

A vibrant blue sky filled with numerous hot air balloons of various colors and patterns, including yellow, red, black, and green. The balloons are scattered across the frame, creating a sense of height and freedom.

FREE STATES

LIBERTARIAN PARTY UK MANIFESTO



**LIBERTARIAN
PARTY**

FOREWORD

The Libertarian Party believes that we are at a cross roads in British Politics in which the next few years will decide the direction of travel for the foreseeable future. The parties who make up the Westminster cabal have shown that they believe that the people are there to serve them, not the other way round.

We are entering a period in which the two main parties are descending to their extremes which for the Conservative Party is in-fighting, and chaos, and an abandonment of the free market. For Labour it is a push to take private property by force, for example, to nationalise healthy companies in an ideological shake-down as well as to add an ever increasing burden of taxation on middle earners and future generations, yet at the same time stoking class divisions to ensure

there is always someone else to blame.

Luckily we are also seeing a great deal of awareness in the general public who are starting to see how rigged the system is and are looking for an alternative. We are that alternative. We are the party that puts the rights of the individuals ahead of the rights of unions or donors. We are the party that will remove barriers to trade allowing the economy to stand on its own feet unencumbered by unnecessary regulations. We are the party that wants to remove political interference from your everyday life, freeing important services like Health Care and Education from political point scoring and putting them in the hands of the service providers or users: the people who know what is most needed. We are the party that

wants to ensure that this country has a Constitution that protects the individual and treats all parts of the country in an even manner.

In this Manifesto we will set out our policies for a future confederation of free states where power is devolved wherever possible and innovative, modern solutions are used to create the good in an efficient way (in place of that which is beloved by the other parties: the status quo).

The Manifesto of the Libertarian Party has been built on five basic principles.

- That the overall effect of all our policies together shall decrease the size and power of the state.
- That the rights of the individual are paramount and should be nurtured.
- That the individual is better

placed to understand what is in their best interest than the state.

- That those who have power must be held accountable for their actions.
- That power should be devolved so it is as close to the people who are affected by it as possible.

Alongside these principles we have also called on the experience of other countries basing our policies, wherever possible, on systems that have been tried and tested elsewhere and which the evidence shows work well.

This Manifesto provides an alternative to more of the same, a pathway away from the Westminster rule we know to somewhere more prosperous, less authoritarian and less dangerous, more protective of the citizen and

less willing to boss her around for her own good or, as is more commonly the case, to her harm.

Our respect for each individual is embodied in the procedures of our party, such as our policy creation procedure, declared in the policies in our Manifesto which fuels the lamp with which we light the way to the place where we hope you will find your political home as a member, or supporter, of the Libertarian Party UK. We are the party that will set you personally above the collective and by doing so free the country to be better than ever before.

Adam Brown
Party Leader



CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION FOR BRITAIN

“That government is best which governs least.”

- attr. Thomas Jefferson

The Libertarian Party believes:

- In having a written Constitution that holds the Individual to be above the State.
- That a limited government with both horizontal and vertical separation of powers, and vigorous checks and balances, will best preserve the Liberty of the People.
- That Great Britain should be a Confederation of Free States, and that the People determine their own polities.
- That it should be confirmed in Law that the People are Sovereign.
- That the Monarchy should be permitted only as long as it has the formal approval of the People, and should be subordinate to the Constitution.
- That all public servants should swear allegiance to upholding the Constitution, and be liable in Law for misconduct and fraud.
- That the First Past the Post voting system should be replaced with a form of Proportional Representation.

The Libertarian Party's proposed written constitution embodies the following basic concepts, namely that:

- The Constitution be federal in nature, with each participating State sovereign and with an equal voice in the compact.
- The people of each state are the ultimate sovereign body of each State.
- All individuals are possessed of inalienable natural rights to life, liberty, property, and all other rights that derive from them.
- The political entity this Constitution creates be called the Confederation of the Free States of Britain.
- The purpose of the Constitution is to restrain and limit the general government as well as to define its delegated powers.
- There is a separation of powers horizontally between the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches, and vertically between the general government and the States.
- The Constitution is a legal document with fixed meaning, not a living or flexible document open to interpretation.
- All officers shall be bound by an oath to the Constitution, and that breach of that oath be considered a serious matter.
- The Confederation will aid in preservation from external attack and from conflict between the States.

- The general government be funded equally by the States.
- The general government shall consist of a bicameral legislature, a Constitutional Court, and an Executive.
- The Monarchy continue only in a private manner, subject to the will of the people.
- The lower house of the Legislative branch consist of a chamber elected by the people of each State to be a guardian of the rights of the people, a reflection of the broad range of values and attitudes of the people, and to hold the key of the treasury of the Confederation.
- The upper house of the Legislature consist of a chamber elected by the State legislatures to be a guardian of the sovereignty of the States and the presiding body of the Confederation, especially tasked to the Confederation as a whole and to foreign matters, and of approving appointments made by the Executive.
- The Chief Executive and his deputy be elected by an electoral college so as to allow the people of each State a say, avoid demagoguery, and keep the States from being disenfranchised.
- The Chief Executive be First Ambassador, have a line-item non-blocking veto over laws, and be commander-in-chief of military forces in time of declared war.
- Officers be susceptible to impeachment; elected officials to expulsion; members of the upper house open to recall by State legislatures.
- Only the Legislative branch shall have power to declare war.
- Military power be the bailiwick of the States and not the general government.
- The general government have no power to borrow money.
- The general government have no power to erect corporations.
- Bills require passage in both houses, can be vetoed by the Executive, must be short and pertain to one subject, and have a sunset clause of not more than 10 years.
- A yearly budget bill list spending and costs for the year.
- The State court in any state is the final court of appeal in that State, and that no case can be appealed or brought to the Constitutional Court unless it is strictly a matter of a federal nature.
- A two-thirds vote of State Legislatures can veto a decision made by the Constitutional Court; and individuals and states can sue for injunctive relief against laws deemed unconstitutional.



DEFENCE POLICY

“CARDWELL 2.0”

We will make no nation our ‘natural enemy’ and will seek good diplomatic relations and trade with all countries.

The only legitimate role of the State is defence. From the time of the Saxon Kings the role of the people in mutual defence as the ‘Fyrd’ was paramount. To serve was a matter of honour and duty. A Libertarian Government would seek to re-establish the connection between the ordinary citizen and the defence of the country.

This is not a new concept, ‘Trayned Bands’, Militias and

Yeomanry have fought with distinction whenever the country has been threatened. We are not seeking to re-establish the days of National Service which survived the Second World War, but to establish a personal responsibility to defend our way of life and hard-won freedoms.

This controversial policy was overwhelmingly endorsed by the membership of the Libertarian Party in a free vote.

Firstly, a Libertarian Government would seek to avoid war, we will make no nation our ‘natural enemy’ and will seek good diplomatic relations and trade with all countries. However, any potential aggressor should be in no doubt of our willingness to defend our way of life and freedoms. There have been too many expensive wars and lives lost in foreign adventures on behalf of, or in alliance with other powers. A direct threat to British territory should be the gauge with which we decide to consider deploying the armed services.

Currently the three armed services are competing for resources leading to waste and misdirected priorities. We will establish a unified British Defence Force starting immediately with the most senior officers (who will cease to belong to a single service).

Each of the three arms are currently acting as independent forces but we will seek to integrate them. This will be part of our root and branch re-appraisal of defence which we call Cardwell 2.0 after the last major reform (1868-1874) following the debacle of the Crimea War.

A Libertarian Government will prioritise defence in conjunction with the aim of avoiding foreign entanglement except in so far as required by our mutual defence pact with the other members of NATO, which has proved to be the guarantor of peace in Europe since 1945. As party policy is firmly to leave the European Union, a Libertarian Government would not require British Servicemen be part of the ‘European Army’.

This ambition is exemplified by our most important defence policy, namely, to establish a Yeomanry.

We take as our model the Swiss Defence Force.

Switzerland has a standing army of 60,000. It can mobilise 20,000 air force reservists within 48 hours, a further 8,000 army reserves within eight days and an additional 35,000 within ten. An additional 1,040,000 former reservists (aged 22 to 34) can be recalled, more slowly, to a muster of 1.16 million men. By contrast the UK, with a population eight times larger, can only mobilise an army nine tenths smaller (115,000).

To mobilise a larger army would take months of training and shortages of equipment and basic infrastructure.

A Libertarian government will therefore make defence cost effective, and reinforce the connection between duty and freedom, by establishing a Yeomanry and a Civil Defence Corps. Participants, will be free to choose a non-combat role such as Fire Service, Paramedic, Nursing, Engineers and Coast Guard.



1 . YEOMANRY

A Libertarian government will establish a 1,056,000 strong Yeomanry and a 430,000 strong Air Yeomanry. The yeomanry will be required by law to serve only on British territory.

BENEFITS

A Yeomanry will give citizens the opportunity to become responsible through service. It would also free a larger portion of the professional armed forces to serve overseas. Professionals will continue to be volunteers.

NOTES

The Yeomanry will be capable of being mobilised within seventy-two hours. To achieve this a member of Yeomanry own personal equipment and arms would be stored in a sealed steel lockable box at their home. Following the Swiss model, ammunition would be kept in secure local locations, only to be issued in times of imminent threat.

The Yeomanry will be organised into eight corps (East Anglia, Mercia, London, Northumbria, Wessex, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland) and composed of a thousand and fifty-six battle groups (e.g., 1st Essex etc.) combining into county organised brigades.

The cost of the Yeomanry per capita would be 25% of

that of the Swiss Militia. The Yeomanry will receive thirty days of basic training followed by thirty days of reserve training over eleven years. This contrasts with the Swiss figure of 245 days over fourteen years. Britain will train its Yeomanry lightly to limit costs but judge that its effectiveness and deterrent power would not diminish pro rata.

Each citizen in the age group between 18 and 22 inclusive would be tested for fitness to join the Yeomanry in the year following their sixteenth birthday.

Both Military and Civil Defence Corps individuals will be paid. There will be a higher rate for service in the Yeomanry, recent difficulties recruiting for the Territorial Volunteer Reserve suggests this policy is right.

2. AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE PROFESSIONAL ARMY FROM 81,000 TO 94 ,000

A Libertarian Government will increase the professional regular army. In addition, we will make about 7.5% of the army support forces roles, in particular the ceremonial and legal element,

largely redundant though these personnel would be offered the chance to move to the combat element.

BENEFITS

By strengthening the Army, relative to the Navy and Air force, we would tailor our defence to the message that we are a peaceful nation though at the same time one better able to repel enemy invasion of our shores and to honour our mutual defence pact with the other members of N.A.T.O.

NOTES

A Libertarian Government will fund a 100% increase in front line deployable divisions (from one to two) plus an additional strike brigade to be added to the Rapid Reaction Force.

3. AN ADDITIONAL OFFSHORE PATROL SHIP EVERY TEN MONTHS FOR TEN YEARS

The Libertarian Party would finance a 400% increase in the number of offshore patrol vessels (from three to fifteen).

BENEFITS

This policy would increase the number of offshore patrol vessels from seven now (six in the British Isles one in the Falklands) to nineteen. The Home Fleet will take priority in Naval expenditure.

NOTES

All the offshore patrol vessels would be upgraded including by raising the calibre of the main gun (to 76 mm) and adding two vertical takeoff drones (with a tenth the footprint of a helicopter so they could be fitted onto the helipad alongside, say, a Merlin Mark 2) to provide over-the-horizon reconnaissance.

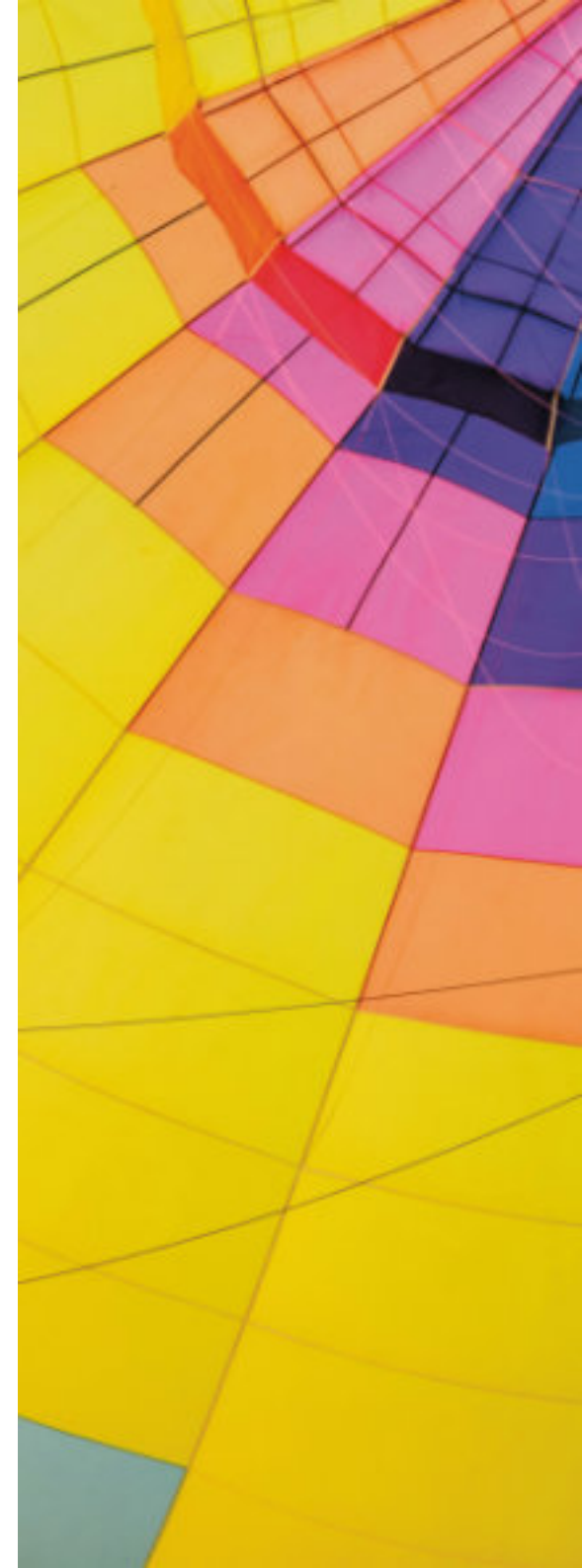
The use of weaponized drones would be a priority.

The reconnaissance drones would enable a patrol vessel in time of conflict to act as a scout, particularly for military operations, such as amphibious operations or small task forces, who would otherwise lack airborne early warning cover (and might not have access to satellite early warning cover). The scout drones could also

free the patrol ship's organic helicopter for anti-submarine operations.

A Libertarian Government will spend £400 million per annum to commission, over ten years, forty thousand £75,000 man portable miniature drones with combined combat and reconnaissance ability and provide for their maintenance. These drones to be supplied to both the Yeomanry and the Professional Army. This is modest compared with US spending of, including on operations, circa £6 billion per annum on drones.

We currently have a deficit of heavy lift helicopters, the loss of Chinooks on the Atlantic Conveyor in 1982 severely restricted operations in the Falklands Conflict, and did so again in the Iraq War.



4 . FIVE ADDITIONAL HUNTER KILLER NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

This would take the British nuclear hunter killer submarine inventory to twelve.

A Libertarian Government following advice from serving and retiring naval officers, would not commit to the construction of any further aircraft carriers. The concept of aircraft carriers 'projecting power' is a fallacy unless used against a far weaker opponent. Such blue water capital ships add little to Home Defence. They are also easy prey to cheap shore based anti-ship missiles. It has been argued that the Aircraft Carrier concept had reached the end of it's useful life by the Battle of Midway in the Second World War over seventy years ago.

5. REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE BY EIGHTY PERCENT

On a per capita basis this would probably leave the Ministry of Defence leaner than the Israeli Directorate of Purchases and Production and Defence Ministry Combined.

