would contribute 80 million more hours a year in productivity.

It is right to recognise and be proud of the important strides we have made: more women are in work than ever before – 14.5million women are in work, an increase of 893,000 since

# The need for transparency to reduce the gender pay gap

Gloria De Piero,

Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities and Labour MP for Ashfield

**“Transparency is an important driver of action”**



had on their attitude towards differences in pay and progression for female employees.

But pay transparency is just the first step. This June, Labour put forward a motion calling on the Government to join the dots and ensure that the information published by some 7,000 companies does not end up buried in 7,000 annual reports. Instead, we have proposed that the independent Equality and Human Rights Commission collate and analyse that information each year to provide the most comprehensive analysis of the gender pay gap across the country that we have ever had.

An “Annual Equal Pay Check” that would serve as a progress report on the health of pay equality in this country. It would highlight the sectors outpacing others in equal pay and the policies that have helped them achieve this, and shine a spotlight on the industries falling short.

Just as pay transparency should focus minds within individual companies, an annual report on Britain’s pay gap would pinpoint the biggest factors across the economy and where new thinking and public policy can have the greatest impact.

Soft discrimination, or unconscious bias, is acknowledged by many companies as a factor in fewer women being recommended for promotion. And just this summer, the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that as many as 54,000 new mums are pushed out each year because of maternity discrimination. But transparency will identify more than just examples of discrimination.

Today, a quarter of working women earn less than the living wage compared with one-sixth of men. Forty-six per cent of working women work part-time and yet this work is paid, on average, one-third less per hour than full-time work. If you want to go part-time when you have young kids, expect to take a massive pay-cut for the privilege.

Inexplicably, David Cameron’s Government voted against an annual equal pay check when we proposed it in Parliament. If he is committed to ending the gender pay gap for this generation, he has no reason to fear an annual progress report. But real change will take more than that.

In power, Labour cut the gender pay gap by a third because our entire programme for government was focused on delivering our values - improving the lives of families, securing people’s rights in the workplace against discrimination, low pay and insecurity, and building a more prosperous modern economy where work fits in with family life, rather than fighting against.

To finally deliver on the promise of equal pay, we will need the sort of transformative change that comes with a Labour Government.

“Now Thelma, we’ll have no more of that equal pay business.” That was the warning from Winston Churchill after blocking an attempt to introduce legislation on Equal Pay in 1944. It would take another thirty years, the courageous actions of the women machinists of the Ford Dagenham plant and a Labour Government before Equal Pay for equal work finally became a legal right.

Today, you would be hard pressed to find anyone across the political spectrum who does not agree with the principle of equal pay, and yet women still earn just 80 pence for every pound earned by a man. Over the course of her lifetime, a woman can expect to earn over £100,000 less, a figure that becomes much higher when you factor in the cost to her pension.

That is the price of the gender pay gap – it is a cost borne not just by women but their families, too, and in regards to businesses and Britain as a whole, it is a waste of skills and talent.

So what to do? Boil it down and equal pay is about workplace justice – the basic right to be fairly compensated for the work you do and to have an equal opportunity to move up and improve life for yourself and your family by working hard and being good at what you do.

This Summer, David Cameron announced that he would be reversing his Government’s decision to ditch Labour’s legislation that would require companies of over 250 employees to publish their pay gap each year. That is a welcome change of heart. Over the past two years, we have argued, alongside campaigners and businesses, alike, that transparency is an important driver of action, focusing the minds of employers and shareholders on the problem and encouraging concerted action.

In fact, employers, such as insurers Friends Life and PwC, already practice pay gap transparency and acknowledge the impact it has



# Building for the present and the future

Brandon Lewis,

Minister of State for Housing and Planning  
and Conservative MP for Great Yarmouth



**W**hen the Great British people elected us this May, the message was clear – carry on with the plan and finish the job.

In 2010, we inherited a country that was in crisis. Nowhere was that more evident than in the state of the housing market. Since then, we have acted - overhauling the planning system to put the power in the hands of local people; supporting first-time buyers through initiatives like Help to Buy; and slashing red tape to get the construction industry building again.

Today, housing starts are at a seven-year high, and 800,000 additional homes have been delivered since the end of 2009. We have also helped more than 200,000 people buy or reserve a home through Government-backed schemes.

That is progress to be proud of, but we know there is more to do. That is why we have lost no time in setting out a comprehensive package of housing measures which will boost the housing supply and give hard-working people every opportunity to own their own home.

That includes extending the Right to Buy. We radically increased the discounts available to tenants and started a new era of opportunity with more than 36,000 households seizing the opportunity to buy their home.

But there is a problem – and this is the unequal treatment of more than one million tenants living in social housing managed by Housing Associations, who have received far less assistance, or none at all. That is clearly unfair. Aspiration should not be limited by the organisation which manages your home, especially if it is funded by the taxpayer. That is why we will ensure Housing Association tenants have the same Right to Buy

**“Our Starter Home programme will deliver 200,000 high quality homes”**

as council tenants.

And we will also ensure that revenue from sales will be invested in more affordable homes, with every home sold replaced. That pledge will build on our strong record during the last Parliament where twice as many council homes were built between 2010 and 2015 than the entire 13 years of the previous Government.

Let me be clear: wherever we support the aspirations of home buyers, we will ensure this leads to the construction of new homes. And that includes providing homes for our children.

Our Starter Home programme will deliver 200,000 high quality homes by 2020. Offered to first-time buyers under 40, with a 20 per cent discount, they will provide a place for young people to feel secure in and plan for their future in.

We have also extended the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme until 2020, and will launch a Help to Buy ISA.

Our philosophy is to facilitate demand and boost supply. Because when buyers can buy, builders will build, and we can support the aspirations of working people.

At the same time, we will continue to support the most vulnerable in our society, building on the success of our Affordable Homes Programme. We recently published figures that showed that aspiration to deliver 170,000 affordable homes by 2015 was not just met but surpassed by 16,000 homes. In this Parliament, we will go even further and deliver 275,000 affordable homes, achieving the fastest rate of delivery for 20 years.

In the last Parliament, we released enough Government-owned land to build 109,000 new homes, and over the next five years we will release more – enough for 150,000 homes. Development on brownfield land will be fundamental to our approach and will allow us to meet the demand for new homes in a way that protects the green belt for future generations.

That is why our new Housing Bill will require councils to set up registers for suitable brownfield land to help fast-track the construction of homes, with our ambition to have 90 per cent of suitable sites granted permission by the end of this Parliament.

The fact is that we are giving housebuilders the tools they need to keep Britain building, and I fully expect them to use those tools to deliver the homes that hard-working people deserve.

That is because we are a One Nation government that is on the side of aspiration; we are the Government that has a long-term economic plan; and we are the Government that is getting the job done.



**The Hyde Group**  
Making a lasting difference

# The Hyde Group rises to Government's challenge

**The Hyde Group is an award winning provider of genuinely affordable housing - making a significant contribution to meeting the country's housing needs and improving people's quality of life. Affordable housing is at the core of our day-to-day business: we provide homes and services to more than 95,000 customers across London and the south east.**

As a social business, we reinvest our profits to build more homes. Last year we provided more than 1,100 new homes for people who desperately needed them. We fully intend to maintain our development programme and are investigating ways which will allow us to build even more homes.

The Government has made it clear that it expects housing associations to do more to help people into home ownership. It is right that we respond to this challenge. Over the past three years, we have invested the cash equivalent of 2.6 times our annual surplus in building and acquiring homes. We remain committed to this approach and pledge to build thousands of new homes over the next three years.

While we anticipate that we will develop more housing for sale, to promote Low Cost Home Ownership, and fewer homes for affordable rent, Hyde will not stop building new sub-market rented homes completely. We are exploring ways to fund these new homes, looking at how many we might build in future years and are engaging with the GLA and HCA on finding ways to deliver our commitment to them. The UK is still facing a huge shortfall in the supply of new homes and we believe forward thinking housing associations like Hyde have a crucial role to play in delivering new homes of all tenures.

The Hyde Group has significant skills and experience, which combined with our financial strength means we can work with Government

and our partners to help boost the supply of new homes. Our people are brimming with ideas; our management team and board are passionate about growth. They are ambitious to position Hyde to take advantage of emerging opportunities, by working more progressively with both public and private sector partners to find innovative ways to build more homes.

Our approach to both new build and large scale regeneration is innovative, flexible and commercially driven. But don't just take our word for it. Several of our large scale regeneration schemes, such as those in Bermondsey, Packington (Islington) and Stonebridge in Brent have been held up as exemplars of how regeneration should be done and transformed formerly troubled estates into thriving communities.



The Hyde Group plans to build 350 homes in Harrow town centre.

We work hard to build partnerships with organisations and communities to deliver a wide range of services, to create and sustain great places to live and support our most vulnerable residents.

**That's how Hyde makes a lasting difference.**



# Transforming the pensions' landscape

Baroness Ros **Altmann**,

Minister of State for Pensions and a Conservative Peer



**“We are simplifying the State Pension”**

What we are doing is ending the confusing system of contracting-out, under which individuals can opt to either pay a lower rate of National Insurance or for some of their NI to go directly towards funding a private or occupational pension. Those arrangements were in return for foregoing entitlement to the Additional State Pension.

As we move to a new, more progressive system, clearly it would be unfair to suddenly uplift those who had paid the lower rate of NI to the same level of the new State Pension as those who had paid contributions at the standard rate all of their working lives.

We will protect the amounts people have built up in the past and carry them forward to the new State Pension. Clearer communication is also crucial to ensuring that employers are given the support they need to fulfil their automatic enrolment responsibilities – another key pillar of our pension reform agenda.

So far, nearly 5.3 million employees have been enrolled into a workplace pension by around 50,000 employers. However, they represent only three per cent of employers as, until recently, the spotlight was on large and medium-sized firms. We only started to extend automatic enrolment to small and micro employers this summer, and they clearly have fewer resources to call upon than large corporations.

So we have adapted the support available and will continue to look for ways that can help this group, which make up the bulk of the UK's employers, to meet their responsibilities. Alongside all that, people who save into a private pension are now able to withdraw their money and spend it as they see fit, under new freedoms which took effect at the start of this financial year.

I have long been an advocate of trusting people with their own money and savers should now have more choice than ever before. I am disappointed that some firms are still not offering their customers products which would allow them to take advantage of the freedoms and are, instead, imposing hefty charges, lengthy delays or exit penalties on those wishing to transfer to other providers. But it is a problem which we will address.

We must not allow consumer rights to play second fiddle to the interests of large financial firms, so we have launched a consultation to gather evidence on what is actually happening, which we will use as a basis for taking action to ensure customers are treated fairly.

In summary, the pensions' landscape is unrecognisable to that of five years ago, with more people saving into workplace pensions, new freedoms allowing savers to access their cash, and a new State Pension that will be far easier to understand. But much work remains to help those changes work in the interests of those who matter most: the people of the UK. And I am committed to ensuring that happens.

It is no secret that I have dedicated much of my working life to the world of pensions, including campaigning for greater transparency and fairness across the industry.

So I feel privileged to have been appointed to the House of Lords as the Government Minister responsible for continuing our radical programme of pension reform. Putting in place the right measures for ensuring working people, the length and breadth of the UK, can enjoy a decent, well-earned retirement, goes to the very heart of our long-term economic plan.

With many of our root-and-branch changes now reaching a critical stage, I am under no illusion as to the scale of the task in hand.

One of the most pressing challenges is to ensure that the new State Pension is rolled out as smoothly as possible on April 6, next year. That reform will bring much-needed clarity to a system which few people truly understand, and will reduce the need for pensioner means-testing.

While that is undoubtedly a cause for celebration, it is clear we have more to do to explain exactly what it means for individuals. Yes, we are simplifying the State Pension but we have a fiendishly complex legacy to deal with.

That is why I have laid the groundwork for a new media campaign, and over the coming months we will be reaching millions of people with TV, radio, print and digital adverts, helping them to see what is happening to the State Pension after April 2016.

We must shatter the misconception that in the early years everybody will receive the same amount. That is the intention for the long-term, but our State Pension has always been based on what people paid in through their National Insurance contributions and this will continue to be the case.

# Everyone has the right to a dignified death

Peter **Dowd**,

Labour MP for Bootle



**“As I will not support the right of a person to die as they would wish to, I will support helping the person in other ways”**

to invent them. But, fortunately, hospices do exist, and have done so in many guises for centuries, whether caring for a dying crusader or, more latterly, a dying child with grieving parents. Hospices also provide respite for carers or symptomatic relief for patients, as not all people who go into a hospice die there.

So for me, as I will not support the right of a person to die as they would wish to, I will support helping the person in other ways. So, for example, all hospices should be able to help terminally-ill people die with love, compassion, dignity and without pain – both mentally and physically. That is no easy challenge, but hospices which are well-equipped, well-staffed, and well-resourced, are in a position to help with the challenge.

But that cannot be done on a wing, a prayer or good will. It cannot be done with warm, encouraging words. It can only be done with investment and resources. In other words, with public money. There, I have said it! Yes, taxpayers' money. Your money, my money.

How can it be right that hospices have to raise huge amounts of money through charitable means over and above, for example, continuing health care that is funded by the NHS? Volunteers, carrying out fantastic work, day in, day out, organising raffles and midnight walks, together with lotteries, legacies and charity shop income - these are just some of the fund raising methods. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, no one in the Treasury bats an eyelid at £50 billion worth of guarantees on decommissioning nuclear power stations, £100 billion on the replacement of Trident, or £35 billion on HS2.

The idea that we would fund any of those projects on the goodwill of so many people is ludicrous. The very idea would be laughed at. So do we have to rely so much on the charity, the goodness, the humanity and the goodwill of so many to ease the journey of so many people into a comfortable death?

In this respect, just two years ago, a working paper of the Commission into the Future of Hospice Care set out the challenges and dilemmas facing us, such as increasing numbers of older people with multiple health co-morbidities and chronic conditions, and increasing numbers of cases of cancer. But, constructively and positively, it also set out the potential ways forward: better use of technology, different models of care, a more flexible and mobile work force, use of data and evidence, and, importantly, different ways to harness the commitment of volunteers. It is well worth a read because the issue of hospice care is not going away anytime soon.

Perhaps not a torrent of correspondence but the emails, letters and visits which I have received about the Assisted Dying Bill, since my election to parliament this May, have been thought-provoking, to say the least.

To those who have, in good faith, asked me to support the Bill, I have declined. On a matter of such sensitivity, it is difficult to do justice to the subject and to my personal position, but, in my responses, I have tried. Clearly, the debate has to be had.

But do I need to justify my view? Traditionally, “conscience” trumps all in such matters. So, on that logic, I suppose the only person I have to justify my position to, is myself? But, of course, it is not as simple as that.

At some point in our lives, we have all had the experience of someone close to us who has had a terminal illness or who has suffered from a debilitating, life limiting disease.

I am not alone in my opposition to the Bill, and I am not looking for alibis. But if I were, I would look to the hospice movement and the remarkable work that it does.

My constituency has no hospice. But just yards away, in adjoining constituencies, dedicated staff are waiting to care for the next person whose life is drawing to a close. A life that is precious, a life that should leave this world with as much careful and caring attention as when it came into it. A place, a sanctuary, where a person, young or old, disabled or non-disabled, is allowed to die peacefully.

To use that old idiom, if we did not have hospices, we would have



## CORRIDORS:

# Striving for a Parliament reflective of modern-day society

Francis Ingham,

Director General of the Public Relations Consultants Association



**“The House of Commons must make progress”**

the electorate that voted them in.

Our industry has been trying to address socio-economic and ethnic and racial diversity in a number of ways. Looking back to 2011, we launched one of the first campaigns aimed at convincing employers to pay their interns. Anecdotally, our problem was held in the same regard as industries such as journalism. In just a few years, we had produced the Intern Guidelines with pressure group Intern Aware and put together a roster of over 100 organisations which did pay their interns. Anyone reading this who is unsure how to convince their peers to pay their interns, or who has outstanding questions, our Intern Guidelines are there for you to use. Take them. Use them. Apply them to your industry. Produce a version for your own industry. They work.

The class of 2015 enter Britain’s most diverse ever Parliament”, roared the research from the thinktank British Future. A few nuggets from that same research: all 27 ethnic minority MPs in the last Parliament stood again, with 25 retraining their seat, and those who did return were joined by 16 newly elected non-white MPs. While we can appreciate that, we have to accept that we are still a long way off representing the make-up of the electorate.

Several news outlets highlighted that this Parliament is thought to have more openly LGB MPs than any other in the world. Although we know that is a good thing, so much of this progress is recent and we are still lacking in transgender representatives.

Class and various socio-economic factors are often the hardest to measure, but the House of Commons must make progress and advance beyond its current achievements. Anecdotally, not only do we field candidates with university education, to provide one example, but we then narrow it down even further by deciding this should be Russell Group university education.

With the above in mind, we have already made some progress. “Some” being the operative word, given that much of this progress is only a generation into “being made”. Diversity: it has to be understood in terms of race, ethnicity, sexuality and socio-economics and we should not distract ourselves from this.

How do we – the communicators, the influencers, the lobbyists – reflect that? I ask the question because we have to reflect this. That is a basic premise. We will disagree about the precise means (everyone always will) but I think we can all accept the same, framing reason for pursuing this: we need to be more reflective of MPs themselves and

On the education front, we also launched a new branch of the Intern Campaign – PR Internships For All (PRIFA) – in May 2014. It is designed to change the fact that 91 per cent of our industry is white and often come from the same select group of universities. It requires firms to take on interns from outside the Russell Group and allows them to work with the Taylor Bennett Foundation’s trainee programme to place interns from different backgrounds. By bringing together 13 partner universities and 32 consultancies, including most of the top firms, we are seeing progress.

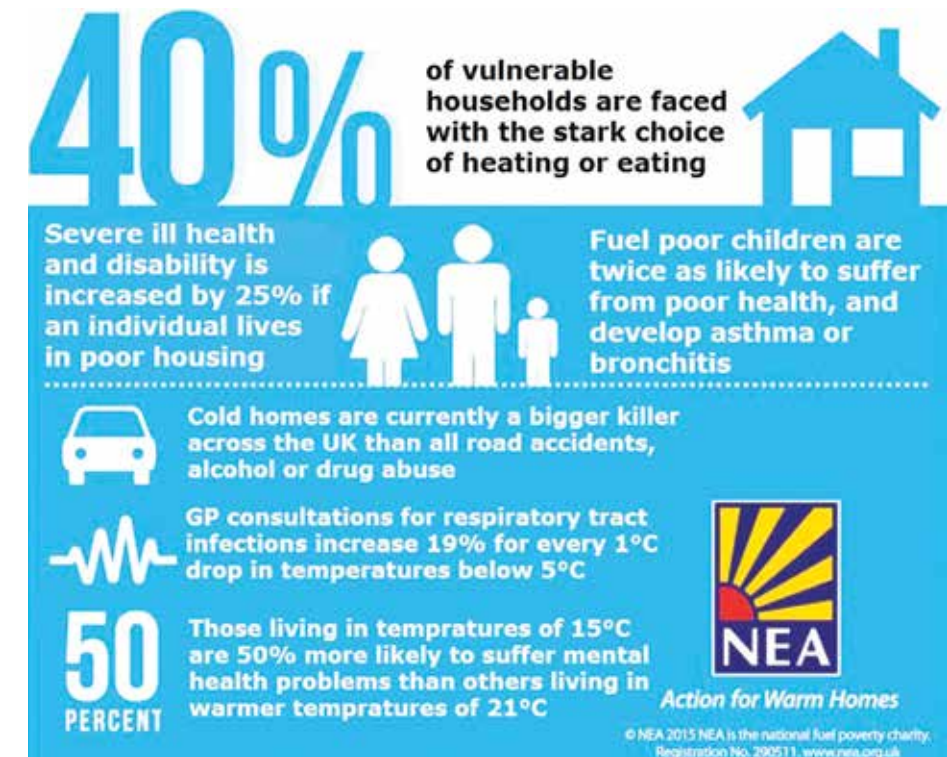
Women now make up 22 per cent of the House of Commons, whose resources quickly remind us that this is higher than “judges or directors of FTSE 100 companies”. In the world of communications, the PR Census 2013 showed that 64 per cent of professionals were women. The recently launched consultation on closing the gender pay gap puts some sense of gender equality at the forefront of the Government’s ambitions, given how early this came about. The issue is complex. It involves feeder-industries, family dynamics, person ambitions and difficult questions. My opinion: it will feature heavily during the autumn party conference season, where we will start to see some sense of direction on this.

That takes us back to an important point: the movement between Parliament and public affairs. It makes sense: people with a passion for politics want to work in politics and this has to be understood beyond merely being a researcher for an MP or working in the party’s press office. Responses such as the Speaker’s Parliament Placement Scheme have been effective, but the problem has to be addressed holistically. The various industries involved in politics – a patchwork that is best shown by the range of people at conference – needs to work together and at the same time.

# Lower bills and healthier homes

**Fuel poverty remains a bigger killer across the UK than road accidents, alcohol or drug abuse combined. In our UK Fuel Poverty Monitor 2014-2015 we estimated that in addition to 125,000 needless deaths, over the next 15 years national health services could be forced to spend £22 billion treating cold-related morbidity.**

Thankfully we know the causes and cure. With more than 30 years’ experience, National Energy Action (NEA) work to increase strategic action against fuel poverty, while improving access to energy efficiency and related programmes. Responding to pressure from the cost of excess winter deaths and treating morbidity, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recently identified key recommendations for commissioners and health and social care practitioners in providing support to vulnerable people living in cold homes. Having given evidence to the NICE committee, NEA is well placed to help local authorities and the health sector:



**Train staff on the health impacts of fuel poverty • Develop and implement affordable warmth strategies • Deliver practical installations of energy efficiency • Provide localised profiling and fuel poverty mapping • Facilitate community engagement and public awareness • Review ventilation and other technical building standards**

Despite planned work to build on the momentum of the NICE guidelines, current resources remain less than half of what is required. The Committee for Climate Change (CCC) estimate that £1.2 - £1.8 billion per annum is needed to meet the government’s Fuel Poverty Strategy in England. In addition, across the UK as a whole, there are 6 million low income households living in properties which could be fatal, damage living standards or are simply too expensive to heat. The next few months will be of critical importance if we are to help. The UK Government must ensure current schemes are better targeted towards those that need the most support; expand energy bill rebates so the poorest working households benefit for help automatically and secure non-departmental capital funds to improve domestic energy efficiency within the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

The latter would ensure energy efficiency activity moved away from being funded solely by energy consumers or one departmental budget to become a joint capital funded initiative supported by other Government departments but paid for by current infrastructure budgets. Key to this new approach is recognising domestic energy efficiency investments provide energy capacity cheaper than investment in new generation has done historically. In the process this can create local jobs and significant economic growth, while reducing gas imports and carbon emissions. Currently, despite the benefits, not £1 of the annual c. £25 billion UK infrastructure budget has ever been spent on this type of initiative.

The need is great and the funds are available. If we finally get this right, not only can we reduce costs from cold related hospital admissions and stop needless deaths, we can encourage economic growth while making homes warmer and healthier.

**NEA provide secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency Group (FPEEG). To become a member please contact Ben.Sayah@nea.org.uk.**





FOR THE FULL STRATEGY FROM THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES COUNCIL, AND A COMPLETE OVERVIEW OF THE UK'S THRIVING CREATIVE INDUSTRIES – INCLUDING STATISTICS, CASE STUDIES, CONTACTS AND VIDEOS – VISIT:

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# The UK casino industry – a better future

**There are currently 146 casinos operating in the UK, ranging from the high-end, mainly London clubs to those in some of our major cities and popular seaside resorts.**

Despite the finite number of licences available, the industry contributes significantly to economic growth, tourism and employment. Last year, casinos paid tax of up to 50% on a Gross Gambling Yield of £1.2bn and, with each casino employing an average of 100 people, the sector directly supports approximately 15,000 skilled jobs. And with the right regulatory conditions, the industry has the potential to attract significantly more inward investment.

Fifteen years ago, the then government undertook a review of the UK's gambling landscape and rightly recognised that, as casinos sit at the top of the regulatory pyramid, they are in fact the safest place to gamble. The result was the 2005 Gambling Act which made many welcome improvements but, as the sponsoring Ministers later realised, the legislation also had unintended consequences for casinos. Indeed, it stifled the development of new and innovative gaming products found elsewhere around the globe.

For example, it is not possible for a UK casino to offer any digital or virtual games, despite huge steps forward in technology since the Act came into force. Operators also face the bizarre situation where a player within a casino can access online gaming on his/her smartphone but the operator cannot provide dedicated access to their own online site from within those premises. Furthermore, the majority of casinos are limited to a maximum of 20 gaming machines, fewer than the number allowed prior to the 2005 legislation, regardless of the size of the casino or customer demand – a casino with 2,000 visitors a day has the same number of machines as an exclusive Mayfair club, often with less than a hundred daily visitors.

In this context, the industry is working towards responsible growth through the National Casino Forum (NCF) which represents over 98% of all UK casinos. Mindful of the need for proportionate regulation, NCF has been working with the government and the Gambling Commission to develop a

blueprint for the industry which will allow it to offer the variety of games and products that customers expect and which are commonly available in other jurisdictions. Concurrently, NCF is at the vanguard of responsible gambling and in 2013 formally launched 'Playing Safe', a programme and code of conduct to which all members are signed up.

Playing Safe's principles define the way the UK casino industry operates and is the flagship, industry-led, responsible gambling programme in the UK. A cornerstone of this approach was the recent launch of the first industry-wide self-exclusion system known as SENSE™ (Self-Enrolment National Self-Exclusion). NCF also works in conjunction with an independent expert panel, ACE (Accreditation, Certification and Evaluation), which ensures that Playing Safe projects are credible and deliver the maximum benefits for both customers and operators.

With an industry committed to demonstrating the real value of casinos whilst taking responsibility for robust regulation and ensuring stringent supervision initiatives, there is a compelling case to reset the 2005 Act to allow it to meet customer, social and global expectations and keep up with technological advances.

NCF looks forward to continuing to work with the government and Parliament to promote simple changes that bring casinos into the 21st century.

Tracy Damestani, Chief Executive,  
National Casino Forum

[www.nationalcasinoforum.co.uk](http://www.nationalcasinoforum.co.uk)



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## Protecting and promoting the UK's heritage

John Whittingdale,

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and Conservative MP for Maldon



**“We designated 28 new scheduled monuments and listed 476 buildings”**

more heritage buildings and sites, our heritage is in safe and very good hands.

Just a few weeks ago, I visited Eltham Palace, a magnificent building looked after by English Heritage. After a £1.7 million investment, it has seen visitor numbers increase by 65 per cent. Over the last Parliament, the Government invested over £400 million in English Heritage, and has provided funding which will, in time, allow it to become a free-standing charitable trust - marketing and raising commercial support in a way that has not been possible in the past. More than £80 million has been allocated to allow the new English Heritage charity to restore its sites to good condition and provide a really high-quality visitor experience.

There is more to heritage protection and preservation than providing public funding, however. And that is especially true in difficult financial times when pressure on taxpayers' money is great. So the government continues to keep a close watch on the condition of our historic environment, and is quick to intervene where there appears to be a threat to particular buildings and sites.

Last year, for example, we designated 28 new scheduled monuments and listed 476 buildings. That does not mean that they will be preserved in aspic for all time; what it means is that they now enjoy an extra level of protection against unsuitable redevelopment or demolition.

Where leaving a building exactly as it is makes no economic or social sense to the owner, a well-thought-through change of use can make sense for all sides. There are countless examples of listed buildings which have been brought back into active life, thanks to constructive discussions between the owners and Historic England.

Finally, the centenary of the start of the First World War - marked last year - focused everyone's minds on the importance of our history and heritage to how we live today. A programme to mark the importance of - and where necessary restore - our war memorials, and our continuing support for funding repairs to listed places of worship, provide further evidence of our commitment to heritage promotion and protection.

Our heritage matters. It matters to everyone who lives here, and to those who visit us for business or pleasure. We are determined to ensure that it is protected and promoted for the benefit of all, today and in the future.

The word “heritage” means different things to different people. Castles and cathedrals fit the bill for most people, as do Hadrian's Wall and Buckingham Palace. But heritage attractions are much broader than that. Red pillar boxes, cattle troughs in market towns and iconic sports arenas, like Headingley, Wimbledon and Murrayfield (to name but three of many), must all be in the mix, too.

And what of our natural attractions? The Giant's Causeway, Loch Ness and the White Cliffs of Dover? And that is before you have got to events like the National Eisteddfod, the Last Night of the Proms and the Edinburgh Festival. Or things like the taste of fish and chips or the Queen's Christmas broadcast. But in this short piece, I will confine heritage to our historic sites and buildings. And they are, by any standards, fantastically important to us as a nation and, better still, incredibly popular as places to visit and enjoy.

Did you know, for example, that in 2013, there were nearly 60 million visits to heritage sites in England? Over 70 per cent of British adults visited a heritage site last year, making us one of the top European countries for heritage participation. But on top of that, a huge number of visits to UK sites were made by overseas' visitors. Our historic environment is one of the biggest draws of tourists to Britain. And it is no surprise that our iconic historic buildings played a big part in the award-winning - and highly successful - GREAT campaign, which built on the success of London 2012 to draw record numbers of people here.

Thanks to the brilliant work of the National Trust, which succeeds without so much as a penny of public funding, and English Heritage, which is the Government-sponsored custodian of even

# The Great British TV Export



## The X Factor, Indian Summers, Sherlock, Undercover Boss

— some of the most widely watched programmes across the world are made by British TV production companies.

**Revenues from UK TV exports have increased five-fold in a decade** and international buyers are hungry for UK content. UK programmes and formats are some of the most recognisable and keenly anticipated in the world.

The UK is now the second biggest exporter of TV content in the world, behind only the USA.

However to make these high quality programmes, UK producers are having to shoulder a larger proportion of the costs involved in production.

In 2014, producers were estimated to have provided between £230-260m of production finance, shouldering an increasing amount of risk compared with £185-215m the previous year.

The success of the UK independent production sector is underpinned by an effective, light-touch regulatory regime. This has enabled British entrepreneurs to thrive economically and creatively by exploiting the IP which they create, and investing money back into the UK TV ecology.

This is a great British success story. Let's keep it that way.

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# The looming threat to the UK's national heritage

Chris Bryant,

Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport  
and Labour MP for Rhondda



“Understanding our past helps us understand today”

Of course, there is an economic reason to want to preserve it, too. Tourists flock to this country to see the Historic Royal Palaces, to pace through the grounds at Highclere or Coventry Cathedral – and, if anything, we need to do more to help overseas visitors to find the gems outside London and help them spend a bit more money.

But there is a social reason, too. Understanding our past helps us understand today. Leaving aside the family tree enthusiasts, an appreciation of Bristol's role in the slave trade, for instance, can completely transform people's comprehension of modern day attitudes to race and people trafficking.

There is one more element of our heritage which all too often gets ignored – our historic archives. It may sound dry as dust, but preserving the records of our past, including all those minutiae which show where someone was working or living, or what they were paid, is a vital part of ensuring our social history is not lost. It is only today that some of the records from the thirteenth-century about the construction of the old pre-1834 House of Commons are being uncovered, for instance.

You would think that the Conservatives would be on top of this, given their name, but I fear that very tough times are coming. I support the splitting of English Heritage, but I worry that without ongoing Government support, many less popular attractions will close. Historic England is an essential part of the jigsaw, but it, too, is threatened with cuts which may leave it unable to perform its core functions. The conservation costs of many stately homes which are in private hands are so prohibitive that many may be lost to wealthy foreign investors who have no commitment to public access. The great estates might be inured to virtually any danger thanks to their trust status and generous tax in lieu provisions, but many of the smaller country houses are really struggling. Local authority budgets are so tight that they turn all too readily to the arts and leisure budget to see whether they can make a short-term saving. That is putting local museums and galleries at risk, especially in the industrial heartlands. Our national galleries and museums have had phenomenal success in recent years with great blockbuster exhibitions, but if their funding is to be cut again, they will find it difficult to maintain the less sexy functions of teaching, touring and conservation.

Our heritage should be as open to all as the great outdoors – and this, too, was introduced by a Labour Government after a hundred year campaign in 2000.

There are few things I find more enjoyable than taking primary school children from my constituency round the Palace of Westminster. For the most part, they are not very interested in the modern politics. What really fascinates them is the Horrible Histories aspects of the building. That is where Guy Fawkes was caught. That is where the suffragette Emily Davidson, who later fell under the King's Horse at the Derby, locked herself in a cupboard overnight. And that is where the fire started.

What I love about the tours is how immediately fascinating our national heritage can be, if only we give it a chance. It shaped us as a nation, it belongs to us all and we should all have a chance to appreciate it.

Labour has always known that. Leading members of the National Trust, like Octavia Hill and Richard Acland MP, were Christian Socialists who wanted to preserve our great cultural monuments and give the poor access to them. When George Lansbury was made First Commissioner of Works in 1929, he immediately set about rescuing Hadrian's Wall and Stonehenge from the decay into which they had fallen. The Labour Government of 1945 introduced the whole system of listed buildings which protected our great architecture and led to today's Historic England – and its successor, in 1997, introduced free admission to our national galleries and museums.

The great thing about that heritage is how mixed it is. Stately homes may receive an unfair share of the attention in these Downton days, but, in so many parts of the country, our industrial heritage is every bit as important and the one form of heritage that is normally free to everyone is the local church or cathedral.



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# Tackling mental health

Alistair **Burt**,

Minister of State for Community and Social Care  
and Conservative MP for North East Bedfordshire



**“Over half of mental health problems in adult life start by the age of 14”**

Talking to practitioners and patients, I sense a shift in how society sees mental health. “Time to Change” is being used across hundreds of workplaces and communities to put an end to the stigmatisation of mental health and to encourage people to talk about their feelings. Because of the campaign, two and a half million people have improved their attitudes to mental health. That translates into improved behaviours, too: a seven per cent increase in willingness to work with someone with a mental health problem, and a nine per cent increase in willingness to live with someone with a mental health problem.

And, for the first time, we have introduced treatment targets which will help direct funding into mental health services to make sure patients receive the care they need when they need it.

We have a huge distance still to travel, but there has been progress. The national roll out of our talking therapies programme - Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) - has already helped millions of people with mental health conditions, such as anxiety and depression, to recover.

Because children and young people’s mental health services are so important, and because we need to stop mental ill-health before it starts to develop in to a more embedded problem, IAPT has helped young people, too. We are investing in the roll out of the Children and Young People’s Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme.

More than three million people have entered treatment through IAPT and over a million have reached recovery.

And that progress includes more people being in work. Last autumn, we began the first phase of pilots to develop and test new approaches to improve employment and health outcomes for those with common mental health problems, with a focus on better alignment of health and employment services. One of those pilots, on Group Work and Telephone Support, secured investment from last year’s Autumn Statement to fund four more years of work. Between October 2008 and February 2015, more than 100,000 people have moved off from sick pay and benefits.

Tackling mental health is the right thing to do for our communities and the right thing to do for our economy. In the four months I have been in this job, I have met people who are getting the help they need from well-trained professionals. But I have also met families who have been failed. I have been profoundly moved by the stories I have heard.

