

# Reform UK

## National Policy Pledges

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### Introduction:

- ❖ This document has been produced using independently verified data.
- ❖ It is designed to provide a guide and framework for discussion.
- ❖ It is subject to change.
- ❖ It will be updated on a monthly basis or more frequently as needed.
- ❖ Further enquiries should be directed to Phil Steed ([chair.fareandwater@reformuk.com](mailto:chair.fareandwater@reformuk.com)).

Thank you - Phil Steed



### PERSONAL TAXATION

- ❖ Increase the tax-free personal allowance to £20k per annum (currently £12,750).
- ❖ Increase the threshold for higher rate taxation to £70k.
- ❖ Inheritance tax liability will be removed for estates under £2.5m.
  - There will be an option for IHT liability to be paid to a charity.
- ❖ Non-domiciled taxation - a Britannia Card will be introduced whereby qualifying individuals can pay £250k in exchange for a 10 year exemption from UK tax on overseas income, assets and inheritance.
  - Revenue derived from this scheme will pass to the 2.5m lowest paid British workers (Britannia Workers' Dividend).

### BUSINESS TAXATION

- ❖ Increase the VAT registration threshold to £150k (from £90k).
- ❖ SMEs with profits of under £100k will be exempt from Corporation Tax.
- ❖ Corporation Tax rates to be reduced to 20% then 15% in year three (estimated to remove 1.2m business from Corporation Tax).
- ❖ No Business Rates for high street based SMEs.
  - Funded by a 4% Online Delivery Tax to be paid by multinationals operating in this space.

### FISHING

- ❖ Secure a 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone giving UK control over fish stocks within that zone.
- ❖ Prohibit large foreign fishing vessels from operating in UK waters.
- ❖ Provide tax incentives and training to grow the UK's fishing fleet.
- ❖ Rebalance fishing quotas to benefit UK fishermen, moving away from the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).
- ❖ Make it obligatory for fish caught in UK waters to be landed and processed in the UK to benefit the economy.
- ❖ Introduce fees for licenses for foreign vessels accessing UK waters, with funds reinvested in the industry.
- ❖ Pursue a policy of sustainable stock management to ensure that certain species of fish are not overfished.
  - Support catch and release for species like bluefin tuna.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE / HEALTHCARE

- ❖ There will be a commitment to keeping the NHS free at the point of use.
- ❖ All operating theatres will be open at weekends to help clear the current backlog.
- ❖ A Public enquiry will be launched into excess deaths and vaccine harms.
- ❖ The NHS Race and Health Observatory will be abolished.
- ❖ If the NHS fails to meet prescribed timeframes for patient treatment, patients will be given a Private Treatment Voucher enabling free treatment at a private facility.
- ❖ Individuals who fund private healthcare plans will benefit from basic rate income tax relief on their insurance premiums.
- ❖ The NHS will receive an additional £17bn of extra funding per year, alongside reform of the service.
- ❖ All frontline NHS and social care staff will be exempt from basic rate income tax for three years.
- ❖ Student loans held by doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals will be written off over ten years.
- ❖ A Royal Commission into social care will be created, aimed at increasing flexibility, tax incentives, VAT tax breaks. There will also be a focus on reducing waste.
- ❖ Patients who miss appointments without prior notice will be charged a fee.
- ❖ Overhaul Personal Independence Payments (PIP) by cutting benefits for those with 'non serious' anxiety and assigning them to fast track back to work programmes.
  - Face to face assessments of individuals to be compulsory.
  - Existing claimants to be reassessed.
  - Conditions like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and PTSD would generally be exempt.
  - Part of a broader programme to reduce unemployment and raise self esteem.
  - Estimated savings of £9 billion by 2029.
- ❖ SEND - special working group created headed up by Dame Andrea Jenkyns and comprising independent subject matter experts.
  - Tasked with undertaking a complete review including assessment processes and criteria, underlying causes, educational needs, local provision of education as opposed to the use of privately owned enterprises, optimisation of funding and spending by local authorities.