BENEFITS

Making 46,000 redundant would save circa £1.5 billion per annum.

NOTES

Each remaining civil servant will have a military rank and be subject to military discipline. The supply of cheap thirty and fifty calibre ammunition from third world sources that continually jammed is a scandal that should never happen again.

6 . ESTABLISH DEDICATED MILITARY HOSPITALS AND DEDICATED MILITARY PENSION

Provision will also be made for beds for overnight visiting family or friends. Staff will be employed to focus on providing support post discharge for those who fall by the wayside.

BENEFITS

By specialisation the staff will become as expert as possible in dealing with the injuries and disorders particular to military casualties.

NOTES

The Ministry of Defence, the second largest landowner in the UK, will be given a duty to draw upon its assets to assist ex-servicemen found to be living in reduced circumstances.

A Libertarian Government would introduce a dedicated Military Pension for all those who have served for ten years or more.

A Libertarian Government would confer citizenship on any foreign national serving in the British Armed Services after a ten year period discharged with good conduct standing.

7. BETTER EQUIPMENT, BOOTS AND PROTECTION

The Libertarian government would provide for a morale boosting review of the quality of uniforms and equipment, so that we are never again known as 'the borrowers' borrowing kit from other armies. a) Tactical Communications and Protective Systems (TCAPS), b) improved Hövding helmets c) protective undergarments made of woven Kevlar and improved on those tried out in 2010 d) the new US army boot or equivalent.

BENEFITS

TCAPS can shut out unexpected and painfully loud noises, such as explosions, while maintaining communications fidelity. Hövding helmets, detecting nearby explosions, will inflate to envelope the wearer's head protecting, particularly, the neck against shock waves.

NOTES

A 2009 study by the UK Ministry of Defence found that more than two-thirds of troops returning from Afghanistan suffered severe and permanent hearing damage. Of 1,250 Royal Marine Commandos surveyed, 69% had symptoms ranging from tinnitus to almost complete deafness. TCAPS is made to be fitted to different ear canal shapes. It is solar powered.



END NOTES

The Libertarian Party wove recommendations from an article by Godfrey Bloom into its Defence Policy. The primary example of this was his advocacy of a “properly equipped Territorial Army”. We have converted this concept into a policy along Swiss lines.

Edited highlights from Godfrey Bloom’s article follow.

WHAT DOES BRITAIN NEED FOR ALL ROUND DEFENCE?

A NEW STRATEGIC DOGMA

The most effective way of protecting the UK from threat from any quarter is to refrain wherever possible from provoking a war. Most wars are expensive in blood and treasure and benefit no one.

Britain has, however, to be ready for war. So how can we go about it?

THE ARMY

It must be remembered big wars are won by civilians in uniform.

Army recruitment and retention has been shambolic in recent years, abandonment of Crown Exemption, harassment of elderly veterans, limited career prospects as the forces shrink and criminal underfunding of the reserves, in

some cases just paper soldiers. The most recent disaster £130 million wasted on trying to recruit online.

PROCUREMENT

Does the army really need a top civilian spec German truck for £120k? Would not four basically equipped helicopters be more useful than one highly specced?

There is a strong role for middle management input on procurement and recruitment policy. Very senior officers can lose touch or worse become politicised.

Recruitment based on skin colour or gender is abhorrent, patronising and counter productive. Currently the MoD website promotes this policy on its website. Naval and military recruitment and promotion should be on merit and merit alone.

CONTRIBUTOR

Godfrey Bloom was a major in the Royal Corps of Transport (Territorial Army) and is a former M.E.P.



DIGITAL, CULTURE, MEDIA & SPORT

The BBC's Royal Charter will be terminated.

1. END THE BBC LICENCE FEE

In 2018-19 the government department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport spent £6.3 billion including capital spending and including £4.0 billion so-called Resource AME spending (essentially on the BBC).

Upon maturation of the BBC's Royal Charter which runs until

December 2027 the licence fees that provide its income will be terminated. To encourage the BBC to stand on its own two feet immediately its income will be reduced by a pro rata percentage of its present figure in equal annual tranches commencing in year One.

BENEFITS

Over seven years a £3.8 billion reduction in average spend of tax payer's money.

NOTES

The BBC's Royal Charter will continue to maturation but the corporation will receive no subsidy from 2028 instead being required to operate along commercial lines. The state should not dictate to the BBC how to make a profit but the BBC might consider the following:

- Fee paying access to online services like iPlayer (i.e. the Netflix model)
- Advertising or other commercialisation of the free to air channels
- Subscriber identity models such as those used by Sky for advert-free content (by subscription)
- Advert-free content by subscription.

The streams of commercial revenue that the BBC will create need not equal the current budget

in order to sustain the current people and infrastructure. Of the BBC's budget the 4th single biggest expenditure is the collection of the licence fee (over £111 million in 2012-13). With commercialisation, and the ending of the criminal law associated with the licence fee, these costs should reduce dramatically.

S4C is a Welsh language broadcaster operating as part of the BBC, this should continue.

Channel 4 will remain in public ownership for now. However a method does need to be found to remove the balance sheet risk this involves for the tax payer.

Once it is on its own two feet the BBC will be converted into a mutual company owned by appropriate users such as any subscribers, this to be done five years after the switch away from the licence fee is complete.

2. CUT STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOTTERY FUNDS BY 50%

In 2015-2016 the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (as it then was) spent £1.524 billion on grants on “good causes” via the national lottery. This is the state giving money to charity. Although the state should not, in the long run, be funding charities the public would not forgive a government that too abruptly destroyed many of them either. The funding that the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport provides to the lottery fund should be reduced by 10% of the original amount every year over a 5 year term.

BENEFITS

The spending on lottery grants would then fall to £0.762 billion by the end of the term.

3. REMOVE VAT ON BICYCLES, BICYCLE REPAIRS AND WALKING BOOTS

Other parties are offering free sweets for young people in the form of bus passes. We prefer to focus on policies that will do more to counter-act climate change. Obesity is caused by lack of activity rather than excess consumption. UK calorie intake has fallen by 20% between 1985-2015 yet obesity increased by 200%.

BENEFITS

Cheaper equipment for cycling and walking offers benefits especially to those on lower incomes, the young (with whom bicycles are more popular) and those suffering from obesity.

4. END BROADBAND DELIVERY UK

Broadband delivery UK has spent a massive amount of money on BT to roll out faster broadband services. The time has come to cut funding to this programme as it is essentially the state funding BT.

BENEFITS

A £0.8 billion per year improvement in public finances and reduction in the burden on tax payers.



NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
	1.2	Seven year phasing out of £3.3 billion revenue from the licence fee.
	0.3	Exempting bicycles, bicycle maintenance and walking boots from VAT and sales tax.
SUB-TOTAL LESS PRUDENT	1.5	
	1.4	Seven year phasing out of £4.0 billion spending on the BBC.
	0.8	Fifty percent reduction in allocations to the Lottery Fund.
	0.8	End Broadband Delivery UK.
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	3.0	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	1.5	



ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

THE STATE HAS NO MONEY OF ITS OWN

A Libertarian Party government will devolve the bulk of tax raising and spending powers.

The UK Treasury's idea of economic and fiscal policy is the minutiae of 2p on this rate of tax and 2p of that rate tax with no accountability for any of this fiddling.

A Libertarian Party government will devolve the bulk of tax raising and spending powers to the Treasuries of the Free Federal States that its constitution calls for (states such as Wessex, Mercia and Wales).

The National Treasury will seek

contributions from the free states that make up the Federal Government, for any contribution above and beyond that levied to finance policies retained at the National level which might mean only defence.

This approach might lead to local money being sought by local government for projects that would have to be agreed individually by local citizens with the finance being provided through tax payer bonds that the applicable tax payers would pay

off over the term agreed between the government and the financier. This is the system in Texas. Allocating funds in this way precludes tax feeding the treasuries wider remit to spend money on any old stuff it favours. The fundamental feature of such a way of raising taxes is that the taxes are raised by consent.

Notwithstanding the highly devolved and Federal structure that we favour there are certain policies which our party does intend to implement in any free state where it were granted power.

1. INHERITANCE TAX TO BE SCRAPPED

An individual should be free to bequeath at will without fearing that what they will actually bequeath after tax is a debt, or without fear that forty per cent of the product of their life work, before legal fees, is going to be spent on some government white elephant.

BENEFITS

Repeal of all inheritance tax will increase upward social mobility primarily through marriage but also, in a world of increasingly small families, by bequests to third parties. In so far as inheritance tax does result in more concentrated wealth in private hands a world in which a million wealthy individuals inherit

although not an egalitarian paradigm will be wonderfully diverse as compared with a world in which most of it goes to the government. The best thing about a million wealthy individuals is that each one of them will have a different take on how to use their inherited resources. That these resources might be substantial does not under mine the fact that in such a world a glorious firmament of cultural and entrepreneurial endeavour will be financed instead of being frittered away by a government that really does not care what happens to any given one pound or even any one million pounds because its focus is inherently on bigger numbers which actually it does not really care about either because the money does not belong to it.

2. TAX POWER TO BE DEVOLVED BY DEFAULT

A Libertarian government will, by default, devolve taxation powers to lower levels of government.

BENEFITS

This will create competition among regions to deliver an attractive tax regime to the people and investors who might choose to live in any given region. It will also deliver the benefit of allowing more decisions to be taken in a manner reflecting the wishes of those who live in a place.

3. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO BE CLOSED BY DEFAULT

A Libertarian government will put before every department the question is this best done by the government and in addition when legislation is created, or regulations are, for every Act passed through parliament or the free state legislature two previous Acts will be scrapped and for every word of regulation written two words of former regulations will be deleted.



4. CORPORATION TAX TO BE SCRAPPED

Corporations are composed of people and when they are taxed in themselves the people get taxed twice once on the profit before it is paid out and once again when it is paid out and classified as income. This is unjust.

NOTES

Government taxes profit, labour, sales, and dividends. The current system might be called a quadruple tax system. Our policy will also attract foreign investment to the UK.

BENEFITS

Ending corporation tax will encourage rational business decision making in particular in investment which will no longer be falsely spurred by any tax avoidance motive. Double taxation is unwise since it creates a disincentive among corporations to make profit (because profit means being doubly taxed). This is close to barmy. Abolishing corporation tax will help to shift the burden of taxation away from wealth creation and toward wealth consumption this, ultimately, will encourage productive investment.

5. VALUE ADDED TAX TO BE REPLACED

A Libertarian government will replace VAT with sales tax. Sales taxes are simpler than VAT. To keep them that way we would end all exemptions (as is the case for VAT in both Japan and New Zealand) from such a tax. The rate

NOTES

VAT exemption is an ineffective way of targeting benefit to the poor. Direct cash transfers would work better than low or zero rates of VAT so this policy is also desirable from a progressive tax regime point of view.

Government Revenue from VAT in 2018 was £125 billion. In the case all VAT exemptions and concessions were removed this revenue would rise to circa £213.5 billion. With 39.6% of potential VAT revenue exempted abolition of exemptions would, on a steady state for revenue, permit a reduction in the tax rate from 20.0% to 12.9%. Because sales tax is simpler in such a way as to allow it to be folded into HMRC's

of Sales tax would, however, be set locally.

BENEFITS

Setting the sales tax rate locally would introduce tax competition between regions. It would also allow regions whose citizens favoured higher tax to have it and those that favoured lower tax to have it too.

administration of corporation tax and income instead of being administered by specialised officers we expect that there would be a saving of 4,000 officers (50% of the 8,000 we estimate administer VAT now) with a balance of 4,000 remaining to administer the sales tax. This would save circa £0.5 billion per annum. The vast bulk of the saving would, naturally, be not in reduced government expenditure but in more productive business no longer weighed down by the increasing burden of the ever more complex VAT system. VAT systems tax more heavily businesses that are adding value not those that are on the edge of failure or which are failing since, all other things being equal, those businesses will pay

less VAT than ones that are more profitable. But sales tax, though simpler, is a blunter instrument and so all other things being equal a given rate will produce more revenue by falling in some cases in larger amounts on businesses that are just breaking even. It is hard to estimate by how much but for the sake of analysis we will say that government revenue for any given sales tax rate would be 5% higher than for any given VAT rate. On

this assumption a sales tax rate of 12.9% with no exemptions would yield £10.3 billion more tax revenue than the current system would if exemptions were abolished. This figure is captured in the budget below. Given that the sales tax rate will be set locally the budgetary impact statement below takes as its figure for the purposes of analysis a sales tax rate of 12.9%.



EDUCATION FREEDOM TO PURSUE

A Libertarian government will leave students the freedom to pursue alternative educational avenues.

The Libertarian education system will fulfil the following three simple objectives:

- Give parents authority over their children's educational choices.
- Break-up the de facto state education monopoly.
- Grant increased autonomy to education providers, whilst imposing only a limited collection of mandatory 'core'

subjects (English, Mathematics and Science) up to sixteen.

A Libertarian government will give students the freedom to pursue other educational avenues such as apprenticeships at sixteen years of age and thereafter. We will also diminish or abolish centralised targets for schools instead allowing schools to set their own goals.

Education spending, at about 4.3% of gross domestic product or £90 billion (2017-18), was the fourth largest element of public spending behind pensions, welfare and health. Clearly education is expensive. Whilst the Libertarian Party advocates low taxes our aim is an excellent education system. Cost-saving is not a direct aim of our policies, instead it a useful by-product.

EARLY YEARS

Spending on the early years area of education has risen over the last 30 years, from about £100 million in the early 1990s to about £5.8 billion in 2017-18. Much of this (£3.5 billion in 2017-18) finances free entitlement to part-time early years education and childcare. These increases have mainly reflected more hours of childcare being provided most recently, for

the majority of working parents, thirty hours (2017-18). Demand has grown to meet the increasing level of free entitlement.

The problem with the system is that it incorrectly presumes the choices people will make (not everyone has children or necessarily wants their child looked after by someone else). Everyone is compelled to fund this free entitlement through taxation.

Many working parents question the need for fifteen hours of child care for non-working parents who may not need childcare at all. The policy is arbitrary and clumsy.

As the Nuffield 2018 Annual Report on Education Spending in England states, "there are two main related challenges for early years funding over the next few years. First, successful implementation of the new 30

Working parents question the need for fifteen hours of child care for non-working parents.

hours extended entitlement will require providers to be willing to offer it, given the funding available. To date, many have, but there is significant geographical variation in take-up rates.”

There are many reasons why the government is facing “variation in take-up”. In any case, even with government funding – the strict regulation (also imposed by the government) to do with ratios of providers to children and the inspection regime discourages providers from offering places – especially to younger children. Arguably what the government contributes does not fully cover the hourly cost of a nursery place

either, so even with all this spending – it isn’t enough. Parents are therefore forced to top up the cost of places themselves or else risk struggling to find any childcare at all. The use of ‘tax-free’ childcare accounts through HMRC is not without technical and administrative problems. This nicely demonstrates how government intervention and ‘assistance’ is actually harmful in reducing parental choices and increasing costs for all.

The Nuffield Report continues “Second, it is not clear how and whether the new Early Years National Funding Formula can be

used to promote high-quality provision. Whilst the new funding system is welcome in ensuring transparency and consistency in funding allocations, it is currently difficult for the funding formula to incentivise and support high-quality provision as there is no agreed definition of ‘high-quality’ provision. A focus on minimising costs could have unintended consequences by making it more difficult for childcare settings to provide high-quality care that supports children’s development.” Whilst opinions on ‘high quality’ may differ, regulations do not – and with strict ratios of carers to children imposed on providers, it is hardly surprising many places are finding it tough to provide care at all. It is also worth noting that the ubiquitous term ‘high-quality’ is inherently subjective when dealing with care, versus education. One parent’s idea of high quality care (stimulating educational visits, games, constant interaction) may work well for one child, but could be potentially disastrous for another who may find the whole experience of nursery overwhelming.