But sitting and listening is not enough. The Coalition Government, and my predecessor Norman Lamb, made a powerful start. The further changes we are pursuing in Government now must lead to better results. And the changes we need to make in society will take us further. My job is to keep up the pace and make lives better.

If I told you that three-quarters of cancer in adults begins before the age of 18, there would be a national outcry. And if I said that the economic costs of cancer in England are estimated to be £105.2 billion each year, the CBI and the NHS would be holding summits to do something about this.

Now, substitute the word “cancer” for mental illness. That is happening here, now. Over half of mental health problems in adult life start by the age of 14, going up to seventy-five per cent by the age of 18. Mental illness is the single largest cause of disability - each year about one in four adults suffer from a mental health problem.

Those statistics only serve to hint at the task we have to give physical and mental health equal status.

For years, mental health services have lacked funding but they have also lacked prioritisation. If the money was not there, then neither – if we are honest – was the drive to do anything meaningful about it.

We are putting that right. We have legislated to give mental and physical health equal priority in law.

We have increased funding by £300 million in the last year and we expect local commissioners to give real terms funding increases to mental health services this year. This March, the Government committed £1.25 billion to children and young people’s mental health services, and details of how the first phase of this money will be spent were published this August.

We are tackling stigma. “Time to Change” is the country’s largest anti-stigma and discrimination mental health campaign. More and more people are talking about mental health and the more we talk about it, the more it is recognised and brought out of the shadows.

# The government’s broken promises on mental health

Luciana **Berger**,

Shadow Minister for Public Health and Labour  
and Co-operative MP for Liverpool Wavertree



**“One in three local CCGs plan to reduce the share of budget spent on mental health”**

of young people turning up at A&E because they did not get the support they needed earlier. With serious bed shortages, more and more people are being sent miles from home for treatment, or are not getting any help at all.

In the run-up to the election, ministers promised to give mental health greater priority. They specifically pledged to ensure that increases to local health budgets would be applied to mental health budgets, too. I welcomed the fact that NHS England identified mental health as a priority in its planning guidance for 2015-16. They set the expectation that CCGs’ spending on mental health should increase by at least as much as the increase in each CCG’s total allocation for 2015/16.

If delivered, that would have been an encouraging step in the right direction. Yet rhetoric is one thing, reality is another. Figures which I obtained through a series of Freedom of Information requests reveal more than one in three local CCGs plan to reduce the share of budget spent on mental health. The new figures show that this year nationally, CCGs plan to allocate 10 per cent of budgets to mental health, compared to 11 per cent last year. That is despite research which shows that mental health accounts for 23 per cent of the total burden of disease. The Government has broken their pre-election promises.

Those new figures must act as a wake-up call. Ministers talk about parity of esteem between physical and mental health services all the time but they are not translating their rhetoric into reality. That is particularly worrying after the Department of Health has admitted that it will spend £100 million less on children’s mental health services than the amount promised by the Chancellor for this year.

A year ago, I wrote on these pages about my concerns for our mental health services. One year on and I am more worried than ever. As the Opposition, we will do our best to hold the Government to account on behalf of millions of people affected across the UK.

Rather than watching from the sidelines, it is the Government’s responsibility to ensure the right services are in place to meet the needs some of our most vulnerable patients.

The failure we have seen on mental health over the past five years needs to be replaced with smart decisions which will improve health, save money and secure our NHS for the future.

Mental health is the greatest unaddressed public health challenge of our time. One in four of us experience a mental health problem every year. The chances are, if we, ourselves, do not experience mental illness, someone who we know will.

Yet for years, it has been left looming in the shadows, considered by society as a ‘taboo’ subject whilst the prevalence of mental illness has been seriously underestimated. The stigma and discrimination that still surrounds mental health means that many people do not get the help and support which they need. Alongside the human cost, the UK’s failure to cope adequately with mental health issues is costing 4.5 per cent of GDP each year, caused by productivity losses, higher benefit payments and the increased cost to the NHS.

I have heard and seen first-hand the challenges faced by patients and the medical profession, right across the country. On the Tories’ watch, we have seen the pressure on our mental health services grow and grow. The decision last year to apply a cut to mental health services, which was 20 per cent higher than other NHS services, highlighted the inequality experienced within mental health. Despite Ministers promising to protect the NHS budget, vital services have been stripped back in recent years. And funding for children’s mental health services has dropped by £50 million. At the same time, Ministers spent £3 billion on a damaging NHS reorganisation that no one voted for.

Far from saving money, those disastrous decisions come at a greater cost to our NHS. More people are becoming so ill they need hospital care. The latest figures show a huge rise in the number



# Time for common sense to be applied to eye care provision

By **Peter Black**, President of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO)

Keeping up-to-date with eye care issues hardly registers on the average politician's radar, yet I firmly believe it should. Primary eye care, provided in convenient community optical practices, has much to offer Government in terms of improved outcomes in both health and education, and especially in these cash-strapped times.

One well researched idea which could dramatically improve the educational prospects of a large cohort of "problem pupils" has been put forward by Levitt and Dubner in *Think like a freak*. They seek to teach us to "challenge conventional wisdom, unravel life's secret codes and think differently", and they have attracted the attention of Prime Minister David Cameron sufficiently for him to invite them to Downing Street recently.

Finding the overlooked, small and often common sense factors which seem to influence much bigger problems can often be the key to radical improvement. As dispensing opticians, one area where we are sure we have identified a significant problem with the education system is that a lack of visual correction impedes educational progress in children. Imagine my surprise that that is backed up by some economists:

"Trillions of dollars worldwide have been spent on educational reforms, usually focussed on overhauling the system in some way – smaller classrooms, better curricula, more testing, and so on. But the raw materials in the education system – the students themselves – are often overlooked. Might there be some small, simple, cheap intervention that could help millions of students?"

"One in four children it turns out have subpar eyesight, while a whopping 60% of "problem learners" have trouble seeing. If you can't see well, you won't



read well, and that makes school extra hard. And yet vision screening is often lax and there hasn't been much research on the relationship between poor vision and school performance.

"Three economists – Paul Glewwe, Albert Park and Meng Zhao – happened upon this problem in China. They decided to do some hands-on research in Gansu, a poor and remote province. Out of roughly 2,500 fourth, fifth and sixth graders there who needed eyeglasses, only 59 wore them. So the economists ran an experiment. They offered free eyeglasses to half the students and let the other half carry on as before. The cost was covered by a World Bank

research grant.

"How did the bespectacled students do? After wearing glasses for a year, their test scores showed they'd learned 25 to 50% more than their uncorrected peers. Thanks to a pair of glasses!

"We're not saying that giving glasses to the school kids who need them will fix every educational problem, not by a long shot. But when you fixate on thinking big, this is exactly the kind of small-bore solution you can easily miss."

As dispensing opticians, we are well aware that many children are slipping through the net. We all have examples



## Association of British Dispensing Opticians

Promoting the skills of Britain's opticians

of short-sighted children whose myopia has gone unnoticed until secondary school. Worse, still, are the hundreds of thousands of adults with "lazy eyes" that could have been prevented had school vision screening been effective in their formative years.

A lazy eye means you will be unable to take any job for which good vision is a legal requirement. We have all given the bad news to teenage boys hoping to go into the RAF, but nowadays being a Top Gun is not the only career aspiration to be squashed by a lazy eye. Armed and emergency services and driving a train, lorry or bus will be out of the question. Even jobs normally open to those with low educational attainment and few qualifications – van driver and taxi driver – may now also be off limits. Sadly, because school vision screening is a postcode lottery, the education and career prospects of many children are being blighted to this day – and it seems the situation is getting worse.

What would it mean if a few hundred thousand children could improve their academic scores by 25 to 50 per cent, as happened in the Chinese study?

With school vision screening a post code lottery, the eye section of the Red Book (paediatric health record for under-5s), nothing short of a joke, reporting that 70 per cent of young offenders have uncorrected vision problems, it is surely time for change. At a cost of less than £22 per child for a thorough eye health examination, and less than £40 if the child needs glasses, we can systematically help the thousands of educational under-achievers who currently may be inappropriately labelled as hyperactive, dyslexic or disruptive to get the best from their educational opportunity.

Is eye care in the NHS the straw that will break the camel's back? Government spending on eye health care (including spectacles for children) is a tiny percentage of the total health budget. It represents stunning value for money for the NHS despite it being pretty much the only remaining on demand service with an uncapped budget, provided largely by private contractors.

It is my view that the NHS could get even better value for both patients and the tax payer if only more common sense was applied and more services moved into community-based primary care.

Local eye care commissioning is a scandalous waste of NHS resources. In England, over and above the national General Ophthalmic Services contract that provides NHS sight tests and vouchers for glasses and contact lenses to millions of patients each year, there are up to 18 locally enhanced services that should be commissioned by the 211 Clinical Commissioning Groups. Unsurprisingly, given the fundamental inefficiency of the system, only a small handful of larger CCGs have managed to commission all of those services. If each area required only one meeting per service to scope, define, negotiate payment and implement, it would take around 4,000 meetings. In practice, such negotiations are likely to take more than one meeting, often as many as 10, which is a scandalous waste of time and money and out of all proportion to the size of the sector.

Poor NHS service is leading to blindness. Many patients have no easily accessible NHS service available to them and, in some cases, especially low vision services, no service at all. That is leading to increased sight loss, and

increased isolation of vulnerable groups who have to live with sight loss every day. A regionally commissioned eye health service is required to create value for the NHS and tax payers and improve accessibility for patients by removing the postcode lottery.

Eye care is crippling A&E, too. At a recent lecture from Moorfields ophthalmic accident and emergency department, I learned that itchy eye lids and uncomfortable eyes account for around a third of all cases, yet they can hardly be considered accidents or emergencies. Eyes account for between 3 and 5 per cent of all A&E attendance, yet, according to the statistics produced by Moorfields, around a third of those conditions could be handled by a dispensing optician or pharmacist, two-thirds by an ordinary community optometrist and over four-fifths by an independent prescribing optometrist practitioner.

Now, consider what happens to the majority of eye patients, with non-sight threatening, non-emergency conditions when they attend A&E. Every time a patient appears with chest pains, or a broken leg, our poor dry eye patient goes to the back of the queue. Routine eye conditions might just be the reason most A&E departments are missing their four hour target most of the time. Changing the perverse financial incentives to allow minor eye conditions to be handled by community opticians would save the NHS money and enable politicians to report some good news on A&E targets for a change.

Reducing the burden on A&E by just one or two per cent could be sufficient to remove the straw that is breaking the camel's back, if only politicians and NHS leaders could apply some common sense.



# The failure of NHS England to meet eye care needs

Lord Colin Low,

Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Eye Health and Visual Impairment and a Crossbench Peer



**“A senior figure within NHS England is desperately needed to take responsibility for eye health”**

That is why a senior figure within NHS England is desperately needed to take responsibility for eye health and prevent it from being continually sidelined. The lack of action emanating from “Call to Action” would never have happened if national leadership was in place and if someone was championing the cause inside the NHS.

Not only would a senior figure be “inside the tent”, they would be able to argue for greater prioritisation of eye health at the meetings which matter within NHS England. They would play a key role in co-ordinating services, delivering system re-design and making optimum use of scarce resources (both human and financial). A national lead would have an in-depth understanding of the challenges faced within the eye care system and be on hand to advise NHS England’s national medical directorate.

A National Clinical Director for Eye Health could be established to fill that leadership void, or, alternatively, vision could be included in the remit of an existing post, for example, the Director for Integration and Frail Elderly.

A senior lead would work closely with the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning. That body was formed in 2013 and while it is yet to make its mark, it is under new leadership and has ambitious plans to improve patient outcomes through the provision of evidence-based commissioning advice.

The role of local leadership is, of course, crucial. At a time when greater responsibility for health and social care is being devolved to local decision makers, local eye care leaders must be found.

Every Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) should have a named individual with responsibility for eye health. That is not currently the case and, as a result, eye health is slipping down the local commissioning agenda. An example of that is the recent increase in cataract surgery waiting times as CCGs cut services to save costs.

CCG leads should be supported by their Local Eye Health Network (LEHN). The remit of the LEHN is to help commissioners identify eye health priorities and re-design services and pathways to meet patient and population needs. Unfortunately, those networks are severely under resourced and this hampers their ability to deliver meaningful improvements locally. Once again, that is an issue for NHS England to tackle as they fund these networks.

Without national and local leadership, NHS England will never be able to meet the eye care needs of its population.

There are approximately 1.8 million people living with significant sight loss in the UK. That is approximately one person in 30.

With an ageing population, together with more people living with conditions which can lead to visual impairment, such as diabetes, that number is set to dramatically increase over the coming years. It is predicted that by 2020, the number of people living with sight loss will rise to 2,250,000 and, by 2050, this number will double to nearly four million.

Despite those alarming figures, vision does not receive the profile it deserves within the NHS in England. It lags woefully behind Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In October 2012, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland published a five year strategic plan aimed at improving eye care services for its citizens. The Welsh Government committed to improving the eye health of its nation when it published its Eye Health Care Delivery Plan in September 2013. And, in the autumn of 2014, the Scottish Government launched a programme to reduce pressure on three secondary care specialties, of which ophthalmology was one.

So what do we have in England? Silence. NHS England promised big reforms when it published its consultation – “Improving eye health and reducing sight loss: a ‘Call to Action’” – in the summer of 2014. Patients, professionals and the public were invited to have their say in the debate around sustainable eye care provision, and a robust response was developed by the eye care sector. However, the much needed spotlight on vision was short-lived, when NHS England failed to deliver on two fronts: there were no reforms and no official response resulting from the consultation.

# The bionic eye – why we must invest to cure blindness

Ray, an 80 year old man with ‘irreversible’ sight loss, can see geometric shapes on a screen and is able to make out the outline of a face for the first time in many years. He is the first person in the world with his condition to have a ‘bionic eye’ implant, a technology that might one day restore sight to many blind and partially sighted people.

Ray has the most advanced form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). His central vision is just a large blind spot. Only his peripheral vision remains. He cannot drive or read or see the faces of his loved ones. He relies on other people to help him in everyday tasks such as withdrawing money from a cash machine.

There are 600,000 older people with AMD, making it the biggest cause of sight loss in the UK. There are two forms, ‘wet’ and ‘dry’. People with wet AMD can have drugs injected into their eyes to slow down the progress of the disease. But for those with dry AMD, like Ray, there is no treatment. This is the first time anyone with dry AMD has had any level of sight restored and although this is not normal sight, if the researchers can refine the technology, it might be one day be a useful therapy for blindness.

The development of the Argus II implant, as it is known, was funded by a combination of private and public funding, including from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the NHS research arm.

The NIHR and MRC are also

supporting vital work in stem cell research and NIHR is helping fund a centre of excellence in biomedical research at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Institute of Ophthalmology at University College London.

Public investment in such research is vital if public spending on conditions such as AMD is to be managed.



Our ageing society means AMD will increase by a third in the current decade and worldwide there will be nearly 200m people with AMD by 2020.

New work by the Macular Society estimates that half a million good quality years of life (QALYs) are lost to AMD every year in this country.

In the year 2013-2014 the NHS spent £287m on drugs to treat macular conditions. The use of one drug, Lucentis®, has increased by at least 20% every year since it was introduced in 2008.

In a recent letter to the Macular Society, the Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Minister of State for Community and Social Care, said that the NIHR spending on eye disease has risen from £7.1m in 2009/10 to £15.6m in 2013/14. A proportion of that is in the area of macular disease.

This is excellent news and will no doubt bring forth more first class research. But, sadly, it is not enough.

The NIHR has doubled its spending on all eye disease since 2009 but in the same period the cost of the drugs for AMD has tripled. That does not include the cost of administering the drugs, monitoring the patients, costs to patients and carers or the costs of social care for the patients whose disease eventually takes their sight in spite of treatment or because they have an untreatable form. £15.6m a year on eye disease is very welcome. But it is estimated that the total annual cost of AMD to the nation is £1.6 billion.

The UK has world-class researchers in sight loss. There is promise in gene and stem cell therapy, the understanding of the ageing process and the role of the immune system. This work, like the bionic eye, needs investment because we need the rewards investment will bring for our economy and for our people.

**Cathy Yelf**  
Chief Executive  
Macular Society



# Animal welfare: a subject of universal importance

Kerry McCarthy,

Shadow Foreign Office Minister  
and Labour MP for Bristol East



**“Misplaced concern for cultural sensitivities should not make us afraid”**

write to their MPs about animal welfare issues – I have had many more emails on badgers, puppy farms and foxes than I have ever had on the NHS or welfare reform. However, it is important to keep looking for the next step which can be taken, and to keep up the pressure on a reluctant Government to act. One-off declarations of support are rarely enough.

The current Government is ideologically opposed to legislating where it believes “encouragement”, “better information” or simple market forces could do the job, instead. That has been its response on a range of issues, from antifreeze poisoning of cats, to installing CCTV in slaughterhouses. We could go so much further, so much quicker, if the Government assumed greater responsibility.

One area where the Coalition Government was successful, and should be congratulated for having been so, was in pushing for international action on both the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the illegal wildlife trade, hosting an international conference in London and committing significant funding. And there is much else that could be done by our Government on the international stage. In recent times, we have seen public outrage about the Yulin dog meat festival, “canned hunting” in Africa and, in particular, the stalking and killing of Cecil the lion by an American dentist who paid \$35,000 for the privilege. Closer to home, we see the mass slaughter of migrating wild birds in Malta each year, and the annual “grind” in the Faroe Islands where the sea runs red with the blood of slaughtered whales.

In some cases, our path to influence is clear; for example, through the European Union, or through already-established global architecture, such as CITES. However, in other cases, the path can be more difficult. For the past four years, I have been on the Labour frontbench as a shadow Foreign Minister, with a brief which includes South-East Asia and China, countries which generate some of the biggest concerns about animal welfare. I also have the international human rights brief, and I know how difficult it is to try to persuade our Ministers (and, indeed, our Prime Minister) to raise human rights concerns when they visit another country and who, instead, really only want to talk about trade, security and arms sales. Animal welfare would, of course, be even further down the list.

We also run the risk of being accused of seeking to interfere and to impose our own values on countries we know little about. But those values should be universal values, and just as we should not be afraid to speak out when it comes to defending human rights, nor should misplaced concern for cultural sensitivities make us afraid to raise animal welfare issues, either.

As I began by saying, we have achieved a lot, but there is a lot more to do.

The UK has made good progress on animal welfare in recent years, although this has, I believe, created a tendency towards complacency. We hear self-congratulatory noises from politicians when incremental steps are taken, such as ending the trade in seal products, or the banning of sow stalls, which too often obscures the fact that progress is frustratingly slow, or, indeed, is deliberately stalled by our own Government.

Look at how long it has taken to implement the ban on cosmetics testing on animals, or how the implementation of legislation to ban beak-trimming of commercial hens by 1 January 2011 has been postponed until at least 2016, with the National Farmers Union arguing for further delay. Look at how little progress has been made on the banning of animal-testing of household products, despite the pledges made by the main parties pre-2010. And take the Government’s repeated – and, to most minds, incomprehensible – efforts to delay legislation on wild animals in circuses. Meanwhile, tens of millions of game birds are bred to be shot for ‘sport’ each year, and the Government is pursuing its misguided attempts to roll-out the badger cull pilots, despite expert evidence showing them to be both ineffective and inhumane.

Indeed, rather than concentrating our efforts on pushing forward a more ambitious animal welfare agenda in the UK, we are also having to remain vigilant against attempts to turn back the clock, as the recent, thankfully unsuccessful, foray into trying to weaken the Hunting Act by the backdoor showed.

The truth is that while progress is being made, we could be doing a lot more to eliminate animal cruelty and improve animal protection. Too often, MPs feel that they have “done their bit” by signing Early Day Motions, which are never debated and never feed into any legislative process. That pleases constituents who



## Dear Parliamentarians

As you prepare for your party conferences, you will no doubt have your constituents’ interests and priorities at the forefront of your minds. Animal welfare has always been an extremely important issue for voters in the UK – and we wanted to tell you about the role good zoos and aquariums can play in improving exotic animal welfare, both in the UK and beyond.

BIAZA (The British and Irish Association for Zoos and Aquariums) is the professional association for zoos and aquariums in Britain and Ireland. We represent 110 zoos and aquariums, over 100 of which are based in the United Kingdom. We work to lead and support our members in achieving mission goals, and to promote the values of good zoos and aquariums. Our members represent the best of UK zoos and aquariums with excellent animal welfare, education and conservation standards.

BIAZA was founded in 1966 when a small group of zoos and aquariums came together with a mutual desire to see sound principles and practices of animal management. Since then, BIAZA zoos and aquariums have constantly demonstrated that animal welfare is a priority which the Association takes very seriously. Member organisations strive to achieve mission goals on conservation, education and research.

Underpinning all of this is a duty of care to our animals.

Key to ensuring good animal welfare is the provision of first class housing and husbandry. BIAZA’s Living Collections Committee works to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare, husbandry and management in BIAZA member zoos and aquariums – and to encourage such standards elsewhere. For example, BIAZA encourages and coordinates the production of species care sheets and guidelines for the management and welfare of zoo animals. These ensure that the best methods are widely used, and that new developments are implemented quickly and effectively.

BIAZA members initiate research into the welfare needs of the animals in our care, and we also work in partnership with universities to support related academic initiatives. The BIAZA Research Committee coordinates this research, organises meetings and considers studies into welfare a priority. The resulting papers are regularly published in scientific and professional journals, helping influence zoo animal welfare worldwide.

BIAZA also runs continued professional development courses for our staff members, to ensure they are all at the top of their game. In addition, we work closely with the Association of British Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK), which

regularly runs well-attended workshops and conferences on subjects related to animal welfare.

Finally, BIAZA continues to be a key influencer in improving animal welfare practices well beyond the scope of its own membership. For example, in recent years we have run technical development workshops for Romanian zoos, sharing our knowledge and helping them build the frameworks to support better animal welfare practices in the future.

BIAZA zoos and aquariums are at the forefront of improving exotic animal welfare in the UK. You can find out whether your local zoo or aquarium is a BIAZA member, and support our work, by visiting our website. Thank you.

[www.biaza.org.uk](http://www.biaza.org.uk)





# The appalling practice of fox hunting

David Amess,

Conservative MP for Southend West and a Patron of Conservatives Against Fox Hunting - Blue Fox



My earliest childhood memories are of a home where pets were kept. My late father was particularly fond of animals, and his son has inherited this love – you name it, and I have kept it.

From the moment I was elected to Parliament in June 1983, I have always involved myself in animal welfare issues. If anyone has an idle moment and “googles” my record on animal welfare issues, they will see a long list of measures which I have promoted with the objective of improving the way in which animals are regarded and protected in our society. On the whole, I have met with some measure of success.

This country has a record to be proud of when it comes to the treatment of members of the animal kingdom. That is in marked contrast to some other countries whose treatment of animals, both domestic and wild, is, quite frankly, utterly horrendous and shameful.

So as a UK Parliamentarian, I am proud of our record here in the UK. For that reason, I much regret any proposal to legalise again fox hunting with hounds in this country.

It is certainly not the case that the fox is my favourite animal; indeed, for many years, I have kept chickens and similar fowl. I vividly recall waking of a morning only to find my best efforts at keeping my poultry safe, had failed.

I have always lived in towns - never in the countryside. So my feel for nature and experience of wildlife is different - quite different, to people raised “on the land”, so to speak. I very much empathise with farmers and the farming community

“As it transpired, “Armageddon”, as many saw it, never happened”

who have obviously struggled over the years to maintain their traditional way of life. For many of them, the fox is the enemy and I can understand why this is.

I have never attended a fox hunt – I have only ever seen films and reports. And I have never attended a bull fight - I have only ever seen films and reports. However, if one takes that to the extreme, surely readers would agree that I am quite entitled to be against murder without actually having witnessed a murder, or having committed murder.

When the Labour Party won the 1997 General Election, they had a number of animal welfare organisations supporting them.

Among the issues which they promised to address, was that of hunting with hounds. I remember clearly the debates which took place, as well as the demonstrations which were held outside the Palace of Westminster. I should add that those demonstrations, on both sides of the argument, were not always well directed; nor were they a good advertisement for the case which was being made.

In those days, there were only four Conservative MPs who were opposed to fox hunting. So we were a somewhat niche group.

Some of those opposed to fox hunting tried to stir up class warfare - this was never an issue which found favour with myself. To see people on horses, dressed rather splendidly, with dogs following them, all looked rather magnificent.

However, the objective in terrorising foxes and inciting dogs to, literally, tear foxes apart, appals me. At the time of the Parliamentary vote, there were all sorts of stories raised suggesting that people’s livelihoods would be ruined and that the hounds used for hunting would have to be put down. As it transpired, “Armageddon”, as many saw it, never happened.

I believe the ban has been effective and generally welcomed by the British people. In its place, drag-hunting has grown tremendously in popularity and the wonderful pageantry remains. Whilst I absolutely applaud the Government quickly honouring its manifesto commitments, I did not fight this May’s General Election, as a Conservative candidate, on the basis that my party would once again legalise hunting with hounds.

The good news from my point of view is that far from there just being four Conservative MPs against the return of fox hunting, there are now many likeminded colleagues.

So, if a measure should be reintroduced to repeal or amend the Hunting Act, I am very confident that Parliament will object to it. In so doing, I think we owe much gratitude to both the Blue Fox campaign and the redoubtable Lorraine Platt.

# If you thought hunting was a thing of the past... think again



Photograph courtesy of Dan Callister

## Keep the Hunting Act... and Strengthen it

The Hunting Act is in urgent need of strengthening, to enable the authorities to clamp down on illegal hunting.

At present, hunts can escape prosecution – and nearly always do – by cynically claiming their pursuit and killing of a hunted animal was “unintentional”. This artifice is enabling hunts to carry on as if there were no ban at all.

80% of the British public support the ban, but hunters appear to believe they are above the law. 50,000 hunters signed a Declaration before the ban came into force stating they would defy it, and continue to hunt as before, thus displaying their total contempt for democracy.

The picture above shows what is currently taking place all over the country.



## Rein in the hunters – Strengthen the Hunting Act

[www.campaigntostrengthenhuntingact.com](http://www.campaigntostrengthenhuntingact.com)

POWA Limited, Company No. 6687073 Registered address: Protect Our Wild Animals, 101 Ely Road, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2BZ [www.powa.org.uk](http://www.powa.org.uk)





# The House of Lords: an organised voice for the voiceless

Baroness Dianne Hayter,

a frontbench Labour Peer



**“The voice of consumers is also rarely articulated in the Commons”**

House of Lords. It is in the Lords that a number of important changes are made to draft legislation - not to undermine its whole purpose, but to improve it as a result of detailed scrutiny.

From this May to this July, significant changes were made to bills, in part reflecting the interests of those less well represented in the elected House of Commons: consumers, victims of abuse, carers, the overseas' poor, under 18s, prisoners and future generations. So, for instance, two of my amendments in the Lords changed the Charities Bill - excluding those on the Sex Offenders Register from serving as charity trustees, while reasserting that no charity should be forced (in effect, by government) to sell assets in ways that conflict with the charity's Trust Deed. That was in anticipation of the government wanting to force Housing Associations to sell properties, where these had been donated by philanthropists to provide homes for low income families to rent - in perpetuity.

This “think again government” is a key role which every democratic system needs, as is the ability to speak for those not directly represented in parliament, be these future generations or those living abroad. It is the main reason why proponents of a directly elected Second Chamber face so much opposition.

The voice of consumers is also rarely articulated in the Commons, as government (or those who want to be in government) naturally focus on the providers of public services, or are lobbied by producers or providers of private services (or by organised employees). Thus users of transport, the health service, shops, utilities, lawyers, letting agents, landlords, libraries, holiday companies or anything else have no organised voice to articulate their concerns or agitate for change.

That is a key potential role for Labour, which has traditionally spoken for the powerless against the powerful. Hopefully, the new Labour leader will take on the challenge.

Certainly, as summer holidays end, and with travel delays or unsatisfactory hotels behind them, and parents taking their children back to school, politicians should be preparing to heed the needs of people who can be forgotten at Westminster, while, at the same time, preparing a system of government - devolved or not - which will best enable people to connect with their representatives and get changes made. That is the democratic change that is needed - for people again to feel that government is on their side.

Long known as “the silly season” - in which serious politicians, journalists and civil servants head off for well-earned rest and recuperation - this summer has been different from previous years.

Firstly, because there are serious decisions being taken by the Labour Party; secondly, because a new Conservative Government is bedding in and setting out its wares; thirdly, because of preparations for the European Union Referendum; and fourthly, because the ubiquitous I-phones, e-mail, tweets and Facebook now mean that no one is really ever on holiday.

That is a shame, because decision-makers have batteries that need re-charging, and all of us need thinking time.

One major issue which affects almost everyone, but where the government risks making rash decisions (without cross-party consensus or wider buy-in), concerns the constitution. Promises of serious devolution to Scotland and within the UK, a bizarre proposal for English MPs to have a veto over laws (and possibly tax) supposedly only affecting their constituents, and the need for a reformed second Chamber, all need two things.

Firstly, good analysis of what any new system is seeking to change and well-thought-through proposals to achieve this. Secondly, cross-party agreement on such constitutional measures. For that reason, Labour and the Liberal Democrats have called for a Constitutional Convention which, even now, the Conservatives should accept.

One example of where such policy work is needed is the

# Why the British public needs the Liberal Democrats

John Pugh,

Liberal Democrat MP for Southport



**“If the Liberal Democrat Party did not now exist, it would be necessary to invent it”**

ignorance, vanity or hubris- thought, no-one else in the party did, or had.

The characterization, or rather caricaturisation, of centre-left policy was part of the Orange Book pitch, coupled with the visionary prospect of cohorts of voters prepared to flock to the Liberal Democrats if they embraced a more right-wing set of policy prescriptions.

Had they been right, our plight would not be what it is. The mirage of thousands of new supporters vanished in horrific and sickening disappointment, as the votes were counted this May.

I have argued that part of our undoing was not a readiness to make hard choices in constrained times, but our dalliance with essentially right-wing policy solutions for public problems - the Health and Social Care Act, Academies Act, Postal Privatisation, for instance - as did the vocabulary and choreography we chose for coalition, to a 'Tory-lite' image.

Essentially, all those moves were pro-market and the reduction of public services to consumer products - a solution often advocated in the interests of efficiency.

The public like markets but have a better sense of their limits and capacities than many politicians. And they want a political party which understands that.

A consistent Tory inevitably moves in the direction of a small state and subscribes to the view that if you allows the economic system to run properly, unfettered and with little direction or regulation, the magic of markets will deliver good for all, or at least as much good as is attainable in this world.

The public, in their heart, are not convinced but nor are they convinced by the obvious simplicities of Labour - the belief that social benefits can be delivered at minimum cost, that public institutions cannot be corrupt, lazy or challengeable, that state dependency is not always merited or helpful and that society divides neatly into classes of the unfairly privileged and the unfairly disadvantaged.

Of course, I have grossly simplified where the other parties are, but to put it in even starker terms, we have two kinds of unrealism. We have a Tory party with an unrealistic notion of what markets and the economic system can deliver, and a Labour party with an unrealistic notion of what people and public institutions are like and can do.

That is why huge sections of the public are uneasy with either party, with both the idolatry of the state and the idolatry of the market. There is a yawning space for a grounded, rational, numerate and honest party which embraces their concerns. If the Liberal Democrat Party did not now exist, it would be necessary to invent it.

Tim Farron famously, and unfortunately, likened Liberal Democrats to cockroaches - a species likely to survive even a nuclear holocaust. 2015 is a year in which such resilience will be tested.

Cockroaches are unattractive little beasts that thrive on filth and, from a human point of view, it is hard to appreciate their place in the ecosystem. I think, and indeed hope, that is not true of the Liberal Democrats. We have to revive the party not because it is stubbornly refusing to be crushed under the heel of circumstance and electoral fortune, but because it is actually needed.

The Liberal Democrats went, in a few brief years, from being a popular party of opposition to being an unpopular party of government - the polar opposite of what they had been. Those schooled in the dialectical theory of history will notice how thesis led to antithesis - and, perhaps, as some have remarked, the seeds of the party's destruction in government were sown in the easier climate of opposition.

Fellow dialecticians will notice, though, that if thesis leads to the antithesis, what should come next is the synthesis.

The Liberal Democrats surely cannot go back to being just an intermittently popular opposition party again (or, worse still, an unpopular opposition party).

We have to crack the secret of being a popular party ready for government.

The way back for the party is not to embrace any passing, populist, oppositional stance, wallow in uncashed promises and mollify every interest in pursuit of the loaned vote. That is a strategy for winning by-elections, not solid, long-term electoral support.

The Orange Bookers understood that but whether through



## Providing strong leadership to help disabled people into work

Justin Tomlinson,

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Disabled People and Conservative MP for North Swindon

**“No one should be written off to a life on benefits”**



**T**his government is on the side of working people, determined to offer the dignity of a job, the opportunity to achieve career aspirations and the security of a pay cheque to all.

I want that ambition to apply to everyone. Some 3.2 million disabled people already play a vital role in our economy, and I am determined that every person who has the ability to work should have that chance.

We know that a huge amount of disabled talent is still being missed by employers.

And there are two statistics which I would like to share with you: firstly, in a 2013 survey, 42 per cent of disabled people looking for work said one of the biggest barriers they faced was the attitude of employers; and secondly, there are currently 1.3 million disabled people in the UK who are available for work and who want to work.

No one should be written off to a life on benefits, yet too many disabled people currently feel that they cannot fulfil their potential. The situation is not good enough.

This government has pledged to halve the disability employment gap, getting around one million more disabled people into work.

We have recently seen great progress with 238,000 more in

employment, compared to last year alone. That is an increase of around 650 people a day.

But it is only a start. We need to help more disabled people who are capable of and want work to find it.

That is why I am currently adapting three important levers to help make our workplaces more accessible.

“Disability Confident” is the government’s lead campaign in promoting the business benefits of hiring a diverse workforce. That is not charity we are talking about.

There are clear, tangible advantages of being open to disabled talent which can give a company the edge over its competitors.

Introducing an inclusive recruitment policy not only increases the number of high-quality applicants for a post, but also creates a workforce that accurately reflects the diversity of its customer base.

That can bring additional skills and experience as well as a different perspective to a business. This is recognised by the more than 360 employers who already support Disability Confident.

At any one time, we know that there are more than 700,000 vacancies in the economy.

Yet, some recruitment practices prevent disabled people from being considered, even though they may be perfect for the role.

I am therefore expanding the campaign to focus on getting SMEs on board.

At the start of 2014, 5.2 million small businesses accounted for 48 per cent of UK private sector employment.

Those are the employers who we need to reach out to and provide the confidence to that it is easier than they think to recruit disabled workers.

Their support will create the opportunities through which more disabled people can enter into the world of work. **P.T.O**

## Did you listen?

My name is Sara Pickard, I’m 32 years old and I’m one of the few Councillors in the UK with a learning disability.

I joined the Hear My Voice campaign during the general election, when thousands of people with a learning disability and their families met candidates to tell them about the change they want to see in the current parliament. **Over 800 candidates pledged to listen, and 150 are now MPs.**

In the last generation we have made real progress for people with a learning disability and our families, but we still have such a long way to go before we are recognised and treated as equal and valued members of society.