## PROTECTING OUR BORDERS / CONTROL OF MIGRATION

- ❖ All illegal immigrants will be deported with zero chance of them being granted leave to stay in the UK.
- ❖ A Department of Immigration will be created, headed up by a Minister responsible for deportations.
- ❖ Individuals will be repatriated back to their country of origin (through funded arrangements made with those countries or the imposition of penalties on those countries refusing to cooperate).
  - Where necessary, individuals will be detained overseas.
- ❖ We will leave the ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights).
- ❖ All UK legislation that prevents implementation of this plan will be repealed and a new Bill of Rights introduced.
- ❖ UK courts and the UK's Supreme Court will not be subject to third party intervention through appeals.
- ❖ Local Councils under Reform UK control will actively oppose asylum housing contracts created by the Home Office.
- ❖ A policy of 'Net zero migration' or 'one in, one out' will be pursued, with a focus on addressing genuine skills shortages - controlled through the issuing of work permits.
- ❖ Tighter immigration and residency rules. Student visa holders will be unable to bring dependants to the UK (apart from those individuals currently engaged in an asylum claim).
- ❖ Employer National Insurance contributions relating to foreign workers will rise to 20%.
- ❖ There will be an obligation to demonstrate five years' residency and employment before being given access to UK benefits.
- ❖ Prioritising UK Citizens (Note 1):
  - Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) will be abolished.
  - A five year renewable work visa will be introduced which will have stronger qualifying criteria including a higher minimum salary requirement, exclusion of those with criminal records, English language standards test.
  - EU citizens who already benefit from Settled Status will not be affected, those with non-settled status will be subject to revised rules/requirements.
- ❖ Legislation will be introduced to exclude foreign nationals from welfare benefits
- ❖ British Citizenship - qualification period will be raised to seven years.
- ❖ Creation of an Acute Skills Shortage Visa (ASSV) to address key shortages.
  - Employees will need to fund, via a levy, the parallel training of British workers to address future needs.

## NET ZERO

- ❖ Net zero commitments will be scrapped saving an estimated £30bn per annum.
- ❖ The Climate Change Act 2008 will be revoked.
- ❖ Existing subsidies on renewables will be cut and a windfall tax on wind and solar will be introduced, saving an estimated £10+bn per annum.
- ❖ Investment in North Sea gas and oil including the fast-track granting of licences and the granting of two year licences to test sites for shale gas extraction.
- ❖ New taxes on renewable energy producers with the objective of recovering subsidies paid previously to wind and solar companies.
- ❖ Requirement for energy cables to be installed underground rather than overhead on pylons.
- ❖ Water industry: 50% to be passed into public ownership with the other 50% funded by private investment.
- ❖ Part nationalisation of other utilities with 50% under public ownership and 50% under UK pension fund ownership.

## LAW AND ORDER / PRISONS

- ❖ Serious offenders to be sent overseas to complete their sentences (estimated to free-up 10,000 prison places and save £1.25bn per annum in costs).
- ❖ 5 new low security 'Nightingale' prisons to be created on MOD land at a cost of £5bn, creating 12,400 new spaces.
- ❖ Recruitment of 40,000 additional police officers over five years at an estimated annual cost of £2.1bn.
- ❖ Introduction of zero tolerance policing with all shoplifters prosecuted.
- ❖ Restoration of genuine stop and search powers to reduce knife crime.
- ❖ Return to neighborhood policing, linked to better use of technology and reduced paperwork.
- ❖ Scrapping of all diversity, equality and inclusion roles and associated regulations.
- ❖ Overhaul of the Independent Office for Police Conduct to raise public confidence and trust.
- ❖ Tougher and broader sentencing measures to create deterrence.
- ❖ Hate Crime definitions to be reformed to remove abuse and over-reach.

## GOVERNMENT SPENDING / CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

- ❖ A commitment to save 5% of total public sector spending with zero impact on frontline services (estimated saving circa £60bn per annum).
- ❖ Installation of auditors in local councils to review spending decisions, increase efficiency and cut waste.
- ❖ A ban on council employees working from home.
- ❖ Cut diversity, equality and inclusion (DEI) costs and remove DEI related obligations.
- ❖ Abolish the requirement for the Bank of England to pay interest to commercial banks on QE reserves. The interest cost is currently funded by the Treasury (estimated savings £30-35bn per annum).
- ❖ Reduce the size of the Civil Service by 68,500 (13% of current headcount) saving a projected £5.2 billion per annum
  - Focus on removing middle managers rather than frontline staff.
  - End the current work from home culture, focus on productivity and better use of automation.
  - Focus on merit awards for performance, increase the awards pot to £500 million.
  - Revert to merit based recruitment and remuneration, reform the existing over-generous pension arrangements.

## FARMING

- ❖ Farming budget to increase to £3bn per annum to help support smaller farms.
- ❖ Organisations funded by the taxpayer must source 75% of their food from the UK.
- ❖ Address supermarket price-fixing by directing the maintaining authority to ensure fairer pricing for farmers.
- ❖ Remove business rates for farm shops.

## DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

- ❖ Raise defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by year three and 3% by year six.
- ❖ Recruit 30,000 personnel to the British Army to restore number to 100,000.
  - Boost pay and benefits to aid retention.
- ❖ Create a Joint Acquisition Corps to overhaul defence procurement.
- ❖ Ban extremist groups and proscribe more organisations with links to terrorism.