SCHOOLS

Funding is distributed to local authorities who decide how to allocate it to schools in their areas according to local formulae. The implementation of a full school-level national funding formula has been put off until at least 2021, which is unsurprising as in the pursuit of fairness this will produce a blunt straight jacket of over-complexity just as it has for the ‘early years’.

When school rolls increase, schools attract additional per pupil funding. This results in many state schools being crammed with students so as to attain funding in a desperate attempt to balance the books without thought. With increasing class sizes, decreasing teacher numbers and difficulty in satisfying “Special Education Needs” pupils – state schools (particularly secondary state schools) arguably attract as many problems as they solve for a significant number of students who are expelled, distressed or merely drift to the back of the class where they learn little. Whilst the state school system works for some, it clearly doesn’t

work for everyone. Educational establishments in the independent sector and home education – thankfully – bridge some of the gap between the education society desires and what is attained. All the while, state spending on education is still increasing.

There is also the controversial ‘pupil premium’ where government directs funds to schools with pupils with particular needs. Despite these measures, the Education Select Committee has recently launched an inquiry into the funding of schools and colleges. Clearly, even with the best intentions, costs continually rise and the system isn’t working for everyone.

Whilst political parties and governments are making a political football out of education, significant change at rapid pace has occurred under driving governments and comes with its own costs. The numbers of students in secondary school is currently rising, yet the number of teachers is not keeping up. Whilst salary increases have recently come in effect to mitigate teacher

losses, it has been argued these are ‘misplaced and over-generous’ – according to the Taxpayers’ Alliance – in light of the perks afforded to public sector workers over the private sector. With the many conflicting headlines, opinions and the natural divergence in children’s educational needs, teachers’ altering working conditions and disputes over parental prerogative – we have ended up with a sector run on emotion not logic. It is not surprising we now have an education system with increasing costs but mixed results.

The Libertarian Party believes the main problem with education is its inflexibility. Prescriptive elements which purport to fit individuals into one mould do not work with a population as diverse as ours.

FURTHER EDUCATION

By 16, young people can continue in full-time education at a school sixth form, sixth-form college or further education college. Of those continuing in full-time education, most will take A levels. However, there is a vast range of

We now have an education system with increasing costs but mixed results.

other vocational qualifications on offer, particularly at further education colleges. Young people can combine part-time work and education or training, including in an apprenticeship. Historically, many young people have also opted to move straight into paid employment, though this has become less common over time. Nonetheless, these alternatives are ones a Libertarian government would keep open.

The further education sector also provides education and training for adults, which has historically been the main focus of the sector. There are a broad range of education and training options available for adults, including formal education qualifications in classroom-based settings (usually

taken part-time), apprenticeships and shorter training courses, as well as basic courses in English and Maths. This we would not mess with.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Under the current higher education (HE) funding system in England, it costs around £17 billion to fund the education of each cohort of undergraduate students. This includes the cost of teaching for three or more years and funding towards the cost of living while at university for more than 350,000 students.

Initially, this cost is funded entirely from government finances. In the long run, however, graduates make repayments on their student loans

and the cost is split between taxpayers and students (although in practice most students never fully repay their loan).

Few students have to pay tuition fees up front. Most students can take out government-backed loans to cover the full cost of tuition fees and contribute towards the cost of living (to do so, they must be UK domiciled and taking their first undergraduate degree). These loans are repaid on an income-contingent basis; graduates repay a proportion of their income over a certain threshold and any outstanding loan is written off at the end of the repayment period. This system ensures that high-earning graduates contribute towards the cost of their degrees

and there is insurance for graduates who have periods of low earnings. This has not always been the case. In the 1990s, provision was funded through direct teaching grants paid to universities by government while graduates did not contribute toward the cost of higher degrees. Sequential reforms in 1998, 2006 and 2012 introduced and increased tuition fees. These reforms, alongside the relaxation of controls on the number of students that universities could accept, have served to create a quasi-market in which universities compete to attract new students.

This system is expensive for taxpayers and does little to educate people in prudence. It teaches people the government

will pay for their choice – even if, after paying for it, that person may not be able to use it to secure a viable career afterwards, let alone repay their loan. It also ignores the utility of certain degrees (Engineering, Medicine) and seems to equate them with degrees which, whilst thoroughly interesting and culturally valuable, do not result in a viable career (e.g. some arts subjects, and spurious courses such as ‘Gender Studies’). Some people would say recent moves to higher student interest rates on loan repayments are immoral, for sure many people cannot reasonably hope to pay off their loans, let alone interest, and not least thanks to further tax hikes (to pay for more students to study).

A Libertarian government will encourage sponsorship, bursaries, scholarships and bonds by all sectors of the economy to free the Universities, Polytechnics and Technical Colleges from state interference.

This system is expensive for taxpayers and does little to educate people in prudence.



1. ABOLITION OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND COMPULSORY INSPECTION FOR CHILDREN UNDER SEVEN YEARS OF AGE

The Finnish education system, one of the most effective in the world, produces happy children

who do not begin their formal schooling before this age – and we believe this is a big reason why.

BENEFITS

Parents may choose what is best for their own children up to this age – whether that is for parents to enjoy better living through a low cost Libertarian world, and have a parent stay at home to care for their children, or employ a child-minder, or an alternative childcare provider (who doesn't make arbitrary claims of 'free' hours).

NOTES

The Libertarian government will scale back most regulation of childcare providers, remove arbitrary minder-child ratios and government inspections. This would increase the number of childcare providers entering the market-place and reduce childcare costs. This would help many parents, especially when we consider that childcare costs for a two child couple are the most expensive in the world! It would also incentivise much needed, yet maligned child-minders who have cared for many children, often alongside their own. This was before the advent of the 2008 regulations, Ofsted inspections and ensuing increased training costs and procedures which drove many out of the role. We would

replace the current system with a voucher based one, "A Scholarship for every Child", with top up options available to parents to facilitate personal preferences. Our system will give all parents (regardless of earnings and circumstance) the power of choice with their resources and the best providers the freedom to care for children without state interference. The market will decide which providers are successful and which are not, giving back the power to parents. Our aim is to enable parents to hold providers to account and, if found wanting, to take their business elsewhere. We would scrap current early years spending. In place of £5.5 billion of spending would be the voucher option (described in more detail below).



2. A SCHOLARSHIP FOR EVERY CHILD

A Libertarian government will provide vouchers to all parents to cover the cost of their child's early years and secondary education, and give them the option to top up the voucher to pay for superior providers. This will lead to a true marketplace in school education.

BENEFITS

When the market moved by parental choice holds schools to account, and parents can vote over education with their feet, higher quality education will increase naturally and lowest quality fall by the way.

NOTES

The Libertarian government will nurture a surplus of places to facilitate the power of parental choice. Poorly performing schools will either reform and improve, be absorbed by others, or simply close due to lack of parental support (if vouchers are "spent" elsewhere). Coupled with this, we will add a component essential to any successful voucher system – we will enable people to found schools wherever they wish and for existing schools to opt out of direct state control. We do not envisage a mass sell-off of state assets, but a switch to independent not-for-profit and private entities competing openly. Independent schools will be free to set up wherever they wish.

A Libertarian government will remove targets for grades and funding and end centrally imposed targets. The arbiters of any education system should be students, parents and employers, so that the onus is on the individual to aspire, parents to pressure, the institution to facilitate and the employer to select their preferred candidates. The state's role will then be redundant.

Exam boards will be freed from government grade gerrymandering and schools will be free to adopt the exam boards of their choice. Ofqual could be transferred out of government and be funded by schools to administer exams. This will place schools and the exam board in a direct relationship with each other to foster expertise, undistracted by the state.

Selection, setting and streaming must be the decision of the individual schools – after all, each school and its demographic – is different.

A Libertarian government will insist on the abolition of all unnecessary quangos in education, most notably – Ofsted, which is fit to cause distress and disillusionment to education professionals and little else. The private sector have their own inspectorate – ISI – who are nothing like Ofsted. We will see that inspections are a voluntary process for institutions (though publishing the results could be mandatory) who wish to inspire confidence in parents.

Some parents pay to send their children to private schools and results are good. These schools are inspected by ISI, so all schools

could be inspected by ISI instead, if they wished.

The abolition of unnecessary quangos has saved the taxpayer quite a sum of money already, but we would go further. We shall remove from Local Education Authorities their veto and control over the establishment, funding and administration of schools. This will render arbitrary and confusing government 'funding formulae', which the government itself cannot seem to fathom (as mentioned above under 'early years') redundant.

We shall encourage and promote home education and online learning platforms (after all, students are using the latter already). As people are individuals, their education should also be unique and tailored according to their wishes and needs. There shall be no stigma to 'home education' – children are not invisible if they are being taught at home. We advocate this method of learning as one of many educational choices, alongside the burgeoning online education market (of which there are many innovative ways for parents to spend their vouchers on education).

3. REPEAL COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR AGES SEVENTEEN AND EIGHTEEN

We reject the concept of "educational conscription" that forces people to remain in education until 18.

BENEFITS

Students may leave school at 16 to pursue alternative training, including apprenticeships. The introduction of T Levels is a sensible strategy to introduce a post 16 qualification that relates to a specific industry (and therefore has a higher chance of gaining a viable career at the end). Anyone 'not in education, employment or training' will be free to work or train or, if they prefer and can afford to, support themselves.

4. DISTILLATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES

Entities that cannot provide the full University range — Bachelor, Masters, Doctorate and research faculties — shall no longer be called Universities, they are 'Colleges'.

NOTES

We shall abolish all quotas in education and provide technical colleges as well as universities, promote apprenticeships and the employment of the useful over the conceptual in education. Arguably education is provided for people to obtain gainful employment/ career progression at least as much as it is for enjoyment!

We advocate the dismantling of any subsidies distorting the market and size of the University population.

We shall abolish the student loans system (which is currently risky to taxpayers and merely enables the

BENEFITS

At root this measure is about restoring focus on excellence in education. Reversing the debasement of the term university will also make the term college more informative. This is not the same thing as denigrating it.

rise of a whole host of hedonist degrees – the utility of which has no place being funded by the state). In place of the student loans system we would facilitate the ISA (Income Share Agreement) which would be the backbone of funding to university and higher education. This will reduce the risks to all parties involved, especially students. Those avenues of study not funded by these methods could be self-funded by the student making their own financial arrangements. This would in turn reduce the number of spurious courses currently extorting vast sums for little, practical gain.

5. EX-MILITARY EDUCATION

A Libertarian government will grant an education voucher for any three year course at tertiary or higher education level to those who have been in Military service of five years or more. Serving our country comes with benefits – this is one.

“Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.” - Einstein

NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
Ex-military further or higher education course entitlement	0.5	We provide for £23,000 per annum for three years (£15,000 for fees and £8,000 for living) to circa ten thousand ex-service personnel per annum. This is then discounted by 30% being an estimate of existing ex-military annual education support costs. Unlike our proposal the existing system funds just fees, and those not always, not living expenses.
SUB-TOTAL LESS PRUDENT	0.5	
Early years	0.2	Costs are £5.8 billion. This we would scrap. We assume savings of 8%, after 4% costs for administration of the voucher system, through abolition of the inspection and licensing regime.
	0.1	Abolition of Ofsted (the Office for Standards in Education)..
Schools	1.3	Schools costs are £65.5 billion. We assume savings of 1%, after costs for administration of the voucher system, through abolition of the existing administrative regime and 1% through increased home study
Higher Education	3.4	Higher education costs are £17 billion. We estimate savings of 20% through movement away from hedonistic degrees, through unsound loans withheld not having to be written off and through those not securing free market loans (secured in many cases through tax breaks) or scholarships choosing not to enter higher education.
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	5.1	
Decreased interest payments	0.1	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	5.2	



FAMILY LAW POLICY

WANTING THE BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN

A legal presumption of equal rights and responsibilities.

The 1989 Children's Act gives the bulk of decision making on residence to any child deemed "Gillick competent", after the test case on child's consent that went to the House of Lords. Whilst trying to make the child the priority in issues of residence dispute, the Act created as many problems as it solved. Such is the discrimination that fathers are not even called fathers, but "non-resident" parents.

Between 2003 and 2015, 8,515 non-resident parents died early compared to 3,090 resident parents.

Family breakdown is estimated to cost the state £49bn per year, more than the current defence budget.

A child's best interests is judged to be the same as 'mother best interests', setting a precedent for subsequent disputes.

Older "Gillick competent" children are able to play one parent against the other, opting to take up residence with the one who most easily accedes to their wishes. This does not always benefit the child in the long run. It is also worth noting that children as young as eight or nine can be

judged to be such, below the age of criminal responsibility.

Furthermore, with 50% of Family Court orders being ignored, the non-resident parent is powerless as breaching the orders is a civil offence rather than a criminal one.

Matters of custody and access were removed from the Legal Aid umbrella in 2011.

Finally, the non-resident parent is currently liable for child maintenance, the full cost of child transfers between residences, bedroom tax if they keep a room for their offspring and all legal costs.

Primary considerations given here are:

- The benefit to children of having a meaningful relationship with both parents.

- The protection of children from psychological harm, abuse or violence.
- Any tangible threat to the child should override all else.

To this end we would:

- Make 50:50 responsibility the default setting.
- Protect the child.
- Open the secretive Family Courts.
- Criminalise any breach of custody orders and transfer the expenses of subsequent court cases to the side who breached the order in the first place.
- Dismantle the Child Maintenance Service.

1. AN EQUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH PARENTS

This policy is designed to give all children a right in law to have a meaningful relationship with both of their parents. There should be a legal presumption of equal rights and responsibilities, similar to Florida state legislation, with no presumption for or against the father or mother of the child.

There should be a legally rebuttable presumption of 50:50 shared parenting (or equality) as the starting point. In practice, a full 50:50 package may not be possible, with 60:40 and 70:30 arrangements found to be more prevalent and workable. Parenting arrangements should be based on the status quo at the time of

separation and a workable parenting plan between the parties.

There is nothing mandatory about this right. It would be deemed to be in the child's best interest for one parent to have sole custody if the second is reluctant.

Benefits would be split pro-rata according to percentage of care and any level of care over 30% would give a bedroom entitlement if the parent is in social housing. The shared care arrangement and split benefits would then be an incentive for both parents to work and contribute to the economy. The current system reduces dads to status of cashpoints and sperm banks. Child support must mean emotional and financial support.

The cost of transfer can also be a burden, especially in cases when

one parent has moved any distance from the previous family home. The rightful solution is for this cost to be shared, with each parent making their share of the journeys.

Once established, the shared care arrangement should be applied until the child is 18, or reaches the end of Year 13, whichever is the latter. This gives the child stability and security throughout his/her school years. Schools would be obligated to inform both parents equally of any progress, problems or special events in the child's academic life. Both parents should be able to access medical records. Taking the shared parenting to 18 also gives both parents the security to set their own rules and discipline, without the threat of the child threatening to change their place of residence in protest.

NOTES

Imagine the scenario:

Father gets a court order for 120 nights staying contact.

Mother goes to CSA.

CSA decide maintenance and payments go on for 12 months.

Mother breaks the Court Order.

Mother then approaches CSA claiming father only has staying contact for 30 nights per year. True number is about 70 nights.

CSA approach father to confirm the 30-night claim.

In other words, the mother could break the law and gets a pay rise as a punishment.

2. PROTECTION OF THE CHILD

Any convictions for domestic violence will also be seen as detrimental to the child and arrangements for time-sharing would need to be agreed to protect the child or abused spouse from further harm.

Since the introduction of presumed equal responsibility in Australia during 2006, children in shared parenting arrangements have the lowest recorded incidence of child abuse there, lower than that of intact families. Conversely, children in Sole Custody arrangements have the

highest. Over 70% of all familial child abuse occurs in single mother households.