- **Every year, 1,200 people with a learning disability die needlessly in the NHS.**
- **Over half of disabled people have been victims of hate crime.**
- **Thousands of people are stuck in units like Winterbourne View, where they are at risk of abuse and neglect.**

These very serious issues affect many of the 1.4 million people with a learning disability in the UK, so it’s shocking that they aren’t at the top of all political parties’ agendas.

Now more than ever the voice of people with a learning disability and their families must be heard, as further cuts are made from the welfare budget and to social care services.

As your party meets for its annual conference, please act on these issues, and make sure people with a learning disability and their families are at the front of your mind in the decisions you are making.

**[www.hear-my-voice.org.uk](http://www.hear-my-voice.org.uk)**





**“At the start of 2014, 5.2 million small businesses accounted for 48 per cent of UK private sector employment”**



individuals.

Last year alone, we helped over 37,000 people into work, with record numbers of people with learning difficulties and mental health conditions supported.

We have recently made common sense decisions to change how we administer the scheme, introducing an upper limit of £40,800 on payments together with restructuring the scheme behind the scenes to ensure growing numbers of people can benefit.

I am proud to be part of a government which is demonstrating strong leadership on disability employment.

Our pledge as a one nation government is to ensure it will always pay to be in work and to help people fulfil their potential. Those changes are setting us on the right path.

We are also reforming the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) for future claimants, aligning the rate for those assessed to be capable of work-related activity with the rate of Jobseekers Allowance.

Previously, an ESA claimant placed in the Work-Related Activity Group would receive more money every week than a person on Jobseekers Allowance, but received nothing like the help they needed to find suitable employment. The system needs changing to move the focus from dependency to genuine support.

The recent budget provided £60 million to fund additional practical help for those who claim ESA. That will rise further to £100 million by 2020.

Finally, we have conducted a thorough review and are introducing changes to our Access to Work scheme.

Access to Work provides practical and financial support with the additional costs faced by individuals whose health or disability affects the way they carry out their job.

Sometimes, additional support is required to overcome costs beyond what are deemed reasonable for the employer to cover.

That service provides specific and tailored support for



**national forum  
of people with  
learning disabilities**



## People with learning disabilities need government support and need it now

**Vicki Raphael**, co-chair of the National Valuing Families Forum, and **Craig Hart and Karen Flood**, co-chairs of the National Forum of People with Learning Disabilities, speak with **Marcus Papadopoulos** about the challenges faced by people with learning disabilities

### Q What is the National Valuing Families Forum and the National Forum of People with Learning Disabilities about?

Both forums represent the views of people with learning disabilities and their families to Government. The National forums are made up of regional representatives from nine regions across England. Each regional representative represents their regional forum where the views of local people with learning disabilities and families are heard. Through that structure, we are able to directly convey grass root message to Government ministers. Both forums share information, take part in consultations, influence policy, inform practice and campaign. An example of that is their recent response to the “No Voice Unheard, No Right Ignored” green paper consultation, highlighting the critical need for more support for self-advocacy groups to ensure people with learning disabilities and their families understand their rights, are listened to and are supported to remain in the community – not shut away in places like Winterbourne View, hidden from sight.

### Q Have the austerity measures, over the last five years, impacted on the work of the forum?

Yes, cuts to care packages are making it more difficult for family members to continue their involvement in the National Valuing Families Forum, and cuts to advocacy groups are making it difficult for National Forum of People

with Learning Disabilities members to get good support to continue their involvement. We are less able to look outwards while we have to focus on keeping things going in our own lives. It makes us more vulnerable and isolated as we become less visible.

Disturbingly, hate crime against people with learning disabilities has increased dramatically, while opportunities, particularly employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities, have decreased. The media like to represent people with disabilities as paralympians or victims. There are thousands of people who are neither, but who just want to live a normal life and be recognised and valued for the contribution they make. Everyone can make a contribution and that needs to be recognised and celebrated to. Too often, people with learning disabilities who claim benefits are wrongly seen as a group who are simply taking from others.

### Q What would you like to see from the new Conservative Government?

The new Conservative Government needs to understand and recognise that people with learning disabilities are today losing their voices because, due to the spending cuts, they do not have people to advocate on behalf of them. Support to self-advocacy groups would make economic sense, making sure that the right support is available before a crisis situation occurs.

We, at the forums, believe that

there should be more employment opportunities for disabled people. It is wrong that so few people with learning disabilities have the opportunity to work. People with disabilities want to work, and they have to be supported by the government in doing so. By investing in young people with learning disabilities, and understanding the skills they have to offer (skills which others do not possess), the Government will create role models for the future.

Over the last five years, we feel opportunities and rights have all been reduced. We need the Government to think flexibly and creatively with families and people with learning disabilities about the issues.

### Q Do you work with parliamentarians?

During the last Parliament, we worked very closely and very effectively with Norman Lamb, who was the then Minister for Community and Social Care. So far, Alistair Burt, who took over from Norman this May, has been very willing to talk with us, but we are keen to see how he continues the work that Norman began with the “No Voice Unheard” green paper consultation.

Looking forward, we will continue to speak with government ministers and will continue to make sure that the voice of people with learning disabilities and their families is heard loud and clear in Whitehall. We just hope that that voice is listened to properly by the new government.



## The case for reforming our courts system

Shailesh Vara,

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Minister for the Courts and Legal Aid, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Conservative MP for North West Cambridgeshire



**“Never before have we had such an opportunity to reform the courts and tribunals system”**

Tribunals Service – governed by a fruitful partnership between the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice. We also have the prospect of modernisation funding from HM Treasury. Never before have we had such an opportunity to reform the courts and tribunals system and deliver the best service for working people.

I have great confidence in that work, not least because it is driven by the judiciary themselves. The Lord Chief Justice believes we have no alternative but to look at radical reform.

We will not approach that in a reactive, piecemeal way, but by looking at the whole system and reshaping it around users’ needs. To do that, we must take an honest look at our services and make some bold decisions about how we need to change – to reflect the way people want to interact with services today.

We recently launched a consultation on the future of the courts and tribunals estate, which costs taxpayers around £500 million per year. Many court buildings are underused and in poor condition. The consultation seeks people’s views on whether we maintain less efficient buildings that are costly to sustain – and on the different ways services could be delivered.

Access to justice is not just about attending court. As we bring in digital technology, fewer people will need to attend court in person. We are exploring the recommendations by Professor Richard Susskind to take areas of civil disputes online. That would save taxpayers money and aims to make the process less stressful and confrontational for the parties involved.

We are already doing significant work in that area. Last year, we brought the wills archive online in a form which received widespread approval. We have installed equipment in magistrates’ courtrooms for when they need to display digital material, such as CCTV, 999 calls and photographs. Professional court users will be able to benefit from Wi-Fi, allowing them to work more efficiently.

We are also piloting a service whereby people who commit a motoring offence, and who wish to plead guilty, can make a plea online. P.T.O.

Michael Gove MP, the Secretary of State for Justice, set out this Government’s vision of a one nation justice system. Central to that vision is the need to maintain the rule of law – a precious asset that protects the rights and furthers the interests of the people of this country.

He also spoke openly about problems with the administration of our courts and tribunals, with their many antiquated systems and practices. As a Minister, I hear similar issues raised time and again: delays, mountains of paperwork, poor IT systems, unsuitable buildings and disproportionately expensive hearings to deal with straightforward processes.

There is a high degree of consensus that despite the best efforts of our staff and the judiciary, we are running a service that is costly to maintain, and out of step with people’s needs. Too often, victims and other vulnerable users find it difficult to navigate the processes at a particularly difficult time in their lives.

There are good reasons why the system is the way it is. It is the result of 25 years of consolidation, during which time over 150 legacy organisations have been brought together to comprise our courts and tribunals system.

Today, we have a single organisation in HM Courts &

# Talking penal reform at the party conferences

## Liberal Democrats: Exploring liberal justice

Monday 21 September 2015

18.15, Bournemouth International Centre, Room Bayview 2

**Featuring** Baroness Hamwee (chair); Frances Crook OBE, Chief Executive, The Howard League for Penal Reform, Rt Hon Sir Simon Hughes

## Labour’s approach to justice

Monday 28 September 2015

19.30, Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel, Hall 7 Avon

**Featuring** Mary Riddell, The Telegraph (chair); Frances Crook OBE, Chief Executive, The Howard League for Penal Reform; The Rt Hon Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC, Shadow Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice; Keir Starmer QC MP; Charlie Gilmour, campaigner and commentator

## Conservatives: Making prison work (with Bright Blue)

Monday 5 October 2015

19.45, Manchester Town Hall, Committee Room 3

**Featuring** David Kirkby, Senior Research Fellow, Bright Blue (chair); Frances Crook OBE, Chief Executive, The Howard League; Andrew Selous MP, Minister for Prisons, Probation, Rehabilitation and Sentencing; Trevor Kavanagh, Associate Editor, The Sun; Danny Kruger, Chief Executive, Only Connect

the **Howard League**  
for **Penal Reform**





“The authority of the court should be reserved for the most serious and complex cases”



The authority of the court, which comes at significant expense to taxpayers, should be reserved for the most serious and complex cases. At present, our Magistrates' Courts are clogged up with low-level, uncontested offences which could be dealt with effectively in other ways.

The Single Justice Procedure, which was introduced by the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015, allows one magistrate to deal with high-volume, low-level cases quickly and fairly outside open court. Importantly, at any stage, defendants can request a traditional hearing in open court if they prefer. Those changes have the full backing of the Magistrates' Association and National Bench Chairmen's Forum.

We are at the beginning of a long, complex and challenging journey towards a courts and tribunals system fit for the twenty-first century.

The case for reform is overwhelming, but we will need to make some bold and difficult decisions to create a system that is simpler, swifter and fairer – and that continues to be the envy of the world.



# Time to urgently review the criminal courts charge



**Richard Monkhouse JP**  
National Chairman, The Magistrates' Association

 **Magistrates Association**

On Monday 13th April this year, something seismic happened in our criminal justice system. The criminal courts charge came into legal effect. This charge applies to all adult offenders charged on or after that date, barring some rare exceptions.

Magistrates' courts sentence over 90% of all criminal offenders, particularly for low level offences where a financial imposition is indicated by our guidelines. Sentencing is carefully geared to the seriousness of the offence and the income of the offender, to ensure proportionality and fairness. This new mandatory charge is, however, a fixed charge, levied without any recognition of an offender's means and judges and magistrates have no discretion over its imposition. At its lowest level before magistrates, following a guilty plea an offender will have to pay £150. At its highest £1,000, following a guilty verdict at trial.

Following its introduction our members are reporting that the addition of this charge makes any semblance of fairness in sentencing redundant. More than that, a new concern is being raised that we have not seen before. The thought process magistrates are seeing in defendants is this: -

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**Plead 'not guilty', run the risk and be convicted, you will pay much more.**

**Why take the chance? Just plead 'guilty'.**

This perverse incentive surely cannot be the way the criminal justice system should operate. The presumption of innocence should not tremble in the shadow of an economic imperative to minimise the risk of a higher charge.

Our members have little faith that the charge will ever be collected. As it is, collection rates for fines are poor. There is no indication the collection of this charge will be any different. We have to face the fact that for many offenders their financial status and motivation to offend means they will likely never pay the charge, for example the homeless person who steals a low value food item.

As an independent charity, the Magistrates' Association is proud to represent the majority of magistrates in England and Wales. We give our members a voice they would

otherwise lack, assiduously impartial and totally non-partisan. The solemn duty universal to all magistrates is to administer the law. As holders of judicial office, they do not speak out lightly. Yet the criminal courts charge has provoked a response so powerful it cannot be left unheard. Many magistrates have resigned because they believe that they cannot in all fairness impose this charge without the discretion they have in all other forms of sentencing.

We are making the case to law-makers based on our members' observations. Our Westminster breakfast briefings and the All-Party Group for the Magistracy will continue to raise magistrates' concerns. We also look forward to giving evidence to the Justice Select Committee.

We believe that an urgent review needs to be carried out and that at the very least sentencers need to be given discretion in how this charge is imposed. That is what we are all trained to do.

[www.magistrates-association.org.uk](http://www.magistrates-association.org.uk)  
[@MagsAssoc](https://twitter.com/MagsAssoc)



# My goal is to give every young person the best start in life

Nicky Morgan,

Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities and Conservative MP for Loughborough

**“The world is now smaller than ever before”**



whatever their background, and wherever they are from, the same opportunity to fulfil their potential. Because we know that a great education really sets you up for the future.

What you learn at school – what you achieve – will stay with you for the rest of your life. Which is why it is so important that you learn the right things and learn them well. That is why it is important to study the core academic subjects at GCSE, the subjects that keep your options open, and allow you to enter the widest ranges of careers and university courses. We call it the English Baccalaureate, or Ebacc, and it means getting good passes at GCSE in English, maths, sciences, history or geography, and a language.

That is not because I think the arts subjects are less valuable. Good schools show there does not need to be a false choice between an academic or an arts-based curriculum. You can do both and do them both well. And, increasingly, in the careers of the future – many of which don't yet exist – that's exactly what you'll need to succeed. Just look at one of the fastest growing industries in this country, app design, which requires both knowledge and creativity in abundance. When I was at school we had no mobile phones or apps; the only apple you had was the one you ate!

To me it seems obvious that as many young people who are able should be studying these subjects up until 16. Not because we think they are the only subjects you should study but because they give you flexibility and choice down the line. But the truth is, not all young people get those opportunities. Across the country, thousands of students are missing out. Because they were told that academic subjects were not for them, and it was easier to pass a less demanding course, and because young people were never told which doors would close by not studying these subjects. Making it harder to get a good job, apprenticeship, or university place.

And the worst thing is that it is the poorest young people who are most likely to miss out, with disadvantaged pupils only half as likely to be entered for the Ebacc as their classmates. We do not think that is fair. We think every young person in this country deserves the chance to get these qualifications at school.

P.T.O

One of the best things about my job as Secretary of State for Education is meeting pupils and teachers across the country. To see what is working, and what is not working, and to learn what more I can do to help make our schools truly exceptional. Because what I want from education – what I passionately believe our education system should do – is to give every single young person the chance to make the most of their talent.

Every student should have the chance to go to a school totally focused on helping every young person who walks through its doors, regardless of his or her background, to achieve whatever he or she wants in life.

Because, as the Prime Minister said when he was re-elected, we are committed to governing as one nation. Nowhere is that more important than in education, where that commitment means giving every young person,

# Debates are better than demands...

➤ **At ATL, we have found that intelligent argument is by far the best way to press our point.**

Our ideas don't come from head office. We work with many of our 170,000 members in schools and colleges to understand and address the issues that face them.

We are not politically aligned, but by negotiating and campaigning on such issues as Ofsted, curriculum and assessment, we believe that we can come up with significantly better solutions.

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**EDUCATION MATTERS**

**TALK TO US**

#ShapeEducation



“Good schools show there does not need to be a false choice between an academic or an arts-based curriculum”



Because the world is now smaller than ever before. When young people leave school and apply for a university place, apprenticeship or job, they are not just competing against someone from down the road. They are competing against young people across the world and need the sort of qualifications, skills and experience to help them stand out. So we are determined to make sure that excellence and high aspirations are spread right across the country.

I know this will be a big change. There may be a small group of pupils for whom it will not be appropriate. But our goal is for pupils starting year seven this September to study the EBacc subjects when they reach their GCSEs. It is an ambitious goal and the right thing to do. To give every single young person in this country the very best start in life. That is what we mean when we talk about social justice, recognising the power of education to transform lives, break down barriers and open up a world of opportunities. Because this government is committed to supporting young people to be the best they can be.

*\* This text is part of a speech that Nicky Morgan gave at King Solomon Academy, London, this June \**

*Putting learning at the heart of assessment*



## THE FULL ENGLISH: *is learning English the secret to 'One Nation'?*

**850,000** non-English speaking migrants and

**24%** of all UK-born adults are without the prerequisite skills in English

**4** government departments have different policies on learning English

## WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

*Join the debate at our Conservative Party Fringe event*

Monday 5 October, 17:30 – 19:00

DEMOS Suite, Radisson Blu Edwardian, Peter Street, Manchester

**CHAIR:** Mary Dejevsky, Foreign Correspondent, *The Independent*

**SPEAKERS:** Ally Paget, Researcher, DEMOS author of *'On Speaking Terms'*

Nick Saville, Director, Research and Thought Leadership, Cambridge English

Habib Rahman, Chief Executive, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

Senior Conservative politician – to be advised



DEMOS



# FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY



“Radical change” is often overused, especially in our line of work, but in the case of the changes to the pension system, the description is apt.



Chief Executive  
**Martin Wheatley**

This year, the Government's pension freedoms represent a once in a generation change that is having a profound impact on both firms and consumers. For the Financial Conduct Authority, our role is clear – to ensure consumers have the right information to make what is one of the most important financial decisions they will make and the right level of protection, whilst ensuring that firms are clear on the obligations they are under when implementing these new rules.

We know that the implementation of these changes has meant some change for firms, and we are considering whether any unfair barriers are preventing consumers from transferring their pensions. We are working with Government to monitor the impact of the changes for both firms and consumers, and putting in place a framework that will ensure there are the right checks and balances – including the Guidance Guarantee and retirement risk warnings – so that individuals are aware of the potential implications of the decisions they make and firms are clear on what their responsibilities are.

But the year ahead will be marked by change across all sectors, and nowhere more than in the wholesale markets. We have been working with the Treasury and Bank of England on the implementation of recommendations from the Fair and Effective Markets Review.

The wholesale markets play a vital role for the UK's economy so they must work well and in the interests of everyone. We are all too familiar with the recent episodes of misconduct that afflicted these markets and contributed to the lack of public trust in their effectiveness.

The Review's recommendation will seek to ensure that individuals are accountable for the decisions they make by extending the Senior Managers

and Certification Regime to firms who operate in the Fixed Income, Currencies and Commodities markets. We will also support the creation of a new Market Standards Board that can tackle any uncertainty around trading practices and ensure that participants adhere to the highest standards.

The implementation of the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards' recommendations, means that we will be entering an era where individuals will be held to the highest standard. I am in no doubt that this represents a real opportunity for firms.

The discussions I have with CEOs and Chairmen confirm that they understand that if good conduct is placed at the heart of what they do, they can regain the trust of consumers. There is nothing to fear from high standards if the end result is that we have a financial sector working well and in the interests of people who want to use their services.

Alongside this more “traditional” work for a regulator, I am looking forward with genuine excitement to the work we are undertaking with the FinTech community. Last year we introduced Project Innovate, where we work alongside innovators and smaller firms to help them navigate the regulatory process to get their idea in a position where it could come to market.

Innovative new products are the drivers of any market, and we are no different. I see the role of the FCA as one where we help create room for the brightest to enter the sector, where our expertise are available to those people who are developing the new models and products that will make up the financial services of tomorrow.

Every year presents challenges for the financial sector and for us as regulators – but with radical change ahead of us across all sectors, this year promises more than most.

## Taking on the toughest challenge in education - the underachievement of disadvantaged pupils

The biggest challenge facing us in education today is closing the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their better-off peers. Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) are tackling this every day, and making excellent progress.

OAT supports more than 25,000 students in 30 academies throughout England. Our schools are predominantly situated in economically deprived – and often geographically isolated – areas, including coastal towns and suburbs. Across the Trust, a high proportion of students join us with below average results, and we support almost three times as many students who are in receipt of free school meals than the national average. We have made huge progress, often inheriting schools with decades of neglect and low aspiration, but we know we must do more.

We are motivated and committed to being the Trust that makes the biggest difference and we are achieving this through four main areas of focus. The first is that we find the very best teachers and leaders and get them into our schools in areas where they are needed. Recruiting and retaining great teachers can be challenging, particularly in coastal regions or locations which are less glamorous than the big cities. To get over this hurdle, we innovate, by incentivising teachers with subsidised housing, or building regional clusters that share expertise.

The second is a focus on enrichment and extra-curricular activities, which we see feeds into student's confidence, wellbeing and academic performance. A report published in August showed that privately educated students earn more than their state educated counterparts after graduation. To ensure students have access to all kinds of experiences that are more easily accessed by their wealthier peers, we run special enrichment programmes at our schools – even in primaries, as we believe early intervention is key.

Thirdly, we work hard to raise aspirations. Students from economically deprived backgrounds often fail to go on to achieve their full potential in higher education for many reasons. Their parents are less likely to have been to university, and therefore



Prime Minister's visit to Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy in Runcorn (Left to right: Executive Head; John Rigby, Ormiston Bolingbroke Principal; Mark Wyss, Prime Minister; David Cameron, Ormiston Academies Trust Chief Executive; Professor Toby Salt)

may not instil such an aspiration in their children, or may struggle to support them with complex application processes. OAT therefore hired an 'Access Champion' who supports each academy to help students with the potential to go on to Russell Group universities, to navigate the university system.

Last but certainly not least is our culture. We do not accept excuses when a child's future is at stake, and make no apologies for having the highest standards with regards to behaviour and academic targets. All students can achieve, and our job is to make sure each and every student fulfils their potential.

With this focus, we achieve excellent results. Despite the high levels of disadvantaged students we support, we are proud that overall, 72% of OAT academies are rated 'Good' or better by Ofsted, and there are many shining examples. Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy in Runcorn was recently visited by the Prime Minister.

He highlighted that despite the huge number of pupils receiving free school meals (65%), two-thirds of students last year achieved five or more GCSEs at C or better including English and maths, up from just over a third in 2010, the final year of its predecessor school. City of Norwich school sits within the top 500 state secondary schools according to exam results. And Ormiston Venture Academy was the first academy in Norfolk to be rated 'Outstanding'.

There is no silver bullet, fairy dust or set way for schools to become outstanding. But at OAT we will not rest until we close the gap for all our pupils, and ensure we give them the highest academic, social and practical skills to allow them to lead a fulfilling life.



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# London's housing crisis and its interaction with child poverty

Fiona Twycross,

a Labour London Assembly Member and a member of the Housing Committee of the Greater London Authority



The profound housing crisis and scandalous levels of child poverty in London are two of the biggest challenges facing our capital. Yet, strangely, very little consideration is given to their interaction with one another.

Child poverty has many complex causes and those who wish to change the fate of children caught in the midst of this sorry plight can find themselves unsure of where to begin.

The impact of the housing crisis on children in the capital, though not always acknowledged, is significant. It not only means families spending far more on rent than is reasonable but, in some areas of London, it increasingly means rampant overcrowding and poor conditions. The impact that has on children is severe. It is clear that to stand any real chance of eradicating child poverty, we must treat the causes, not just the symptoms; this means getting serious about tackling the housing crisis.

The extent of London's housing crisis is plain to see. For the past thirty years, the market has failed to deliver enough homes to meet the needs of London's rising population. Whilst independent evidence shows a need for nearly 49,000 additional homes every year, just 18,260 new homes were built in London in 2014/15.

When you do not build enough homes, prices rise. Whilst an outwardly rich city, London, in reality, also houses some of the poorest communities in the country. Over half of the 20 parliamentary constituencies with the highest levels of child poverty are in the capital.

Since the turn of the millennium, the cost of a typical London

**"The broken housing market is becoming the key driver of poverty"**

home has doubled in real terms. Rents have increased similarly and even social housing costs have rocketed thanks to the Government's introduction of "affordable rent", set at 80 per cent of the market rate. Runaway housing costs are increasingly the prime cause of child poverty in the capital.

The last round of social security cuts severely and disproportionately impacted on London. Prior to its introduction, it was forecast that nearly half of all UK households affected by the benefits cap would live in the capital. The actual figure turned out to be significantly higher.

The true impact of the benefit cap in London is seen with the growing use of temporary accommodation. The introduction of the cap saw the number of London households in temporary housing rise by over 11,000. It is hard to expect a child to succeed when they live in overcrowded temporary accommodation with no permanent place to call home.

The impact on London's diverse demographic has been equally staggering. Government data shows that since the new housing benefit rules were introduced in April 2011, the number of households claiming housing benefit in the five most central London boroughs, and the City of London, has fallen by over a quarter. Meanwhile, in outer-London, it has risen massively as families are pushed out of central areas. Mixed communities, which have long been the hallmark of our capital, are slowly being eroded, as we witness the hollowing out of London.

So much for Boris Johnson's claims that "on my watch you are not going to see thousands of families being evicted from the place they have been living and where they have put down roots, that is not what Londoners want to see and that is not what we will accept."

The failure of successive governments to build enough homes and tackle low pay has punished those on the lowest incomes most. Cutting housing benefit is a shocking attempt to brush out of sight those affected by Government's failure to build - it does nothing to tackle the root cause of poverty. Build more homes and prices will drop. If prices drop, then so does the housing benefit bill.

In London, if not across the country as a whole, the broken housing market is becoming the key driver of poverty. Even significant increases to the minimum wage would struggle to keep up with the inexorable rise in housing costs. Until more action is taken to reform the housing market, and get costs under control, families will continue to face a heart-breaking choice: pay more and more in housing costs, leaving little left for anything else, or leave the place they may have lived in for generations. Either way, the consequences for child poverty are deeply worrying.



**fit**  
*fields in trust*

Everywhere we turn, we face statistics telling us today's children are not getting outdoors enough, are not active enough and are jeopardising their current and future health as a result:

**children today are spending half the time outdoors that their parents did; 51% of children are still not getting the recommended one hour of physical activity each day.**

What can be done to combat this? A key component of the solution has to be recognising the importance of providing children with access to outdoor spaces where they can enjoy being physically active through sport and play.

**Children who play regularly in natural environments show more advanced motor fitness, including coordination, balance and agility, and they are sick less often.**

Further, our parks, playgrounds and playing fields are the places where the talent of the next generation of Olympian gold medallists will be nurtured.



I speak to lots of professional sportsmen and women and all of them say if it wasn't for the access they had as youngsters to outside spaces, they would not be in the positions they're in.

Graeme Le Saux

Despite the undoubted positive impact outdoor recreational space has on both health and community it remains under increasing threat:

**45% of local authorities are considering either selling parks and green spaces or transferring their management to others.**

To stem this decline we need to recognise the intrinsic value of our green spaces and that the development of these spaces for commercial or residential use is often irreversible. For 90 years, Fields in Trust has been working to ensure outdoor recreational spaces will be preserved in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy. Operating across the UK, with a proven system for protecting these valuable spaces the charity protects over 2,500 individual parks, playgrounds and other green spaces. Alongside the permanent safeguarding of spaces Fields in Trust is a respected voice in the sector and for many years has advised on benchmark standards for the provision of outdoor recreational space of all kinds. First published in the 1930s and now enshrined in the planning lexicon the Six Acre Standard's latest successor document will be published in Autumn 2015 reflecting changes to the planning framework in recent years.

**Safeguarding our outdoor spaces is the first step on the journey.**

Fields in Trust also encourages people of all ages to get outdoors and try new activities through Have a Field Day. This engagement programme has successfully engaged nearly a quarter of a million attendees at over 1,000 events since 2012. Have a Field Days bring communities together on their local Fields in Trust protected site, to make the most of this valued space. Research has shown that 90% of Have a Field Day attendees feel it had a positive impact on their community and 72% felt their event helped people to try new activities.

Ensuring people have the opportunity to try new activities in a non-threatening, friendly environment is crucial to building activity levels across all sectors of the population.

Without outdoor spaces to deliver these activities on, that task will become much more difficult.



## Britain's excellent education system is a magnet for brilliant minds

Jo Johnson,

Minister of State for Universities and Science and  
Conservative MP for Orpington



As someone lucky enough to do postgraduate study in France and Belgium, some 15 and 20 years ago, I am delighted that more and more UK students are now seizing the chance to broaden their horizons. When I went off on the ferry to the Université Libre de Bruxelles in the mid-1990s, and a few years later to INSEAD, in the forest of Fontainebleau, it was a niche move. But today the British Council reports that more than one-third of UK students are interested in studying abroad. And while the increase in the number of those who actually take the leap is encouraging – almost 29,000 students last year – we need to do more.

Because CBI surveys show British businesses are unhappy with UK graduates' overall foreign language abilities and disappointed by their general cultural awareness. So we must do more to prepare ourselves for the globalised world. That is why I welcome the strong demand for the EU's Erasmus programme and the British Council's Generation UK programme, which aim to send up to 80,000 UK students to China and 25,000 to India by 2020. We must build on those important programmes, which increase students' employability and support the UK's ties overseas.

The UK values international students who come to this country, too. We recognise that competition for the brightest and best students from other countries is intensifying. We will continue to ensure that our excellent education system remains a magnet for brilliant minds. Today, we have more than 435,000 international higher education students, which means that nearly 1 in 5 students in our university population is from overseas – and more than 1 in 4 in our capital city.

They come for the world class quality of our education and

**“We have more than  
435,000 international  
higher education  
students”**

the opportunities for research. There are more top ranking universities in London than in any other city in the world. And with four universities in the global top 10, we rank second only to the United States. Our research base is world leading, our universities are world class, we develop and attract the world's brightest minds and we are second in the world when ranked by winners of the Nobel Prize.

International students enrich that offering. They contribute to our research capacity. And the £3.9 billion they bring in tuition fees helps our universities invest in first class facilities and provision. International students stimulate demand for courses where domestic demand alone can be insufficient to sustain them, ensuring that a wider range of courses are available for all students and that some strategically important courses remain viable. They also provide a cultural cross-fertilisation that benefits everyone.

Tapping top flight student talent globally will not just mean the UK gains in terms of innovation, research and a broader science and skills base. Greater exchange of students now will mean stronger relationships later. Because today's international students are tomorrow's world leaders. They take friendships and loyalties home with them that later become trade links, cultural bonds and diplomatic ties. Nearly 80 per cent of students anticipate developing professional links with the UK. The immediate economic benefits from international students are real, too – for every 100 non-EU students, 45 full time equivalent jobs are created and £4.6 million generated in UK businesses.

I want students from across the world to understand our commitment: we will roll out the red carpet to the brightest and best, to the talented workers and brilliant students that help Britain's success. There is no cap on the number of overseas students who can come to study at our universities. That is not just me, that is the Prime Minister. Sometimes people worry that they are taking places from British students. There used to be a limit on the number of British students the government would fund. But we have a sustainable graduate repayment scheme in place, and we are in a position to remove limits on the number of UK students that publicly-funded universities can recruit, lifting the cap on aspiration.

Government's welcome to international students is genuine. But it is to genuine students. It is right that we are clamping down on fraudulent applications and bogus colleges – to protect the reputation of the UK as a provider of high quality education.

*\*This text is part of a speech that Jo Johnson gave at the Going Global 2015 Conference, in London, this June \**

# Why Part-Time Study is Vital to Economic Growth



**Peter Horrocks**  
Vice-Chancellor

**Peter Horrocks, Vice-Chancellor of The Open University is calling for action to support part-time higher education in England. Part-time study improves skills, raises career prospects and increases earnings and contributions to the economy. Without part-time higher education, England cannot address its skills shortages and thousands of hard working people will be denied the opportunity to transform their lives.**

The valuable contribution of part-time students is under threat. Reports in the media would have us believe that student numbers in the UK since the introduction of higher fees are buoyant. This is not the case for part-time students. There has been a 41% decline in undergraduates studying part-time in England over the last five years. Prior to the rise in tuition fees, the proportion of undergraduates studying part-time in England was one third; it has now fallen to one fifth.

Part time and distance learning is both highly efficient and cost effective; students don't incur maintenance costs and those who earn and learn can apply their new skills immediately in the workplace, assisting productivity improvements. Part-time students also pay taxes while studying and pay back their loans in full measure, as they are mostly earning more than 73% of OU students work full-time or part-time during their study.

Research shows that up to 90% of people at work now will still be at work in the next decade. These people will need to up-skill and re-skill and the UK economy relies heavily on part-time study to help them do this. There will also be a growing demand for employees with high-level skills and the UK is at risk of slipping in its global competitiveness as other nations increase their skill levels more rapidly.

Investing in skills not only helps individuals, but also the whole workforce. Research undertaken by London Economics for BIS suggests that there is a halo education effect, where the training of one person boosts the productivity of the whole team. The same research has also shown that increasing the education level of all co-workers by approximately one year results in larger wage increases for a worker (9-12% effect) than if an individual raised their own education by a single year (6-7% effect).

As the UK's largest university, the OU offers a high quality, affordable solution for up-skilling and re-skilling the workforce. Flexible learning opportunities support people looking to develop their skills to help them take their next step in their career, or simply for their own curiosity. It is vital that those who chose to combine further learning with work be supported in their ambition to do so.

Part-time higher education is just too valuable – to society, to the economy and to those who should have equal access to that opportunity to study – to be allowed to wither. We need to fight to make sure this doesn't happen. The new government has a great opportunity to redress the wasteful fall in part-time study through policy remedies that can aid economically significant and cost effective study.





# Collaborative research means maximum benefit for **MUSHROOM INDUSTRY**



Research and Development is the cornerstone of a sustainable, competitive and viable mushroom Industry in the British Isles where technologically advanced, highly mechanised, modern production systems offer the most beneficial contribution to the agricultural economy. Sustainability is assured through the use of waste raw materials with low fertiliser inputs to produce wholesome, healthy and nutritious food while at the same time supporting strong employment in rural communities. The success of the mushroom Industry has been attributed to the entrepreneurial spirit of key stakeholders - growers, compost suppliers, marketers and producer organisations - and is evidenced in their innovativeness, willingness to collaborate and investment in research to remain competitive.

## Maximising Research Capabilities

Active collaborations across three organisations - Teagasc (Ireland), Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (Northern Ireland) and East Malling Research (England) have been developed over many years, where independent teams specialising in areas of mushroom research – pathology, agronomy, molecular diagnostics – have formed a closely knit alliance to deliver maximum benefit and minimise duplication of effort.



MushTV network in discussion during a farm visit in Poland

## National Funding

All three organisations have received funding from their respective government departments responsible for Agriculture:- Defra in Britain, DARD in Northern Ireland and DAFM in the Republic of Ireland. In addition AHDB Horticulture in Britain, which collects a statutory levy from the industry, has also funded mushroom research. On several occasions there has been collaboration between organisations on specific research projects, fostering close links between the researchers and industries.

## All Ireland and UK Mushroom Conference

The inaugural All Ireland and UK Mushroom Conference was held in 2013 at the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan, Ireland. This was an exciting new collaboration between the British and Irish Industries, offering a unique opportunity for discussion and networking in order to sustain a dynamic, competitive and technologically advanced Industry. Following the unprecedented success of this event a second conference is now planned for October 2015.



## International Networks

From local collaborations, grew international partnerships. 'MushTV' is an excellent example of one such strategic alliance fostering close links between researchers and Industry in a €2.5m EU funded project, uniting interested parties from Ireland, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium and Poland. This network of scientists, composters, producers and associated businesses, including competitors in the mushroom market place, have worked together to resolve common problems pooling scarce resources for targeted research with a sense of collaboration and mutual respect.

Industry involvement has helped shape and prioritise the research programme to address key industry challenges. It has also ensured that the mushroom industry has direct access to the results and best practice publications for sustainable mushroom production.

# www.mushtv.eu

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This research is funded from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme managed by REA-Research Executive Agency <http://ec.europa.eu/research/rea>. FP7-SME-2011 - Grant Agreement No. 286836 – MushTV

## learndirect: realising potential

Leading the way in the provision of integrated Apprenticeships and employment services, **learndirect** has helped around 4.5 million people get the skills they need for work and more than 75,000 organisations improve the skills of their workforce.