## VETERANS

- ❖ Create a new dedicated ministerial department for veterans to include free education, for military personnel before and after service to support them in civilian life.
- ❖ Introduce an Armed Forces Justice Bill to protect service personnel on active duty from civil law and human rights lawyers; to include the creation of an armed forces watchdog.
- ❖ Pardon service personnel who have been convicted of offences during the Troubles in Northern Ireland whilst on active duty and when following orders given.
- ❖ Legislate for a statutory bar to end current and prohibit future proceedings against British veterans for historical conduct.
- ❖ Ensure that decisions taken cannot be contested by European courts (Court of Justice).

## HOMEOWNER & DEVELOPER SUPPORT

- ❖ Removal of Stamp Duty on homes under £750k plus reduced levels above £750k.
- ❖ Simplified planning policy for building on brownfield sites.
- ❖ Incentives where builders utilise tools and technology that speed-up the building process and reduce waste.
- ❖ Overhaul the private renting regulations to better balance tenant protection and the landlord tax burden.

## TRANSPORT

- ❖ Reform UK will scrap HS2, saving £25bn.
- ❖ A pledge to accelerate infrastructure construction with a focus on Wales, North Midlands and coastal regions.

## FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- ❖ Scrap the two child cap for British nationals where both adults are working (estimated cost of £300 million per annum compared to the removal of the cap for everyone which has an estimated annual cost of over £3 billion).
- ❖ Raise the tax free transfer allowance between spouses to £25,000.
- ❖ Fully reinstate the Winter fuel payments.
- ❖ Introduce a 'two strike rule' - anyone on unemployment benefits who is capable of work must find a job within four months or accept one of two reasonable job offers. Failure to do so will result in penalties / sanctions.

## HUMAN RIGHTS & FREE SPEECH

- ❖ Create a new Bill of Rights immediately following our exit from the ECHR.
- ❖ Repeal the 2010 Equality Act.
- ❖ Protect free speech and focus on policing the streets not the tweets.
- ❖ Repeal legislation that conflicts with the above and introduce a new Bill to protect these principles.
- ❖ Repeal the Online Safety Act.

## **FOREIGN POLICY / FOREIGN AID**

- ❖ Significantly reduce the Foreign Aid budget to generate savings of over £10 billion per annum. Ring fence existing aid levels to Ukraine but remove funding to the UN and World Bank.
- ❖ Leave the World Health Organisation (WHO) unless there is major reform.
- ❖ Reject the influence of the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ Leave the ECHR.
- ❖ Reject any move towards rejoining the EU.
- ❖ Actively pursue independent bilateral / multilateral deals that can demonstrate tangible Brexit benefits.

## **TEACHING / SCHOOLS / STUDENTS**

- ❖ Teach history in a patriotic way and with balance, referencing challenging periods experienced in other parts of the World against those experienced here.
- ❖ Remove the teaching of transgender and other gender related issues from schools; exclude the use of pronouns.
- ❖ Scrap VAT on independent school fees and offer 20% basic rate tax relief on fees.
- ❖ Violent and disruptive pupils to be permanently excluded.
- ❖ Scrap interest on student loans and provide an extended repayment time frame.
- ❖ Cut funding to universities that undermine free speech.
- ❖ Limit the number of undergraduate placements and enforce minimum entry requirements.
- ❖ Place a requirement on all universities to offer two year undergraduate courses.

## **EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

- ❖ Oppose closer ties that imply a return to compliance with EU regulations and a reduction in sovereignty.
- ❖ Axe all 6,700 EU laws that are still on British statute books.
- ❖ Abandon the Windsor Framework which allows Northern Ireland to remain part of the EU's single market.

## **GOVERNMENT REFORM (CORE DRIVERS)**

- ❖ Create a Ministry of Talents where subject matter experts from outside Parliament are appointed as ministers (currently ministerial posts are restricted to MPs).
- ❖ Replace senior civil servants with political appointees with business experience.
- ❖ Replace the House of Lords with a smaller elected second chamber and end immediately the ability to select political appointees.
- ❖ Stop postal voting except for the elderly, disabled or those who are housebound in an effort to tackle the risk of voter fraud.
- ❖ Hold a Referendum on Proportional Representation (PR) as the means of electing the House of Commons.

## **FINANCIAL REFORM**

- ❖ Make London a leading centre for digital assets and cryptocurrency, creating thousands of new job opportunities.
- ❖ There will be no support Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) which would impact privacy.
- ❖ There will be no support for a cashless society.