Children should be protected from domestic violence. We will remove the incentive for making false allegations as the only way a parent can access Legal Aid for family court matters. Where currently only a complaint is needed, domestic violence claims should be subject to the criminal burden of proof before legal aid is awarded for family court matters.

Any parent who is the victim of domestic violence may apply for legal aid to restrict the access of the violent parent to the children.

3. OPEN THE FAMILY COURTS

Family Proceedings are normally held in private. Since 2010, members of the press have been allowed to attend. The right to attend hearings does not, however, grant the right to report on proceedings or public details of proceedings. We believe that the proper scrutiny of a free press must be applied to all court machinations.

4. CRIMINALISE BREACH OF CUSTODY ORDERS

Mediation would remain in place in an effort to keep cases from going to court, although mediation rarely works at present as one parent has all the power and there is no incentive to negotiate. Shared parenting will change that.

For those cases that do require a court order, enforcement needs to be effective, including the transfer of residence from a recalcitrant parent. Parents who deny contact and/or breach said orders should not be able to act with impunity and a jail term must be considered as they are with parents of truanting children.

5. DISMANTLE THE CHILD MAINTENANCE SERVICE

The operating cost of the Child Maintenance Service in 2015/16 was £114 million. Sadly, the income obtained by fees and charges in the same year was just £8.5 million, less than 10% of the total running cost. Closing the department would save on public expenditure.



FIREARMS NOT THROWING THE BABY OUT WITH THE BATHWATER

Individuals should be punished for wrongdoing but licenced shooting should not be criminalised in a blanket fashion.

Great Britain has some of the strictest shooting laws in the world. The logic behind this state of affairs is that if you make firearms almost impossible to obtain legally criminals won't get any. The flaw in this reasoning is to presume, given that there is a

regime in place for the provision of legal firearms, that criminals will obtain firearms by the same means as non-criminals. Criminals will want nothing to do with any legally administered process for obtaining firearms. They will want to obtain firearms anonymously

and do so despite the obstacles to obtaining firearms legally. Indeed, in 2016-17 there were 6,375 firearms offences in England and Wales. Of the circa 4,200 committed with non air powered firearms about 1,600 were used in robberies, 400 were instances of criminal damage and so about 2,200 were crimes against persons of which about fifty eight per cent were with hand guns and twenty nine per cent with imitation guns and twelve per cent with shot guns. There were thirty two homicides with guns in 2017 and twenty nine in 2018.

The tight gun laws of today were mostly put in place following the Dunblane massacre of 1996 in which sixteen young children and their teacher were shot dead with a legally licenced firearm in the ownership of Thomas Hamilton.

In the wake of this incident the Firearms amendment of 1997 banned handguns from private ownership. The law was further tightened in 2010 after Derrick Bird shot twelve people dead with both a licenced rifle and a licenced shot gun. For example, in 2012 the maximum punishment for the illegal importation of firearms into the UK was increased to life.

According to the Home Office firearms crimes increased between 1998 and 2002 by circa 100% from 5,000 to 10,000 per year. This was much faster than violent crime in general. Over the same period licenced firearm ownership fell by twenty five per cent. But in 2000 The Guardian newspaper reported that since the 1997 ban on handguns the number of illegal firearms in the

UK had increased 50% from two to three million.

In 1625 in Jacobean England murder was about twelve times more likely than it is today (in 1200 it was fifty times more likely) but by 1775 it had fallen to being about twice as likely. This rose back up to three times more likely in 1862 but by 1887 touched new lows being then sixty per cent more likely. In 1962 murder was forty per cent more likely per head than it is now.

For the last eight hundred years our society has been moving away from being murderous. This is not the result of tighter firearms laws. They were no more restrictive in 1775 than in 1862. This is the result of more fundamental changes in how we live and are. These deep changes would provide a horizon for

people's behaviour even in a rather different legal environment. Indeed, the steady decline in homicides in England since 1200 is characteristic of the rest of Western Europe too making the point that the change is so fundamental that it effects many diverse societies simultaneously. This is reason to suppose that if firearms were as available today as they were in 1862 that we nonetheless would not murder ourselves as often as we then did. This history is a backdrop to the Libertarian Party UK's belief in evidence based policy. We dislike knee jerk policy-making.

The Libertarian Party UK believes individuals should be punished for wrongdoing but licenced shooting should not be criminalised in a blanket fashion and our policies are to that end.

1. REVIEW OF THE 1997 HAND GUN OWNERSHIP BAN

A Libertarian government will grant the review a wide remit to analyse the effect of the law including the costs of administration and policing as against the lives that may be saved more effectively in other ways by use of the same money. If the review finds that there has been little or no impact on gun crime or that the ban is not the most effective way of saving lives

or creating confidence in the peacefulness of our society among the public then the option of licenced ownership of hand guns will be given back to gun club members and people who shoot competitively for sport.

BENEFITS

Depending on the evidence of the review resources to save lives will be deployed more effectively and responsible citizens will be free to pursue firearm sports without being treated as potential murderers.

NOTES

Northern Ireland operates a twelve month probation system for the ownership of hand guns for vetted pistol club members and a Libertarian government would introduce such a system into England and Wales too.

2. AMENDING THE VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION ACT 2006

A Libertarian government will increase punishment for those who break the law with air guns, non-firing replicas or blank firing devices but will remove restrictions on the ownership of such machines.

BENEFITS

The responsible user of air guns or the person wishing to own non-firing replicas will not be restricted in doing so as if she were a ne'er-do-well.

3. REVIEW OF THE FIREARMS LICENSING SYSTEM

A Libertarian government will review the firearms licensing system with a view to opening it up to tender if review determines that the system is an excessive burden on the police.

BENEFITS

An organisation focused on the specialised question of who should and who should not hold a licence and motivated to maintain this focus in a cost effective way will work better than a police department manned by officers who would be better deployed doing less administrative work.

4. RE-CLASSIFY NOT LETHAL ITEMS

Removal of not lethal items, such as pepper sprays, from the aegis of the firearms law section five.

BENEFITS

It is not helpful to subject items of an essentially defensive nature, such as pepper sprays, to the same controls under section five (which covers “firearms” that are not legal under Sections 1 and 2 which, for example, shot guns with limited shell numbers are) as potentially lethal weapons that are as useful to aggressors as to defenders. This correction will allow people to defend themselves in a proportionate way.

CONCLUSION

In a future Manifesto it is possible that we will consider, and adopt positions, on the more wide-ranging question of the relationship between the human right of self-defence, including with arms, and a government (as say the German government was in the nineteen thirties) that was in breach of its people's, or some of its people's, inalienable rights.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FREE, FEDERAL AND INDEPENDENT

Under a Libertarian government Great Britain will plough its own furrow and not be dictated to.

Britain is a peaceful trading nation and a global financial centre. Britain is also a strong military power. Under a Libertarian government Great Britain will plough its own furrow and not be dictated to even by stronger powers.

The Libertarian Party applauds Harold Wilson's independent minded decision to keep Britain out of the Vietnam War. We decry President Reagan's decision in

1983 to invade the British Crown dependency of Grenada without consulting with the British Government as to his plans. George Orwell called Great Britain 'Airstrip one' because of the number of heavy bombers based in the country, Britain's relationship with the United States should not be one of providing the USA with a political fig leaf for American policies we don't agree with.

1. EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN CUSTOMS UNION

The Libertarian Party is opposed to membership of the European Customs Union.

BENEFITS

Exit from the European Customs Union will deliver the best of both worlds allowing imports from the European Union to flow without friction or regulatory cost into Britain while simultaneously allowing goods from the rest of the world to do so equally. Removal of import tariffs by lowering all costs, as far as possible, will result in a more productive economy, more competitive exports and disproportionate gain to the poorest of the citizenry due to more cheaper and better food, foot ware and clothing.

2. EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET

The Libertarian Party is opposed to membership of the European Common Market the terms of which require Britain to finance compliance with regulations not in its best interest, as well as compelling Britain to deny entry of imports into the UK that are of higher quality, safer and cheaper than those from Europe on origin and/or other regulatory grounds.

BENEFITS

Exit from the European Common Market will allow imports from the EU to flow without friction or regulatory cost into Britain since at present, even within the Common Market, there are documentary burdens on goods

moving to and fro. At the same time goods from the rest of the world will be able to flow freely into the UK too. The European Common market is moving increasingly to precise conformity in wording for regulatory controls on imports. If another country does not write its laws with the exact same words as the EU its goods may be banned. The freer and better approach is to define from which countries necessary standards are deemed equivalent and then to withdraw control on those countries for whom that is so. This could be all countries repealing the very idea of state control over goods.

Ending European over-regulation combined with the rule that European goods will be treated as equivalent in all matters regulatory to British goods would yield a win win situation. No obstacle to imports from Europe and no European obstacles to imports from the wider world.

3. EXIT FROM THE POLITICAL EUROPEAN UNION

The Libertarian Party is opposed to membership of the European Union. Indeed, as a party we have declined to stand candidates in the 2019 European election so as to avoid granting legitimacy to an illegitimate authority. We are also opposed to payment in full of the estimated £38 billion divorce bill that the EU states is not negotiable.

BENEFITS

Independence will enrich the freedom and wealth of the country. It is the necessary, though not sufficient, condition of the brightest possible future for our people.

4. FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE BETWEEN CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE UK (CANZUK)

The Libertarian Party roots this policy in the common law history of the four countries and the maturity of their respective democracies. The Libertarian Party strongly supports the CANZUK initiative.

BENEFITS

More freedom and as a consequence greater economic growth and happiness.

5. FULLY INTEGRATE THE BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES INTO THE UK

A Libertarian government will continue the diplomatic and military protection of the Falklands and British Overseas Territories as long as the people there wish to remain British.

A Libertarian Party government will emulate the French approach to overseas departments. The people of Bermuda and the Cayman Islands will become British citizens. Each will be represented by a member of parliament for two in total. The people of Gibraltar, the Turks and Caicos, Montserrat, Anguilla, Saint Helena, Ascension, Tristan De Cunha and the Falklands will be given citizenship as well and have a member of parliament too. The citizens of each of these three constituencies will hold Full British Citizenship and be entitled

to be represented in Parliament by their three MPs, ending any doubt over their sovereignty.

BENEFITS

The people of the overseas territories will no longer be second class and both they and the British Home Islands people will be enriched by the new, mutual and more democratic relationship.

NOTES

The British Overseas Territories have a combined population of circa 208,000. Their constituencies will therefore be four per cent smaller than the norm for England but twenty one percent larger than the norm for, say, Wales.

6. “TRADE NOT AID,” MAKE THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT REDUNDANT

0.7 % of the national budget is arbitrarily directed at Foreign Aid. This Aid is corrosive to the recipient country and creates dependency among its recipients.

BENEFITS

An end to the inequity that domestic UK citizens live in poverty while taxpayers finance kleptocracies overseas.

NOTES

“Aid is the process by which poor people in rich countries subsidise rich people in poor countries.” Peter Bauer, Development Economist

7. UNILATERAL FREE TRADE

It is a misconception that free trade deals need to be struck. On the contrary, a Libertarian government will ensure that we trade freely unilaterally.

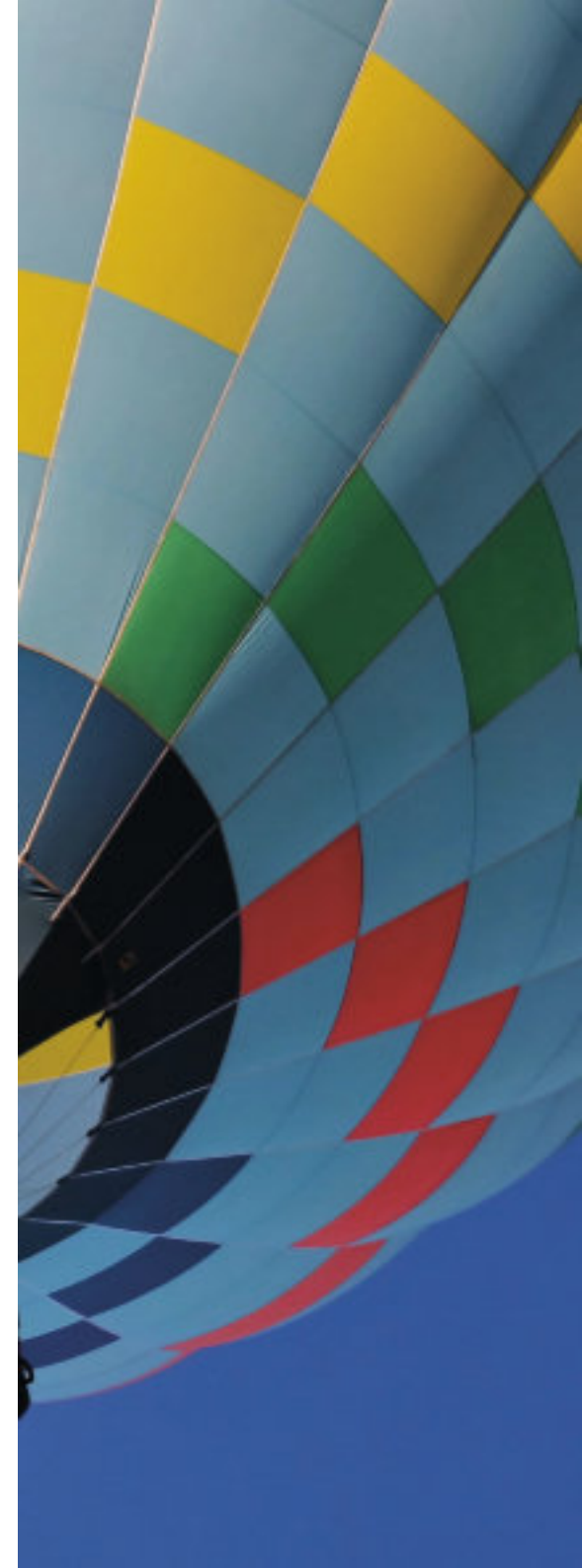
BENEFITS

Economic growth will be maximised with disproportionate benefit to those most poor.



NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
Department of International Development made redundant	9.2	
Net payments to the EU ended.	9.0	
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	18.2	
Decreased interest payments	0.3	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	18.5	



HEALTH

BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL

A patient focused, politics free, health care service.

In the UK there is considerable pride in the doctors and nurses who make up the National Health Service. Since 1948, when the National Health Service was founded, through a fear of losing the good in the Health Service we have become enslaved to the bad. We have in turn accepted the bad as “part of the system”. In recent years this acceptance of the bad has been alive and well in social media campaigns calling on people to save “Our NHS” and to share stories of how the National Health Service saved our lives. A cult has arisen around the NHS destructive not only of health but

also of the institution itself in so far as it fosters the situation in which no one is allowed to criticise the administration of health care.

Any organisation, including the NHS, that is not listening to and responding to criticism is destined to decay and eventually fail.

The Libertarian Party cares deeply about the healthcare services of this country. We want to create a system that ensures that the budget for health is deployed efficiently, that it is healthcare professionals and not politicians that decide how funding should

be used, that health care funding is clear and visible to everyone who is paying for it and that the ability of politicians to play tricks and games with healthcare by reducing one part of the healthcare budget so that they can claim they are increasing another part comes to an end.

Finally, we want to see a modern healthcare system where people are more responsible for their own health and providing for it and so are freer to decide what level of cover they think most fit for themselves. For example, if a person chooses to eat too much (and we understand that there is a genetic and cultural element to this as well as one of personal choice), or to engage in micro-light flying or mountaineering, activities that they know carry unusually high risks, such persons would have reason to invest in more than standard cover. By

contrast a person who lived a healthier or low risk life style would have reason to choose less extra cover all other things being equal. So this would result in a better fit between cover and resources and the management of health risks not inherent or unavoidable. Best of all it would create an incentive for a healthier lifestyle. Because basic health care, for example for emergency care, would be financed compulsorily this would retain care in the worst case for all but at the same time it would lead to a more nuanced care system for non emergency care which will tend to make the system better and more appropriate to each patient overall.