During the next five years the development of people's skills will be critical to the UK improving its productivity. **learndirect is well placed to help:**

### UK's largest Apprenticeship provider

As the largest provider of Apprenticeship programmes in the UK, we're proud to have supported 250,000 apprentices; helping them to take the first step into work and as they progress their careers. This is a huge achievement but we want to do more.

### We can:

- Use our learnings from a period of considerable growth to inform the UK's plans for Apprenticeship growth
- Continue to work with employers on business-relevant Apprenticeship and Traineeship programmes

### Best performing Work Programme provider\*

With our network of 400+ centres and our integrated employability and skills programmes, we're in the business of helping people break the cycle of unemployment. Last year we helped more than 18,500 unemployed customers into work.

### We know:

- The race to the bottom leaves those furthest away from the job market worse off
- More needs to be done to create clear pathways for people to enter and progress in work

### Experts in giving people a second chance

At **learndirect**, we never under estimate the impact on an individual of gaining their first qualification: of being able to start to read to their children after getting an English qualification; or getting the basic skills they need to get into work.

### We believe:

- Access to first qualifications in English & maths for all will benefit our society as a whole
- In continued access to second and third chance learning post-18

For further information visit: [learndirect.com/business](http://learndirect.com/business)

Or to set up a meeting with one of our Executive team contact: [press.office@learndirect.com](mailto:press.office@learndirect.com)

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# Fixing the foundations – our blueprint for creating a more prosperous nation

Sajid Javid,

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Conservative MP for Bromsgrove



“I want to take British business to the next level”

produce what his or her counterparts in Germany can deliver in four.

Productivity is not just some obscure measure, of interest only to economists. It matters to each and every one of us. If we could match the USA for productivity, it would boost our GDP by 31 per cent – equivalent to £21,000 a year for every household in this country. And higher productivity means higher incomes.

When productivity rises, standards of living rise, too. Fixing the Foundations is our plan for productivity; our blueprint for creating a more prosperous nation.

There are three elements which are particularly close to my heart.

The first is transport. The internet has revolutionised the way many of us work, but reliable transport links are still a vital part of any serious, growing economy.

Yet, for decades, successive governments have not invested enough in maintaining and developing the arteries of British business.

Congestion on our roads is getting so bad that by 2040 we could lose more than 100 million working days to traffic jams. If we do not fix this problem, British business will, quite literally, get stuck in the slow lane of Europe.

So over the next five years we're going to invest £100 billion in infrastructure, investing in the strategic road network, getting the rail investment programme back onto a sustainable footing, and we're going to grasp the nettle of airport capacity in the south east.

The second is planning. The UK has not been building enough homes to keep up with growing demand. That does not just frustrate hardworking people who want to own their own home – it also harms productivity and restricts flexibility in the labour market.

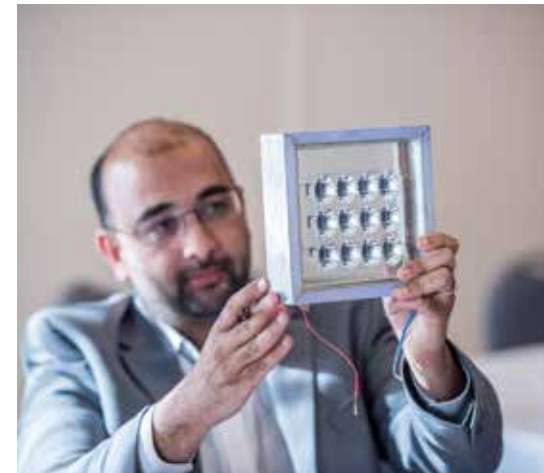
So we are going to introduce a new zonal system, which will effectively give automatic planning permission on suitable brown field sites.

P.T.O

In stark terms, it now takes a worker in the UK five days to

# ICURe

## Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research



The SETsquared Partnership leads the way in commercialising university research, generating new businesses; new jobs; and UK economic growth.

### Bridging wasteland and sinkholes

ICURe is SETsquared's scaleable and structured program for validating market opportunities flowing from UK research labs. It bridges the 'Valley of Death' – the wasteland for brilliant ideas and a sinkhole for the £billions wasted on them.

### Rapid success

In just over six months the ICURe pilot program has:

- validated 20 university research activities in the marketplace;
- created 11 new companies;
- raised over £1million of financing;
- created over 30 new jobs, with another 30 to come before year end;
- made 1,500+ engagements between university researchers and industry;
- contracted £1million new industry research and development into university labs.

### Commercialisation

Ziyo and BluPoint are just two examples of companies benefitting from ICURe.

**Ziyo** is founded on technology developed at the University of Bristol which continuously measures sugars in solution. Initially viewed as a new way of monitoring blood sugar levels in diabetics, ICURe's market validation revealed a much nearer term market need, in brewing and winemaking. Now working with several UK brewers, Ziyo plans to supply market products next year, and build a global business in four years.

**BluPoint** is developing a low-cost, low-power mobile communications server with technology flowing from the University of Southampton. BluPoint's Mobile Transliteration Server provides effective communication in offline and off-grid locations, improving education, healthcare and social cohesion. With impetus from commercial and social enterprise, BluPoint is targeting vast untapped world markets in undeveloped and developing communities.

### ICURE PILOT VALIDATION

- “We uncovered big markets and exploited the opportunities” Pertinax
- “ICURe gave us the confidence to take our devices to market” Dr Laureline Mahe
- “Meeting prospective partners gave us the self-assurance to roll-out” Dr Mike Santer
- “Talking to over 100 potential customers was invaluable” Inductosense

The ICURe pilot plans to work with UK universities beyond the SETsquared Partnership, expanding engagement between researchers and global industry. Funded by HEFCE and Innovate UK, the ICURe pilot and SETsquared are developing plans for a nationwide rollout that could bring £billions of UK economic growth.

For 13 years SETsquared's incubation activities have helped build the UK economy. Ranked #1 in Europe and #2 globally by UBI, SETsquared has incubated over 1000 companies, raised investment of over £1billion, and contributed £4billion of GVA to the UK economy.





“We will get Britain moving, we will get Britain building, and we will get Britain learning”



We will make sure the homes that are needed get built – and if a council fails to produce a suitable local plan, we will have it done it for them.

The third is education. Because productivity is not just about buildings and roads and infrastructure.

It is also about people, making sure British workers have the skills they need to compete.

And, right now, too many young people are missing out. The skills of our 16 to 24-year-olds are no better than those of our 55 to 64-year-olds. It is not good enough, and it is storing up problems for the future.

Part of the problem lies in our system of training.

Enter the professional and technical education system today and you are faced with a blizzard of complicated and overlapping qualifications, with no obvious pathway to a decent job.

We are going to simplify the system, replacing thousands of qualifications with a clear set of routes that progression to high level skills.

High level, sector-specific training will be provided, in part, by prestigious new institutes of technology sponsored by employers, registered with professional bodies, and aligned with apprenticeship standards.

Our plan for productivity is clear.

We will get Britain moving, we will get Britain building, and we will get Britain learning. We will deliver the infrastructure and the skills this country needs to become the world's richest major economy.

Boosting productivity is the economic challenge of our age, and there is a long way to go. But we can get there.

*\*This text is part of a speech that Sajid Javid gave in Longbridge, Birmingham, this July\**

## CENTRE FOR COMMUNITIES & SOCIAL JUSTICE

COVENTRY UNIVERSITY IS MAKING ITS JOURNEY TOWARDS 2020 WITH A RESEARCH STRATEGY DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH. THROUGH ORIGINAL APPROACHES FROM WORLD-LEADING EXPERTS, RESEARCH AT COVENTRY UNIVERSITY IS MAKING A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE TO THE WAY WE LIVE.



## A NEW APP TO TACKLE FGM

A new app developed by researchers from the Centre for Communities and Social Justice at Coventry University is helping to protect young girls and women at risk from **female genital mutilation (FGM)**. **Petals** is targeted not only at girls who are at risk of **FGM**, but at their friends and family members too. The web-app is the first of its kind to be developed in the UK and has received endorsement from the NSPCC, who have received more than 800 calls following the opening of a **FGM** helpline earlier this year.

**FGM** (sometimes called female genital cutting, female circumcision or sunna) refers to 'illegal procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons'. It is a practice that has been illegal in the UK since 1985 but is a growing problem across the country. It was described as "harrowing" by the Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP, Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities, at the official launch of the **Petals** app in London.

Professor Hazel Barrett led the development of the app, which has been designed with built-in safety features. Shake your smartphone and the app will disappear from the screen, it leaves no history on your computer, and there aren't any pop ups - so you can close it down with a single click - welcome features for girls for those who may be apprehensive about using it. It's simple, colourful and easy to use with a range of support options. There are no gory details and very few statistics. Instead, there's just a 'help' button, some simple FAQs along the lines of 'what would happen to

my parents' and 'will I get in trouble for speaking out', and some additional functions, such as a quiz. Although the app is aimed primarily at young girls living in affected communities and those at risk, it is also a powerful educational tool for young people, teaching others about the facts and realities of **FGM**.

**Petals** has been designed to help those most at risk because so many 11-18 year-olds had nowhere to turn to for information. The launch of the **Petals** app coincides with the 'peak season' for **FGM**. It is the time where many girls and women are at greater risk of being subjected to the practice, due to the summer holidays. Out of contact from their teachers and classmates for several weeks, by the time they return to school the outward signs that they have suffered **FGM** may be less apparent. There are still over 60,000 girls living in Britain are thought to be at risk of **FGM** - and NHS figures show that 528 girls were treated for **FGM**-related injuries in March of this year alone. It is the hope of the team at Coventry University that the app will provide a lifeline for those who need it most.

The app is available now at [petals.coventry.ac.uk](http://petals.coventry.ac.uk)

You can discover more from the Centre for Communities and Social Justice at [www.coventry.ac.uk/ccsj](http://www.coventry.ac.uk/ccsj)

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# Steps are urgently required from the Government to improve health and safety at work

Jim Cunningham,

Labour MP for Coventry South



I first started working in a factory in 1956, and have witnessed an incredible change in the level of safety in the workplace since then: fewer accidents, fewer deaths and fewer long-term health conditions which have been caused by the workplace. More than anything, I have witnessed a change in the workplace culture – young people today would simply not expect to have to tolerate being put in danger, or to suffer for their work.

However, I am concerned that as time goes on, and the “health and safety culture” becomes ingrained in our public consciousness, it can be taken for granted and, perhaps, assumed to be inevitable.

That cannot be further from the case. Health and safety in the workplace has been the result of decades of hard work and campaigning – and often industrial conflict – and this should never be forgotten. As Britain continues its shift from its industrial past to a more service-led economy, the importance of actively protecting the workforce must not be overlooked and consigned to the dustbin of history.

The culmination of many years of campaigning by trade unions and the Labour movement was the introduction of the Health and Safety at Work Act in 1974, passed by the then Employment Secretary, Michael Foot. The 40 years since have seen fatalities in the work place fall by 87 per cent and non-fatal injuries decrease by 77 per cent.

That legislation places primarily with the employer the legal duty to do whatever is reasonable to ensure employee health and safety whilst in the workplace. But that process is best facilitated by bilateral communication between the employer and the employee,

**“We should never stop being watchful for risks”**

rather than assuming the onus rests entirely on the employer. The concerns of the employee should be listened to collectively. And it is that collective voice that is now under threat.

It is the role of appointed representatives – trade union officials – to raise unsatisfactory working conditions with the management structure and press for change. That is where recent Government attacks on trade union activity could prove extremely damaging. The Trade Union Bill limits the ability of unions to raise subscriptions through the commonly used check-off method and limits the ability of unions to offer worker representation by placing greater scrutiny on facility time. That is in addition to the restrictions to be placed on industrial action within the Bill. Should the two-way communication channel between workers and bosses be broken, then it will, ultimately, come at the expense of working conditions and to the detriment of the work force.

Training, both on and off the job, must be encouraged and incentivised by the Government. A new, modern ‘training’ culture would help to cultivate a high-skilled and diverse workforce, with the development of additional hard and soft skills on top of the core health and safety content. A highly skilled workforce is beneficial for individual business, the economy and the country as a whole.

Incentives for good practice should be offered by the Government and actively promoted: positive steps which reward specifically best practice from leading business in conjunction with existing penalties, and fines for those workplaces whose measures fall well short of the required standard. That would encourage companies to be proactive in their approach and to aim higher, rather than engaging in simple box-ticking exercises to avoid failing short.

We should never stop being watchful for risks, and we should always be eager to improve the workplace. Face masks and protective glasses might prevent the most obvious harms, but we should not underestimate modern dangers, such as back damage from the wrong posture at a keyboard and eye strain from inadequate lighting or computer screen size. We need to be working to protect staff from depression, stress and workplace bullying. And what about over-tired staff, or hours unconducive to a healthy work-life balance? They might not be as horrifically destructive as the dangers which I used to see in factories, but anything which is pernicious and avoidable should have no place in our workplaces.

As we move forward into a digital and automated world, we can sometimes forget why this legislation exists and overlook the role that it plays every day across the UK. That is precisely why we must ensure that our structure for ensuring health and safety in the workplace remains ever evolving and stays fit-for-purpose in the twenty-first century.



**‘Apprentices - the best investment you’ll ever make!’**



*“An apprenticeship gave me everything I have in life. It gave me the opportunity to learn rewarding skills, secure a well-paid job and set up my own business and grow it to become what Pimlico Plumbers is today – a growing company which employs 300 people. Without an apprenticeship, neither I nor Pimlico Plumbers would be what they are today.”*

*“I passionately believe that more young people should be given the opportunity to learn on the job and develop skills which will give them a rewarding career. We’ve made progress in delivering more apprenticeships in recent years but there is still much more to do.”*

*“I hope you will join me in campaigning for a training system which doesn’t let young people go on the dole after leaving school but offers a high quality apprenticeship to all those who want one.”*

*Charlie Mullins*

Charlie Mullins,  
Founder-Chairman, Pimlico Plumbers





## Clear priorities for DECC

Amber Rudd,

Economic Secretary to the Treasury  
and Conservative MP for South Northamptonshire



**“DECC has a long-term plan, underpinned by carbon budgets, to meet our responsibilities”**

term economic prosperity.

A global deal is the only way both to deliver the scale of action required and to drive down the costs of climate action; so Paris 2015 is both a serious opportunity to avoid its catastrophic effects and to open up new avenues for low carbon industries.

Going for clean energy makes economic sense.

And it makes business sense: clean energy is a boom market – bringing jobs and investment and growth. But it only makes sense if we keep costs pinned down.

The vital financial support which has been provided to the renewable sector has helped new and innovative technologies, while increasing the amount of low-carbon electricity that powers homes and businesses across the UK.

Financial support has already driven down the costs of renewables significantly and these are continuing to fall, making it easier for the industry to thrive without subsidies.

To work for everyone, de-carbonisation has to be affordable and sensitive to the impact it has on people's pockets and wider economic circumstances.

New measures such as the early closure of the Renewables Obligation to onshore wind will provide us with better control of spending and ensure bill payers get best value for money as we continue to move to a low-carbon economy.

And in line with keeping bills as low as possible and ensuring markets work for consumers, we are proposing to introduce competition to the way our networks deliver electricity which will open up the energy market to innovation and could potentially save British bill payers £390 million over 10 years.

De-carbonisation must work, in particular for the local communities where infrastructure is built.

In the Energy Bill introduced this July, as well as keeping bills down, reforms to onshore wind subsidies will put more power in the hands of local people to decide on this now mature technology.

P.T.O

**T**he priorities of the Department for Energy and Climate Change are clear: keeping bills as low as possible for hardworking families and businesses and powering the economy, while decarbonising in the most cost-effective way.

Those are a challenging and critical set of objectives.

DECC has a long-term plan, underpinned by carbon budgets, to meet our responsibilities.

Savings from last year have enabled us to protect spend on key areas for 2015/16 including maintaining secure supplies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Departmental spending will be set out in the Spending Review this autumn and the Department is developing a new operating model which will allow us to work in a smarter, more focused and efficient manner.

Keeping the lights on is non-negotiable.

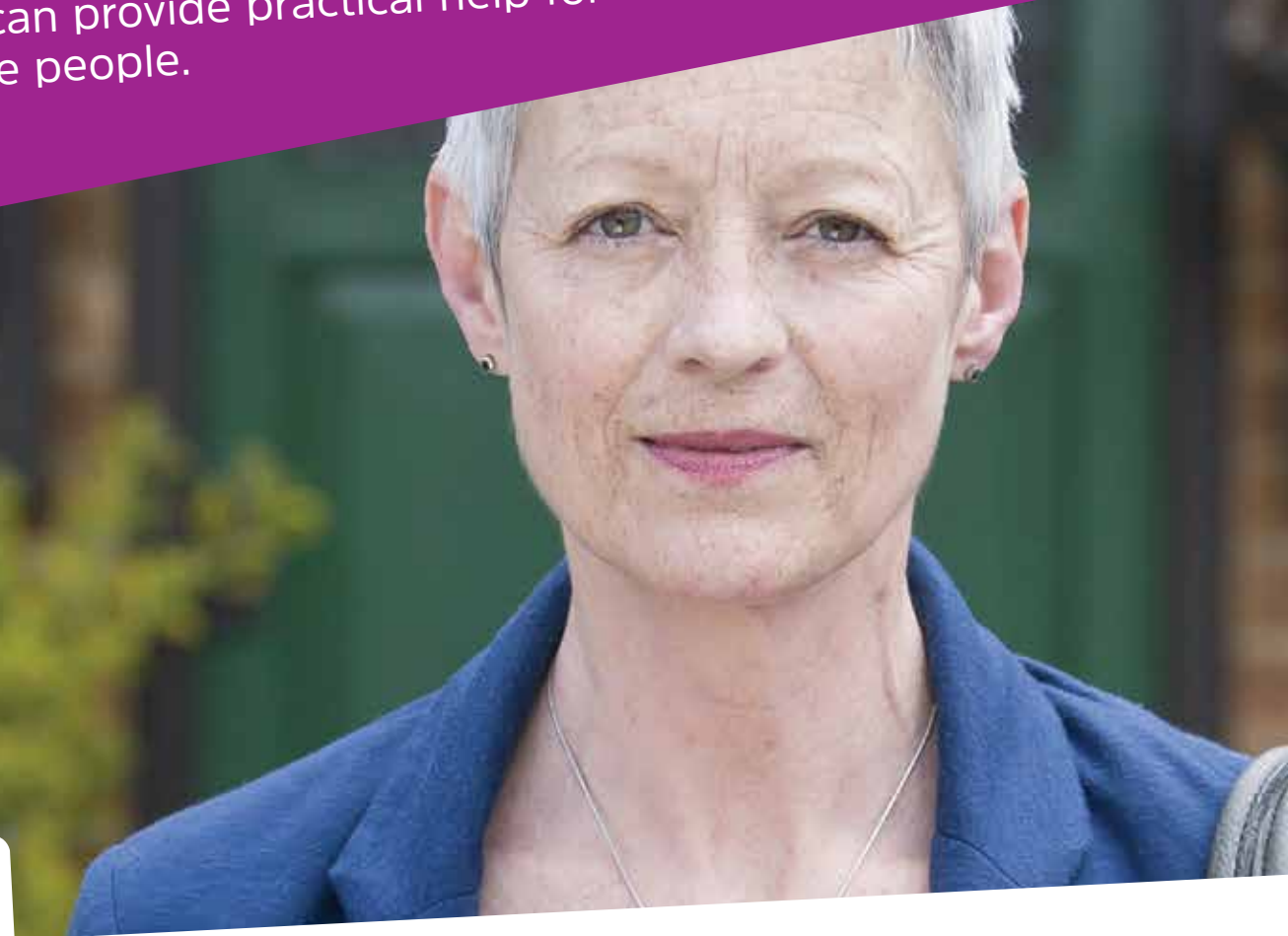
Our modern technological society cannot function without power. A diverse mix, including home-grown sources, provides the most resilient system.

Tackling climate change is also non-negotiable. Climate Change is not just a threat to the environment. It is a threat to our national security, to global security and to our long-

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**“Clean energy is a boom market – bringing jobs and investment and growth”**



The Bill will also help reduce our reliance on foreign imports and support jobs and growth by reinvigorating our domestic oil and gas industry.

The role that UK business can play in meeting the UK's climate change targets is undoubted.

By incentivising reductions in energy consumption and emissions, the government is giving business the tools to achieve that goal.

Likewise, by creating a simple energy tax system that rewards energy and carbon saving, and allows businesses to increase productivity, support growth and ensure their place in a competitive global market, cutting red – or green - tape and bureaucracy.

We want to collaborate with industry and the wider green economy sector in the coming months to ensure we develop a framework for simplicity and stability.

*\* This text is from a post which Amber Rudd wrote for the Department of Energy and Climate Change's blog, this July \**

# Future Energy – Three Emerging Challenges for Policy Makers



**DR NATHAN RICHARDSON**  
Director (Futures & Innovation)  
Atkins (Water & Environment)

If you would like to hear more about our Future Proofing Energy: Environment series please contact [nathan.richardson@atkinsglobal.com](mailto:nathan.richardson@atkinsglobal.com)

For more information on Future Proofing Energy: Environment's thought leadership series, please visit: <http://angles.atkinsglobal.com/tag/future-proofing-energy-environment>

The energy system of 2030 is being shaped by policy decisions being made today. These policy decisions must be made in a rapidly changing world where we are seeing major advances in our engineering skills; technology and communications capabilities alongside changes in public expectations and a greater understanding of our relationship with the environment.

**Against this background how can policy makers working with the wider stakeholder community meet the challenge of ensuring that future energy is available, affordable and environmentally sustainable?**

Atkins, as a world leading engineering and environmental consultancy, is at the heart of meeting this challenge and is sponsoring a thought leadership programme on Future Proofing Energy: Environment through 2015.

**Drawing on our experience in designing and delivering the infrastructure of tomorrow we have identified three emerging challenges for policy makers around energy.**

## CHALLENGE 1: The question of balance

UK energy policy has three main goals; improving energy security and making sure energy is affordable have been consistently driving policy decisions and investment for generations. However, over the last two decades the third goal of needing to reduce carbon emissions to lessen the scale and impact of climate change has also been recognised.

**The challenge we now face, as we set the path for the next generation, is to ensure that we maintain the appropriate balance across all three energy policy goals.**

Access to new fossil fuel resources has become possible through advances in engineering and scientific understanding housed in organisations like Atkins. These developments can improve energy security and reduce costs to consumers. But we need the right checks and balances in place to safeguard progress on reducing carbon emissions.

## CHALLENGE 2: The question of scale

We have inherited a national energy generating and transmission infrastructure with the “big six” UK energy suppliers responsible for operating much of that system. Whilst there are undoubted economies of scale many observers believe that in the future our cities should be playing a greater role in how energy is generated and used in their communities, integrating decisions around energy more strongly with their local economic, social and environmental needs and policies. The result. A more decentralised, distributed energy system.

**How can policy makers encourage new business models and partnerships to emerge around energy, whilst not undermining the long term national energy infrastructure investments we have committed to such as new nuclear? Atkins is working with the Energy Research Partnership looking at this issue and the role our cities can play in our future energy resilience.**

## CHALLENGE 3: The connectivity conundrum

The explosion in data availability and the systems that can use that data to inform decision makers has been dramatic. It is enabling us to exert far greater and far finer control over how we generate, supply and use resources such as energy, for example through smart grids. We can make better connections between energy management and how we manage our water resources or transport infrastructure. We have new ways to access, understand and influence consumer needs, behaviours and preferences.

**How can policy makers keep pace with the rate of change in this area to ensure that their policies are joined up and reflect the increased connectivity we are seeing in society as a whole?**

The challenges and opportunities we all face around future energy are significant. They will require new innovative ways of managing our resources and collaboration across disciplines, sectors and organisations. Atkins is committed to playing its part with all those who share our aims.



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# Developing renewables to show Britain is open for business

Caroline Flint,

Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change  
and Labour MP for Don Valley



**“Renewable generation offers the opportunity for increases in productivity”**

Government have made to close the Renewables Obligation early require primary legislation. As the Energy Bill goes through, we are hearing from a range of projects that they are unable to get finance due to the uncertainty about their eligibility for the grace period. The effects of the changes that the Government are making to the planning regime for onshore wind on investor confidence in the sector, should also not be underestimated. It sends a message out that the Government are prepared to take very serious steps to undermine an individual technology because of pressure from their own backbenchers.

Policy certainty and investor confidence is not just the difference between projects going ahead or not though – ultimately, it has a large effect on the cost. That is because the greater level of certainty there is, the lower the cost of capital. The work carried out for the Committee on Climate Change on onshore wind showed that “visibility” – clear policy aims from Government – could have a massive effect on costs. Poor visibility risks missing out on savings of 30 per cent on offshore wind projects. The irony of the Government rocking investor confidence in renewable energy since taking office is that they have justified it on grounds of cost, but, in the long-term, costs are going to go up as a result.

Secretary of State Amber Rudd’s recent speech was striking mainly because of its attempt to rock the consensus which has built up over the need to tackle climate change, saying she could “understand the suspicion of those who see climate action as some sort of cover for anti-growth, anti-capitalist, proto-socialism.” But the other message it contained was that she wanted a “sustainable free-market” to deliver the decarbonisation necessary to tackle climate change.

That is all well and good, but the Government’s actions do not match their words – they are putting off private sector investment required for decarbonisation and costing the country jobs as a result.

The Committee on Climate Change’s most recent progress update stressed the urgent need for the policy framework beyond 2020 to be laid out by the Government. After the 2020 renewables target, there is no clear path for the low carbon economy. I want to see the Government set a target to decarbonise the power supply by 2030. That will send a clear signal that when it comes to the technologies which will drive growth, productivity and exports in the twenty-first century, the UK is open for business.

In the United Kingdom, we have a huge advantage when it comes to developing a whole range of renewables because of our natural resources. Indeed, our geographical location as a windy island, with variable weather, has its upsides.

The last Labour Government recognised that and did a huge amount to get different technologies going. We doubled the UK’s renewable energy capacity and left the UK a world leader in areas like offshore wind, marine and tidal energy. The trajectory that was set was very positive, and two-thirds of the projects which came on under the last Government were started before they came into office.

The benefits of getting renewable energy generation correct are felt throughout the economy. The supply chains create high-skill high-wage jobs, from the research and development needed to bring costs down and increase efficiency to the manufacturing jobs that put it into practice. As nations all across the world begin to adapt to the challenges of climate change, the opportunities for exporting products and know-how developed here are only going to increase. In short, renewable generation offers the opportunity for increases in productivity and exports, exactly what this Government claims to want to stimulate.

The key is investor confidence. Investors deciding where to put their money need to know that the stability and certainty is there in renewable energy in order to give them a good chance of making a return. It really does make a huge difference. Take the case of onshore wind, for instance. The changes that the



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Dear Member of Parliament

Where do you stand on fairer more transparent pricing at the pumps? We are very grateful to 80 MPs across all Parties\*, who have already declared their support for a full and transparent inquiry into how prices are calculated. 37m UK drivers representing 70% of your electorate remain totally bewildered as to what they will pay each time they fill up their vehicles. There is no logic or fairness whatsoever! Here are key questions that your constituents want answered with your support....



- On August 25th oil cost 21% less than in it did in Jan 2009. So why over the same period did petrol pump prices increase by 15% and diesel not fall at all, even with rises in VAT and Fuel Duty taken out of that equation?
- Why do pump prices not fairly reflect changes in the cost of all fuels at the wholesale level? They continue to be held artificially high when oil and wholesale fuel costs fall.
- Why are diesel drivers so exploited? Since the end of April diesel wholesale levels have been lower than those of petrol, but pump prices took an eternity to reflect these differences and not accurately so either.
- Why does the UK Government continue to levy the highest level of road fuel tax in the EU – despite four years of a fuel duty freeze? These punitive tax levels are holding back other growth levies.
- Economic experts have shown that lower pump prices help increase GDP and employment plus they also lower inflation. This is substantiated by the Treasury too! It's no coincidence the recent renaissance in the Economy has been significantly helped by lower oil prices and the freeze in fuel duty, so why does the Treasury ignore our call for a 3p cut that will accelerate economic growth even more?

**\*Please help us to inform FairFuelUK supporters in your constituency what your position is regarding investigating fairer pump pricing. You can let us know at [www.fairfueluk.com/MP\\_support.php](http://www.fairfueluk.com/MP_support.php)**



A selection of the many MPs that support FairFuelUK

FairFuelUK with its 1.1m supporters has fought off £30bn in TAX hikes in the last 5 years but the Government is still taking nearly 70% in tax when we fill up at the pumps. We have the highest Fuel Duty levels in the EU and the cost of this fuel directly impacts adversely on the cost of living, investment, jobs and operating of businesses. The award winning FairFuelUK Campaign fights for lower fuel prices at the pumps and is actively supported by its founding backers the FTA and RHA plus the APN, Microlise and RAC. Contact: Howard Cox on 07515421611 or email [howard@fairfueluk.com](mailto:howard@fairfueluk.com)



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Securing our energy future



Lawrence Slade  
CEO of Energy UK

Energy is vital to every household and business in Britain. As a country we are facing some crucial choices about how industry and government can work together to keep bills down while retaining the investment needed to renew and maintain our electricity generation and transmission infrastructure and protect the environment. This is an unenvious but not impossible balance to strike and we have already seen the government take early steps to try and ensure best value for customers and taxpayers while still keeping to our decarbonisation targets and maintaining a secure energy supply. With more to come with the Comprehensive Spending Review in November and a renewed energy efficiency plan needed, there is plenty going on in energy policy.

Looking to the next few months for customers, it is important that people are prepared for the change in weather and look at switching tariff or supplier to ensure they are on the best deal. It is not just shopping around suppliers that can keep bills down however, there are also a raft of energy efficiency measures to help households use less energy. The Home Heat Helpline is a great place to start for this advice and its free and impartial service is available via phone (0800 33 66 99) or webchat ([www.homeheathelpline.org.uk](http://www.homeheathelpline.org.uk)). This service helps identify any benefits people may be entitled to, ensuring that vulnerable people are on the Priority Service Register if applicable, and provide energy saving advice.

But that's not all for customers, we also have the final report of the CMA due in December which will provide further clarity on looking after customers engagement, the impact of the smart meter rollout as well as the important role of competition in the sector.

As well as the immediate priorities, the industry is looking ahead to the long-term energy future of the UK. This involves transitioning to a system which is secure and affordable but also low-carbon; resilient, while also diverse enough to manage the increasing trend towards decentralised energy and nimble enough to cope with changing patterns of demand. I've been speaking to CEOs and other industry leaders and we can overcome these challenges but we must remember that to secure the billions of pounds of investment required, we have to show a long-term vision for our energy sector. It has almost become a cliché that 'investment doesn't work in five year political cycles' but investment in energy infrastructure really is one of the longest timeframes of investment and the UK needs to show its commitment to providing a viable proposition for financiers, often based abroad, who search the world for the most competitive deals.

So I invite you to join us at our events at the party conferences to discuss all this with leading politicians, industry leaders and stakeholders.

**Labour Party Conference**  
Energy UK Reception  
Monday 28 September 21:30 - 23:00  
Albert Room, The Grand Hotel, Brighton

**Conservative Party Conference**  
Energy UK Reception  
Tuesday 6 October 21:30 - 23:00  
Stanley Suite, The Midland Hotel, Manchester

ADVERTORIAL





# Smart meters are coming to every home

Between now and 2020 everyone in Great Britain will be able to transform the way they buy and use their gas and electricity with a smart meter – installed at no additional cost.

Smart Energy GB is the national campaign for Britain's smart meter upgrade, and as the campaign gathers pace, we will be exhibiting and talking to political stakeholder audiences throughout Great Britain this autumn.

Smart meters are an essential part of any set of policy solutions for energy. By bringing an end to estimated bills and showing us what we're spending in pounds and pence, they will help consumers take control over how they buy and use their gas and electricity.

We hope you'll be able to come and talk to our team at our exhibition stand, or come along to one of our panel discussion events.

## Conservative Party Annual Conference 2015

Smart Energy GB fringe event in association with ConservativeHome:

**How can this government deliver genuine competition in the energy market and keep bills low?**

**Tuesday 6 October, 12.00pm – 1.00pm:**

Manchester Central Convention Ltd, ConservativeHome Marquee (inside secure zone) Peterfield, M2 3GX

### Speakers:

Amber Rudd MP  
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change  
Paul Goodman  
ConservativeHome (Chair)  
Martin Lewis  
Money Saving Expert  
Lawrence Slade  
Chief Executive, Energy UK  
Sacha Deshmukh  
Chief Executive, Smart Energy GB

**Exhibition: Sunday 4 – Wednesday 7 October:**

Stand 141: Manchester Central Convention Ltd

## Labour Party Annual Conference 2015

Smart Energy GB fringe event in association with New Statesman:

**Beyond the price freeze: where next for Labour and energy policy?**

**Tuesday 29 September, 12.30pm-1.30pm:**

Thistle Hotel Brighton (outside secure zone) King's Rd, Brighton BN1 2G

### Speakers:

Jonathan Reynolds MP  
Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change  
Audrey Gallacher  
Director of Energy, Citizens Advice  
Gary Smith  
National Secretary for Energy, GMB  
Lawrence Slade  
Chief Executive, Energy UK  
Sacha Deshmukh  
Chief Executive, Smart Energy GB

**Exhibition: Sunday 27 – Wednesday 30 September:**

Stand 119: Brighton Centre, 1st Floor, King's Rd, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 2GR

We will also be present at:

**Liberal Democrats Annual Conference 2015**  
Saturday 19 – Wednesday 23 September, Bournemouth

**Green Party Annual Conference 2015**  
Friday 25 – Monday 28 September, Bournemouth

**SNP Annual Conference 2015**  
Thursday 15 – Sunday 17 October, Aberdeen

**Plaid Cymru Annual Conference 2015**  
Friday 23 – Sunday 25 October, Aberystwyth

**Scottish Labour Annual Conference 2015**  
Friday 30 October – Sunday 1 November, Perth



## Tackling irresponsible dog owners

Robert Ffello,

Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South



**“The Government need to tackle backstreet breeders and puppy farms”**

Dogs bought from unscrupulous breeders are often seen without the new owner seeing the breeding conditions or the dog's mum. They often contract diseases and die after a few weeks of being with their new owner. Even those that do not die from diseases are often sold too early and are therefore not socialised with children and families, which increases the chances of dogs becoming aggressive and dangerous.

Fashion dogs are purchased because they are “in fashion” or because celebrities own the same breed. Unfortunately, once these dogs are no longer fashionable, they are abandoned on the street or into rescues, either by their owners who want something new or by the breeders who now have a commodity they cannot sell. Likewise, status dogs, which are often bull terrier breeds, are a symbol of status and bought because they look “tough”.

However, as with fashion dogs, once they are too old or have served their purpose, they, too, are abandoned. Indeed, if you visit any animal rescue, they will tell you that the majority of their rescued dogs are bull terrier breeds.

So how can we tackle those problems and what can be done to ensure that owners are more responsible for their dogs? The answer is action on two fronts: Government legislation and public education.

The Government needs to introduce legislation to ensure that the microchipping data is kept up-to-date and that there are real consequences for not having your dog microchipped or updating the record. They should also ensure that neutering is compulsory for all but registered breeders.