One element of the present system that we need to battle is the notion of “Our NHS”. This notion is a way of promoting the idea that there is only a choice

between the NHS and nothing. In fact many countries have highly successful hybrid models that provide great value for money as well as more effective prevention and cure. The Libertarian Party rejects the notion that it is the National Health Service system that saves people's lives when in fact it is nurses and doctors that do. Indeed, the excessive bureaucracy in the system is estimated to kill 40,000 people per year. People's lives are saved in the NHS despite the system not because of it. In a patient focused, politics free, healthcare service those same nurses and doctors would be at liberty to focus on the treatments and policies that offer the greatest possible benefit to patients. We support nurses and doctors not civil servants.

1. DEVOLUTION OF HEALTH CARE

The Libertarian government will establish regional health councils to run regional health services. This is in accordance with our commitment to localism and our wish to disperse power downwards to smaller institutions as well as to make more decisions locally.

BENEFITS

Decisions made locally will be more appropriate to local needs and more reflective of local wishes.

2. HEALTH CARE INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Members of the regional health councils will be answerable only to the electorate and patients. As such they will be free of political control.

BENEFITS

Regional health councils will be insulated from national politics and so will no longer be kicked around as a political football. The leadership of these organisations will be health care professionals whose appointment will be by election (as well as health qualifications and experience). To protect our vision for healthcare

free of politics we will require that candidates to the health care councils be barred from being members of political parties, or standing for other public office for ten years after serving on the health council. This will ensure that there is no element of political career path involved for people taking up this work and rather and only focus on providing better care.

3. REPLACEMENT OF NATIONAL INSURANCE PAYMENTS BY A LOCAL HEALTH TAX

The Libertarian government will remove National Insurance deductions and instead secure funds for health by a combination of a hypothecated local health tax and compulsory insurance.

BENEFITS

A hypothecated local health tax, whose rate would be set locally, will allow everyone to see what they are paying for, rather than having that information lost among general taxation, so that people can make clear decisions on the shape of the provision they want.

4. UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FUNDED BY COMPULSORY INSURANCE

The Libertarian government will create a compulsory level of health insurance for emergency and other selected cover that will be provided to all people regardless of their financial and pre-existing medical or genetic circumstances.

BENEFITS

The Libertarian government will allow price competition between health insurers to provide basic insurance. However, the insurers will be required to provide the policy to beneficiaries at the same price as each other and with the same cover being available. These insurance policies will be required to be not-for-profit so as to be motivated by the delivery of good service.

NOTES

The compulsory contribution to health insurance will be paid from the salary (£29,000 average) of the thirty four million workers in the UK and set at 10%. As such it will bring in circa £99 billion. This contribution will be topped up by the local health tax set at a level to bring in £31 billion. The sum of these funding sources (£130 billion) will reduce government spending by forty nine point nine billion pounds per year. Although this is a serious reduction in total government spending it would not fall on those unable to finance their own health care. Rather with emergency and other selected services available to all for a fixed amount the effect of the reduction would be to create incentive for the wealthiest quarter of the population to invest more in their own health care.

Our figures are supported by examination of jurisdictions which mix compulsory health insurance with funded care. In such jurisdictions public health spending as a percentage of GDP is, generalising, about 2.5%. We conservatively assume 6.5% of GDP (£2,014 billion) to derive spending of £130 billion.

An example of a less monolithic more hybrid system is the Swiss Health care system. In Switzerland emergency and other selected services are provided to everyone at a basic price. Health is better than in the UK. If an individual has a pre-existing medical condition they can't be charged more than someone else for emergency and other core services. This policy proposal is not revolutionary but proven and well tested in other jurisdictions.

5. CAP COMPULSORY INSURANCE AND THE HEALTH TAX TO GRADUALLY ALLOW CHOICE TO COME TO THE FORE

The compulsory contribution to insurance will be capped at the percentage, 10%, that would result in revenue of not more than ninety nine billion before inflation and the health tax at a rate that would result in revenue of not more than thirty one billion

NOTES

By creating a system where additional cover can be agreed between patient and insurer we place the patient more in control of their own destiny and allow them to arrange cover not available on the NHS. In respect of these supplementary services insurance companies will be permitted to make a profit introducing more prevention and

before inflation. With a cap of this nature so long as the economy expanded faster than inflation, that is to say in real terms, the compulsory funding element of the health system would reduce relative to the freely chosen element as time passed.

BENEFITS

The Libertarian health system, by delivering health buying power to patients through insurance provided collectively at a base level, would enable people on the most economical universal level of care to have, through their relationship with their insurer, care more tailored to their wishes and needs while those who topped up their insurance policy,

cure through competition into the parts of the service that are not compulsorily provided to all which will be provided on a non-profit making basis. This would deliver the best of both worlds. It would ensure universal health care but at the same time would stimulate innovation and better quality care in the long run.

to choose care focused on selected additional or alternative treatments, would drive change and improvement through the whole system. One hundred and fifty thousand people per year leave the UK for medical treatment. In Switzerland, which has a system of non-profit making basic care along with a system of profit-making additional services, exactly as we propose, levels of care are much better. For example, the average number of nurses per thousand people is 17.4 whereas in the UK it is 6 and the average number of doctors per thousand people is 2.8 whereas in Switzerland it is 4.5.

6. THE OPTION TO OPT OUT ALONG DUTCH LINES

The Libertarian Party will allow an opt-out procedure (for those not wishing to be benefit from the health care service) designed not to compromise the integrity of the universal service.

NOTES

In Holland the way this is done is that the health tax is still levied. It is, however, ring fenced for the care of the taxpayer only. If, upon the tax payer's death, it has not been used in full the accrued sum is passed to the taxpayer's estate.

7. POLICIES IN THIS MANIFESTO TO BE TRANSITIONAL

The policies in this Manifesto are transitional in principal with the intention that every aspect of health provision will, in due course, be decided upon regionally by the local health

councils and the patients they represent in order to better fit the desires of local people and the nature of the local situation.

We believe that by creating a system focused on healthcare and patients, instead of politicians we can save forty four and a half billion pounds per year from the publicly funded health budget whilst simultaneously increasing quality and providing the public

with more say in the nature of their own care. This belief is not the result of wishful thinking of Libertarian ideology. Instead this belief arises from the evidence of other national health systems chosen as the basis of observation exactly because they are acknowledged to deliver better healthcare than Great Britain does, namely, Holland, Germany and Switzerland. In

these countries customer satisfaction is higher, health is generally better and yet, at the same time, the direct cost to the taxpayer is lower (as a proportion of GDP) reducing the pressure on public sector finance. In addition individual choice is greater in the matter of being able to obtain health treatments that the more monolithic British system does not offer.

NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
	136	End of National Insurance Payments (value derived from 2018-19)
SUB-TOTAL LESS PRUDENT	136	
	99	Compulsory deductions for Health Insurance
	31	Regional Health Tax
	49.9	Reduction in annual health spend from the 2018-19 figure of £179.5 billion (comprising £152.2 billion on health, £35.5 billion on health related long term care - of which £22 billion is government spending with the other £13.5 billion out of pocket expenses from patients - plus £10.9 billion of long term social care - of which we estimate £6.5 billion is from government so £152.2+£22+£6.5 = £179.9 billion) to the proposed figure of £130 billion.
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	179.9	
Decreased interest payments	0.7	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	44.6	

HOME AFFAIRS

FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY

Defending individual freedoms while maintaining individual responsibility.

Speaking of government overreach, Ayn Rand observed that “there's no way to rule innocent men. The only power any government has is the power to crack down on criminals... [and so government] declares so many things to be a crime that it becomes impossible for men to live without breaking laws.”

We believe governments that have taken this approach have done a disservice to their citizens and acted outside their legitimate authority. Our Home Affairs

Policies seek to address the following areas in ways that defend individual freedoms while maintaining individual responsibility:

- Punishment, Prisons and Community Sentences
- Law and Courts
- Immigration
- Drugs (including Alcohol and Tobacco)
- Policing

1. PUNISHMENT, PRISONS AND COMMUNITY SENTENCES

Current punishment and sentencing regimes are inadequate and require reform. They fail to reduce crime, can be excessive in relation to some crimes, insufficient in relation to others and fail to assist victims.

We believe that crime should be deterred by appropriate punishment and wherever possible restore the losses of any victim. We believe incarceration should be used to protect individuals from violent criminals and repeat offenders of lesser crimes.

POLICY PROPOSALS

We will ensure that sufficient prison places are available to make capacity not a factor in detention, bail or sentencing decisions.

We will reserve prison sentences for violent or repeat offenders, for lesser crimes first offences will be sentenced with community sentences incorporating appropriate education, reformation, restitution and curfew measures.

We will make prison harsher for uncooperative inmates as necessary, while rewarding cooperation.

We will end the practice of using regular prisons for the incarceration of the mentally ill.

We will bring an end to early release of the violent or abusive.

Consideration for gender should

not influence sentencing in order that all individuals be treated equally before the law.

We will improve the provision of training and educational facilities within prisons.

We will ensure first time remand prisoners are kept separate from other inmates.

We are unequivocally opposed to the death penalty by the State, instead we will legislate for a Life prison term to mean the remainder of the convict's natural life.

We are unequivocally opposed to the use of torture in all circumstances, such will be classed as misconduct in a public office in addition to other categories of crime as may be perpetrated and be prosecuted as such.

We will legislate for prosecution of false witnesses and for sentencing to be equivalent to that which would be given for the falsely accused crime.

We will legislate that persons may only be added to the Sex Offenders Register following due

process, that retention of a person on the list be not automatic but be expunged following time served, with renewable time limited extensions being granted only on provision of evidence and sanctioned by Jury at each renewal.

The libertarian party advocates restitution as the main form of punishment for criminal acts. Restitution will be in the form of financial recompense to victims in case of accidents and paid at levels that would be punitive to the perpetrator in case of deliberate harm. The victim as the one who incurred loss would be repaid, not 'society'. This will be used in the case of non-violent crimes and some violent crimes in addition to incarceration where appropriate. Imprisonment is undesirable as a drain on the taxpayer and will be used as a last resort in the cases of very violent crimes or repeat offences of a lesser nature.

We believe incarceration should be used to protect individuals from violent criminals.

We will legislate for the following crimes to be Capital and carry the maximum 'remainder of the natural life' sentence:

- Unjustified Murder in the first degree.
- Aggravated torture, or extreme violence to another without justifiable provocation, which is life threatening.
- Murder in the Second degree the second conviction.
- Rape of a person over 12 years of age the second conviction.
- Rape of a child under 12.
- Treason which causes the death of another person or persons.

- Sexual abuse of a non-consenting minor the second conviction.
- War Crimes conviction of any leaders (political and military) of any nation.
- Aggravated theft with a deadly weapon the third conviction.

2. LAW AND COURTS

We believe that law has reached far beyond its legitimate boundaries, becoming a tool to rule, rather than defend the individual or govern interactions.

We propose the following policies to return law making to its proper place, reduce the number of laws and regulations, restore Habeas Corpus principles which have been eroded, make the justice system accountable to the people and remove barriers to justice.

A free people are required to take individual responsibility for their actions and where the State steps away as nanny individuals must step forward, to accept both positive and negative consequences of their choices, and to act voluntarily for the good and to lift themselves up and their fellows.

POLICY PROPOSALS

We will abolish the Crown Prosecution Service. In its place Elected Magistrates would be the basis of a decision to prosecute.

We will review all current legislation against the terms of

our constitution to address their intrusion on individual rights and enact a programme of reform, repeal and replace with new more appropriate legislation to achieve the same appropriate defensive aims whilst not infringing on your individual rights in keeping with our constitution.

We will strengthen protections for freedom of speech, freedom of association, and property rights, and will repeal inhibitions to 'right to lawful assembly', in keeping with our constitution.

We will uphold the right to self-defence in protecting life, liberty and property.

We will repeal Control Orders.

We will decriminalise all sexual activity related to consenting adults.

All new legislation, laws or regulations will be validated against the terms of our constitution and rejected if they are in violation.

We will abolish the category of hate crime, treating all activity equally before the law.

We will enact a programme of

reducing legislation requiring three pre-existing laws or regulations to be repealed for each new law or regulation being enacted.

We will end the 'secret Court system' that is open to much abuse.

We will revoke parliamentary privilege to require the same standard of law to be applied to all citizens regardless of office.

We will return all criminal trials to trial by an independent jury, free to judge both the law and fact, and to exercise their discretion and discharge their consciences, for all criminal cases.

We will restrict plea-bargaining so that it is not available to anyone who shares principal responsibility for a crime reserving it only for lesser accessories.

We will reform the double system of solicitors and barristers and establish a framework allowing solicitors and barristers to represent clients in all courts and all types of cases giving more choice to individuals over who will represent them.

We will restrict the ability of State prosecutors and those involved in civil disputes to employ 'financial siege' tactics against their opponents.

We will return all criminal trials to trial by an independent jury.

3. IMMIGRATION

We believe immigration policy should be flexible to meet changing needs, remove unnecessary barriers where it is desirable, while protecting individuals from those who would do harm.

Our policies are strict but are drawn up with regard to those who approach the process lawfully and follow the rules, not those who try and bend the rules or bypass the legally defined process.

POLICY PROPOSALS

We will make immigration skills and points based - totally free movement of people into the UK is not practical whilst the welfare system provides an incentive and other countries are themselves not broadly Libertarian in nature.

We will abolish access to automatic State support to immigrants through subsidised housing or any benefits of any kind.

Immigrants will not receive a National Insurance (NI) number until they have at least five years

contributions to an NI approved scheme.

We will require all persons being granted a residency to demonstrate that they have adequate medical insurance.

We will establish bilateral agreements with countries to enable free flows of people.

Longer term, and in conjunction with welfare reform, we are committed to pursuing an open borders policy towards those who would wish to live here, in order to contribute to our economy and share our values.

We will reserve the right to eject or refuse entry to foreign nationals convicted in a Court of law as part of the Government's prime role in protecting the population and maintaining Rule of Law.

We will ensure the UK shall have full control over its immigration policy, with any right of final appeal remaining within the UK jurisdiction.

We will require all Asylum Seekers to present at a UK border or at the British Embassy of a

We will end delays to married or civil partners entering the country.

neighbouring country to their own, otherwise their claim shall not be accepted.

We will deny entry to persons refusing to declare originating country and any right to seek asylum will be refused outright without appeal.

We will require asylum seekers to be held 'air side' while their case is heard as swiftly as possible. We will ensure a system that hears cases within weeks, not months or years.

We believe any concept of a mass 'amnesty', actual or de facto forgiveness for illegal immigration undermines the Rule of Law and as such will not be entertained.

We will establish a process for sponsored immigration permitting any private individual to become responsible, by contract with the

immigrant, for the conduct, welfare, and whereabouts of that individual for a limited period under conditions and penalties specified in law. The responsibilities will remain until the individual qualifies for "resident status" or leaves the country. The only exception will be when the State can demonstrate beyond a reasonable doubt that the individual constitutes a threat to public health or represent a clear and present danger to the rights of citizens.

We will end delays to married or civil partners entering the country by expediting visas.

4. DRUGS, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO

Our drug policy seeks to respect individual rights while maintaining commensurate individual responsibility - the State will neither profit from, nor promote, nor subsidise harmful drug products, nor interfere with individual's free choices in that regard, nor protect them from attendant consequences.

POLICY PROPOSALS

At a national level decriminalise drugs starting with marijuana but expanding this. Remove excise duty from Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs.

Release all those convicted ONLY of drug offences for possession. Give those released a 'clean profile' so they are not subject to the restrictions imposed on ex-offenders.

Reform Policing to understand that drugs are no longer criminal activities. Continue to apply all other laws with respect to drug related incidents, such as where

there is evidence of 'coercion', operating machinery or acting in a responsible position while under the influence, and others.

In line with individual responsibility healthcare becomes the responsibility of the individual through an insurance-based approach as part of our decentralised NHS proposals. We anticipate that insurance companies would add drug use to the risk profile setting premiums accordingly. Providing false representation regarding drug use would constitute fraud. Where there are negative effects from drug, tobacco or alcohol products a customer or insurer may have grounds to sue. Producers will not be immune to charges of criminal negligence, corporate manslaughter or other relevant charges according to circumstance. There would be no provision for State funded compensation.

We will re-establish the Peelian principle that 'the police are the people and the people are the police.'

5. POLICING

Our policing policy seeks to re-establish the Peelian principle that 'the police are the people and the people are the police' as the surest way to block tyranny and enable effective policing by consent.

POLICY PROPOSALS

Police will swear allegiance to the Constitution.

We will reaffirm the Nine Peelian Principles:

- The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder in which we include as crimes violations of individual rights.
- The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon the public approval of police actions.
- Police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observation of the Law.
- The degree of cooperation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force.
- Police seek and preserve public favour not by catering to public opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law and defence of individual rights.

- Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice, and warning is found to be insufficient.
- Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent upon every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.
- Police should always direct their action strictly towards their functions, and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary.
- The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it.

Policing areas will be localised and Chief Constables or Sheriffs be locally elected and given a greater amount of autonomy allowing

them to direct resources to meet local needs and to deputise voluntary candidates as needed for the legitimate exercise of their role. The role of Police and Crime Commissioner will be abolished.

We will re-establish the right to remain silent on habeas corpus principles.

We will establish a framework through which 'private security' on private property in contract with the owner may work cooperatively with Chief Constable or Sheriff offices.

We will reform police targets to remove the desire to prosecute innocent parties and be more accountable to local people.

We will establish defence of individual rights and investigation and prosecution of violations and violators as the main function of the police, placing emphasis first on crimes against the person such as physical assault and robbery and then crimes against property such as burglary and theft.

We will reduce paperwork to enable more beat officers to remain on patrol for as long as

possible.

We will abolish the role of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) and seek to recruit those capable into the main police force, and to disband the remainder.

We will abolish all non-essential non-front-line roles.

We will retain DNA of those convicted only, and discard after the conviction is spent.

We will increase recruitment of Special Constables, volunteers and Deputies to function in their local areas in keeping with Peelian principles of policing.

We will re-invigorate the Neighbourhood Watch programme in keeping with Peelian principles of policing.

Complaints against police will be referred initially to a judge or magistrate to determine whether frivolous, then to a neighbouring force acting independently to carry out an investigation overseen by local citizen representatives. Cases will be criminally prosecuted with a Jury where evidence is sufficient to do so.

Complaints against a judge or magistrate will be referred to a senior judge, or if a senior judge to a panel of lower judges or magistrates, acting independently to carry out an investigation overseen by local citizen representatives. Cases will be criminally prosecuted with a Jury where evidence is sufficient to do so.

Spot fines will be abolished and referred instead to the courts.

We will roll back the right of government agents to enter property without a warrant issued by a judge, thereby ensuring constitutional protections for individual rights.

We will implement a maximum period for detention without charge of 48 hours.

Wiretap evidence to be permitted as evidence in court cases only if obtained with a warrant.

NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
Additional 8,000 prison places to end overcrowding.	0.17	The prison population in 2018 was 83,618. This contrasts with 46,736 in 1989. The average cost of a prisoner is £37,500. In the case of any increase in numbers, or in the case of steady numbers but increased numbers of prisons to reduce overcrowding, there would be an additional cost per new place of £112,000. Since the average custodial sentence runs for circa two years and we may presume a prison place good for, say, eighty years this suggests an additional, amortised, capital cost of £2,800 per place per annum so circa £40,300 all inclusive. There are circa 8,000 more prisoners than prison places so our commitment is to an increased amortised spend of £22.0 million per year. The upfront cost would be £896 million but possibly this would be one of those rare cases where borrowing the capital would make sense. If not then we would amortise the cost over the five year life of a parliament which is the conservative amount (£170 million p.a) costed herein.
Doubling the training and education effort in prisons	0.13	Since 2016 spending on training and education in prisons has been £130 million per year. This is £1,500 per prisoner. A Libertarian government will increase this to £3,000. The cost of criminal re-offending has been estimated at circa £11 billion per year. The extra expenditure would be repaid twice over if it stopped one in fifty prisoners from re-offending.
Transferring all mentally ill from prisons to psychiatric hospitals	0.77	Circa 16% of prisoners are reported to have psychotic symptoms. On this basis we will allow for transfer of 8% of the prison population to psychiatric hospitals. The cost of psychiatric care is 390% greater than imprisonment at circa £115,300 p.a. more than prison care so the extra cost of moving 6,689 prisoners into hospitals would be £771 million per year.
Release of 4,374 prisoners guilty solely of drug possession offences	0.25	There would be knock-on saving in reduced police work and reduced work by the courts though some of this would be offset if released drug possessors committed disproportionate numbers of crimes. However drug users of the sort committing other crimes would typically already be in prison for those other crimes so we think it conservative to boost the saving by 50% from £170 million per year to reflect savings in police and court work.
The introduction of time limits for asylum case resolution.	0.4	Assuming an £12,500 per annum asylum seeking case cost including £1,000 of legal costs. With average case time on the order of 12 months to hear and circa 40,000 cases per year this policy would save circa £405 million per year. However such a policy by denying the potential refugee due process might fall foul of human rights law and if so this saving would not materialise.
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	0.65	
Increased interest payments	0.01	The rate assumed is 1.5%.
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	0.43	

HOUSING, LAND & PLANNING

UNDOING A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

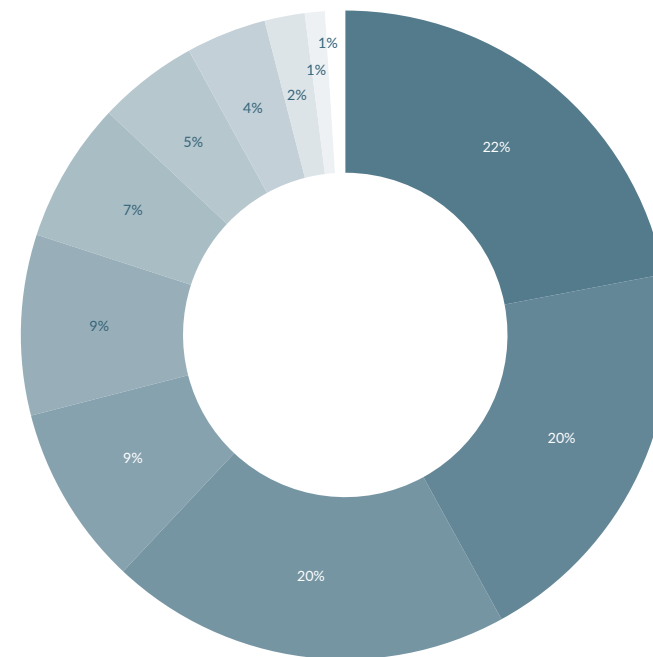
We will solve the “affordability crisis” through de-regulation and by removing and simplifying taxes.

Since 1947 diverse British governments have over-inflated the cost of land and buildings thereby denuding the economy of productive capital and accelerating Great Britain's relative decline. Over this period these same governments have eroded human rights. In particular the right you should have to dispose of your property as you see fit.

To undo these ill effects, to bring life back to the land economy and end the “affordability crisis” in housing we start with understanding of the causes of the crisis (see Figure opposite).

The other parties compete to fail to fix a problem they have not well understood. Building more dwellings will not prevent the combination of tax breaks and deepening credit that sucks capital into buildings however

Causes of upward Pressure on House Prices 1993-2018



- 78% of homes C. Gains Tax Exempt. £15b. forfeit p.a. (2008-18 12% cause).
- 1947 Town and Country Planning Act.
- Repressed Interest Rates & Easy Credit (1968-2018 10%, 2008-2018 40%).
- Population Growth (1968-2018 7%, 2008-2018 11%).
- Falling productivity relative to other industry (1968-2018 15%, 2008-18 6%).
- Living Alone. (1968-2018 12%). Barely increasing (2008-2018 3%).
- Direct Taxes (mainly Plan. Law Section 106) on new building £8 billion p.a.
- Indirect Taxes on building £63 billion p.a. (Council Tax £30 b., Rates £28 b.)
- Government Affordable & Social Homes spending £3.2 b.
- Farm Subsidies & Farm Favours (agri-environment payments) £4.8 billion p.a.
- Immigration (1968-2018 negligible, 2008-2018 2%).

many there are. In addition it will not stop the planning system sucking the life out of the land economy, it will not stop the creeping invasion of property rights by the state nor will it solve the problems arising from more people living alone.

We will solve the “affordability crisis”, by a wave of de-regulation and by removing and simplifying the taxes that gnaw the life out of the land economy.

Last, but not least, the Libertarian Party will enact legal protection for land and buildings that are extra-terrestrial so that they may be to be owned, under British jurisdiction, at all thereby securing for the UK the lion’s share of the down-to-earth benefits of any foreign and domestic investment arising.

1. REPEAL PLANNING LAW

The single housing policy that will do least harm and most good is repeal of the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act. The Libertarian Party is the only party promising this.

BENEFITS

Repeal will bring circa 100,000 long term (6+ months) empty buildings into use at zero cost. It will mean that compulsory provision of secure bicycle sheds with concrete floors, regardless of circumstances, to take a random example, will be a folly consigned to the past. Repeal will allow change of buildings use almost at will and I estimate will reduce the price of houses by 15% (£34,000) in real terms over circa twenty five years.

2. REFORM TORT (DAMAGES) LAW

The reformed Tort Law will fortify a citizen’s human right to dispose of her property in the manner she sees fit.

BENEFITS

A Tort System will be more efficient and just.

NOTES

The Tort System will allow action for damages against developers including government. Developers will have a duty to inform third parties (applicants) when works are scheduled. During this time applicants could file legal action if they wished to contest a development. In the event of a decision in favour of the developer the court judgment might set compensation for the applicant payable by the developer.

Access to justice will be facilitated. There will be measures to discourage chancers and to protect, a reduced set of, listed buildings.

A Tort System will allow small land use changes to proceed without ado. Unlike planning officers not many bloody minded neighbours

would seek prohibitory injunctions against you for painting, say, a hammer and sickle on your front door if they had to pay up to do so.

Today large numbers of people oppose developments unconstrained by any cost but also uncompensated if their action has merit but is defeated. Under a Tort system opponents, if unsuccessful, would have the possibility of compensation. This is how the system would become popular.

With the cost to others of, say, your kitchen extension negotiated by the body of case law that would arise if these negotiations became adversarial the deeper benefit of this approach would be to force developers to focus on locations where the prospects for profit were greatest or the distress caused least or both.

3. REPEAL THE EXEMPTION FROM CAPITAL GAINS TAX UPON THE SALE OF PRIMARY RESIDENCIES

This policy will raise government revenue by circa £15 billion per annum eliminating 30% of the annual government deficit.

BENEFITS

The economy will be enriched.

NOTES

Repeal will create a more level playing field between different ways of securing capital gain.

The change would be bearable to land and buildings owners because of the gradual nature of its effect. Only circa 11% of owners intend to sell within the year and of that 11% many would have the option to choose not to if the sums no longer added up.

By making Great Britain's economy more efficient, this Repeal would yield greater wealth to land and buildings owners, in the long run, than the current regressive tax break does.

Repeal will lower house prices by circa 22% (£50,000) in real terms over circa twenty five years.

4. FOLD BUSINESS RATES AND COUNCIL TAX INTO A SIMPLE "BUILDINGS TAX"

There will be no exemption or special cases. The rate will be set at the same rate as council tax. This will reduce business rates by 80%.

BENEFITS

The tax will create wealth by reducing the tax on the most industrious use of buildings by circa £22.7 billion per annum while simultaneously closing tax loopholes on less productive use.

NOTES

This policy will tend to rejuvenate struggling town centres and the countryside. It will lower house prices by 2.25% (£5,000) in real terms over circa ten years. It will remove the tax avoidance pressure to use buildings for non-commercial purposes.

5. END £5.5BN PER YEAR OF FARM FAVOURS

The Libertarian government will end circa £5.5 billion per annum of gifts (agri-environment and agricultural subsidies and tax breaks) to farmers.

BENEFITS

End the robbery of more productive sectors to pay less productive farmers and the wounding of the poorest countries' agricultural sectors through the indirect means of dumping subsidised UK food in the world market place.

NOTES

Many assume subsidy would tend to lower the price of domestic food. In fact subsidy removes a farmer's motivation to lower prices (or be more productive). We get the worst of both worlds a drain on productivity and high prices.

We estimates this will lower house (by reducing land) prices by 2% (£4,500) in real terms over circa fifteen years.

6. EXTEND LAND RIGHTS DOWNWARD TO FIVE KILOMETRES BELOW THE SURFACE

The deepest gold mine in the world extends circa four kilometres below the surface. This policy exemplifies our conviction that an individual's private property expresses a right indispensable to her freedom.

BENEFITS

Natascha Engel, Shale Gas Commissioner, a former Labour MP, resigned from her post in April 2019. She said the over-cautious approach to tremors had

created a de facto ban on fracking. Our policy will lead to mining proceeding where it makes the most profit or does the least harm instead of where ideology and bureaucracy arbitrarily permit or rather do not.

NOTES

An argument against fracking is that others bare the cost in, say, climate change. Under our reformed law of Tort these costs would be actionable. Moreover, government would not be empowered to issue licences to develop gas fields to which local subsurface land owners might be opposed. For example, close to towns the consent of thousands might be needed. Nevertheless this policy will create interests in, and in this way, encouragement for, profitable mining.

7. REFORM THE TAX TREATMENT OF INCOME FROM LAND AND BUILDINGS

Our policy is to conform tax on land and buildings to the truth, and simplify it, by allowing all business costs to be deducted from gross income in calculating taxable income. In addition this policy will allow losses from property to be set against profits from other businesses and vice versa.

BENEFITS

This will encourage productive risk taking and allow businesses engaged in diverse undertakings to compete even-handedly with more specialised firms.

NOTES

This policy will fortify the principle that government should tax business on the value it adds not for simply existing. Commercial decisions are best made on commercial grounds not for fear of what the government might do next.

8. END THE SECTION 109 SOCIAL HOUSING LEVY AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Government should not be taxing some businesses and not others, creating fear and uncertainty in all as to who will be taxed next, garbling the messages of the free market and rendering tax policy captive to fanatics and factions. A tax system, ideally, is simple, transparent and shows no favours.

BENEFITS

This will encourage new builds as well as creating opportunities for small builders for many of these taxes are an insurmountable barrier. Small firms are not always a good thing but they tend to deliver a more diverse built environment which is a good thing and they generate more jobs per unit of capital than larger firms do.

NOTES

This policy will lower house prices by 4% (£9,000) in real terms over five years.

9. END SIX TYPES OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING SUBSIDY

The Libertarian government will end “Help to Buy”, “Payments to High Need Regions”, The Affordable Homes Programme, The Greater London Authority Affordable Homes Programme, Housing Association Grants from Central Government e.g. the Community Housing Fund and Local Government involvement in providing housing, for example, by grants to Housing Associations.

BENEFITS

This policy will help by stopping subsidies from driving up the price of housing and it will reduce tax payer’s spending by circa £6.3 billion per annum.

NOTES

Ending the confusion of current housing policy which, owing to an inadequate grasp of what causes buildings prices to be high in the first place, pours money into housing subsidies in order to make it easier for people to afford houses thereby driving prices up!