The Government need to tackle backstreet breeders and puppy farms by requiring all breeders to be registered with a proper system of controls and enforcement. They should also ban the sale of puppies from pet shops to ensure that owners cannot buy a puppy on impulse without having at least some time to think about the impact of owning a dog.

On the second front, we need to do more to educate the general public on what to look for when buying a puppy and how to be a responsible owner. That includes going to reputable breeders and ensuring that they see the puppy with its mother (its genuine mother, not something staged, as often happens) and in the conditions that it has been bred. It also includes ensuring that they have considered the financial costs (both short and long-term) of buying a puppy.

Unfortunately, the current Government seem disinterested in legislating, yet it is not just the thousands of dogs that suffer, but a great many people as a result. Sitting back and letting market forces or charities act is simply not good enough. Action is long overdue, and the government is out of excuses.

What is an irresponsible dog owner? For most people, it is someone who does not clean up after their dog, or who allows their dog to terrorise other dogs or, even worse, people. But actually, there is more than that, as testified to by the dog rescue centres bursting at the seams, the vets treating sick and dying puppies, and the animal welfare organisations struggling to keep up.

Without doubt, most dog owners do not set out to be irresponsible and do not realise that they can cause problems for responsible owners, welfare charities, reputable breeders and, of course, the dogs themselves. As the number of people buying puppies from backstreet breeders, as well as not getting their pets neutered, increases, the Government needs to take action to ensure that owners are more responsible.

But what makes a dog owner irresponsible? They may fail to get their dogs neutered or spayed – something which is now being written into the tenancy agreements of some local authorities as a condition of keeping pets.

Often, irresponsible owners' dogs are not microchipped, though the Government is making this compulsory from 2016, or the microchipping data is not kept up-to-date. Other owners fail to take appropriate action to prevent their bitch from getting pregnant.

People who buy a dog on impulse may do so without fully considering the financial and time costs of having one, or buy the puppy at a pet shop, backstreet breeder or even a puppy farmer to avoid waiting long periods of time before getting their pet and to keep costs low. Those owners generally do not intend to be irresponsible, but the consequences of their decisions are serious.



# Encouraging apprenticeships in Shrewsbury and Atcham and elsewhere across the UK

**Daniel Kawczynski,**

Conservative MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham



**“Businesses themselves are looking at innovative ways of training the next generation”**

As a Member of Parliament, I have a role to play in promoting opportunities, which is why I was pleased to offer a placement in my own constituency office to a young man interested in establishing a career in politics. He was able to gain valuable hands-on office work experience as well as achieving an NVQ in Business Administration. Furthermore, I have joined forces with the local Jobcentre Plus to host a number of successful jobs fairs for my constituents, which have been well-attended by prospective employees offering both apprenticeships and permanent employment.

It is also encouraging to hear that businesses themselves are looking at innovative ways of training the next generation. For many years, local business Salop Design & Engineering Ltd has been at the forefront of manufacturing in the UK and has experienced the highs and the lows of automotive manufacturing. With the current revival of engineering and manufacturing, Salop Design has recognised the value of high quality training schemes, which are instrumental in plugging the skills gap facing the sector at this time. They have joined forces with their current training provider, In-Comm Training & Business Service, to create an environment which encourages Shropshire employers to offer apprenticeships to more young people and enables organisations to upskill their existing workforce so that the manufacturing sector continues to grow, which, of course, will help push the UK economy further forward. I am currently working with company directors to help develop that important initiative.

I was pleased that The Queen's Speech gave a commitment to bring forward legislation to help provide more people with security of a job. The Enterprise Bill will require Ministers to report annually on job creation and apprenticeships and reduce legislation on small businesses so that they can create jobs. The Bill will be introduced to Parliament this autumn and the exact requirement on individual public bodies will be set out to a longer timescale.

I believe there needs to be a collective effort to ensure that we break down the stigma previously attached to apprenticeship schemes. Further to that, they need to be promoted as a way for individuals to gain the necessary work experience to enable them to succeed in their chosen profession. We have to get the balance right if we are to provide a workforce which has the skills necessary for existing industries, as well as to create an environment whereby young people feel able to truly compete in the jobs market alongside applicants who have chosen a purely academic path.

I am a huge supporter of this Government's commitment to apprenticeships; after all, they give young people the security of a pay packet and the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification. The millions of apprentices being supported will help carry the UK economy forward.

For Shrewsbury, it is fair to say that, at this present time, the local economy is healthy and the number of people out of work continues to fall. However, I am well aware that in order for us to prepare for the future, we must now make a commitment to ensure that we continue to develop the skilled workforce which employers need.

Shropshire, as a whole, has seen a massive increase in apprenticeship opportunities, and there has been a steady increase in training providers which are committed to matching the right person with the correct placement. Shropshire Council's County Training, for example, not only provide details of opportunities available through their website pages but also provide one-to-one, on-going support to apprentices throughout the duration of their training programme - something I believe is key to a successful learning experience for the individual concerned. A recent Ofsted inspection graded them as a good provider with outstanding areas, making them one of the highest quality post-16 providers in the county.

UK'S FIRST YOUTH-RUN  
POP-UP MARKET...



**HACK:  
2015**

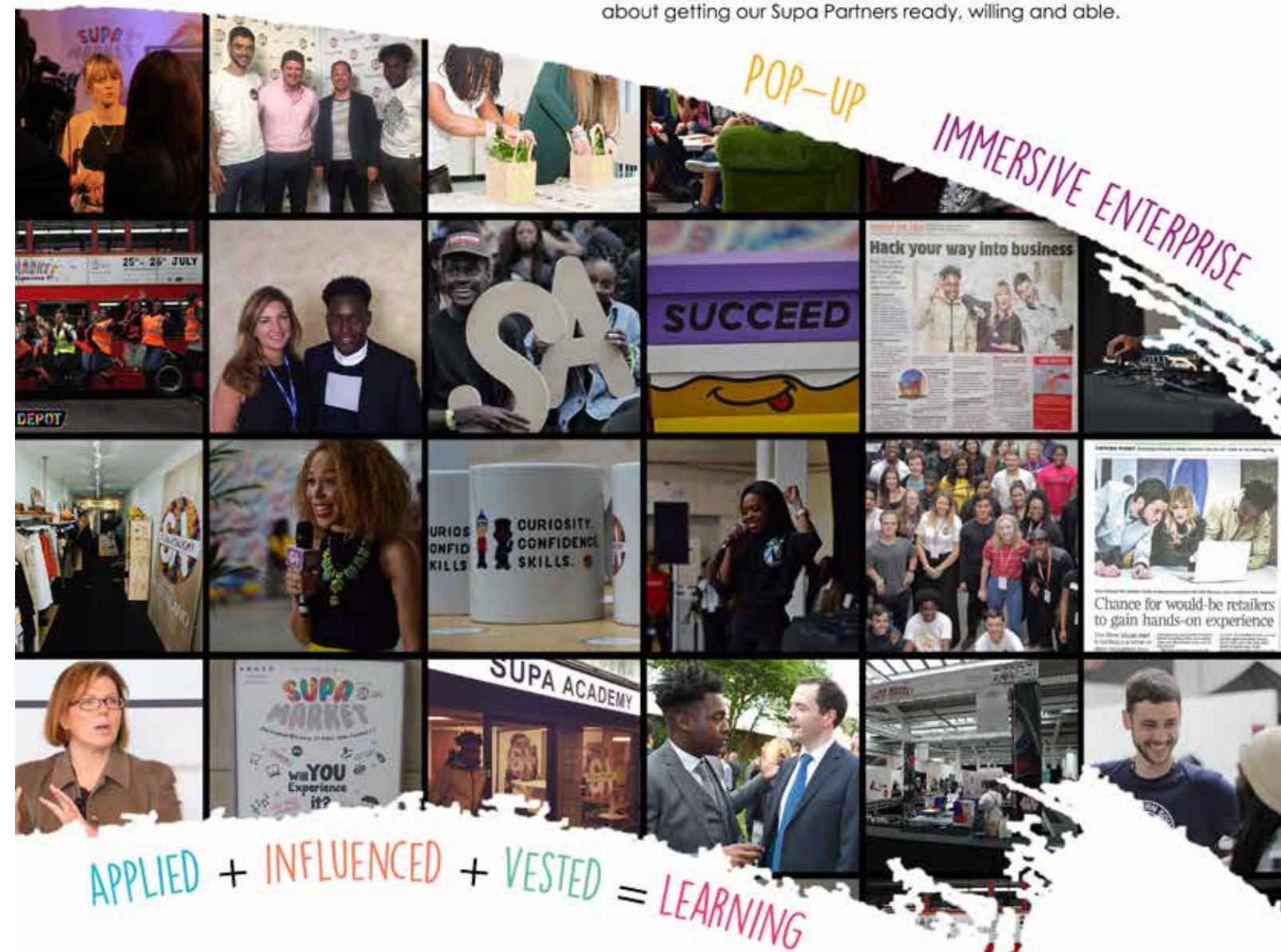
**SUPA ACADEMY**

WWW.SUPA-ACADEMY.COM

Email: hello@supa-academy.com

Supa Academy was created by two social- entrepreneurs of today – to inspire and inform – the enterprising young people of tomorrow.

Our mission at supa academy is to provoke curiosity, build confidence and develop skills in teenagers and young adults taking their first steps in enterprise. We're all about creating fun, engaging and hands-on business challenges and opportunities where participation can lead to earning whilst learning about business. Our applied and vest model, accompanied by advice, support and mentoring from established business leaders and entrepreneurs, is all about getting our Supa Partners ready, willing and able.



APPLIED + INFLUENCED + VESTED = LEARNING

UK'S FIRST YOUTH-RUN POP-UP...

**SUPA  
MARKET**

**The Times** - "Chance for would-be retailers to gain hands-on experience", **Metro** - "Hack your way into business", **Retail Week** - "River Island and Shuall back Supa Market to foster retail entrepreneurs", **Brent Hoberman, Chairman, Founders Forum** "There is a wonderful trend of more entrepreneurship and younger entrepreneurship in the UK right now. Supa Academy is right on trend. Young people can get energised by starting businesses much more easily than they might think."



# Time to rid the world of malaria for once and for all

Jeremy Lefroy,

Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases and Conservative MP for Stafford

**“We are seeing the development of vaccines against malaria”**



Twenty years ago, the idea that malaria could be all but eradicated seemed ridiculous. It was killing well over one million people a year worldwide - most of them children - and the parasite had developed widespread resistance to the drugs commonly used to treat it.

Yet, by 2014, the number of deaths from malaria among young children had more than halved - though that still means at least 500,000 preventable deaths each year. As the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM) points out, one hundred countries are now free from malaria and at least fifty-five countries are on track to reduce malaria case incidence rates by 75 per cent by the end of this year.

Today, there is a determination – backed by increased funding and concerted action - to beat malaria.

Reliable and increased funding has meant that long-term research can be carried out. The Medicines for Malaria Venture (to which The Gates Foundation and the UK are the largest donors) has already, in the past ten years, helped eight new effective anti-malarial drugs either enter service or come to the brink of it.

Now we are seeing the development of vaccines against malaria, and the first vaccine, RTS,S, has been developed by GlaxoSmithKline.

Mass distribution of insecticide-treated bednets in all of the most affected countries has probably been one of the two most important reasons for the dramatic decline in deaths. Last year, in a village in Sierra Leone, where bednets had just been distributed, I saw for myself nets fitted above all the beds in the homes we visited. They continue to be one of the most important tools we

have to fight malaria.

The other major reason is the development of a new generation of effective anti-malarial drugs called Artemisinin Combination Therapies.

Rapid Diagnostic Tests have also helped greatly. Those enable village health workers and local pharmacists to find out whether a child presenting with a fever or diarrhoea has malaria, and to start treatment immediately, rather than leaving it for a dangerous 12 hours until the child had reached hospital.

But all of that vital work must be sustained. The World Health Assembly, this year, endorsed the World Health Organisation's "Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030". At the same time, RBM has set out clear milestones on the way to reducing malaria cases and deaths by 90 per cent over the next 15 years. That would also mean at least 35 more countries free of the disease by 2030.

Ten million lives would be saved and nearly three billion malaria cases averted. The cost of that work is estimated at approximately \$110 billion, or \$8 billion, per year, between 2015 and 2030. To put that in perspective, \$8 billion would pay for the running of the UK's National Health Service for about 17 days.

The benefits would be enormous. Malaria not only kills; it also damages economies. Some estimates put the annual reduction in economic growth in a country with endemic malaria at 0.7 per cent. Cutting malaria cases and deaths by 90 per cent would add up to \$4.1 trillion of economic output between 2015-2030, almost all in countries with low and low-middle incomes. That, in turn, would create jobs, boost incomes and increase tax revenues, reducing their need for aid.

That is the prize which lies before us at the moment. If we do not grasp it, the consequence will not be that things will stay as they are now – a job half done. Rather, they will go backwards. Gains in tackling malaria are fragile. The parasite is versatile and resilient.

At the moment, funding from overseas development assistance (ODA), and endemic countries' own resources, is less than \$3 billion a year, of which the UK, alone, now contributes almost 25 per cent to.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria has two main goals in this Parliament. Firstly, we wish to persuade our Government to continue its support for all the reasons I have given above. And secondly, we will do all we can to encourage other donors and "traditional" and new providers of ODA, together with endemic countries, to increase their investment in tackling malaria.

Malaria is a global health risk and brings heartbreak to hundreds of thousands of families every year. We can bring a malaria-free world within reach by 2030. Let us just do it.

# Coming together to eradicate malaria

**Dr Tim Wells, Chief Scientific Officer of Medicines for Malaria Venture, talks to Marcus Papadopoulos about the goal of eradicating malaria and the importance of having committed donors involved in the development of new medicines to achieve it**

**Q Why is malaria eradication an important goal?**

Malaria is a devastating disease. Some estimate that the disease may have killed half of all people who have ever lived, and today it takes over half a million lives a year – mostly children under 5 years of age. Stark as those numbers are, what they do not convey is the loss of potential for the countries which suffer the burden, both in terms of cognitive impairment of children and reduced economic growth. Malaria drains Africa of over \$12-30 billion each year and is both the cause and consequence of poverty in endemic countries. Eradicating malaria is therefore the key not only to saving many hundreds of thousands of lives each year, but also to improving the economy in some of the world's poorest countries.

**Q Given that there are medicines available to cure malaria, why do we need to develop new treatments to achieve this goal?**

There are three main reasons. Firstly, the malaria parasite evades our attempts to kill it, by developing resistance. Today, we are seeing increased reports of resistance to the current first-line treatment in South-East Asia and, as a result, it is taking longer to cure some patients. We must develop new and novel-acting medicines to ensure we can continue to cure patients.

Secondly, to achieve eradication, it is important to be able to block the transmission cycle, which means having medicines to stop the parasite being transmitted from the infected patient to more mosquitoes – hitting the parasite lifecycle where it is most vulnerable.

And thirdly, we all use medicines to protect ourselves from getting sick when we go to malaria endemic areas. We need new medicines which can be used to protect the most vulnerable populations, children and pregnant women living in these countries. We have shown that once-per-month



in endemic countries and the highest level of government in the UK. They also have in-house scientific expertise, understand global health priorities and have encouraged the work of partnerships like MMV. So DFID is not only a committed donor; they also have a clear understanding of how we work and the context.

**Q Why does DFID continue to support MMV?**

MMV has been able to demonstrate value for money to its donors – it is a product development partnership with products. With our partners, we have five new medicines which are treating children today; for example, we co-developed the first high-quality child-friendly artemisinin combination therapy with Novartis, Coartem® Dispersible (artemether-lumefantrine) and brought forward injectable artesunate for severe malaria with Guilin Pharmaceuticals. Since 2009, over 275 million courses of those treatments have been distributed to malaria-endemic countries. Thanks to interventions like those, the malaria burden is on the decline.

Having those medicines is an important part of protecting against the negative health impact of other diseases. In West Africa, during the Ebola outbreak, far more people died of malaria (because they could not get to or were afraid to go to clinics) than actually died of Ebola. MMV's work on making medicines more available, but also more convenient, is key to making sure that does not happen next time. MMV also works in some of the most difficult countries in the world – areas which are critical to DFID's long-term vision of where the UK's contribution can be the greatest.

Finally, MMV is committed to sharing its resources, its expertise and its medicines to make sure that the impact goes way beyond just driving back malaria; it is helping to transform the overall disease map of maternal and child health.

protection works, and now we need new medicines for protection. It is also important that, where possible, the medicines used for protection and cure are different.

**Q What makes the Department for International Development such a good funder of Medicines for Malaria Venture?**

The UK is dedicated to reducing global poverty and defeating malaria through innovation. The Department for International Development recognises the importance of developing new medicines to achieve that and has been a staunch supporter of Medicines for Malaria Venture from the very start, providing consistency and stability. They also recognise that drug development is a lengthy process – it can take up to 10-15 years to bring a new compound to the market – which is why their long-term commitment is so critical.

DFID helped pioneer the partnership model for research into drugs for malaria and set up the PDP funders group, pushing for alignment amongst donors. They work both at a grassroots level



# The politics of meat and dairy

Marisa **Heath**,

Political Advisor to the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare and a Conservative Councillor on Surrey County Council

**“Animal consumption is a key part of the sustainability issue”**



nearly every element of environmental destruction threatening the future of humans - deforestation, fresh water scarcity, air and water pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, the destabilisation of communities and the spread of disease. It is evident that farm animals take up much more land than what crops do in order to produce a given amount of food energy, and so this means some people go hungry whilst others risk their health through overconsumption.

Following on from that, it is also the case that we have gained more understanding from the health sciences of the known benefits to humans from eating less meat and moving towards a more grain and vegetable-based diet, including fewer calories, less fat and a lower risk of heart disease. Armed with that information, you would have expected meat consumption to have fallen, but, clearly, the information is not getting through, as meat consumption per capita has actually more than doubled in the past half-century, as populations and overall prosperity have increased.

Government could easily start by leading a campaign which would support a number of agendas – to reduce the use of the NHS, prevent obesity, ensure sustainability, develop environmental awareness and support international food shortages. Whilst telling people what they can and cannot eat is a controversial step to take, government have done it in many other aspects of our lives, and, like the stop smoking campaign, it can be educational in tone, rather than dictatorial.

The meat and dairy industries would be the losers - multi-million pound empires benefiting from the sale of often poor quality products fuelling a population, the majority of which currently believe it is acceptable to eat meat seven days a week as well as downing endless lattes and frappes. However, that does not necessarily need to be a problem for Government, as that short-term financial loss would simply involve a change in business. People still need to eat, meaning monetary transactions, and the gap will always be filled by the huge demand coming from populations which are consistently growing. Almond milk, vegetables, quinoa and soya lattes can all pay taxes and business rates as easily as mince, burgers and cow's milk lattes.

Of course, the truth of the matter is that this needs to be an international debate because a few Britons giving up bacon sandwiches is not going to save the world. But we can start the debate, and we can start preparing our population for a more sustainable and healthier future.

A wide range of subjects including hunting, snaring, dog breeding, wildlife crime and many others are often discussed in Parliament. And there are a growing number of MPs who recognise the importance of animal welfare and the public's interest in this. Additionally, there is a lot of talk about climate change, sustainability and green energy in an effort to tackle the gradual destruction of the earth from the growing human population.

Yet, there is one subject which does not receive enough airing in Government and this is food sustainability – the consumption of animal products and the strong links between the environment and health.

That is an issue which will have an increasing impact on the public, and needs to be addressed now in order to start forward planning. Other Governments, China in particular, recognised long ago that food production is going to be a huge problem for growing populations, and so have started to land grab across the world in fertile places like Africa, South America, Australia and the South Pacific.

Accepting that animal consumption is a key part of the sustainability issue makes it political and this means it needs to be debated.

As environmental science has advanced, it has become apparent that the human appetite for meat and milk is a driving force behind

# Universities can lead the way for the UK economy

Paul **Blomfield**,

Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Students, a member of the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee and Labour MP for Sheffield Central

**“Our university research leads the world”**



Our university research leads the world. Despite representing only 4.1 per cent of the global research community, the UK produces 15.9 per cent of the world's most highly cited papers. Crucially, at a time when we must tackle the regional imbalance of our economy, universities are one of the few assets spread across the whole country, uniquely positioned to drive economic growth in all our regions and nations.

Universities draw their investment from wide sources, and not just from public funds. They have grown their own R&D investment by 40 per cent in the last decade, and now generate over £3.4 billion per annum. And the strength of university research attracts foreign investment, too – just as it attracts international students.

We would be foolish to lose that advantage – but we could. The Chancellor's "Plan for Growth", published in December 2014, made it clear that: "If we fail to move quickly to secure our position in a globalised world, then it is highly likely that other countries will do so ahead of us."

So the Government acknowledges that we must do more. Innovation policy now needs to focus on developing industrial and private sector research as well as development capacity, building on the UK's strong and well-connected science base. It can do that by working with universities.

The UK Catapult Centres are an important start. At the University of Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, for example, over 100 companies partner university research to win jobs and orders for the UK. Some are giant companies, such as Rolls-Royce and Boeing, while others are the high-tech supply companies which support them.

We should also recognise the damage inflicted to the UK by the structural shortcomings of our economy and incentivise companies to invest more in R&D. And we must not threaten the research funding that comes through our membership of the European Union – in which the UK does disproportionately well.

In the last Parliament, the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee recommended that the Government aim for 3 per cent of GDP to be spent on R&D by 2020. We are at a crossroads. The erosion of the UK's capacity to technologically innovate was not inevitable. It was the unintended consequence of a series of choices over decades – and we can reverse it. Now is the time for bold action.

While the economy may have been a decisive factor in the general election this May, it is clearly not in a good state. Even George Osborne has highlighted the challenge of faltering growth and poor productivity. However, we are well-placed to meet the challenge by building on one of the UK's great strengths – our universities. But there are problems.

A generation ago, the UK was one of the most research intensive economies in the world. Now, we are one of the least. From leading OECD countries for Research and Development (R&D) spend as a percentage of GDP in 1979, we now trail behind all our major competitors. While the US invests 2.8 per cent of GDP in research, and the OECD and EU average is 2.4 per cent, the UK spends just 1.7 per cent – less than half the 3.9 per cent invested by South Korea which, as a result, remains a major manufacturing nation.

Private sector investment has fallen most strikingly. The obsession with short-term returns for shareholders, that distorts our equity markets, has changed the attitude of investors. The long-term investment for long-term rewards, that built our economic strength, has gone. Today, there are just two UK companies among the top 100 companies for R&D around the world.

For some time, the impact of the decline in private sector investment was masked by the continued public sector investment of successive Governments. But no more. Publicly-funded research slipped to less than 0.48 per cent of GDP this March, its lowest point for over 20 years and well below the G8 average of 0.77 per cent.



## One step ahead of crime by advances in technology

Mike Penning,

Minister for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice and Victims and Conservative MP for Hemel Hempstead



The police have always been quick to respond to developments in technology. Motorised patrols and rapid response to 999 calls followed the invention of the car, two-way radio and computer dispatch system. The first roadside breathalyser revolutionised the way police dealt with drink-drivers. New mobile drug testing devices, the development of which I announced earlier this year, should make those who drive under the influence of drugs think twice.

Forces are constantly exploring how new equipment can help them to get officers back on the beat, deal with the financial challenges they face and stay a step ahead as crime changes. Today, one of their biggest challenges is tackling crime online.

Earlier this year, HMIC found that there were often backlogs in the analysis of mobile phones and laptops from crime scenes of up to 12 months. I was pleased to hear that the Metropolitan Police are leading the way in changing how officers approach online crime. Under its 'Kiosk' scheme, officers immediately extract data from mobile devices, accessing information while a suspect is still being held in custody.

I want every rank in every force to have the skills to investigate crimes committed online. We must build a culture in which officers preserve both the physical and digital crime scene.

Traditional crime is also evolving and police technology needs to develop fast to tackle it. Body-worn video has the potential to revolutionise the way officers protect and support the public, particularly when dealing with domestic violence and sexual offences. I have seen first-hand how that technology allows officers to capture and manage evidence more efficiently, freeing up more of their time.

**"Police technology needs to develop fast"**

I am also clear that we must look at the role digital evidence can play in the wider criminal justice system.

Officers should be able to live stream evidence directly into a control room, minimising the time they spend travelling to or sitting in court. We are currently working with forces to set common data standards so that evidence gathered by the police can be easily shared with criminal justice partners who need to see it.

I want officers to be equipped with the tools to do their job efficiently. Frontline police officers can use mobile tablets to take statements. Traffic officers will be able to utilise mobile evidential breath tests, which are currently under development, to stay on patrol, rather than having to return to the police station. Cambridgeshire Police have moved to an entirely paperless system, equipping officers with tablets loaded with apps so they effectively have their desktop computer on the go, able to access information when they want it.

Whether forces are tackling crime offline or online, tackling it in isolation is not productive. When forces collaborate, this improves the effectiveness of their response to crime. Sussex and Dorset's single mobile policing programme means officers can take electronic witness statements and remotely view information on smart phones and tablets. They believe this will save 446,200 working hours.

This year, I was delighted to be able award all forces a share of £70 million from the Police Innovation Fund 2015/16. It was exciting to see the ideas which forces came up with, illustrating better and more collaborative ways of working.

Since the end of 2013, the Home Office has made £140 million from the Innovation Fund available to support technology development, including the world's first system to instantly compare a suspect's shoe marks left at a crime scene with a database. Forces estimate that projects supported to-date by the Police Innovation Fund will save taxpayers almost £250 million, once they have been up and running for five years – and, more importantly, these advances have helped bring more criminals to justice, protected more vulnerable people at risk of harm and made more efficient use of officers' time.

As Minister for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Victims, I am determined to make our police force better equipped for modern day crime prevention.

Advances in technology always create new opportunities for criminals. By embracing modern methods and cutting-edge equipment, the police will be ready to confront the complex and ever-changing nature of modern crime, protect communities and deliver effective and accountable policing.

The fundamental principals of policing will always remain the same – but in this fast-paced digital society, we must aim to be one step ahead. I am determined that we will be.

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS (NARPO)



**The National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) was formed in 1919 to represent the interests of retired police officers from police forces in England and Wales, their families and survivors. NARPO currently have over 85,000 members in over 100 branches in England and Wales with sister organisations and associate members in Scotland and Northern Ireland.**

As a member organisation representing the interests of officers of all ranks within the Police Service we have a wide range of experience within our membership. We have a good understanding of the police service and its history. We continue to take a close interest in developments in policing and we are happy to share our experiences with those outside the service.

One of our main aims is to safeguard the interests and promote measures for the welfare of our members and their families. As well as providing services and support to members through the national office and local branches. We also highlight issues of importance to our members and older people more generally.

We belong to several older people's organisations in the U.K. and Europe and actively promote measures in support of dignity in old age. Our recent pre-election campaign, Later Life Ambitions, jointly supported by colleagues from other pensioner organisations highlighted amongst other things the advantages of universal pensioner benefits, called for more cohesive local transport policies and sought targets for building suitable accommodation for older people.

An ongoing campaign specific to police dependant survivors seeks changes to the position of police spouses, who currently lose their pension entitlement should they co-habit or remarry. This is a provision which dates back to the days when women were seen as chattels of a marriage and owes nothing to present day thinking.

Although the Government have promised some changes to this provision, they will not match the changes already made in Northern Ireland, where this provision no longer exists. This leaves police widows and widowers in England, Wales and Scotland at a disadvantage when compared with colleagues on an identical pension scheme in Northern Ireland. Surely the time is right to rectify this clear anomaly on the simple basis of fairness.

We do provide a wide range of advice on other police pension issues and try to keep members abreast of developments with state pensions and other pensioner benefits. We do this primarily through our quarterly member magazine NARPO News and website at [www.narpo.org](http://www.narpo.org). More details of our work and current campaigns can be found on the website. In addition, we would be happy to discuss issues affecting our members or provide our considered view on a range of issues that impact on them and older people through our national office or local branches contact details of which are available on our website.



## NARPO

The Voice of Retired Police Officers

Visit our website at [www.narpo.org](http://www.narpo.org) to find out more





# Less gimmicks and more action to sort out the UK's economic woes

Helen Goodman,

a member of the Treasury Select Committee and Labour MP for Bishop Auckland



What the British economy needs is a good dose of growth. And not any old growth but rather growth in good quality jobs, which are environmentally sustainable. If we could achieve a long period of steady growth, tax receipts would rise and welfare spending would fall. That would be a much better way to bring down the debt and deficit, than the extreme austerity which the Tories will unleash in the Autumn Statement and which they have already embarked on with their Welfare Reform Bill.

George Osborne would say, of course, that the economy is growing and has created jobs and that the deficit is down. Unfortunately, by slamming on the breaks in 2010, he significantly delayed the recovery and too many of the jobs are part-time, badly paid and insecure. We have what economists call a "productivity puzzle". Productivity in the UK is not as strong as in Germany or France so British workers have to work until Friday to produce what their European counterparts get done by Thursday! Here is my menu for action.

Firstly, do not deflate the economy. This July, the Treasury Select Committee took evidence from a range of economists on the Chancellor's proposal for a permanent budget surplus. Not one, not even the Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney, would endorse that proposal, which is forecast to take money out of the economy in bad years as well as good.

Secondly, make the country more equal. The Tory decision to cut inheritance tax for the wealthy and tax credits for the poor is not just unfair – it is bad for local economies up and down the country. That is because people on low incomes tend to spend their money here and now on local goods and services, whereas

**"Instead, this government is stoking up demand"**

the wealthy save more and spend more on imported goods and foreign holidays.

Thirdly – build more homes. We now have a housing crisis and, as Yvette Cooper has said, we need to build 300,000 new homes a year. That would also create jobs and boost the construction industry. Instead, this government is stoking up demand which will push prices even further out of the reach of ordinary people.

We also need to reconfigure our energy industries, not just to make them more competitive and to stop taking advantage of consumers, but also to reduce our carbon consumption. Labour estimates that a million green jobs could be created if we had an effective energy efficiency programme and if we supported the renewables sector in the way the Germans, Danes and Dutch have done.

To improve British productivity, action is needed on four more fronts. Education and training are vital. STEM subjects and foreign languages are needed in schools, while much better retraining opportunities are needed for adults who need to make transitions to new jobs. Instead, this government is pushing up tuition fees, decimating further education and punishing the unemployed.

Management matters, too. I have been struck in recent months by the fact that some manufacturing sites in my constituency are now being run by people from other European Union countries. Somehow, I doubt whether British managers are in Germany and Holland. In Britain, too many clever young people are drawn into the City and the professions. We need to show people that industry is fun and, having recruited able people, build their skills and reward appropriately.

SMEs and start-ups have been particularly let down by the banks. I am not convinced that things are getting better yet. My constituents have to drive a four hour round trip to Leeds to talk to their bank manager. As with the other issues, this is not a new problem.

And, talking of four hour round trips, this emphasises the need to improve our infrastructure. The government roll out of broadband has been a shambles (ministers faced questions 283 times in the last Parliament on this!), and it is outrageous that for every £2,500 spent on transport in London, only £5 is invested in the North East.

Those supply-side issues all need a long-term perspective and consistent policies. Not gimmicks! There may be quick wins, but there are not quick fixes. And the list of issues – housing, education, finance and infrastructure – are all ones where creative and constructive partnerships between the public and private sectors are needed.

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

– driving innovation and Britain's productivity

The Comprehensive Spending Review is underway, for completion in November. Now is a crucial time to be thinking about opportunities to accelerate growth and productivity in the UK economy. Raising productivity, by definition, demands higher levels of innovation and this remains a challenge for this country.

AIRTO is setting out its vision and ambition for tackling this challenge, pinpointing actions required in both the private and public sectors to bring this about: [www.airto.co.uk/docs/AIRTO's\\_Action\\_Agenda\\_on\\_Innovation.pdf](http://www.airto.co.uk/docs/AIRTO's_Action_Agenda_on_Innovation.pdf)

The universities have rightly seen long-standing public investment in fundamental and curiosity-driven research. But who is 'looking after' the more immediate innovation needs of business and the public services?

The Innovation, Research and Technology (IRT) Sector provides skills, facilities, knowledge and experience to translate technological innovations into commercial business and public services; it encompasses **Catapult Centres, Independent Research and Technology Organisations, many Government Public Sector Research Establishments**, some specialist private companies and university enterprise offices. As reported by Oxford Economics (**The impact of the Innovation, Research and Technology (IRT) Sector on the UK Economy, November 2014**) these organisations have on aggregate grown throughout the recession and their historically high productivity has remained strong, despite a long period of national economic stagnation. These organisations **employ 57,000 scientists, engineers and technologists** (equivalent to the Russell Group's academic workforce).

In addition to practical scientific and technical skills, development facilities and training, the sector provides help with applied R&D and demonstrations of performance at scale, user benefits and compliance with regulation and standards. Such activities are part and parcel of the progressive risk reduction needed to achieve technological and commercial maturity.

The Oxford Economics study shows the extent to which the sector succeeds in punching above its weight, dwarfing the activities of Germany's Fraunhofer Institutes. **It contributes catalytic impact of over £32Bn (2.3%) to UK GDP (Gross Domestic Product), generating >£13Bn in annual tax revenues, but consuming just 0.3% of Government spend annually.**

But, in the context of public policy, the sector represents an under-exploited asset which could do more for the UK. Working alongside government, and Innovate UK in particular, AIRTO's members have committed to driving 4% per annum real-term growth over the next decade. Therefore, as Britain emerges from the worst recession since World War II, we must waste no time exploiting this world-class asset. We should be aiming to embed productivity enhancing innovations in private sector businesses and also in the public sector (which currently accounts for more than 40% of the UK's GDP). We believe that the Government needs to:

1. Invest in long-term capital Infrastructure for applied research, testing and commercialisation of technology
2. Harness the expertise and thought leadership of the IRT sector to shape national innovation policy
3. Use public procurement to accelerate innovation, including in the delivery of its operations and services
4. Invest in developing the UK skills base

**The Comprehensive Spending Review must ensure that our national innovation infrastructure is sustained and developed if we are to see the productivity gains being sought for the economy.**



**Richard Brook OBE FREng**,  
President AIRTO (Association of Innovation,  
Research and Technology Organisations);  
[www.airto.co.uk](http://www.airto.co.uk);  
[@airtoinnovation](https://twitter.com/airtoinnovation)





RT HON  
GEORGE OSBORNE MP

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER  
AND FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE



- Born on 23 May 1971, in London;
- Studied modern history at Oxford University;
- Elected to the House of Commons at the 2001 General Election to represent the constituency of Tatton, in Cheshire;
- Chancellor of the Exchequer since 2010;
- As Chancellor of the Exchequer, is the chief financial minister in government, responsible for raising revenue through taxation or borrowing and for controlling public spending;
- Married to Frances Osborne and has two children.

**HM Treasury:**

1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ,  
020 7270 5000,  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury>

**Conservative Campaign Headquarters:**

4 Matthew Parker Street, London, SW1H 9HQ,  
020 7222 9000,  
<https://www.conservatives.com>

**Tatton Conservatives:**

Conservative Office, Manchester Road, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0LT,  
<http://www.tattonconservatives.org.uk>

WHO'S  
WHO  
IN THE CABINET



# The end of the line for HS2?

You get the feeling from recent news, that the high speed rail project HS2 is going nowhere...fast.

Certainly not to Scotland (much to the annoyance of the SNP) or to link up with HS1, Heathrow or even Euston? As for all points north of Birmingham we're still holding our breath. But with the recent announcement of rail improvements being halted, the so-called Northern Powerhouse is looking very powerless indeed in the face of spiralling costs and stringent network cuts elsewhere.

So where does that leave HS2? The National Audit Office, Public Accounts Committee, Treasury Select Committee and Lords Economic Affairs Committee have all aired serious doubts about it and the Major Projects Authority regularly report that the project is in danger of failing. Even the Labour party is finally questioning its merits.

Yet still it trundles on...albeit slowly. But for how long? Isn't it time to put the brakes on this huge waste of public money before it slams headlong into the buffers.

HS2 ACTION  
ALLIANCE  
[www.hs2actionalliance.org](http://www.hs2actionalliance.org)





# FAIRS FAIR

## WHY F40 IS FIGHTING FOR FAIRER FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS



IVAN OULD, CHAIR OF F40

There's more detail about f40 on the Group's website – [www.f40.org.uk](http://www.f40.org.uk)

F40 is a group of the poorest funded local authorities in England. It currently has 36 local authorities in membership:

Bedford Borough, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, East Riding of Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Kent, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Solihull, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Stockport, Suffolk, Swindon, Torbay, Trafford, Wakefield, Warrington, Warwickshire, Wigan, Worcestershire and York.



The existing school funding model is a mess. Funding for individual schools with similar pupil characteristics is inconsistent and unfair. As a result, schools around the country that are similar can get very different budgets and children with the same needs can receive very different levels of financial help depending on where they go to school.

The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) has recently calculated that the 10 best –funded areas have on average received grants of £6,297 per pupil this year, compared with an average of just £4,208 per pupil in the 10 most poorly funded areas. That's why f40, a group made up of poorly funded local authorities (LAs), is fighting for a fairer funding system. The last government recognised the problem and promised to sort it out. We are now looking to this Conservative government to deliver on that promise.

We have welcomed the fact that an extra £390m of funding has been provided in 2015-16 for the poorest funded authorities and we await confirmation of another manifesto promise that this funding will be built in to base budgets.

It's estimated that around £210m of the extra funding has gone to f40 member authorities. That's a positive contribution, but is only a first step – a down payment – towards fairer funding.

F40 has come up with a formula which would see the funding cake shared much more fairly. And our proposals received a positive response from the funding experts at the Department for Education and from MPs representing f40 areas.

### These proposals would:

- introduce a new national formula from 2016-17, phased in over three years, based on a clear rational and geared towards improving educational standards across the country.
- include core entitlement at a pupil level, reflecting different needs and costs at various key stages.
- use factors to reflect pupil level needs beyond the core entitlement, including deprivation and special educational needs, and reflect the needs of small schools that are necessary in an LA's structure.
- continue to use DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant), with blocks for mainstream schools, high needs and early years. LAs will be free to move funding between the blocks.

So we think we can help deliver a solution, but we need politicians to bite the bullet and make it happen. Our concern is that education budgets are at the mercy of increased costs and inflation. For those authorities that start off from a low level, this will be particularly tough. It is now, more than ever, critically important that this government delivers on its promise of a new national funding formula that allocates a limited funding pot in a fairer fashion.

F40's executive committee warmly welcomes the recent announcements by the ASCL, National Association of Head Teachers and the NGA supporting the drive for fair funding for all schools.

Collectively we want the children in our schools to continue to have a broad range of subjects to study, good resources to use, well maintained and fit for purpose buildings, reasonably sized classes and excellent pastoral support. And that's why f40 and its supporters will expect an immediate commitment to complete the work started on delivering fairer funding for schools.

ADVERTORIAL

## What effect does alcohol, drug, tobacco or gambling have on *your* community?

At the White Ribbon Association we can provide bespoke health information displays tailored to the issues in *your* community, *free of charge*

Our range of work packs has been designed so educators can deliver their own drug, alcohol, tobacco and gambling awareness sessions across the U.K.

We run interactive, educational workshops within schools and colleges throughout the West Midlands and North West, tailored to *their* needs and focusing on behaviour-led learning such as resisting peer pressure

We have produced an extensive selection of factual resources, covering a variety of issues, which are *free* to download from our website

### What our service users say ...

*"The display from White Ribbon Association made a real impact. The health ambassadors got a lot out of working with fellow students. Thanks for your support in giving them health messages and information to pass on."*

- a West Midlands based Sixth Form College



The Units Challenge helps to develop an understanding of alcohol units



Using the ATM whilst wearing the alcohol impairment goggles is one of the activities designed to reinforce the importance of staying safe on a night out



Our Health Champions Scheme, supporting peer to peer education

Contact us today to find out how *we* can help *your* community



[www.white-ribbon.org.uk](http://www.white-ribbon.org.uk)

[info@white-ribbon.org.uk](mailto:info@white-ribbon.org.uk)

[@whiteribbonasso](https://twitter.com/whiteribbonasso)

All services are subject to availability and location





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# Raising awareness of bowel cancer

Bowel cancer, also known as colorectal cancer, is the 3rd most common type of cancer in men and women, and is the 2nd most common cause of cancer death.

**It is one of the most treatable of cancers with early diagnosis.**

**Each year, more than 41,000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer and 43 people die from the disease each day.**

Research indicates that 9 out of 10 bowel cancers detected early can be successfully treated.

**Survival rates have doubled over the last 30 years** and are continuing to improve due to increased awareness, earlier diagnosis, improved treatments, and screening.

**Regular bowel cancer screening has been shown to reduce the risk of dying from bowel cancer by 16%.**

The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening offers routine screening to those aged 50 - 74 in Scotland and 60 - 69 in the rest of the UK.

For more information contact your Helpline: Scotland - **0800 012 1833**  
England - **0800 707 6060** Wales - **0800 294 3370** NI - **0800 015 2514**



020 8968 4340  
[pdaisleytrust@aol.com](mailto:pdaisleytrust@aol.com)

Reg charity 1103457 - The Paul Daisley Trust was set up in 2003 after the untimely death of Paul Daisley MP and is run entirely by volunteers

Supporting Cancer Research UK and local hospices



# Keeping the public safe from poor nutrition advice

Poor diet and inactivity are estimated to cost the NHS £6.7 billion a year. Add to this the fact 70,000 premature deaths could be avoided each year if nutritional guidelines for fruit, vegetable, salt, fat and sugar intake were met, and it becomes clear to see why improving the nation's diet is a necessity if we are to have fit, healthy and productive futures.

Providing evidence-based, credible and reliable nutrition information is central to helping individuals and families make sensible food choices. Registered Nutritionists, who are highly qualified professionals in nutrition science, are ideally placed to be trusted experts when it comes to helping people to eat healthily. Not only are Registered Nutritionists at the forefront of nutrition science research, applying their scientific skills to ground-breaking discoveries about the effect of nutrients on health and well-being, Registered Nutritionists also translate and apply evidence-based nutrition science for the benefit of the public, supporting the nation's health and economy in the food industry, in the NHS, across academia, animal health, elite sport, in major charities, the media and in ensuring delivery of sound, impartial nutrition information to Government, commissioners, employers and the public.

Registered Nutritionists also provide a valuable resource for Clinical Commissioning Groups and Health & Wellbeing Boards who provide quality nutrition services and interventions. By commissioning only nutrition services which use a Registered Nutritionist or Dietitian (registered with the Health and Care Professions Council) they can ensure the services provided are evidence-based, and are using the latest guidelines and advice.

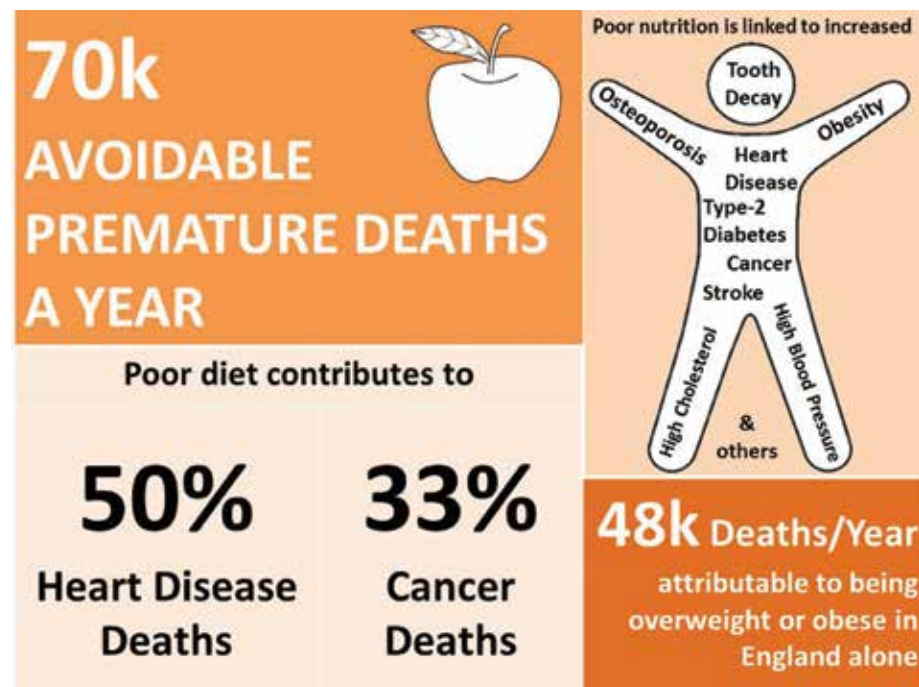
Every contact does count, and given the current crisis in the nation's nutritional health, everyone, not just Registered Nutritionists and Dietitians, have a responsibility to help guide healthy food choice. The Association for Nutrition (AfN) and Registered Nutritionists are at the forefront of ensuring everyone who has a responsibility to use, translate or give nutrition information are appropriately skilled and led by the facts.

In 2012, commissioned by the Department of Health, AfN published the Workforce Competence Model in Nutrition for Health and Social Care, setting a benchmark of nutrition knowledge and skills for frontline public health workers in pharmacies, doctor's surgeries, care homes and nursing; ensuring those who provide nutrition and diet advice direct to the public are competent and capable to do so. The Workforce Competence Model in Nutrition is now used by employers and commissioners for planning staffing and service provision, and by the Association for Nutrition to assess standards of training and education.

Working with Public Health England this year, we have now developed competencies in nutrition for those working or volunteering in the fitness, leisure and catering sectors. So, whether a football coach, dance teacher, personal trainer, barista, server or chef is guiding food choice, the information provided will be factual and evidence-based, promoting consistent messages to the public and reducing the amount of nutrition myths and diet fads that gain traction.

**You can find out more about the Association for Nutrition, Registered Nutritionists and nutrition competencies for the wider community, by visiting our website at**

**[www.associationfornutrition.org](http://www.associationfornutrition.org)**



# Mental health isn't just about the NHS – it's the business of everyone in Government



**Paul Farmer**

Chief Executive of Mind, the mental health charity

**Around one in four of us will experience a mental health problem in the next year. It could happen to anyone. Some will seek help from the NHS and many will find that help just isn't available. Waiting lists for many therapies are still months and sometimes years long and, in an emergency, it is not uncommon to be told to find other help as services struggle to cope with demand.**

As independent co-chair of the NHS's mental health taskforce, which is developing a five-year strategy for mental health, I am optimistic about the potential for transforming services. That such a taskforce exists demonstrates an unprecedented level of commitment to making improvements. If we can keep up momentum and, crucially, secure the right resources, the NHS can make serious headway.

However, improving the NHS will only get us so far. Until we recognise that mental health goes far beyond the remit of health services, we are only storing up more demand for the NHS in future. Most government departments have a role to play in making sure their policies support rather than damage the mental health of the nation.

Take, for instance, the area of work. The vast majority of people with mental health problems desperately want to work but those who find themselves out of work because of their mental health aren't being helped in the right way. The issue here is the poor, generic support that people receive while on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and the fundamental lack of understanding about mental health problems. Too often, people's motivation and behaviour is questioned, rather than addressing the real barriers to employment they face as result of being unwell. As a result, the Work Programme, the Government's mainstream back-to-work scheme, has supported just eight per cent of people with mental health problems on ESA into work, whilst some schemes funded by local Government and the NHS are achieving a 30 per cent back-to-work rate.

As the Welfare Reform and Work Bill makes its way through Parliament, Mind is deeply concerned about the impact on vulnerable people. Nearly half of people claiming ESA do so primarily because of mental health problems. Support from disability benefits are just enough to cover the basic costs of living, yet the Bill is proposing a cut of around £30 a week for many claiming ESA on the assumption that it will act as an incentive for people to move towards work. Cutting financial support will cause huge anxiety for people already out of work because of their mental health, without addressing any of the real problems in the current welfare system. It will make thousands more unwell and push them further from work, heaping increased pressure on the NHS. It just doesn't make any sense.

We all have mental health. Mental health has an impact on and is affected by every area of a person's life, from education and employment to housing, crime and our place in the local community. The opportunity is here, now, to adopt a truly joined-up approach to mental health that, if nothing else, seeks to stem rising demand for NHS mental health services, and puts our wellbeing at the heart of economic recovery.

**[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)**



# SAFEGUARDING BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE TREASURE: THE NHS

The NHS has long been a vexed issue at Westminster and will continue to be so during this new Parliament.

With the ground set for a major stand-off between the government and the opposition over the future of the NHS, *Politics First* has asked Jeremy Hunt, Andrew Gwynne, Philippa Whitford, Virendra Sharma, Norman Tebbit, Dave Prentis, Susannah Makram and Jo-Ann Carey to set out their respective views on how the UK's most prized possession can be safeguarded for future generations to come...

**Jeremy Hunt**

Secretary of State for Health and  
Conservative MP for South West Surrey



Our party has a proud tradition of supporting the NHS. Conservatives have been responsible for the NHS for more of its history than any other party. In fact, although a Labour government set up the NHS in 1948, it was a Conservative health Minister, Sir Henry Willink, who first presented a White Paper to the House of Commons in 1944 arguing for the establishment of a National Health Service. And today, we are still the true party of the NHS because we are the ones with the courage and vision to make the changes which will sustain its values in a changing world.

That vision is for a fundamental shift in power from a bureaucratic system, where power sits in the hands of managers and politicians, to a democratic system, where the most powerful people are the one million patients who use the NHS every 36 hours. The truth is that decades of building processes around system targets and objectives has too often

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de-humanised what should be the most human organisation we have. It is profoundly shocking that 800 people die unnecessarily every month as a result of sub-standard care or error in hospitals in twenty-first century Britain. In the words of Steve Hilton, we need our health service to become “more human”.

The first step is an honest diagnosis through sometimes painful transparency. That is why I introduced straight-forward Ofsted style ratings for hospitals, care homes and GP surgeries through a tough new inspection regime. As a result, 21 Trusts – 15 per cent of the total - have been put into special measures.

Between them, they hired over 1,000 extra doctors and nurses, and an independent study has suggested that around 450 lives could be saved each year as a result of this process, with 7 already exiting special measures and dramatic improvements across the board.

We have also become the first country in the world to publish surgeons’ success rates.

Nigel Lawson famously described the NHS as a national religion. The problem with religions is that when you question the prevailing orthodoxy, you can end up facing the Spanish Inquisition.

NHS orthodoxy was that criticism should not be made public because it would “damage morale”. We now see that was wrong.

Our transparency revolution is becoming a ‘Reformation moment’ for the NHS, as the public appreciate that a system with the confidence to be honest about failings is a system that

does something to put them right.

Part of that honesty is facing up to the fact that thousands of people die every year due to the lack of 7-day care.

Just as Labour’s 2004 GP contract gave family doctors significant salary increases at the same time as allowing them to opt out of out-of-hours care, under Labour, consultant pay increased by nearly 50 per cent between 2001 and 2005 at the same time as they introduced an opt out of evening and weekend work. That decision to cave in to the unions has had catastrophic consequences for patients: we are putting this right as a moral and clinical priority.

But our vision is not just about improving the status quo. A mere 2,500 years after Hippocrates said “the patient is the best doctor”, we have the chance to make NHS patients the most powerful patients in the world.

Within the next five years, our electronic health records will be available seamlessly in every care setting. You will be able to access them, share them and mark preferences on them. New medical devices will mean an ambulance arrives to pick us up not after a heart attack but before it, as it receives a signal sent from a mobile phone. Heart rates and blood pressure will no longer be simply a matter for the doctor - patients will know them and monitor them too. With 40,000 health apps now on iTunes, those changes are coming sooner than most people realise, and it is no exaggeration to say that the impact of the innovations will be as profound for humanity in the next decade as the internet has been in the last.

The future is here, and the NHS must



grab the opportunity. Real patient power is not just about knowledge - it is being able to act on that knowledge so that those providing care feel real consequences. So from next year, all GPs will be asked to tell patients not just which hospitals they can be referred to, but the relevant CQC rating and waiting time, too. Because those ratings now include patient experience, safety and quality of care, patients will, for the first time, be able to make a truly informed choice about which local service is best for them.

That transition to patient power will dominate healthcare for the next 25 years.

We cannot resist the democratisation of healthcare any more than we can resist democracy itself. But we can choose whether we want the NHS to be the leader of the pack, turning heads across the globe, or a laggard always struggling to embrace innovation adopted earlier elsewhere.

This Government’s vision is to have the world’s most transparent health system supporting the world’s most powerful patients: it is time to get real to the opportunity and rush to embrace it.

# Lilly



**Thomas Thorp**  
Senior Director of Corporate Affairs & Market Access for Lilly UK and Northern Europe.

## Improving patient outcomes through Accelerated Access: Can another review help drive innovation and improve patient outcomes throughout the NHS?

Eli Lilly and Company Ltd has provided innovative medicines to UK patients for over 80 years. Today we remain one of the few pharmaceutical companies with all three aspects of the value chain (research, manufacturing and commercial operations) in the UK. Much of our global research into neurodegeneration is conducted in Surrey, and we are proud of our investment, not just in research, but also in clinical trials.

During our time in the UK there have been 20 Governments and as many policies, reviews and enquiries into the pharmaceutical industry. So why the interest in the ongoing Accelerated Access to Medicines Review (AAR)?

The AAR has stated its aim to be a truly end-to-end review, considering every step on the medicine development pathway, from target identification through to manufacturing, and patient access. Taking this holistic view could result in clear recommendations, which, if implemented, should keep the UK a world leader in life sciences.

Whilst the UK retains a strong science base making it a great place to conduct research, there remain significant barriers to bringing a medicine to UK patients. The following three examples illustrate how the AAR could realise its goals and help speed patient access to innovation, using the framework of Alzheimer’s disease.

**1) Improve Horizon Scanning:** The NHS is not always aware of new medical technologies in development and when they will become available to patients. This creates a gap for the smooth and rapid introduction of these innovations into the NHS as little attention is given to what infrastructure planning and investment might be needed. By improving the horizon scanning process and expanding it to cover disease states rather than individual technologies, the NHS would be more aware of future system needs. For example in Alzheimer’s disease the first generation of disease modifying treatments will likely be infusion therapies, requiring significant expansion of NHS infusion centre infrastructure. Improving horizon scanning to better aid planning and budgeting in the NHS should ensure swifter patient access to new technologies.

**2) Adapt the NICE process:** The NHS in England has benefited from a predictable Health Technology Appraisal system via NICE. However the appraisal process is slow and does not always appropriately value the full benefits medicines can bring. With Alzheimer’s disease, much of the cost is borne by the social care system or individuals themselves. By accounting for medicines which save costs elsewhere, such as delaying entrance into expensive social care, NICE would better assess the true ‘value’ of a medicine to society.

**3) Improve the Innovation Scorecard:** The Innovation Scorecard was a big step forward in highlighting regional variation in access to innovative medicines, but it is complex, and hard for patients to interpret. An improved, more accessible Scorecard would help patients hold NHS commissioners to account for slow or delayed uptake. In Alzheimer’s disease this could prevent another ‘postcode lottery’ for access to symptomatic treatments.<sup>2</sup>

The AAR is ongoing, and these are just some ideas as to how the UK life sciences sector could be strengthened. Lilly look forward to continuing the dialogue in order that the AAR delivers on its objectives to retain a strong UK life science sector that ultimately improves patient outcomes.

<sup>1</sup> <https://engage.dh.gov.uk/acceleratedaccess/>  
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.rightcare.nhs.uk/index.php/atlas/atlas-of-variation-2011/>



# Life and death matters

## - your chance to make a difference



Professor Sir Mike Richards, Chief Inspector of Hospitals, Care Quality Commission, presenting staff from Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, with the Gold Standards Framework Quality Hallmark Award earlier this year.

"Nothing in this world is certain except death and taxes," (Benjamin Franklin). Parliament has much to say about taxes, but is there more that Parliament could do to help the other certainty of life for every single one of us - to help us live well and die well? We believe that there is much more that can be done and that this imperative should be raised much higher on the political agenda - it really is a 'matter of life and death'.

We know this is important, we know there are some areas of progress in this country, yet we also know we are not doing well enough. Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, described end of life care as "a litmus test for the whole of the NHS". Is care consistently reliable for everyone, or is there an unwitting 'diagnostic apartheid' ensuring people receive better care if they have cancer or live in a leafy suburb?

MPs, who receive heart-felt letters from bereaved constituents, or receive fall-out from the latest media horror story, including the recent Ombudsman's report, 'Dying without Dignity', all know things are just not good enough. But how is Parliament responding to these wake-up calls, and how can Government support more of us to live and die well? As the population ages, how can we better care for even more people in the last stage of life, enable more to live and die well and prevent expensive over-medicalisation of dying?

One thing we do know is that doing nothing is not an option!

At The National GSF Centre in End of Life Care, the leading provider of training for generalist frontline staff, we believe we offer at least part of the solution - but we also need your support. Over the last 15 years, we have trained thousands of frontline staff in hospitals, GP practices, care homes and domiciliary care to ensure better lives for people and recognised standards of care as part of a population-based end of life care approach. The aim is that anyone, whether being cared for at home, in a care home or in hospital, receives the quality care they need and deserve. GSF is recognised as best practice by the Care Quality Commission, NICE, Royal Colleges of Nursing and General Practice and many leading policy makers.

We work at scale through our 12 regional centres and six integrated GSF cross-boundary care sites, with multiple measures of effectiveness that lead to independently regarded accreditation. We focus on enabling earlier recognition, better listening to patients and better coordinated proactive care, enabling people to live well and die well where they choose. We have trained almost 3000 care homes, thousands of GP practices and hundreds of hospital teams, and have affected the care of many millions of people.

But there is much more to do - and soon this could be you or your family. So we ask, will you help us do more to try to meet the challenge of the ageing population nearing the end of life? If so, we would love to hear from you.

[www.goldstandardsframework.org.uk](http://www.goldstandardsframework.org.uk)  
[info@gsfcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@gsfcentre.co.uk) 01743 291 891



# SEEING DOUBLE IN BRIGHTON, BOURNEMOUTH OR MANCHESTER?



It's political party conference time and whatever your party colour or location, you want to make sure you and yours, and the people you represent, see clearly for as long as possible. Orthoptics is a speciality which helps people to see better, go back to work and live quality, independent lives. Rowena McNamara and Anita McCallum from the British & Irish Orthoptic Society report.

## What do we see in our crystal ball?

Between 2010 and 2020, it is predicted that there will be a 26% increase in Age-related Macular Degeneration, a 20% increase in patients diagnosed with glaucoma and a 25% increase in people with diabetic eye disease. At the same time, not enough medics are being trained to meet the needs of increasing eye clinic sizes and Orthoptists are poised to step up to the plate to meet demand at a lower cost.

## What on earth is an "orthoptist" and how do they help you to party conference better?

Orthoptists are recognised as experts in assessing vision - e.g. in patients with learning difficulties or stroke. They take a lead role in ensuring that the national vision screening of 4-5 year olds is carried out. They work in hospitals, community clinics and schools across age ranges - including babies who need visual assessment to the elderly with macular degeneration. They can transform lives and prevent extended length of stays in hospitals: "I was admitted to hospital with double vision and dizziness. I had prisms fitted to my glasses which enabled me to go home instead of staying another day in hospital."

Picture shown from Amanda Berling, World Orthoptic Day, 2015 with the caption: "If you are seeing double - see an orthoptist!"

## What can the profession offer patients?

"In the last 16 months I fell over so many times because I haven't been able to see kerbs, raised paving slabs, stairs. My glasses create single vision, but they have also allowed me to rebuild my life." Satisfied customer from Kings College Hospital, Orthoptic Clinic.

## Here comes the science bit...

Orthoptists work within eye care, with a special expertise in binocular vision. This is currently a hot topic, with 3D films being very popular. But what happens when binocular vision goes wrong? You may see double, be unable to read, be unsafe to drive. They diagnose the problem, alleviate symptoms and show you how to refocus double images back to single.

## The message is...

Orthoptists: highly skilled, value for money, treating patients of all ages with binocular vision disorders.





# WE'RE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY...



Dallachulish Farm Certificated Location Photograph: Caravan Club member, S. Johnson

...hopefully for a well-earned rest, time to recharge our batteries and the opportunity to spend some quality time with friends and family. If you've chosen to holiday in the UK, then you're making an important contribution to the economy too! If you're going on a touring caravan or motorhome holiday, you'll be contributing to a sector that delivers some £1.5 billion a year to local economies and to the Exchequer in VAT receipts and motoring taxes.

The tourism industry is at the forefront of the UK's economic recovery, providing a third of all new jobs created in the UK between 2010 and 2013. The Caravan Club with its one million members is at the heart of the touring caravan sector which brings economic benefit to every corner of the country.

The Club runs the UK's largest sites network with over 200 touring caravan parks and an additional 2,500 Certificated Locations (smaller, member-only sites on farms, beside pubs and on country estates). Together, these provide 21 million tourism 'bed nights' per annum offering more accommodation than many large hotel chains, in a range of destinations around the UK – from inspiring city centres to fabulous coast and countryside, and from the Highlands of Scotland to the Fenlands of East Anglia.

But it is not just in the area of accommodation provision that The Caravan Club excels. It has a well-deserved reputation for regenerating land such as worked-out quarries, disused railway land, and former heavy industrial and mining zones. Its network of approved contractors sensitively landscape and improve the land, planting native trees and shrubs to suit local ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity wherever possible. Caravan Club sites are constantly being upgraded and redeveloped with an average annual investment of £10 million, using local trades people wherever possible.

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The Caravan Club is keen to encourage more people into this wonderful pastime – not only by providing inspiration and reasons to travel, but by supporting first-timers with guidance about which vehicles will best suit their requirements, technical assistance and courses to improve confidence whether towing a caravan or at the wheel of a motorhome. Additional products designed with the member in mind include insurance, breakdown services, and for those wishing to travel further afield – a dedicated overseas travel team is on hand as well!

So as you relax and take in the view outside your leisure vehicle of choice, with a glass of something cool and refreshing nearby, or as you don a stout pair of walking boots for a hike across the Downs or Fells, you can be safe in the knowledge that not only are you enjoying the sights and sounds of the great outdoors – you are helping the economy grow as well. Happy holidays.

The Caravan Club, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1UA

[www.caravanclub.co.uk](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk)

[www.experiencefreedom.co.uk](http://www.experiencefreedom.co.uk)



## Chinese and UK experts discuss strategies on Fighting Cancer Together at International Conference

On the 17th and 18th July 2015, Cardiff was host to the China – United Kingdom Cancer (CUKC) Conference. Approximately 200 experts, including senior medics, scientists and scholars from world leading, international institutions gathered to discuss strategies to fight cancer. Experts were invited to present scientific breakthroughs, exchange knowledge and discuss current challenges in cancer research. The conference also showcased exhibitions from industry sponsors and a display of almost 100 research posters. Delegates included representation from industry, government, University Health Boards and the third sector.

The highly prestigious event, which was jointly hosted by Cardiff University, together with Peking University, Capital Medical University (CMU) and Yiling Group, opened with addresses from international keynote speakers including First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, Cardiff University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Riordan, Peking University Cancer Hospital and Institute's President, Professor Jiafu Ji, CMU's Vice-President, Professor Xiaomin Wang, and Minister Counsellor for Education, Chinese Embassy in UK, Mr Shen Yang.

Speaking during the welcome address ceremony at the National Museum, Cardiff, First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones said: "It is a delight to see the impact of partnership working across international borders where institutions are joined by a shared ambition and willingness to tackle cancer; this fits with our over-arching policy framework in Wales called 'together for health'. Working together against cancer, we can do even more."

Professor Colin Riordan said, "CUKC is one of the biggest achievements of the collaboration between Cardiff and China. The University's mission in the battle against cancer demands the continuation and strengthening of our work with our Chinese partners."

The conference also featured presentations from Nobel Prize Laureate and Honorary Chair of the CUKC 2015 Scientific Committee, Professor Sir Martin Evans and Minister for Health and Social

Services, Welsh Government, Professor Mark Drakeford, who expressed his thoughts on Healthcare Matters in Wales.

### CUKC 2015 key outcomes:

- Formation of new research platforms focusing on lung cancer, liver metastasis, ovarian cancer and brain tumours
- Educational opportunity for current scholars and students to develop skills as researchers by exhibiting posters for display and discussion<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CUKC 2015 accepted oral and poster abstracts were published in the International Institute of Anticancer Research (IAR), Anticancer Research July 2015 vol. 35 no. 7 4283-4369 also available online at Highwire Press - <http://ar.iarjournals.org/content/35/7/4283.full.pdf+html>



**CUKC 2015 international delegation.** Front row (left to right): Ms Rachel Hargest, Senior Clinical Lecturer, Cardiff University, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, Cardiff and Vale UHB; Professor Wen G Jiang, Dean of International, Director of CCMRC, Cardiff University; Mr Shen Yang, Minister Counsellor for Education, Chinese Embassy in UK; Professor Malcolm Mason, Dean of Research, College of Biomedical and Life Sciences, Cardiff University; Professor Jiafu Ji, President, Peking University Cancer Hospital and Institute; Professor Xiaomin Wang, Vice-President, CMU; Dr Fergus Macbeth; Dr Meriel Jenney, Associate Medical Director for Cancer Services, Cardiff and Vale UHB; Professor Wei An, Professor of Cell Biology, CMU



**CUKC 2015 welcome address ceremony.** Left to right: Mr Shen Yang, Minister Counsellor for Education, Chinese Embassy in UK; Professor Xiaomin Wang, Vice-President, CMU; Professor Jiafu Ji, President, Peking University Cancer Hospital and Institute; Carwyn Jones, First Minister, Welsh Government; Professor Wen G Jiang, Dean of International, Director of CCMRC, Cardiff University; Professor Colin Riordan, President and Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University



**CUKC 2015 poster award.** Left to right: Dr Liam Morgan, CCMRC, Cardiff University; Nobel Prize Laureate, Professor Sir Martin Evans. Top 10 posters included 5 submissions from international delegates and 5 from UK delegates. Honorary Chair of the Scientific Committee, Professor Sir Martin Evans presented an award to the top two entries, Dr Liam Morgan and Professor Wei Ding, CMU during the closing ceremony

### Further information

#### CUKC website:

[www.cukc.org.uk](http://www.cukc.org.uk)

#### CCMRC website:

[www.medicine.cf.ac.uk/cardiff-china/](http://www.medicine.cf.ac.uk/cardiff-china/)

Written by  
Ceri Frayne, Executive Officer, Cardiff China Medical Research Collaborative (CCMRC), Cardiff University  
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CUKC 2016 will be hosted in China: 13th - 15th May at the Beijing National Convention Centre.

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# Andrew Gwynne

Shadow Health Minister and Labour MP for  
Denton and Reddish



of the Cancer Drugs Fund in doubt and hospitals facing financial crisis.

The danger for David Cameron is that it begins to look like he was not straight with people on the NHS at the election.

Four months on from the General Election, public concern with the NHS remains ever high. Speak to NHS staff or patients and you will soon understand why. Staff are being told to work longer hours – and often for less pay. Numbers are not keeping pace with demand, with fewer nurses per head of population now than before the 2010 election. And despite the best efforts of staff, many of whom are working flat out, NHS performance continues to go backwards because of this Government's mismanagement.

The waiting list is now at a 7-year high, and the cancer treatment target is now being missed regularly, prompting concerns from experts like Cancer Research UK that patients are failed.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to get a GP appointment, with more than one in four people now waiting a week or more to see a GP. That, in turn, is putting pressure on already overstretched A&E departments.

Funding for mental health services continues to fall, despite Minister's promising otherwise, and social care services remain in crisis.

Rather than take practical steps to deal with those pressures, the

to deliver, then why should anyone believe you this time?) to promising extra money without identifying where a single penny of it would come from.

Many of those announcements were designed to 'neutralise' the NHS as a political issue, or in the words of one senior Tory, to "shoot Labour's fox".

Just weeks after the election, key manifesto commitments, such as the introduction of a cap on the costs of elderly care, were dropped, while other manifesto commitments now look set to be broken with the future

The NHS has dominated political debate in recent years.

Voters have consistently ranked it as one of the most important 'issues' facing our country. And that interest, or concern, in our nation's most loved institution, shows no signs of going away.

In the weeks and months leading up to the General Election, David Cameron made a series of increasingly desperate promises on the NHS. They ranged from repeating promises made before the 2010 election on 7-day access (which raised the question – if you promised it last time and failed

## Dear Member of Parliament

Where do you stand on fairer more transparent pricing at the pumps? We are very grateful to 80 MPs across all Parties\*, who have already declared their support for a full and transparent inquiry into how prices are calculated. 37m UK drivers representing 70% of your electorate remain totally bewildered as to what they will pay each time they fill up their vehicles. There is no logic or fairness whatsoever! Here are key questions that your constituents want answered with your support....



- On August 25th oil cost 21% less than in it did in Jan 2009. So why over the same period did petrol pump prices increase by 15% and diesel not fall at all, even with rises in VAT and Fuel Duty taken out of that equation?
- Why do pump prices not fairly reflect changes in the cost of all fuels at the wholesale level? They continue to be held artificially high when oil and wholesale fuel costs fall.
- Why are diesel drivers so exploited? Since the end of April diesel wholesale levels have been lower than those of petrol, but pump prices took an eternity to reflect these differences and not accurately so either.
- Why does the UK Government continue to levy the highest level of road fuel tax in the EU – despite four years of a fuel duty freeze? These punitive tax levels are holding back other growth levies.
- Economic experts have shown that lower pump prices help increase GDP and employment plus they also lower inflation. This is substantiated by the Treasury too! It's no coincidence the recent renaissance in the Economy has been significantly helped by lower oil prices and the freeze in fuel duty, so why does the Treasury ignore our call for a 3p cut that will accelerate economic growth even more?

**\*Please help us to inform FairFuelUK supporters in your constituency what your position is regarding investigating fairer pump pricing. You can let us know at [www.fairfueluk.com/MP\\_support.php](http://www.fairfueluk.com/MP_support.php)**



**A selection of the many MPs that support FairFuelUK**

FairFuelUK with its 1.1m supporters has fought off £30bn in TAX hikes in the last 5 years but the Government is still taking nearly 70% in tax when we fill up at the pumps. We have the highest Fuel Duty levels in the EU and the cost of this fuel directly impacts adversely on the cost of living, investment, jobs and operating of businesses. The award winning FairFuelUK Campaign fights for lower fuel prices at the pumps and is actively supported by its founding backers the FTA and RHA plus the APN, Microlise and RAC. Contact: Howard Cox on 07515421611 or email [howard@fairfueluk.com](mailto:howard@fairfueluk.com)



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Government's response has been to change the way that performance data is reported and published.