10. REPEAL THE ENERGY CERTIFICATION REGIMES WITH A LESS BLUNT INSTRUMENT

End £1.8 billion per year of box ticking jamboree.

BENEFITS

Less housing crisis and higher productivity.

NOTES

Combating climate change is better done by provision from general taxation than taxing some more than others. A priori it might also be better to target alternative energy provision than insulation.

To encourage protective landlords LPUK will have HMRC issue tax credits to landlords who take out public liability insurance. In turn insurers will press landlords to improve safety. Insurers would be offered tax credits if they reduced premiums for any gas or electrical safety certification regime that they found effective. The carrot would largely replace the stick, the system would become sensitive to cost while buildings would gradually keep on getting safer too.

11. REPEAL THE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE MINIMUM SIZE OF ROOMS

People are not all babies incapable of making up their own minds whether a room is cost effective for them to live in. There are some beautifully designed micro-homes. The current policy forces useful spaces to go unused.

BENEFITS

Freedom will flourish in this matter and productivity too.

12. REPEAL THE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS THAT IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON AIR B&B

A Libertarian government will free hosts and guests to do business with each other as they see fit. We will not countenance any obligatory registration system. Where Air B&B businesses give rise to breaches of the peace or off-property damage the existing legal system and police provide remedy.

BENEFITS

Freedom will be grow and prosperity too.

13. REPEAL DEPOSIT PROTECTION REGULATIONS, MAKE ALL MATTERS OF EVICTION SUBORDINATE TO CONTRACT

The law increasingly prevents people from entering into contracts of their choice, in favour of terms and conditions which are destructive and that turn adults into children. Deposit protection regulations and eviction process regulations have made a mint for lawyers, deposit protection

services and fraudsters. Increasingly the law collectivises private property.

BENEFITS

Restoration of the primacy of contract will encourage entrepreneurship, increase confidence among all private businesses, add to personal responsibility and diminish the growing culture of infinite-entitlement. Movement in the direction of the power of contract would result in a less expensive rental market through an increase in supply of properties for rent as owners became less afraid. The prime beneficiaries of a less afraid landlord would be both the tenant whose rent had come down and the owner whose asset was being put to more productive use.

14. CAP HOUSING BENEFIT

A libertarian government will cap housing benefit at 40% of what would be earned working full time on the minimum wage.

BENEFITS

This policy will save tax payers £8.3 billion per year, increase the incentive to work, put downward pressure on rents and by encouraging those not working to move will lead to a better match of supply and demand.

15. REPEAL THE HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION REGULATIONS

BENEFITS

The ending of a Health and Safety atrocity.

NOTES

The H.M.O. regime is justified in terms of preventing avoidable deaths from fire. We calculate that the regime is dictating annual expenditure to save a life of £9.6 million. This is six times more than the Department of Transport is allowed to spend to prevent a road death (an expense that falls on the general population rather than, in the case of large HMOS, on 110,00 lucky buildings owners).

Senegal has a population of 16 million of whom 64,000 have AIDS. If Senegal was as bad at combating AIDS as Sub-Saharan Africa in general it would have nearly 700,000 people with aids. Senegal has prevented, therefore, the death of 636,000 people on an annual health

spend, including private spending and overseas aid, of about £90 per head. I find something obscene about England's local government forcing citizens to spend £9.6 million to prevent one death in the UK when the same money could prevent, pro rata, more than a hundred and six thousand deaths in Senegal or any other country similarly effective at fighting AIDS.

16. WITHDRAW FROM THE 1967 TREATY GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE

A Libertarian government will allow British and Foreign Citizens, and Corporations, to register, by due process, land and buildings claims on extra terrestrial bodies that will be enforceable under UK law.

BENEFITS

This will help to secure the lion's share of the down-to-earth benefits arising from extra terrestrial development for the UK in the form of foreign and

domestic investment. Under the 1967 treaty the only private property allowed in outer space is property located above extra territorial bodies. In the case this state of affairs were to continue into a future in which outer space were inhabited that would be anathema to all freedom loving people.

NOTES

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has enacted legislation to permit extra-terrestrial mining operations to retain title to materials processed, under Luxembourg jurisdiction, above the surface of extra-terrestrial bodies. This legal innovation was to avoid the International Treaty's prohibition on ownership of extra terrestrial surfaces. Planetary Resources Inc. (in which, along with other asteroid

mining companies, the Duchy had invested circa \$200 million by December 17) reacted by moving offices to Luxembourg.

We will ensure that Britain lead's the world in attracting future-frontier focused individuals, entrepreneurs, corporations and investors to the UK.

Elon Musk has declared his intention to visit Mars by 2028. Under international law he will not be able to own any dwelling he

builds there. Let's give Mr. Musk a reason to move SpaceX if not himself, for tax purposes at least, to the UK before he goes to Mars. This way if he builds a home there and took our offer of jurisdiction up it would put his private property under the protection of the Union Jack which, by the way, should also then give him (and any of its other extra terrestrial inhabitants) citizenry and the vote.

17. ALLOW MORTGAGES, TO BECOME INHERITABLE

A Libertarian government will allow, though not require, mortgages to be inheritable so long as the estate retains sufficient equity to cover the cost of inheritance tax and estate fees.

BENEFITS

This will allow more lenders to resume lending to older borrowers. It will also afford greater opportunity for upward social mobility when borrowers bequeath to non-family members.

NOTES

Mortgage lenders would continue to be free to force sales on commercial grounds if they adjudged heirs could not maintain an inherited mortgage, but the onus of proof would be moved to the lender who would have to show a late payment. This policy would give heirs time to present a commercial case for taking on the mortgage.

18. THE RIGHT TO HAVE LODGERS

Babergh District Council, for example, states on its website that “you have the right to take in lodgers or sublet part of your home” and that “you must receive written permission from us before ... you sublet part of your home.”

A Libertarian government will make it unambiguous that potential lodgers have an unrestricted right to sublet part of your home if you agree to their doing so and that you do not need written permission for this.

19. CUT STAMP DUTY BY 50%

A Libertarian government will halve this arbitrary tax.

BENEFITS

This will reduce the pernicious effect that this tax acts as an obstacle to a more adaptable work force (i.e. one willing to move).

CONCLUSION

The above nineteen measures, by gradually reducing the real cost of housing, at a rate of about 2.1% per year (ultimately by circa 54%) would go far to end poverty (by making housing more affordable) and (by using capital more efficiently) reverse Great Britain's relative economic decline. In addition the above measures strengthen the rights of the individual over her own property and by doing so will enrich the nation.

NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
Fold business rates and council tax into a simpler buildings tax.	22.7	The buildings tax to be set at the rate of council tax effectively reducing rates by 80%.
Scrap the Section 106 Social Housing Levy and Infrastructure Levy	6.0	Ending 430,000 air yeomanry subject to sixty days training over eleven years.
Halve Stamp Duty	3.5	
SUB-TOTAL LESS PRUDENT	32.9	
End selected subsidies and taxes.	9.2	End the Affordable Homes Programme (£0.7 billion p.a. 2016-18), The Greater London Authority Affordable Homes Programme (£1.6 billion p.a. 2016-19) and Housing Association Grants from Central Government e.g. the Community Housing Fund (£0.2 billion). End the Infrastructure Levy (£0.7 billion). End local government involvement in house building (£0.7 billion). End Section 106.
End selected subsidies and taxes.	3.4	End "High need Region" payments.(£1.4 billion) and end "Help to Buy" (£2.0 billion).
Repeal the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act.	1.1	End the planning system.
Cap housing benefit	8.3	Cap the housing benefit element of Universal Credit at 40% of what would be earned working full time on the minimum wage (£7.83 p.h.), namely, £6,107 p.a., (eliminating circa 33% of the £25 billion spend on housing benefit). 5 million people claim housing benefit of £5,000 per annum average so this would not effect the average claimant.
End special favours for farmers.	5.5	End farm supports (£2.7 billion of agricultural grants, £0.3 billion of inheritance tax exemption, £1 billion freedom from planning with attendant capital gain's tax foregone, £0.4 billion of rates exemption and £0.1. billion of diesel exemptions) and an estimated £1.0 billion of Agri-environment payments, in order to reduce unhelpful upward pressure on land prices.
End exemptions from Stamp Duty and business rates	3.5	
End exemptions from Capital Gains Tax	15.0	
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	46.0	
Gains from direct foreign investment	0.8	
Increased interest payments	0.2	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	13.3	

MONETARY POLICY

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT'S DUE

Reform of Great Britain's economic and political system will flounder without reform of the monetary system.

Since the 1940s, the State claims to have used the money supply to prevent the wastefulness of booms and busts. This attempt to manage boom and bust – through quantitative easing, for example – has accidentally suppressed productivity by enabling zombie businesses to survive on borrowed time. Putting off the inevitable day of reckoning in the short term is sapping Great

Britain's prosperity in the long term.

Inflating the money supply into the hands of insiders has insensibly denied capital to the real economy in favour of feeding the maw of government debt.

The Libertarian Party believes that the free market, not government functionaries should allocate credit.

Quantitative easing may have allowed re-capitalisation of British banks, and has thus far yet not resulted in runaway inflation. However, it has inflated asset prices, benefitting the already wealthy at the expense of the rest. Moreover, there is no guarantee that loose money will not feed into wild price inflation in the future. Between 1966-1977, inflation – which peaked at 25% per annum – was poison not only to the UK's economy, but also to its social fabric.

There is also a risk that politicians will see money printing as a painless answer to the question, “where will the money come from?” In Britain, there is talk (for those of us who would like additional reasons to lose sleep) of a People's Quantitative Easing. By contrast, the Libertarian Party will end the government's ability to use fiat currency to fund the

unaffordable in an attempt to bribe the electorate for votes.

Individuals have the right to use money that is not deliberately devalued by the State. Competition in a free market is the best form of regulation. We will encourage monetary and financial competition while recognising that most people will continue to use Sterling. This places a responsibility on government to maintain a stable currency, which we will ensure by re-establishing a gold standard.

Great Britain must work to make its living and do so in a smarter way than other nations do, in order that we might prosper as well as we should. To that end, monetary reform would open the UK for business.

1. ENDING DISCRETIONARY MONETARY POLICY

The Libertarian Party will end the Bank of England's authority to increase or reduce the money supply at will. Instead, there will be a rules-based system – a gold standard with direct convertibility.

BENEFITS

The value of citizens' assets will be fortified. The conditions for wealth creation will be nurtured. Credit will be supplied on merit.

NOTES

In Britain and the USA, the classic period of a gold standard was 1815 to 1914. This was a century of solid economic growth.

Under the gold bullion standard that we propose, so long as the Bank of England maintained its own credibility it would be given some flexibility to deal with shocks to the system or local liquidity crises.

To quote Walter Bagehot, "in times of financial crisis, central banks should lend freely to depository institutions, yet only against sound collateral and at interest rates high enough to dissuade those borrowers that are not in genuine need."

Government debases money by minting it out of nothing, thereby reducing the value of everyone else's. Big banks, their officers, investors, depositors and others favoured by government do well out of this. The overall effect, however, is to encourage malinvestment in unproductive activity. By withholding from government the authority to devalue the assets of the citizenry who are not well connected our policy will deliver a monetary system that shows no favour and is more just.

The Bank of England's role will become one mainly of

supervision. Fraud, misrepresentation, false accounting, theft and other laws would be vigorously upheld. Regulation would not, however, be used by large entities as a barrier to competition.

New decentralised technology and software also present an opportunity for financial and banking services to limit or eliminate the need for trust in a central authority. The Bank of England will be expected to work with industry bodies to ensure that legacy regulation does not hinder the development of this technology, including the use of a regulatory sandbox to encourage and facilitate its development.

CONCLUSION

Individuals should have the right to use money that is not deliberately devalued by the State.

Financial institutions like banks, which make profits in good times, should not be allowed to impose the costs of failure on others during difficult times.

The Libertarian Party believes in a free and voluntary market. This is not the type of market or system we have for money. What we have now is a form of state capitalism that strangles wealth creation and inadvertently misallocates credit.

2. A FREE MARKET IN BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

We will introduce unrestricted competition among depository institutions of all types. Minimum capital-to-debt ratios would be laid down by law. All deposit taking institutions will be required to publish their capital and reserve ratios in a clear manner on customer statements. The owners of depository institutions and the directors of those

institutions would carry personal liability for losses.

BENEFITS

The system will be both relatively stable – thanks to adequate capital ratios – and no longer crowded out by government borrowing. Lending to individuals and private enterprise should increase where it is merited, and returns on investment will naturally therefore rise. The combination of this deepening of credit provision and encouragement of prudence will enhance the wealth of the economy.

NOTES

The UK has a narrow but innovative Fintech cluster. The wider financial sector in the UK is vital and deep, being roughly 6.5% of the UK economy (33% of London's), but twice as productive as the average equally important sector. The Libertarian Party will nurture the competitive advantage our financial sector brings to the UK by allowing it to stand on its own two feet – and by not getting in its way. New technology such as banking apps,

online banking and cryptocurrencies will in future bring hundreds of millions of the unbanked and under-banked throughout the world into the financial sector. With a wisely regulated financial sector, the UK could be at the forefront of this development.

Competition between currency issuing institutions should result in more effective investment by those institutions, leading in turn to better returns to depositors and investors.

3. MONETARY COMPETITION

Legal tender laws will end. Individuals and businesses engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to choose which money they use. Precious metals, cryptocurrencies and other free-market money will be taxed on the same basis as Sterling. In addition to Sterling, taxes will be payable in any recognised money, including gold and Bitcoin.

BENEFITS

Money competition to Sterling and other fiat currencies will limit the government's power to debase money and give more power and choice to individuals.

4. AN END TO GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED DEPOSIT INSURANCE

To give the private sector time to develop suitable insurance policies, this would be phased in over three years.

BENEFITS

Depository institutions will be discouraged from taking reckless risks as they will no longer be able to pass the cost of any error of judgement onto the taxpayer. Depositors at banks should not be favoured over other investors, let alone at the taxpayer's expense. The commercial insurance companies that offer deposit insurance cover will have an incentive to ensure that the deposit taking institutions are solvent.

NOTES

The government provides deposit insurance (via the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, FSCS) to most bank accounts, up to a limit of £85'000. In theory, the FSCS is funded by levies on banks whose customers are covered by the guarantee. In practice, however, those mainly on the hook for the cost of this scheme have been taxpayers. For example, during the 2008-9 crash, just £171 million (less than 1%) of

the £19.86 billion advanced to banks was funded through levies; the rest was provided by the taxpayer. The FSCS reports current liabilities of £4.5 billion, which represents an average per household of circa £159, though this figure is certainly an underestimate, as strongly suggested by the £19.86 billion payout. We estimate the taxpayer's true liability to be anywhere between £10 billion and £150 billion.



PENSIONS

BEYOND UNFUNDED PENSIONS

Balancing current pension commitments with individual's own provision for the future.

The basic state pension and 85 per cent of public sector pensions are unfunded. Most pension contributions are not invested. Instead these contributions go into the general pool of taxation where they are spent and do not accrue. Most independent estimates put the outstanding unfunded public sector pension liabilities at over £1,300 billion.

The current state pension system is unjust in that it passes the pension burden onto future taxpayers. It could also prove

financially traumatic for those likely to find unrealistic pension promises cut back in the future should the state pension be acknowledged to be unaffordable.

There is no pain free way of financing future pension payments.

Means testing has been suggested but withdrawing pension rights would be deeply unpopular with those who feel they have earned those rights. Means testing pensions suffers from the fact that it can

discourage individuals from making provision for themselves.

The Libertarian Party's Policy balances its wish to honour current pension commitments with the need to encourage individuals to make their own provision for the future.

Individual liberty consists to a large extent in having control of one's own property and wealth. This applies to pensions. Liberty cannot flourish when so many are wards of the state in pension terms.