So from this August, all the bad performance data is now released on the same day each month, in the hope that it will minimise the negative headlines.

It is a cynical attempt at news management from a Tory Government that knows the NHS is going backwards on their watch. And it also shreds Tory claims to be committed to transparency in the NHS. But, after all, this is the Government that refused to publish the risk assessment of their NHS reorganisation, ignoring a clear legal ruling from the Information Commissioner.

The challenge facing the Government over the next five years is how to get the NHS back on track when they are asking it to make unprecedented efficiency savings.

The former Minister for Care and Support recently said achieving the Government's £22 billion worth of efficiency savings will be "virtually impossible".

The danger is that the only way to achieve those savings will be to cut frontline services, which could put patient care at risk and see service standards deteriorate even further.

Ministers have already refused to rule out staff cuts as part of their plan to save £22 billion, and, worryingly,

NICE was recently asked to suspend its safe staffing programme, despite this being a key recommendation of the Francis report.

If the Government cannot find a way to turn things around, then the political debate over the next five years will continue to be dominated by the performance of our health service.

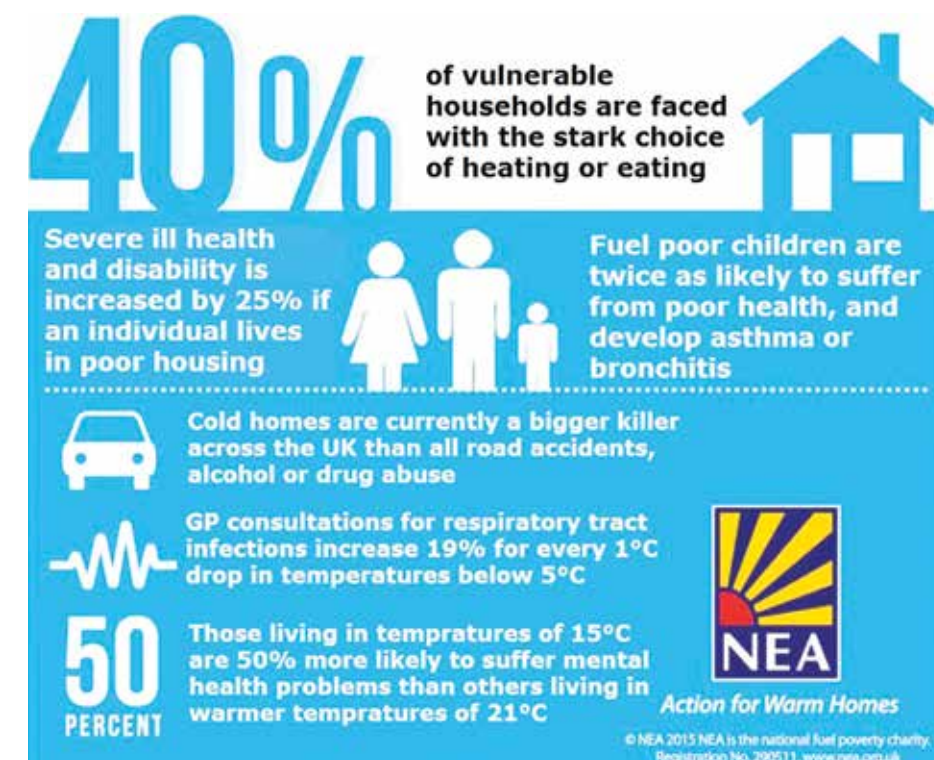
It will be the job of the Labour Party over the next five years to hold the Government to account on their election promises, and continue to be a strong voice for the patients and staff who are paying the price for the Tories mismanagement of the NHS.

# Lower bills and healthier homes

**Fuel poverty remains a bigger killer across the UK than road accidents, alcohol or drug abuse combined. In our UK Fuel Poverty Monitor 2014-2015 we estimated that in addition to 125,000 needless deaths, over the next 15 years national health services could be forced to spend £22 billion treating cold-related morbidity.**

Thankfully we know the causes and cure. With more than 30 years' experience, National Energy Action (NEA) work to increase strategic action against fuel poverty, while improving access to energy efficiency and related programmes. Responding to pressure from the cost

of excess winter deaths and treating morbidity, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recently identified key recommendations for commissioners and health and social care practitioners in providing support to vulnerable people living in cold homes. Having given evidence to the NICE committee, NEA is well placed to help local authorities and the health sector:



**Train staff on the health impacts of fuel poverty • Develop and implement affordable warmth strategies • Deliver practical installations of energy efficiency • Provide localised profiling and fuel poverty mapping • Facilitate community engagement and public awareness • Review ventilation and other technical building standards**

Despite planned work to build on the momentum of the NICE guidelines, current resources remain less than half of what is required. The Committee for Climate Change (CCC) estimate that £1.2 - £1.8 billion per annum is needed to meet the government's Fuel Poverty Strategy in England. In addition, across the UK as a whole, there are 6 million low income households living in properties which could be fatal, damage living standards or are simply too expensive to heat. The next few months will be of critical importance if we are to help. The UK Government must ensure current schemes are better targeted towards those that need the most support; expand energy bill rebates so the poorest working households benefit for help automatically and secure non-departmental capital funds to improve domestic energy efficiency within the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

The latter would ensure energy efficiency activity moved away from being funded solely by energy consumers or one departmental budget to become a joint capital funded initiative supported by other Government departments but paid for by current infrastructure budgets. Key to this new approach is recognising domestic energy efficiency investments provide energy capacity cheaper than investment in new generation has done historically. In the process this can create local jobs and significant economic growth, while reducing gas imports and carbon emissions. Currently, despite the benefits, not £1 of the annual c. £25 billion UK infrastructure budget has ever been spent on this type of initiative.

The need is great and the funds are available. If we finally get this right, not only can we reduce costs from cold related hospital admissions and stop needless deaths, we can encourage economic growth while making homes warmer and healthier.

**NEA provide secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency Group (FPEEG). To become a member please contact [Ben.Sayah@nea.org.uk](mailto:Ben.Sayah@nea.org.uk).**

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## Dr Philippa Whitford

**SNP Shadow Health Spokesperson  
and SNP MP for Central Ayrshire**



**T**he NHS is facing three major challenges: growing demand, staff shortages and mounting deficits.

The increased demand is particularly due the complexity of patients' needs.

While some people live long, active, healthy lives, others develop chronic degenerative conditions, like cardiovascular disease, diabetes or Alzheimer's. The problem is not that we are living longer but that we are not living or ageing well.

Senior hospital doctors (who do work nights and weekends) report treating emergency patients who are sicker due to the interplay of their current illness with underlying health problems. Those patients tend to be admitted for critical care and spend longer in hospital.

Improving our general health would need concerted effort across many Government departments, yet we

see public health sidelined out of NHS England and the Department for Work and Pensions mounting an all-out attack on the poorest families.

Good health requires children to have a decent start in life but one in four of our children are growing up in poverty.

Those with multiple morbidities need wraparound support from a Primary Care team empowered to manage their care. As a Breast Cancer

Surgeon, I saw the huge contribution which Multidisciplinary Team working made to the quality of breast cancer care. Weekly teams meetings allowed time to plan the most appropriate treatment for each patient and saw units improve against the Scottish Breast Cancer standards.

That principle could be directly applied to primary care with the team expanded to include physiotherapists, psychologists or social workers as required by the practice. Complex cases would be discussed at weekly team meetings, rather than stressed GPs struggling within their 10 minute appointments.

Trainees see exhausted and demoralised senior staff and are voting with their feet. Young doctors often went to the Antipodes for a year or so - but now many are not coming back.

Doctors are not looking for more money but for the job satisfaction

of delivering a good service to their patients. A bit of respect from politicians would not go amiss, either!

Instead of attacking doctors, the Secretary of State should be working with them to strengthen clinical services. He is obsessed with the provision of routine Sunday hospital clinics and GP surgeries, despite pilot studies demonstrating that only 12 per cent of appointments were utilised. In fact, squandering our limited human resources made it harder to cover the Out of Hours GP service.

Despite the handwringing and claims that the NHS is unaffordable, the last Commonwealth Fund report shows that the NHS is the most cost effective healthcare system in the developed world. America spends twice as much as any UK NHS system and still leaves 40 per cent of its citizens without any cover.

However, this year, Monitor reported that 40 per cent of Non-Foundation Trusts and over 50 per cent of Foundation Trusts face financial deficits. The bedrock of that debt is the infamous Private Finance Initiatives used by Gordon Brown to disguise public borrowing. The private market for NHS funding is actually costing more money and the integration of Health and Social Care is undermined by the splintering of NHS England, with services being taken over by competing private providers. Collaboration, rather than competition, is what is needed.

Finance is the challenge that the Government could actually help with. They have promised £8 billion extra by 2020 but need to commit to front loading it.

The NHS does not need yet another structural reorganisation but, instead, a call to halt the process of privatisation. Instead of energy and funds being squandered on burgeoning management and competing business models, it should be invested in allowing frontline clinical staff to care for their patients.

## Virendra Sharma

**Labour MP for Ealing, Southall**



**T**he future of the NHS is not secure. Every week, we see further news stories that the NHS cannot cope, cannot afford to hire staff and is poorly managed and demoralised.

In Ealing, Southall, across the borough and, indeed, in all eight boroughs of North West London, we are currently the victims of a dangerous experiment. The government and North West London CCGs have introduced the "Shaping a Healthier Future" programme. The programme is a trial and is eventually expected to be rolled out nationwide. However, the most important groups have been ignored.

The idea behind the policy is that it is better to travel further to be treated at a centre of excellence. Hospitals then act as a real group - one hospital

can specialise in neurology, while another focuses on paediatrics. That means you can close smaller, less efficient wards at outlying hospitals and concentrate the diminished means of the NHS on where they can make a difference. In practice, we are finding that capacity is not maintained in the "centres of excellence", leading to, in one example, disastrous waiting times across the

Christmas period.

We are still at the beginning of the programme and there is much more change left to occur. The concern is that where local issues are raised, most residents are ignored. Civil Servants and local NHS administrators are pushing the programme and there is little accountability to the people who will suffer. Meetings with civil servants have often ended with little being said, except for a restated desire for the programme to continue. Public consultations have been held, with the results being that there is little support for the contentious proposals, so a minor change is made and the programme goes forward without further consultation. Often, we will be told throughout the process that no final decisions have been made and then we find out it is too late to make further

changes. Our boroughs are being used to see what goes wrong, but there is no triage unit for our local health.

Neither healthcare professionals nor the public have been kept well informed about what is happening and are, as a result, feeling left behind and ignored. Paediatric services, the maternity unit and A&E services have been lost locally and, as some of the most emotive areas, these have been the most widely noticed.

There is a real loss of confidence from both sets of major stakeholders and it is damaging our NHS. Across this region of London, there has been outcry after outcry from doctors and nurses, technicians and porters – the people who make the NHS work and who are the reason that the NHS functions day in, day out, year after year.

When David Cameron promised no top down reorganisations of the NHS, he must have had that scenario in mind, yet his government is presiding over a wrecking of our national treasure. I was proud at the last election of our manifesto commitments for the NHS. We promised that only where clinicians wanted it, we would reorganise silos of care.

We promised thousands more nurses, doctors and social care workers, and that no longer would caring for somebody's loved ones be the lowest form of work.

Pay would rise to support families, while care would be offered in people's own homes to help them feel safe and secure. What we are seeing now is a shameful endangerment of one of our great national projects. Care has to be affordable for the state and free at the point of use but not dictated as an experiment from the centre.



# Lord Norman Tebbit

**Former Chairman of the Conservative Party and cabinet minister in Margaret Thatcher's government**



Our NHS is a victim of its own success - extending our life span while leaving more and more of us living out our extra years with chronically debilitating illnesses and disabilities.

In consequence, it has devoured resources at an alarming rate and, however well-managed, there is no prospect that this appetite will diminish.

There are, however, things which could deliver better value for the expenditure and curb the growth in demand.

A lesson still to be learned is that good managers will succeed even in poor structures, but poor managers will fail even in ideal structures. The NHS should follow the Sandhurst principle.

An Army Officer has two loyalties. Firstly, upward to the Monarch. Secondly, to those he commands. He does not eat until the men are fed. Think of the Mid-Staffordshire scandal. Would a junior officer have told his superiors: "I'm sorry for the shambles, but no-one told me things were going wrong in my unit"? Would he have been given a fistful of money and promoted to another unit, or court-martialled?

Do all hospital managers know whether patients are being fed, or left in soiled beds? What has happened to those regimental sergeant majors of the hospitals - the Matrons - who once ensured that orders were carried out, or if needs be, told their superiors to think again?

Indeed, what has happened to the registered nurses of earlier years? Those 18 year olds whose early "on the job training" on the wards weeded out any without the empathy and "hands on skills" needed at the bedside. Of course, that would not be sufficient training in the high tech skills required today, but without that bedrock, the patient becomes secondary to the procedures.

Sadly, the changes in general practice introduced by the last Labour Government have led to a five day week culture in that bedrock of good medicine - just as the supermarkets educated their consumers to expect seven day opening.

The 111 system is too inconsistent to fill the "out of hours" need, and there is an unreasonable burden on A&E units. Perhaps if more hospitals established 24/7 general practices beside their A&E units, to sign up patients dissatisfied with the GPs service, the loss of practice income might cause some rethinking.

Another affliction damaging around 100 hospital trusts is that of Privately Funded Initiatives (PFIs). Those are simply hire purchase agreements tying the buyer into a grossly unfair maintenance contract. It is a rip-off and there is a need to explore whether there is any legal escape from such unfair contracts.

However, perhaps of all the problems afflicting the NHS the worst is that of its patients. Take a walk along your high street and count the grossly obese people, stuffing themselves and their children with nutrition free calories and high sugar drinks - this is not forced on them by poverty. I can make a chicken liver casserole for a "fiver", whilst a hamburger and can of fizzy drink cost over £5. Before long, those people will have heart and liver problems, diabetes, knee joint and hip failures - all needless costs to the NHS. Not to mention the cost of heavy drinkers and smokers.

Sixty years ago, in the armed forces, being overweight or acquiring a sexually transmitted disease were regarded as self-inflicted injuries - punishable by fine or even imprisonment. Today, those seem to be a rite of passage from childhood to a world of alcohol and junk food. Perhaps it is a "human right" to inflict self-harm, but is it a "human right" to demand another human to pay for the treatment it requires?

Finally, there is the matter of the undernourishment of mental health services - emaciated and under resourced - to deal with all manner of mental illness inflicting pain and hardship on some of the most vulnerable in our land.

A recent debate in The Lords initiated by that distinguished doctor, Lord Patel, suggested that there was a growing consensus on ways to resolve some of the problems of the NHS. Let us hope so. I value our NHS. It has cared for my wife and I.

# Dave Prentis

**General Secretary of UNISON**



Our National Health Service remains the envy of the world. It continues to out-perform its rivals in terms of both equity and efficiency.

But these are extremely challenging times and no one should be complacent about the situation our NHS finds itself in.

Having traditionally benefited from funding settlements of an average of around 4 per cent above inflation, the last five years of flat funding represent a period of considerable austerity.

The past year has also seen the first large-scale industrial action in the NHS for a generation, as nurses, midwives, physios, paramedics, hospital porters, cleaners and their colleagues went on strike over the government's punitive pay policy.

In addition, concerns continue to grow over the ever-expanding role for the private sector in our NHS and over the repeated failure of the government to guarantee safe staffing levels in our hospital wards and treatment centres.

So what needs to be done to ensure that patients and the public can continue to benefit from the world-class service provided by our NHS?

For starters, we need the money - now. The Conservatives have promised to meet the £8 billion demand from the NHS by 2020 but, as yet, without showing where or when this will reach the service.

It is clear that the NHS cannot wait any longer. Waiting times are beginning to surge upwards, many hospitals are stretched to breaking point and patient care will suffer if this continues.

Even with the extra billions, the NHS is still required to make an eye-watering £22 billion of "efficiency savings", something which no one within the sector thinks is achievable.

So there is a need for a more realistic assessment of the funding needs of the NHS and how this money can be allowed to flow into services quicker.

There is also a need to properly recognise the importance of investing in healthcare staff.

Failing to pay them even the measly 1 per cent recommended by the independent pay review body last year followed a number of years of severe pay restraint and means that the NHS may struggle to recruit and the retain the staff it needs.

A proper pay settlement for healthcare workers is needed, alongside a guarantee that other items such as their unsocial hours payments will not be threatened by the government's plans to make the NHS a "seven-day service".

Everyone wants to see the NHS delivering high-quality care consistently and regardless of the time of the week, but this cannot be paid for off the backs of staff - such a move would be counter-productive in the extreme.

Related to that, the NHS needs to move as quickly as possible to implementing safe staffing levels to give patients the confidence that there will always be sufficient staff to

look after them and to give staff the certainty that they can deliver the level of care they want to.

All of the international evidence points in this direction and the recent decision to stop the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) continuing to draw up guidance on safe staffing has left many in the sector bemused.

There have been some sensible recent moves by NHS England. Those include a more holistic "success regime" that seeks to solve problems across whole health economies, rather than at individual hospitals. Similarly, plans to draw up integrated urgent care systems look eminently preferable to the current fragmented mess of GP out-of-hours services and NHS 111 contracts.

It is also possible that some of the new care models being worked on as part of the Five Year Forward View may yield positive outcomes. The importance of integrating health and social care is something where there is a good deal of consensus, but there remain concerns in the workforce about doing this at a time of severely restricted funding settlements in both the NHS and local government.

And staff are treating the merger of the devolution agenda with the integration one, in areas such as Manchester and Cornwall, with extreme caution for the same reason.

But importantly, none of that will succeed if the NHS is forced to continue working with the Conservatives' dogmatic attachment to the market.

Already since the election, we have seen large privatisation exercises coming to fruition with Primary Care Support Services being broken away from NHS England and handed to Capita, and with the controversial ten-year contract for coordinating cancer services in Staffordshire handed to a consortium led by Interserve.

Our NHS is a model that has endured through the decades, but it must be treated with care if we are to protect it for future generations.



# Jo-Ann Carey

## Clinical Nutritional Therapist



At the other end of the malnutrition scale, obesity is one of today's most blatantly visible yet most neglected public health problems in the UK. Paradoxically, obesity co-exists with TYPE II diabetes and heart disease.

The worldwide (and ongoing) rise in obesity and TYPE II diabetes has resulted in a major economic analysis of the causes and consequences of this phenomenon. In 2007, the cost to the NHS, and the UK economy as a whole, was estimated to run at £15.8 billion per year. The NHS simply cannot endure that level of financial expenditure indefinitely.

From treating diabetic patients who have been referred to me from the NHS, I have found that their condition is treated from a symptomatic level and that the baseline cause of TYPE II is not addressed. Treating the symptoms of an illness only serves to perpetuate the condition, costing the NHS billions of pounds every year. The work I carry out provides evidence-based recommendations and interventions for diabetes and obesity.

As a clinical nutritional therapist and vegan, my therapy supports the biochemical cause of diabetes which is insulin resistance, pancreatic insufficiency, glycation of the cellular wall (due to excessive ingestion of sugars), hyper adrenal function (due to excessive starchy carbohydrates) and excessive cortisol in the blood stream, which releases intrinsic sugars from the liver depositing arterial, heart and visceral fat.

Evidence-based research favouring a new approach to managing diabetes came first from comparisons of various populations around the world. People whose diets were based on plant-derived foods - nuts, seeds, pulses, beans legumes, soya, wholegrains, quinoa, millet, buckwheat, millet, hemp and wheatgrass - were less likely to develop diabetes compared with people whose diets are fattier or centred on meat dishes.

Those studies, together with my extensive clinical work, suggest that high meat, fatty and refined sugars cause the body to be more resistant to insulin's actions. Clinical research studies have shown that adopting a plant-based vegan diet improves insulin sensitivity by optimising the health of the cellular wall, thereby keeping blood sugars within the reference range.

Plant-based vegan diets also help to reduce haemoglobin A1C, a measure of blood sugar levels, and elevated CRP (C-reactive protein), a blood marker indicating inflammation, and identified as a potential risk factor for vascular disease, obesity and diabetes. Both of those markers are indicative of dysinsulinism and glucose dysregulation, of which both can be managed with a vegan plant-based diet.

One of the important determinants

of the clinical success of a vegan intervention, designed to lower the risk to insulin resistance (TYPE II and CVD), is its ability to reduce inflammatory mediators. Persistent low grade inflammation is not only an independent predictor of vascular disease, increasing TYPE II, but also of all-cause mortality. Plant-based foods decrease those inflammatory markers further, reducing plaque formation on the arterial wall and cellular damage.

The standard dietetic approach under the NHS to "manage" diabetes is the inclusion of starchy white, carbohydrates and animal protein. Starchy carbohydrates are high in simple sugars increasing plaque formation, which creates oxidative stress that can lead to injury of the vascular wall of the cell and inflammation. Insulin is prevented from entering the cell (insulin resistance), resulting in excessive glucose in the blood stream, which damages arterial walls, capillary walls and the heart, thereby further increasing the likelihood of diabetes and heart disease.

Avoiding animal protein eliminates saturated fats, which further serve to harden the cellular wall. Cell membranes are made up of essential fatty acids and are vulnerable to excessive sugars and saturated fats. Animal proteins create acidity within the gut environment, exerting accelerated kidney damage and leaching calcium from the bones, resulting in protein loss in the urine known as ketosis. A vegan diet alkalises the body, restoring kidney function and optimum plant protein absorption and softens up the cell membrane for maximum insulin utilisation.

It is estimated that half of the UK population could be obese by 2050 – at a cost of £50 billion per year. The NHS simply cannot endure that level of financial expenditure indefinitely. My work in implementing a vegan diet gives evidence-based recommendations and intervention for diabetes and obesity, potentially saving the NHS billions.

# Susannah Makram

## Registered Naturopath, Osteopath and founder of The Functional Healthcare Group



Today, patients are in need of a complete care system more than ever before. So far, health care leaders and policymakers have invested in making patients better "consumers". There is no substitute for the strategic transformation required of a value agenda.

Each year, £300 million worth of drugs are being thrown away. Price labelled prescriptions undervalue the services of NHS workers, while introducing Electronic Medical Records, without restructuring care delivery, measurement and payment, yields limited benefits. That alludes to one solution: our financial challenges in healthcare require service rationing and shifting costs to patients or taxpayers.

By failing to consistently measure the outcomes which matter, we lose, perhaps, our most powerful lever for cost reduction. Enter the 3 Tier Prevention Strategy.

Tier 1 involves the patient to ensure good functional health status is achieved. Primary prevention could include exercise programmes, smoking

cessation, immunisation and so on. Tier 2 is secondary prevention. That could involve screening to identify individuals at risk of specific conditions or events, such as falls or stroke. The osteopathic profession sees to it that initial screening takes place at first consultation and referrals are made where patients are not suitable for osteopathic treatment. That relieves the burden on NHS GP Surgeries. Finally, Tier 3 prevents readmission. Its outcomes relate to the sustainability of health and minimising disability or deterioration.

On top of those tiers, Integrated Practice Units (IPUs) are compulsory to the 3 tier strategy.

Primary prevention is not enough. It saves only a maximum of £54.00 per visit (1 per cent) per individual patient cost. Data indicates that around 5 per cent of patients account for 40 per cent of NHS inpatient bed days.

Research has shown that the majority of that five per cent are older patients with a high disease burden, often with a number of long-term conditions. In 2000/1, the NHS spent 41 per cent of its entire budget on people over 65.

The Functional Healthcare Group, which I founded, looks to solve our chronic-care epidemic so that tiers 1-3 are met, using cost-effective strategies which need funding by clinical commissioning groups, to consistently measure the outcomes that matter.

A "value agenda" is only successfully implemented when every stakeholder in the healthcare system has a role to play. NICE guidelines acknowledge osteopathy and chiropractic as "manipulative therapies" with their own regulatory bodies, referencing evidence

that osteopathy provides chronic back pain relief. Spinal manipulation is a cost-effective addition to "best care" for back pain in general practice.

Every year, £38 million of the NHS budget is spent on homeopathy. The whole, meta-analyses of homeopathy do not provide sufficient information for conclusions to be drawn about homeopathy in general.

In short, regarding chronic illness, tiers 2 and 3 need functional IPUs in place; chronic pain, tier 3 status, means that physical therapy and/or acupuncture are needed; and surgical intervention (trauma), tier 3, relies also on knowing when to operate.

The financial burden of heart failure in the UK takes two per cent of the £96.6 billion of the NHS' budget.

That two per cent cost to the NHS is broken down in expenditure components as: 69 per cent in hospital admissions; 18 per cent in drug treatments; five per cent in GP OPD referrals; six per cent in GP visits; and two per cent in post-discharge OPD visits.

The cost of hospitalisation is also huge to the NHS. A single episode (mean length of stay 13 days) is £8,180.30, while readmission (mean length of stay 13 days) is £8,367.63. That is 3,853 in 250,000 people per year who have the following risk factors: overweight, diabetic, obese, smoking, low physical activity, CHD, male, low education, VHD and hypertension.

The direct cost of care of HF patient in the UK annually exceeds £3,529,641.

The Functional Healthcare Group 3 Tier strategy brings ICPs into hospitals and surgeries. Membership to The Functional Healthcare Group enables basic training of one individual out of the entire clinic team, which is all it takes when we integrate.



# The Northern Powerhouse: time to end the north-south divide

**Andrea Jenkyns**, Conservative MP for Morley and Outwood, tells **Marcus Papadopoulos** how the Northern Powerhouse can fundamentally change the north of England for the better

## Q Do you support the government's Northern Powerhouse?

Yes, I do, absolutely. Being a northerner myself, I have always believed that consecutive governments have neglected the north of England and so it is about time that the north-south divide is brought to an end. And I believe it is important that we have a Chancellor whose constituency is in the north and who understands the need to diversify wealth creation throughout the UK.

I sincerely believe that the Northern Powerhouse will work as we have some major cities with major industries which can be capitalised on to great effect – for both the people of these regions and the country as a whole. The Northern Powerhouse constitutes the first concerted attempt in decades to tackle the north-south divide. Furthermore, Labour dominates northern politics but did nothing to address the north-south divide issue when it was in government, which was shameful.

## Q If implemented, how would the powerhouse benefit constituencies such as yours?

In two ways. Firstly, it would make regions more attractive in order to retain locally grown talent and stop migration to the south. That would help local businesses to develop and build skills bases. And secondly, it would attract inward investment, which would result in job creation and a growing economy.

I was in the United States this summer speaking to businesses there about the benefits to them of investing in the north of England, and there was a lot of interest in this.

## Q At present, the Northern Powerhouse is just a concept so how would you like to see the government take it forward?

I believe that the government has a great plan and it is a matter of them delivering on this plan. Improved infrastructure is vital so we need to press on with building transport links between cities and developing public transport in cities; for example, Leeds is one of the largest cities in Europe without any form of mass transit, and so this urgently needs addressing.

We need to develop the airports, especially with improved transport links, and develop the road network, and I would like to see construction of the eastern leg of HS2 start in Leeds. I support the introduction of devolution, including having elected mayors, and the creation of more enterprise zones in areas which are most in need of regeneration. To assist with re-balancing and addressing what in the past has been a southern mindset of government officials, I would like to see more national government offices relocated to the north. That would show that the north is being taken seriously and would install confidence in potential investors.

## Q Can domestic and foreign investors be convinced to invest their money in the north of England, as oppose to in London and in the south generally?

Yes, provided the infrastructure and skills base is present – this is imperative.

There is a larger pool of labour available and plenty of brownfield sites in the

former heavy industry and mining areas which are available for development. Also, the north offers a much better quality of life for those looking to relocate or develop plants. There is an incredibly beautiful countryside and, of course, the people are much nicer in the north – they are friendlier!

## Q How will you go about supporting the Northern Powerhouse?

As I have been already, by lobbying Ministers to make sure that their promises are fulfilled and by holding discussions with local politicians and business representatives, like Local Enterprise Partnerships, on powers to be devolved and what should be the most appropriate system of governance.

A major part of my job is to be a voice for Yorkshire – and I intend to make it heard.



## Making devolution work

A winning combination:  
Devolution and public service

We believe that the government's devolution programme is great news. It offers a fantastic chance for cities, authorities and councils to develop services that can meet societal change and directly address the needs of their residents, both people and businesses. The current centralised system of governance is too rigid.

Devolution allows us to replace it with local systems that reflect the voices and priorities of the people who use the services.

But devolution is not only about localisation. We believe that the most imaginative and innovative devolution projects will have a wider vision. These projects will not only be about delivering local services; they will transform those services. Devolution and public sector reform are not two agendas – they're the same agenda. The best devolution plans will reform and reconfigure public services to something more precisely structured to meet the needs of the individual communities they serve, giving better value in the process.

What does this mean for localities? We believe that the central government will favour creative deals which talk about more than taking on localised responsibility for existing services. These deals are about changing these services – about going beyond specific areas and focusing on seemingly intractable problems, taking on the bigger issues and tackling complex dependencies.

The regions who will gain most will see devolution as giving them the power to grow their economies, and to build the infrastructure and capabilities to drive business and create jobs in their localities. This applies equally to counties and cities: some of the former are major net contributors to the UK economy.

Getting a devolution deal agreed is just the start. Clarity of vision will be vital to see the project through. Developing the capacity and capability to deliver the entire transformation is a major task, and one that will take years to implement.

The pilot projects from a couple of years ago proved the power of central government letting go and the value of creating joined-up public services in the areas concerned. Now is the time to take this further. Social change is behind this. But also modern information systems allow complex organisations to be run from the front line in a way that has simply not been possible in the past.

We believe that this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for local authorities to negotiate deals that will transform their communities. Real change is there for the asking and the rewards clear for those bold enough to seize the chance. Seize the moment; reimagine what is possible.

What makes devolution and public sector reform work? We know what good looks like and how to make it happen. But the most important lesson learnt is the leadership. A good leader can drive cultural change, build skills and capabilities and manage the risks.

### WHAT MAKES DEVOLUTION AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM WORK?

**TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 12.45 – 13.45**  
**Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel, Hall 7**  
**Thames Room, Brighton**

Metro economies: How can cities exploit devolution to boost growth?

KPMG and Policy Exchange *fringe meeting open to all conference delegates*

#### Speakers:

- Steve Hughes, Policy Exchange Chair
- Kru Desai, Partner KPMG
- Lord Adonis (to be confirmed)
- One other speaker

**TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 13.30 – 14.30**  
**Chetham Suite, Novotel Manchester**  
**Centre, Manchester**

Metro economies: How can cities exploit devolution to boost growth?

KPMG and Policy Exchange *fringe meeting open to all conference delegates*

#### Speakers:

- Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (tbc)
- Steve Hughes, Policy Exchange Chair
- Kru Desai Partner KPMG or other
- One other speaker

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# The horror of puppy farms

Dr Marc Abraham, television vet and founder of PupAid, talks with Marcus Papadopoulos about the need to end the appalling practice of puppy farming



## Q What is a puppy farm?

Puppy farms are generally regarded as large-scale dog breeding establishments which prioritise profit over animal welfare, usually selling puppies to dealers in order to then sell on to third party sellers (for instance, pet shops), rather than selling directly to the public.

## Q When did puppy farms first emerge in Britain?

Puppy farming has been around for decades; however, the recent surge

in demand for puppies - influenced by celebrity culture, internet, convenience purchasing and poor border checks - means it is more popular than ever. The Pets Animals Act 1951, which allows dealers to buy in young puppies and sell them to third parties, is one of the main pieces of legislation implicitly allowing puppy farming to continue. Today, puppy farms are not just found in Wales, Ireland and England, but, increasingly, in Eastern European countries, too, such as Lithuania, Hungary, Romania and Poland.

## Q How would you describe the level of animal abuse associated with them?

Puppy farms are basically hell-holes for dogs. They are usually squalid and contain up to 200 breeding bitches, which are bred on every heat, kept in agricultural units with no enrichment, toys, preventative veterinary care and who rarely, if ever, go outside. In essence, puppy farms are battery farms for dogs. Puppies are usually removed from their mums too early before they have had enough of their mum's milk and before receiving adequate socialisation. They are then transported, en masse, across Britain to third party sellers - normally pet shops, garden centres and private sellers posing as breeders.

Today, in the UK, there are hundreds of puppy farms, and it is very difficult to come up with a precise figure as some are fully licensed by local councils and some are not. Further to that, a lot of puppy farms are run as sideline businesses on well-established working dairy/sheep farms.

## Q What steps would you like to see the UK Government take in regard to puppy farms?

Sadly, there is very little effective or enforced animal welfare legislation against puppy farms in the UK. There seems to be no political will or ambition by Government to change ineffective and archaic legislation which is over 60 years old. Animals are dying and being abused as a direct result of that law - just one of the many reasons I set up PupAid in 2009. Because I strongly believe that the only way puppy farming can be tackled effectively is through both improved education and legislation.



PupAid aims to stop the demand of irresponsibly-bred puppies reaching the consumer by informing owners of the signs of a puppy farmed pup and the terrible abuse associated with puppy farming.

## Q Can you describe the work of Pup Aid?

PupAid works very closely with celebrities and politicians, alike, to shine light on the reality of puppy farming. Celebrity supporters include Ricky Gervais, Brian May, Liam Gallagher, Meg Mathews, Sarah Harding, Sue Perkins, Peter Egan, Patsy Palmer, Nicole Appleton, Rachel Riley and Elle Macpherson. Politicians involved include Robert Ffello, Angela Smith, Simon Kirby, Tracy Crouch, Caroline Lucas, David Amess, Kerry McCarthy, Andrea Jenkyns, and Luciana Berger.

PupAid's annual September dog show, in London's Primrose Hill, invites celebrities and politicians, alike, to judge fun dog show classes and meet members of the public; this generates a lot of media attention, helping to get the term "puppy farms" into people's lexicons. As a result, most people in Britain today hold negative connotations of puppy farms.

Given that society is now becoming largely aware of puppy farms, the next step for PupAid is putting together a strategy on how to tackle them. Enter Parliament.

Through the advice of Caroline Lucas

MP, in 2013, I collected over 110,000 signatures on a Government e-petition putting PupAid's campaign firmly on Westminster's radar. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Bellenden, a public affairs company, for their phenomenal help with PupAid's campaign - they deserve a special thank you.

Sadly, on DEFRA's website, the Government (correctly) advises prospective dog owners to always see the mum when buying a pup - the golden rule. However, the problem is that DEFRA, at the same time, seems happy to licence pet shops (and other third party sellers) to sell puppies without their mums. So how can the public ever make an informed decision if what they are being told by their own Government is completely contradictory? So I contacted the Daily Politics Show (after emailing their canine star Molly the Dog!) and appeared on there a little while later, in which I highlighted the utter hypocrisy of the Government regarding puppy farming. As a result of that appearance, I was contacted by Natascha Engel MP (who, at the time, was Chair of the Backbench Business Committee) to come and meet her in Parliament. When I told Natascha that my campaign had the support of about eighty MPs, she said that this meant a debate could be held in the main chamber of the House of Commons on the subject.

Robert Ffello MP opened the debate and a passionate and informative discussion ensued. After hearing all the

welfare implications, including impulsive purchasing, dog overpopulation and healthy surplus rescue dogs being euthanised, a clear majority of MPs taking part voted for a ban on the sale of puppies without their mums present - for example, in pet shops. However, despite that vote, nothing meaningful happened directly afterwards because of the power and influence of various pet retail associations and superbrands associated with pet shops - their fear being that if you ban the sale of puppies in pet shops, rabbits, guinea pigs and reptiles, for instance, will be next. So money superseded animal welfare and the Government ignored the will of MPs representing their constituents who called for a ban in the Commons debate.

Despite that setback, the campaign goes from strength to strength. We are lobbying Government hard for a complete, and urgent, overhaul of all the legislation regarding pets, dog breeding and selling - in effect, the Pets Animal Act 1951. We are also working closely with organisations including the Kennel Club, Battersea Dogs Home, the Dogs Trust, RSPCA and the All-Party Group for Animal Welfare (APGA), as well as with individual parliamentarians, to achieve positive change for dogs. PupAid exists to serve and improve animal welfare and will not be deterred by anyone or anything in doing so.

For more information on PupAid, please visit: <http://pupaid.org/> and follow them on Twitter: @pupaid



# Teenagers...

## You were never their age!



Ruth is 16 and has a loving family. She did very well in her GCSE's, plays leading roles in school productions, is attractive and has a healthy circle of friends. Yet she has been crying almost every night for months. She feels under constant intense pressure and fears for her future. This is beginning to affect her behaviour and attitudes in school and she is increasingly reluctant to go out with her friends.

Eikon, an award winning Surrey-based charity, is supporting Ruth and thousands of young people like her. Qualified Youth Specialists, based full-time in secondary schools, follow two core principles: early prevention, tackling emerging issues before they escalate; and harnessing the power of sustained high-quality relationships.

Eikon's Youth Specialist Programme was recently recognised nationally through a Centre of Social Justice Award, with particular commendation for innovation in addressing the root causes of poverty, helping young people turn their lives around and reversing social breakdown.

Eikon's relational, preventative approach avoids months or years of anguish for young people, families, schools, communities and future generations by helping avoid damaging crises that cost us all - financially, socially and morally. So we urge Westminster to shift the policy focus to prevention, to where problems really emerge – in homes, schools and families – and to focus funding on organisations that deliver effective preventative support through sustained, high-quality relationships.

**Sadly Ruth is far from alone in the challenges she faces. Across the UK young people are subject to a wide range of stressors that can dramatically affect their well-being:**

- Sensationalised news dominated by threats and fear of disease, terrorism, economic disaster and child sexual exploitation, to name but a few.
- Widespread family breakdown and the fear that even if it hasn't happened yet, it probably will.
- Relentless pressure to spend on the latest fashions and gadgets; to have the perfect body and lifestyle
- 24-hour communication such as social media that challenges a young person's image and reputation and brings the ever-present threat of cyber-bullying.
- Fear of violence and crime.
- Ever increasing and often overwhelming pressure to achieve in school.

The result is alarming levels of anxiety and distress that prevent young people from looking after their health and securing a job. Over 20% of young people experience a mental health problem in any one year (Mental Health Foundation, 2005), more than 10% often feel unable to leave the house due to anxiety and 20% admit to "falling apart" emotionally on a regular basis (Prince's Trust Macquarie Youth Index, 2015)

So while you will have been a teenager once, the world of your teenage years bears little resemblance to the world UK teenagers are experiencing today. Eikon builds and sustains quality relationships with young people, seeking to understand and share their pain and providing personalised support. We treasure each young person and so are compelled to go the extra mile. By supporting the work undertaken by Eikon and other similar charities, we can all ultimately contribute to transforming society.



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## Biomass subsidies: An environmental and economic folly



- The wooden pallets and packaging industry is a cornerstone of the UK economy, helping protect and transport almost all traded goods.
- These are well-established products, manufactured from a natural, sustainable, environmentally friendly material, which absorbs and stores carbon from the atmosphere as it grows.
- The industry also provides approximately 8,000 British jobs directly and a further 30,000 indirectly.
- The competitiveness of this business is being threatened by Government subsidies for biomass fuels.
- The Government's own analysis of biomass subsidies, released in July, confirms:
  - These subsidies are creating artificially inflated demand for biomass, that is outstripping supply
  - Power generators are now purchasing virgin timber for burning, rather than waste wood
  - Carbon in the wood is therefore being released immediately back into the atmosphere, instead of being stored in manufactured products
- The market is being distorted by simulated demand, reducing availability, inflating prices and rendering British manufacturers less competitive. This opens the door to alternative materials, particularly plastics - a far less environmentally friendly option

**The timber pallets and packaging industry is a great British success story.**

**We want it to remain a success, so TIMCON is working hard, together with colleagues in other UK wood industries including panels, fencing and construction, and the Confederation of Forest Industries (CONFOR) to communicate these issues urgently.**

**While biomass subsidies are still in place, they will continue to harm the economy; and they will continue to harm the environment.**

**For more information**

please visit TIMCON's member page on Central Lobby/Politics Home

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# GCSEs are not the only answer

**Simon Lebus**, Group Chief Executive for Cambridge Assessment, the parent body for the University of Cambridge's UK and international exam boards, highlights to **Marcus Papadopoulos** the need for more examiners and argues that GCSEs are not the only answer to the UK's educational needs

**Q What are the biggest challenges faced by exam boards?**

Public exams are high stakes for everybody involved with them – candidates, teachers, schools and exam boards. With so much riding on them, there is zero tolerance of error - and this makes good quality marking key.

Several things are needed to deliver that. There is the skill associated with setting good questions which allow candidates across a wide range of abilities effectively to demonstrate what they know and what they have learned. There is also a skill to writing mark schemes that are clear and easy for examiners to apply. None of that works, however, without the large group of committed examiners who spend two very intense months during June and July each year marking approximately five million exam scripts.

The question of how to make sure that there are enough examiners able to mark each summer is rising up the agenda, especially given the fact that we will have new and old qualifications running in tandem for a while which means that around 20 per cent more markers are going to be needed.

Ultimately, support will be needed from schools, school leaders and teachers' unions if that is to be achieved. The great benefit would not just be improved system resilience and quicker turnaround times but also, potentially, an improvement in the quality of marking.

**Q What will be the big policy debates over the next five years?**

With the Government's economic priority being the UK's levels of productivity, it will inevitably have to consider the levels of numeracy and literacy amongst the population.

At the moment, people have tunnel vision



depending on their starting point. Some, for example, like the CBI are calling for an end to GCSEs. Conversely, the government is defining achievement in English and Maths purely in terms of the GCSE.

**Both in my view are wrong. In terms of levels of adult literacy and numeracy, which are alarmingly low in the UK, we need to focus on the level of attainment and not get distracted by the vehicle for delivery. For some learners, the GCSE is not the most appropriate qualification or curriculum for delivering Level 2 literacy and numeracy. Those who have already failed to obtain that in school are unlikely to do any better later on. For them, vocational programmes delivering the same level via contextual learning may be much more suitable.**

**With regard to whether GCSEs should be scrapped, this is the wrong debate to be having and is a red herring for other issues which need addressing. Many other countries have an assessment at 16 in one form or another as this is a key breakpoint in the transition from lower to upper secondary education. That serves the function of providing some external verification of a young person's success in acquiring a general education before they embark on the path**

**of specialisation. GCSEs provide a form of currency that facilitates that and helps lubricate the labour mobility that is such a feature of globalisation.**

**Q What are Cambridge Assessment's priorities over the coming year?**

In some ways, my answer relates to your previous question. We are an international exams group. We operate in 170 countries and our business is growing year-on-year. Two-thirds of our business is carried out abroad, and the demand for English language qualifications, Cambridge International GCSEs and Cambridge International A Levels are growing year-on-year. That is to do with the growth in the size of the global middle-class, which is increasingly demanding internationally transferable qualifications for their children and globalisation – where English is the medium of business. We are therefore very focused on continuing to support that large international constituency, whilst ensuring that our new UK A Levels and GCSEs are best in class.

*To find out more about Cambridge Assessment, please visit: [www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk)*

# Serving patients globally and driving the UK economy

**Erik Nordkamp**, UK Managing Director, Pfizer UK, explains to **Marcus Papadopoulos** how the pharmaceutical industry benefits patients globally and helps to drive the British economy

**Q What do you think is the single biggest challenge facing the NHS today?**

With an ageing population, the financial pressure on the NHS is increasing. At the same time, it needs to find savings, while ensuring that patients receive the best possible care.

In order for us to do more with less, we need to be more collaborative in the way we work together. The medicines and healthcare expertise which the pharmaceutical industry has could help alleviate some of the burden, but we need to find ways of working together more effectively if we are to achieve this.

**Q Tell us more about the role which the pharmaceutical industry can play in helping to overcome the challenge?**

Medicines are among the most cost-effective NHS investments. They halt, slow or prevent illness and, in turn, prevent other potentially more costly expenditure, such as hospitalisations or the need for more expensive procedures. And they help keep people in work, contributing to the health of our economy.

By working in partnership with the NHS, combining our skills, in terms of experience and resources, we can help patients and healthcare professionals get the most out of medicines, lightening the load elsewhere in the system. We are proud of the benefit which our medicines bring to the NHS and to patients, but we also do a great deal of other work to support the delivery of optimal care for patients. We have many examples of joint working projects, which have delivered real-term cost savings to the NHS.

**Q Given the debate about the cost of medicines, would it not be easier for the pharmaceutical industry to reduce the price of its medicines?**

Discovering new medicines requires enormous



financial investment, as well as knowledge, skill, time and accepted risk. In 2013 alone, we invested £185 million in research and development in the UK. It takes 12 years and £1 billion to develop each compound and only 1 in 20 reach patients.

However, for the central role that medicines play in healthcare, it is important to note they account for less than 10 per cent of the overall healthcare budget, and the UK spends only 0.9 per cent of GDP on medicines, which is less than the European average of 1.2 per cent. We appreciate the significant pressures on the healthcare system, and the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, agreed with Government, ensures that the medicines bill does not exceed a fixed amount. Through that scheme, industry will underwrite the cost of NHS treatments by £4 billion over the next five years. We need to ensure that rebate is used to help patients in England access new medicines

in the same way that it is in Scotland.

UK medicines prices are currently amongst the lowest in Europe and these are widely used by other countries as a yardstick for setting their own prices. Therefore any reduction in the UK price can have a knock-on effect elsewhere in the world, which needs to be taken into consideration.

The pharmaceutical industry makes a vital contribution to the UK's economy and has the potential to continue to flourish and generate further growth, but only if we are able to recoup the high-risk investment in research and development through the use of new medicines.

**Q Are you optimistic about the future of healthcare in this country?**

The UK is home to some of the top scientists in the world and we are in a particularly strong period of invention right now. There are 5,500 medicines in clinical development today. Seven out of ten of those are new molecules and one-third of those are aimed at beating cancer. There are also other breakthroughs happening in immunology, neuroscience, cardiovascular, infectious diseases and diabetes.

However, we know patients are struggling to gain access to medicines which are being discovered and developed by the UK's vibrant life sciences sector. We hope that initiatives such as the Accelerated Access Review will help UK patients benefit from these new medical advances and ensure that the UK Government achieves its ambition of being a global leader in life sciences.

There is so much more that medicines can do to help patients, the NHS and our economy thrive. We have a responsibility to patients to ensure that the pharmaceutical industry, NHS and Government work together to provide a sustainable health service, worthy of worldwide recognition.



# The pressing need to reform the UK’s penal system

**Frances Crook**, Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, discusses with **Marcus Papadopoulos** the immense problems in British prisons and how these can be effectively tackled

**Q With a new government elected, what does the Howard League for Penal Reform believe is the most pressing justice issue to be addressed?**

The prison population has doubled over the last two decades, since Michael Howard first said in a speech that “prison works”. It does not. Now that we are in an age of austerity, prison is absolutely failing. Our prisons are overcrowded, under-resourced and, quite frankly, dangerous.

**Q What are some of the problems faced by overcrowded prisons?**

Violence is a huge issue. Both self-injury and assaults are at their highest for a decade and there were more murders in the past year than since the late 1970s. The Howard League is currently undertaking major work on reducing prison suicides because we are extremely concerned at recent increases in the number of people taking their own lives behind bars. Drug abuse, in particular the use of legal highs which are difficult to test for, is rife. And then there is the sheer boredom and futility of it all. Staff shortages mean prisoners spend the vast majority of the day lying on their bunks doing nothing. Many prisoners are lucky to get an hour out of their cells. How that is meant to magically turn them into law-abiding citizens on release escapes me.

**Q Do you detect a change in tone now that Michael Gove is the new Justice Secretary?**

Yes, very much so. To begin with, the new Secretary of State has recognised there is a problem in the prisons. There is a sense of a new broom. We campaigned to reverse restrictions on prisoners receiving books and one of the first things he did in his post was agree to that. The Secretary of State



has also talked about turning prisons into places of redemption. If he is to do that, though, then he has to recognise that many of the people we currently jail should not be there. Redemption does not require prison. If the prisons focused instead on those who committed serious and violent crimes, then there would even be scope for the Ministry of Justice to make further budget cuts – which the Treasury would be keen on.

**Q The Howard League is also known for its expertise in youth justice. What are you focusing on in that area right now?**

The numbers of children under the age of 18 in custody have fallen by two-thirds. There has been a similar drop in the number of children arrested by the police. We have carried out a lot of work with individual police forces to encourage that, because all the evidence suggests that the younger someone gets involved in the justice system, then the longer they will offend for. The child prisoners of today are the adult prisoners of tomorrow. We work with the police to encourage common-sense policing that tries to help children in trouble with the law. There has been this massive positive change while crime continues to fall.

**Q What is the Howard League hoping to discuss with politicians over the conference season?**

We will shortly see a major spending review and the Ministry of Justice is an unprotected department. It is being asked to model cuts of between 25 per cent and 40 per cent. The Howard League thinks that is perfectly possible, because our justice system has become bloated and sucks in too many people who have not committed serious offences. People then go on to reoffend, often more seriously and frequently than before. So we want to encourage imaginative thinking about the size and scope of what the courts and prisons do.

**Q The Howard League will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year. How are you hoping to celebrate that anniversary?**

With cake. Lots of cake. We will also be recruiting 150 champions for every year that the Howard League has campaigned for penal reform. And who knows, we may even see a reduction in the prison population – after years of ever-rising numbers behind bars.

# Tackling the scourge of poverty in Britain

**Simon Hopkins**, Chief Executive of Turn2us, talks with **Marcus Papadopoulos** about the fight against poverty in the UK and what its chances of success are

**Q Does poverty really exist in the UK and how should we fight it?**

Regrettably, poverty does exist in the UK. I get asked that question a lot and every day I am reminded that genuine poverty is a reality for millions of families.

What I mean by genuine poverty is the simple state of not having enough money to live a dignified life. Of course, there are technical definitions but in the immediate term these are no good to a struggling pensioner who has to ration hot water.

For Turn2us, fighting poverty is all about making a practical difference to individuals and families who need help. We have been giving grants to people for nearly 120 years and the letters we receive from these beneficiaries, telling us that our help has been life-changing, prove to us that we are making that difference and this motivates us to keep on going.

**Q Charities have been in the news a lot recently. What role do you think charities should play in providing services to the public?**

If a charity can provide the best service, then it makes perfect sense. The public and voluntary sectors both exist to create public benefit, so one contracting with the other is surely a logical thing.

Charities often have incredible insight and understanding of what life is really like for the most excluded and vulnerable members of our society.

That gives us a unique understanding of how to make services truly effective.

But it is important that we do not limit our view of the relationship between charity and government to purely one



support them as a means of influencing policy, perhaps to the extent that it is now seen to some as a much more direct way of influencing change than voting! But, of course, it is primarily compassion and not policy that drives those that support our work. It is interesting that the number of people who volunteer each year on a formal basis – 1 in 4 of the adult population – absolutely dwarves the number who belong to a political party. I think that tells its own story.

**Q Is it difficult to tackle an issue as politically charged as poverty, whilst maintaining your political impartiality?**

No, I do not think it is. To me, tackling poverty is about acting like a human being. Naturally, we want the government to take the lead in addressing poverty, and we recognise that we need to work with whoever is in power at the time. But despite there having been 16 changes of government since we were founded in 1897, we have always been consistent in having an impartial yet pragmatic approach to helping those struggling. I think that gives us a critical insight and understanding.

**Q Are you hopeful about the future?**

Yes, I am. The reason is very simple. On a routine basis, I see just how compassionate a country the UK is. Recently, I met an amazing friend of the charity who has been volunteering since before I was born. That sort of meeting is both humbling and inspiring and it is one I am lucky enough to experience fairly regularly.

People talk about “compassion fatigue” and I simply do not buy this. The first-hand evidence I get to see points to the exact opposite.

of supplier and client. There is so much more that can be achieved by greater collaboration, even if it is just sharing experiences.

**Q Aside from recent events, there has been a clear move away from the political class to more fringe causes. Have you seen anything similar in the third sector?**

Social media has certainly helped people engage more with specific issues, and charities are increasingly seeing people



# The way forward for Britain and its economy

**Charlie Mullins**, Managing Director of Pimlico Plumbers Limited, discusses with **Marcus Papadopoulos** the importance of SMEs and apprenticeships to powering the UK economy forward

**Q Why is it that you believe a Conservative Government is good for UK business?**

By 2010, we, as a nation, were in a pretty bad way; in the words of Labour’s outgoing Treasury Minister, Liam Byrne, there was “no money”. But what was even worse than the fact that the country was broke, was that underneath the chaos of the international banking collapse, we did not have a viable business plan to get us back into the black. Honestly, any decent receiver called in the rake over what was left of the economy, after Gordon Brown was run out of town, would have cut their losses and sold anything that was left. However, George Osborne took the option I took when I was faced with losing my house in the recession of the early 1990s. He decided to come up with a plan and fight, and the plan was about giving UK PLC every chance of dragging the British economy out of the mire.

**Q How important is it for SMEs to have a voice in politics?**

In a word, extremely!

The five million SMEs trading in the UK make up 99.9 per cent of businesses, provide 59.1 per cent of the private sector jobs (almost 15 million) and, together, are worth something in the region of £400 billion, or just short of half the economy. To ignore the views, issues and problems experienced by such a large portion of the economy, in favour of listening only to the big corporations, would be financial and social suicide.

**Q Given that you have been very vocal on the skills agenda, what should government be doing to address the skills gaps in industries like yours?**

Without a highly-skilled work force, the UK cannot survive as an international



trading nation. We do not have enough easily available minerals like some, and an economy which relies on perpetually selling insurance and other services to each other will not last for long. We need to make things to sell, and we need to be able to build and manufacture, ourselves, some of the things we need to live, without calling in expensive skilled labour from abroad to get us out of the latest domestic skills shortage. Because whether it is GPs from south Asia, nurses and teachers from Australia, or builders from central Europe, paying others to do work, while we pay our own unemployed not to work, makes no sense.

**Q And what is the role of UK business in encouraging more vocational training, including apprenticeships?**

Businesses need to embrace all forms of training, especially vocational, to upskill the entire UK workforce. Only by involving businesses in training can we increase our international competitiveness, and by this I mean raising the average value, in pounds

and pence, of each hour worked in the UK. SMEs make up half the GDP of the UK, so it is clear that businesses of all sizes can and must be involved in this project to increase productivity, otherwise it will not work.

**Q Do you believe that apprenticeships work for all business sectors?**

I am yet to be convinced that there is any skill or job role which cannot be (or, in truth, is not) learned on the job, and I would argue that this is obvious, if we properly consider the evidence in front of us. Doctors and engineers go to university, of course, and I have no issue with this, but only once they have graduated do they start learning how to do their actual jobs, and becoming socially and economically useful. And that is carried out in the same way I learned to be a plumber – on the job, under supervision.

The occupations I know best are plumbing, heating, carpentry and other traditional building industry trades. And just as it is true that you cannot work as a hospital doctor without learning human physiology and anatomy, it is also true that you cannot become a plumber without good maths and English skills. The point is that every job in society involves some book learning followed by an apprenticeship at some stage, whatever we choose to call the training method. That is why, in my opinion, you cannot be fully trained in anything unless you have served a long period of on the job (vocational) training. Whether we like it or not, everyone needs to serve an apprenticeship, and the sooner we realise this and make the training more easily accessible, the better. It would also be helpful if we stopped discrimination between university and non-university fed training schemes, and accept that plumbers, engineers and doctors are all responsible for stopping us all from dying of cholera and typhoid.

# Manufacturing needs greater recognition to drive economic growth

**Beverley Nielson**,

Director, Birmingham City University think tank, IDEA Birmingham



In Redesigning Manufacturing, co-authors Michael Beverland, Professor of Brand Management, University of Bath, Vicky Pryce, a renowned economist, and myself, director of Birmingham City University’s think tank, IDEA Birmingham, highlight the need for greater recognition of the vital role and contribution of manufacturing in delivering balanced economic growth and the wide-ranging talent, resource and nuanced policies required if the sector is to continue delivering accelerating levels of productivity and export growth.

Manufacturing, by producing more exportable goods, makes the greatest contribution to the UK balance of payments but the trade deficit continues to be a serious drag on UK growth levels. With government recognising the need to drive export performance through innovation and productivity improvements, and launching during the last parliament a much-welcomed Industrial Strategy, the book reviews current policies, assessing manufacturing performance, proposing practical routes to implementation and taking into account growing levels of collaboration fostered through regional ecosystems.

In recent years, the Midlands has seen strong export growth at plus 47.4 per cent from 2008 to the end of 2014, demonstrating just what can be achieved in a dynamic manufacturing economy. West Midlands’ exports grew by 69.4 per cent during the same period – faster than in any other UK region - with Jaguar Land Rover’s performance accounting for a significant proportion of this and largely responsible for the trade surplus which the region enjoys with China. UKTI states that JLR accounts for around 20 per cent of all UK exports to China, with the Evoque, in particular, playing a role in delivering growth from just 431 cars sold to China by JLR in 2003, to over 77,000 vehicles sold there a decade later in 2013.

Redesigning Manufacturing highlights the need to develop

“The Midlands has seen strong export growth”

greater manufacturing and export diversity with over 30 manufacturing leaders surveyed ahead of writing. It is clear that they want manufacturing, as a whole, to be valued by policymakers and supported - whether low tech or high tech - where they are delivering high-value returns. The case studies suggest that companies as diverse as Amtico and Acme Whistles, exporting 75 per cent and 90 per cent of sales, respectively, are competing directly against the Chinese in lower priced or lower value added market segments.

West Midlands manufacturing increasingly takes place amongst a series of enterprises, creating value through products, intangibles, including user-focused design and research, and through servitisation, or the development of manuseservices.

The UK’s productivity growth has been better than Germany over the period 1979-2012, averaging 3.1 per cent compared to Germany’s productivity growth over the same period at 2.1 per cent. In recent years, productivity growth measured by PMI indicated that the rate of growth in the Midlands has been much stronger, exceeding both UK and German levels since 2010. Recent data from Oxford Economics indicates manufacturing productivity grew 6 per cent over the period 2010-2015 and forecasts sector productivity growth increasing by as much as 16 per cent over the period 2015-2020.

The new reality is that heightened connectivity demands a combination of “hard and soft” skills in response to increasing complexity around, for example, the development of user-focused haptics involving the development of attractive interface options for consumers, especially in higher value added consumer markets.

Redesigning Manufacturing suggests there is a need to further rethink aspects of funding for academia – with the trends suggesting an urgent shift away from traditional basic research to a greater emphasis on more applied forms of research. Mike Wright’s 2014 report showed that less than one-fifth of all research funding was on applied research and this primarily through tax credits and patent assistance. Within academia, fragmentation has been creating a lack of transparency and ease of access to expertise, with the result that industry is unaware of pockets of specialisms which they could access, thus constraining collaboration and holding back potential investment.

Businesses overwhelmingly believe that greater collaboration lies at the heart of the future-proofed economy. Centres of excellence within universities, making clearer to business the degree of technology readiness of research developments and a greater focus on impact measures in assessing applied research, would be beneficial in incentivizing greater market focus for academics and driving a “mind to market” ethos.



# Making the case for the Midlands engine of growth

Paul Kehoe,

CEO, Birmingham Airport



The new Government is still young but David Cameron and his Cabinet are trying to hit the ground running.

It is therefore crucial that our region makes its case to the Government now, before the agenda is set in stone.

In a short few months since the general election, David Cameron has set out his stall on extremism and begun the shuttling back and forth from Europe, whilst George Osborne has delivered a hefty Summer Budget and, a few days later, produced the much anticipated productivity plan alongside Business Secretary Sajid Javid.

Dubbed "fixing the foundations," the Chancellor and Business Secretary have set out their vision for resolving the national productivity problem.

If we want to have a say over the future of Government policy, it now falls to our region to set out how we will help to achieve this boost in productivity, including delivering a modern transport system, resurgent cities, a rebalanced economy and a boost in trade and investment.

Three opportunities immediately come to mind.

Firstly, we have heard a lot about the Northern Powerhouse, including the announcement that transport for the North is to be put on statutory footing, with £30 million in new funding allocated to plan the region's transport and new oyster-style ticketing.

That is therefore a challenge to our region to take the work

“Three opportunities immediately come to mind”

completed so far on the West Midlands Combined Authority and to run with it.

And that is where the HS2 Growth Strategy comes in.

When HS2 phase 1 is complete, Birmingham Airport will be the most accessible airport in the UK, and well-placed to boost our region's growth, relieve pressure on the congested South East and continue to help overcome the country's current shortfall in long-haul connectivity.

To maximise that opportunity, our region needs to work together and with the Government to ensure we have the infrastructure, skills and jobs to deliver high value opportunities.

Secondly, we need a national transport policy which seeks to connect every region to global trade opportunities.

The Government has set a target of doubling exports to £1 trillion by 2020, including establishing new links with China, India and Brazil. Heathrow cannot support that alone.

The Airports Commission has said that South East long-haul capacity constraints, mainly at Heathrow, are costing the economy £30-45 billion, but has not proposed any solutions to resolve this over the 15 years or more it will take to build a new runway.

Our growth in long haul, 20 per cent up this June over June 2014, shows that we are part of the answer.

This summer, Birmingham Airport has played host to a historic series of 34 direct flights to Beijing, and we believe we can do even more if, for example, the Treasury reforms Air Passenger Duty to encourage more airlines to make best use of existing UK capacity.

Finally, we are still awaiting the final outcome of the Airports Commission process. Sir Howard Davies has submitted his report, and it is up to the Government to decide on how to move forward.

We continue to argue for a strategic network of long-haul airports throughout the UK, each supporting the comparative economic advantage of that region, not all our eggs in one basket.

The Midlands is a powerful engine of growth at the heart of our country and needs direct aviation to succeed, so we urge the Government to move ahead with caution so as not to damage the ability of airports outside the South East to grow.

# Why parliamentarians should know about veganism

Victoria Eisermann,

co-founder of Vegan Angels



Firstly, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Victoria Eisermann and I have been vegan for 11 years and recently co-founded Vegan Angels, which is a source of information for vegans.

Interestingly, if you google "what parliamentarians need to know about veganism", a link to "K9 Angels" will appear in the first few results of the search. I am not sure why it should, in all honesty, but I am the co-founder of K9 Angels, which is a dog rescue charity (my other co-founder is Pola Pospieszalska, a fellow vegan).

Now, if you google "what are parliamentarians doing about veganism?", three names will invariably come to the fore: Kerry McCarthy, Chris Williamson and Cathy Jamieson, all of whom are either MPs or who were once MPs, and all of whom are vegan. 'So what?', I hear you say, 'I remember the vegan and gluten free snacks - good on them for promoting it, but it is not for me.'

If you were in office after the 2010 general election, you will remember "Meat Free Monday".

People, more often than not, are vegetarian or vegan by choice, be it on ethical grounds (animal welfare or environment factors), or for personal health reasons. Like most things in life, it is a choice.

However, should not the masses of vegetarians and vegans hold equal sway on the political agenda, as other minorities do? Will we ever see policy put in place to recognise and promote the benefits of veganism as a positive alternative?

As a democracy, it is for each member of society to determine what is right and wrong for them, within the confines of what the law dictates and their individual moral conscience or personal

“Consider the millions of pounds which could be saved by the NHS each year”

choice.

However, morality, and its influence for laying out boundaries for what is right and wrong, is crucial to law-making and policy, so the key lies in the moral debate; for example, slavery and child labour.

There is surely sense in debating and passing laws which make vegan food more widely available, or labelling on meat which states that too much consumption can be harmful to your health, just like with cigarettes. And if we contemplate a sugar tax, then why not introduce a tax on meat, due to its carbon footprint and its indirect impact on the environment, for example?

Regardless of the political spectrum and divide, I believe politicians have a duty to recognise and legislate for the promotion of vegetarianism and/or veganism as mainstream lifestyle choices that are, ultimately, good for the public's health.

Like it or not, vegetarianism and veganism is a growing trend in society and should be fairly represented at Westminster.

Below is a book which I would implore you to read; it is by Adam D. Shprintzen and is called "The Vegetarian Crusade". The book focusses on "The Rise of an American Reform Movement, 1817-1921".

The book is a must-read for Parliamentarians and vegans, alike, as it is a great account of the nineteenth-century origins of the vegetarian social movement whose aims and objectives were to improve American morality and health.

Although the book finishes in 1921 (when the Vegetarian Society disbanded), the movement's descendants today are passionate vegetarians and vegans, who form an integral part of the campaign in America to improve food systems, the health of people and the wellbeing of the planet.

Finally, imagine for one moment if your diet was in your criteria for health insurance; why would a poor diet not be the same as smoking? And consider the millions of pounds which could be saved by the NHS each year, together with the drastic reductions in child obesity, type 2 diabetes and other related illnesses, through the promotion and adoption of veganism.

Veganism is not for everyone but it surely has a right to be heard at Westminster, and for the elected leaders of our country to recognise what it stands for and to promote it to the public as an alternative.

For information on Vegan Angels, please visit: [www.vegan-angels.org](http://www.vegan-angels.org)

And for information on K9-Angels, please visit: [www.k-9angels.org](http://www.k-9angels.org)



# Tories celebrating, Labour in chaos, LibDems in a telephone box... and the SNP in full throttle

Going from Manchester to Birmingham last year felt like leaving a chaotic primary school classroom, where the teacher had lost control, to arriving at a well-ordered masterclass for grown-ups. That's when I should have realised Labour was about to lose the General Election.

I had certainly spotted all the warning signs of calamity at their Manchester party conference - speeches from shadow Cabinet ministers lacking either depth or confidence; a speech from Ed Miliband lacking any mention of the deficit; and Labour delegates lacking in enthusiasm. Yes, I spotted them. I just didn't register their importance.

But when I arrived in Birmingham for the Tory conference, I witnessed a disciplined party in control of itself - well-crafted and sure-footed speeches from Cabinet ministers who looked like Cabinet ministers should. Even Home Secretary Theresa May, so shy in private, had her audience eating out of her hand with a magnificent stage performance showing no obvious sign of nerves.

If she can keep that up for the next five years, then she will certainly give Chancellor George Osborne and London Mayor Boris Johnson a run for the Tory leadership.

The whole event may have been some Lynton Crosby trick of style over substance, but one sure as hell felt in the presence of a government which knew what it was doing. Crosby and I arrived at Birmingham New Street railway station together and then I never saw him again for the rest of the week - a dark, mysterious ever-presence who stuck to the shadows.

It will be interesting to see how the Tories fare without him this year.

But, at the time, I reasoned (irrationally, as it turns out) that party conferences are events specially put on for political



geeks like me and, prime time television notwithstanding, are of little interest to the general public - aka voters.

So perhaps no one had really noticed Labour was a shambles. I think I need to rethink my view of the political world. If even I suspected that the Labour Party was not up to the business of governing, then why should I imagine the electorate didn't?

That preceded what has become known in Labour circles as "The November wobble".

There was a feeling after last October's conference that Ed Miliband had to go and the plot turned into action in the November. "You'll have to go, Ed", a Labour grandee told the Labour leader. "Shan't", said Ed. "You'll have to make me." Or something along those lines, anyway. And as the plotters had neglected to have a suitable alternative candidate on standby, the conspiracy withered and died.

Of course, that is all with the benefit of hindsight. Professional politicians believed the duff polls as much as the rest of us, and the consensus - even between David Cameron and George Osborne - was that one way or another, Ed Miliband would be prime minister.

This year, the 11,000 Labour delegates will be addressed by a new leader, inaugurated at a special conference on September 12. But I doubt the mood in Brighton will be much more upbeat than it was in Manchester 12 months ago.

The big question will be whether there should be a new leader at all before the party had the chance to debate why it lost the election and the direction it needs to go in to win the next one. Liz Kendall told me the leadership election was that debate, but I'm not sure Labour's rank-and-file would agree.

And, by contrast, the Tory conference in Manchester will be full of the sickening triumphalism they always display after election victory. As for the Liberal Democrats, new leader Tim Farron might as well hold theirs in a telephone box.

The new third player in the conference game is, of course, the SNP, who will meet in Aberdeen. And they'll be triumphalist, too. Their website boasts: "It's been an amazing few months, with our membership increasing by over 300 per cent since the referendum, and a record number of SNP MP's returned at the General Election.

"With the SNP now installed as the third largest party at Westminster we're expecting a much larger conference attendance, and many new faces." Mine, for a start. I've never needed to go to a Scot Nat conference before. And at Westminster, their unconventional ways continue to delight.

SNP MPs now colonise Parliament's Sports and Social Club as their favoured watering hole - or the Sports & Socialist Club, as Tories prefer to call it.

Now they have asked Black Rod, Lt Gen David Leakey, who's in charge of the place, if they can hold traditional folk evenings there, complete with guitars, flutes, whistles and violins.

But Black Rod was somewhat taken aback by what they want to call the events. The SNP suggestion is: "MPs on the fiddle".

# COMMISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

THE AIRPORTS COMMISSION RECOMMENDED HEATHROW FOR EXPANSION. BUT OVER A MONTH AFTER ITS PUBLICATION, THEIR REPORT IS UNRAVELLING FAST.

- BA called Heathrow "a vanity project" and said it won't contribute to the £18.6 billion price tag.
- TfL highlighted that a third runway will reduce domestic flights to 4 routes from 7 routes today.
- A condition of its expansion is "acceptable" air quality, but the air around Heathrow already breaches EU limits.
- Heathrow seem unwilling to accept the measures proposed by the Report around limiting noise and pollution, as well as the conditions ruling out a future fourth runway.

MEANWHILE, GATWICK'S EXPANSION REMAINS THE BEST OPTION FOR THE UK.

- Expanding Gatwick would cost half as much as expanding Heathrow, and would also require no public funding.
- A second runway would connect Britain to as many international destinations as Heathrow. Gatwick also projects it will connect with 15 UK airports, compared to 11 today.
- Gatwick will stay well within EU air quality limits, even after expansion.
- A second runway at Gatwick would result in far fewer people being affected by noise than at Heathrow.

Britain needs a solution to the air capacity crisis.

Let's go for one we can deliver.



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