1. REFORM OF THE BASIC PENSION

The Libertarian Party will Establish Personal Pension Pots (P.P.P.s) along the lines of the Australian Superannuation Fund. For all individuals in the UK under 45 this would replace the basic state pension. Those between the

ages of 45 and 55 will have the option to join the P.P.P. or remain in the basic state pension. Those over 55 will continue to remain in the basic state pension.

BENEFITS

This policy will ensure that most individuals will be able to build their own personal pension pot that will be fully funded, and that can be left to their heirs whilst

not being a burden on future taxpayers. Movement from the basic state pension to a personal pension pot in the manner we favour will, we estimate, save tax payers £2.7 billion by 2040 and £11.8 billion by 2050.

2. PHASE OUT THE WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

Understandably this would be an unpopular policy, but balancing the interests of different generations will require current retirees to take some of the pain. The winter fuel allowance has been claimed to be a poorly targeted benefit with calls for it to be scrapped for those who don't need it. The £2 billion saving will be used to encourage young people to save for their own future pension provision by funding partial income tax exemptions on those paying into a P.P.P.

BENEFITS

Two billion pounds per annum to encourage the younger generation to save for their own retirement.

NOTES

Cold weather payments will be retained.

NOTES

There has been some reform of the state pension. The coalition government's raising of the retirement age and hastening the equality of retirement age between men and women has marginally reduced the burden on future generations. But this is not enough. The Libertarian Party's policy balances the interests of different generations by encouraging those under forty five years of age to move to a funded personal pot whilst expecting those over forty five who remain in the basic state pension to forego the winter fuel allowance.

PPP rules will be flexible as to what assets would be eligible to be held in the pot.

The PPP will be funded and the property of the individual and the individual's heirs.

Payment into the PPP would be capped at £250,000 (inflation linked) but contributions up to this level would encouraged with some degree of tax incentive.

Immigrants to the UK (or their employer) will be required to contribute £2,500 to their (PPP) Personal Pension Pot for every year they are over 25 when they arrive in the UK.

The PPP will be un-lockable at the same age as the current eligibility for the state pension. This retirement age will rise with increased life expectancy. It will be reviewed five yearly.

3. REFORM OF THE PENSION LIFETIME ALLOWANCE

We will bring the tax rules on defined benefit schemes into line with those on defined contributions pensions.

BENEFITS

The current pension lifetime allowance unduly rewards those in defined benefit schemes as compared to those in defined contribution pension schemes. This reform would make the tax rules the same for both types of scheme. The main beneficiaries of defined benefit pensions in future years will be those who have worked in the public sector. Any income to the treasury from this tax change would be used to make public sector pensions, which are currently unfunded, more sustainable.

4. CONVERT PUBLIC SECTOR DEFINED BENEFITS SCHEMES TO FUNDED DEFINED CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEMES

Current beneficiaries benefits would be preserved so this change would apply only to the future.

BENEFITS

Our policy will end the practice of favouring current tax payers at the expense of future tax payers. A funded scheme is a lot more reliable for the public sector worker than the current system which relies on the generosity of future tax payers.

NOTES

There has been some reform of public sector pensions but this is generally in the form of higher contributions today for the shaky promise of even higher benefits in the future.

The average employee benefit from a pension in the following sectors of employment is:

- 41% of salary for the four main public sector schemes (NHS, Civil Service, Teachers, Local GPs)
- 71% of salary for the uniformed services schemes (Police, Firefighters, Armed Forces)
- 19% on average in the private sector.

Bringing public sector workers into line with private sector workers, as outlined in this policy, would reduce the burden on future tax payer of funding public sector pensions by circa 33%. This will ensure the long term sustainability of public sector pensions.

If salaries need to rise within the public sector to maintain recruitment due to lower pension promises. Costs, if any, would have to be managed by departments as they have been in the private sector.

The reform of public sector pensions towards full funding will need to be phased in as even though it would eventually mean large savings for future taxpayers it would result in a large reduction in income to the treasury in the short term.

5. REFORM EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION LEGISLATION FOR OLDER WORKERS

Employment legislation disproportionately reduces demand for the unskilled and those at the tail of the worker profile i.e., older workers. Those most likely to need to top up their pension provision. A Libertarian government will free workers over fifty five years of age from subjection to some of the employment legislation that discourage employers from hiring them.

BENEFITS

Employment regulation hurts the elderly overall especially those currently unemployed. Removing regulation would incentivise employers to take on older workers and also enable greater labour mobility and flexible working patterns.

NOTES

A libertarian government will exempt workers over fifty five years of age from eleven, and partially exempt them from two, of the twenty main Acts of employment legislation passed since 1963. For example, five from which we would exempt older workers are:

- 1970 Equal pay Act. Repeal of this Act is a necessary condition of implementing our policy to remove the regulatory barriers to hiring those aged over fifty five.
- 1997 European Social Chapter: Anti-discrimination component, Working Time

Directive (48 hours max), part Time workers entitled to equalised treatment.

- 2013 (circa) Setting executive pay regulations, widening anti-discrimination regulations, raising effective school leaving age
- 2015 Living Wage
- 1996 Asylum and Immigration Act offence of employing a person who is forbidden to work.

Our prime motive for cutting the thicket of government regulation is that it diminishes people's freedom to live and work as they agree on with each other and individually see fit to do.

CONCLUSION

Any reform of pensions has to balance taxation on the current generation with the tax burden passed onto future generations. Governments (including the current administration) have taken the easy way out and passed an increasing tax burden onto future taxpayers.

This system is unsustainable, the dependency ratio – the number of people working compared to the number of people retired is expected to shift from 3:1 today to 1:1 in 2050.

The Libertarian Party's pension policy aims to be tax neutral for today's taxpayer and will reduce the tax burden on future taxpayers.

NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
MORE PRUDENT		
Reform toward defined contribution pensions	1.0	Conversion to Defined Contribution Schemes. For every pound taxed from public sector salaries, nominally to fund pensions, one pound thirty pence is paid out. Ending this equates to a decrease in public spending on pensions of £16.2 billion per annum once all public sector workers had made the transition (after circa fifty years). In year one the saving would be £0.3 billion rising to £2.1 billion in year five an average of £1.0 billion.
Repeal of approximately sixty per cent of employment regulation as it applies to those over fifty five years of age.	0.9	On the basis of £35 billion of employment regulatory cost per annum we estimate the savings, having in mind that we propose to leave half of employment regulations, by impact, in place at £5.3 billion of which we estimate 18% will reduce government spending by saving departments human resources and general management time.
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	1.9	
Decreased interest payments	0.0	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	1.9	



TRANSPORT ENDING GRIDLOCK

The Libertarian Party is committed to implementing policy that provides the lowest travel cost for all.

The Libertarian Party is committed, whether it concerns parking charges for urban residents, the cost of fuel for road hauliers or the service levels for rail passengers, to implementing policy that provides flexible travel at the lowest cost for all.

In formulating this Manifesto, the Libertarian Party UK gives priority and careful consideration to the following:

- Increasing competition to realise innovation, to drive up service levels and drive down costs.
- Rationalising taxation and reduce multiple layers of taxation
- Eliminating or reducing the strain on the tax payer caused by direct subsidies
- Prioritising changes which have a positive impact on the economy

RAIL

Rail transport has a long and rich history in the UK. In the late 19th century Rail overtook canals as the preeminent method of moving large quantities of goods and passengers and by the early 20th Century there were 1.5 Bn. journeys taken by train every year.

The early rail networks grew organically and privately driven by a variety of companies and interest groups. Although

parliament intervened ten thousand times in the mid to late 1840s to impose compulsory purchase on land owners and to set up railway companies the government took a laissez faire approach in other respects. The industry began to consolidate into a small number (four) of regional operators during the early 20th Century prior to nationalisation.

Contrary to popular opinion,

Figure 1. Rail passenger numbers

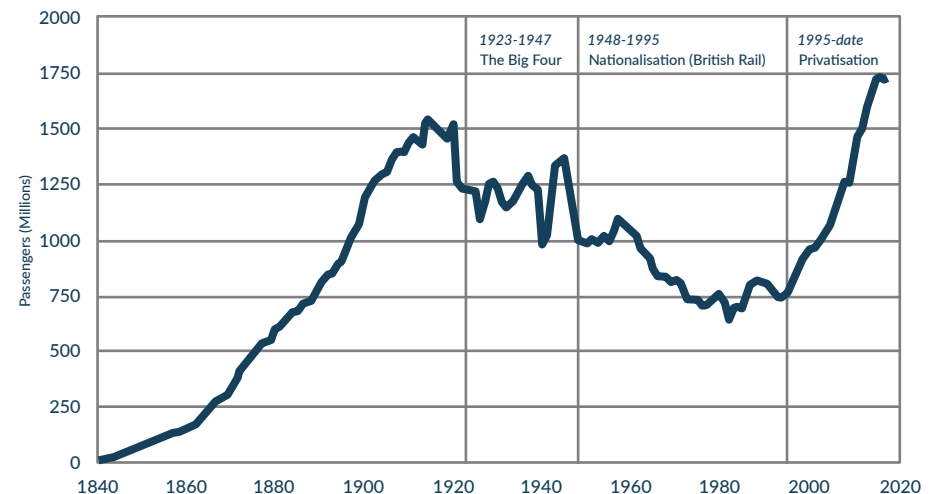


Figure 2. Comparative rail journey costs

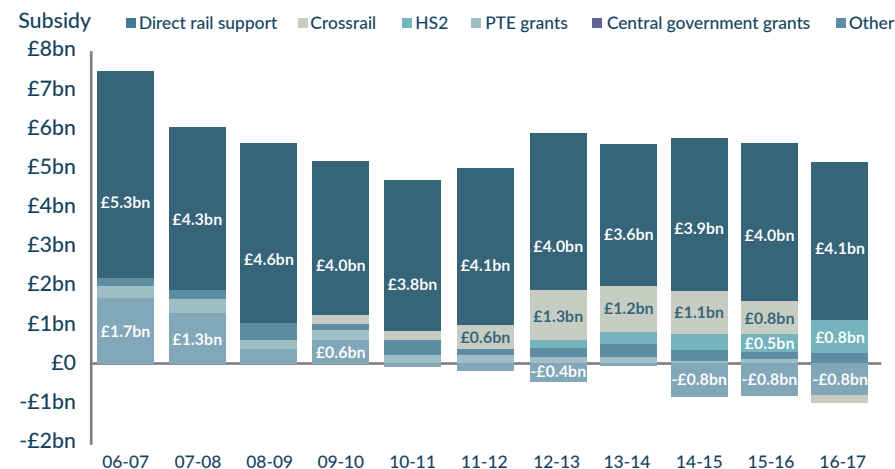
COUNTRY	FROM	TO	MILES	MONTHLY SEASON TICKET COST	MONTHLY EARNINGS	% MONTHLY EARNINGS
UK	LUTON	LONDON ST. PANCRA S	35	£387	£2,759	14%
UK	LIVERPOOL LIME STREET	MANCHESTER PICCADILY	32	£292	£2,759	11%
GERMANY	DUSSELDORF	COLOGNE	28	£85	£2,624	3%
France	MANTES-LA-JOLIE	PARIS	34	£61	£2,545	2%
ITALY	ANZIO	ROME	31	£61	£2,015	3%
SPAIN	ARANJUEZ	MADRID	31	£75	£1,917	4%

nationalisation was not generally successful. Passenger numbers declined steadily and financial losses mounted, leading to a rationalisation of the industry under the Beeching Act, which saw the closure of a large number of branch lines and rural stations.

The railways were privatised at the end of the 20th Century. This change saw a significant increase in the uptake of rail with passenger journey numbers which are now back to levels last seen in the heyday of the early 20th Century.

After twenty years it is, however, clear that privatisation has not delivered all the anticipated benefits, largely because competition is almost completely

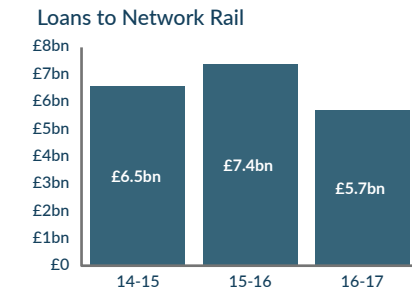
Figure 3. Rail subsidies



absent. The system operates as a franchised monopoly with little or no incentives for operators to reduce costs or improve service levels. Indeed, the UK has the unenviable record, at least before adjusting for subsidies, of the highest journey cost per mile in Europe, and prices continue to rise.

Government subsidies for rail are now in excess of £5 billion p.a. (including HS2 but excluding future liabilities on Crossrail) while Network Rail debt that is underwritten by the government, has risen from £9.7 billion in 2003 to £46 billion in 2018.

Figure 4. Government loans to Railtrack



ROAD

Much of road infrastructure was developed in the middle of the 20th Century, often using railway lines closed under the Beeching Act to create bypasses and trunk roads, and most governments from the latter part of the 20th Century have actively pursued a road building policy.

The road network is maintained either by a central government authority (devolved in the case of Wales and Scotland) in the case of strategic road network (ca.4,300 miles), or local authorities. In the early part of the 20th Century, funding for roads was directly through road vehicle excise duty, however from 1937 they have been funded from general taxation. There remains a small number of toll roads (e.g., the Midlands Expressway and the

Figure 5 Public expenditure on roads in Great Britain, 2008/9–2012/13, source DfT

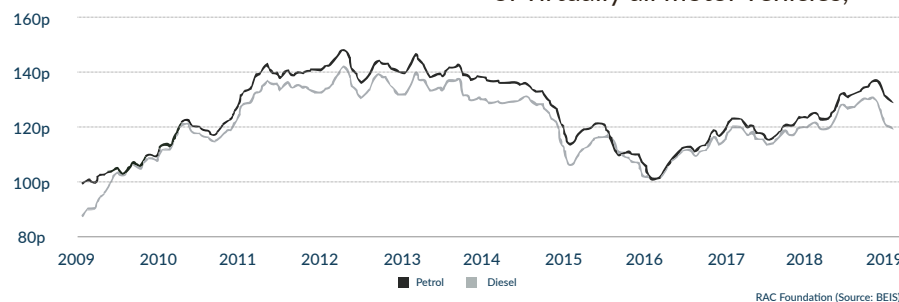
Expenditure			Outturn prices				
Level of government	Type of spending	Type of road	Financial year				
			2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Central	Capital	National	£1,535m	£2,537m	£2,139m	£1,731m	£1,613
		Local	£102m	£220m	£134m	£104m	£131m
	Current	National	£1,912m	£1,567m	£1,395m	£1,337m	£1,222m
		All	£3,549m	£4,324m	£3,668m	£3,172m	£2,966m
Local	Capital	Local	£3,153m	£3,084m	£3,270m	£2,979m	£2,824m
	Current	Local	£2,077m	£2,297m	£1,966m	£1,746m	£1,727m
	All	All	£5,230m	£5,381m	£5,236m	£4,725m	£4,551m
Public Corporations	Capital	National	£18m	£10m	£14m	£8m	£0m
All	All	All	£8,797m	£9,715m	£8,919m	£7,905m	£7,518m

Dartford Crossing), however these are declining.

Funding of the roads is currently £8.6Bn, of which 40% is from central government and 60% from local authorities.

The price of fuel has risen steadily, about 8% ahead of inflation over the last forty seven

Figure 6 Fuel duty chart



years, from 34p per gallon in 1971 to more than £5 in 2018, with the tax proportion fluctuating from 65% to 80% within the same period. Taxation from fuel duty and VAT on fuel currently nets the Exchequer £28Bn per annum.

Vehicle Excise Duty applies to the registration and annual taxation of virtually all motor vehicles,

which generates just under £6Bn per annum for the Exchequer. In 2016-17 Vehicle Excise Duty received was £5.8 billion and fuel duty received was £27.9 billion.

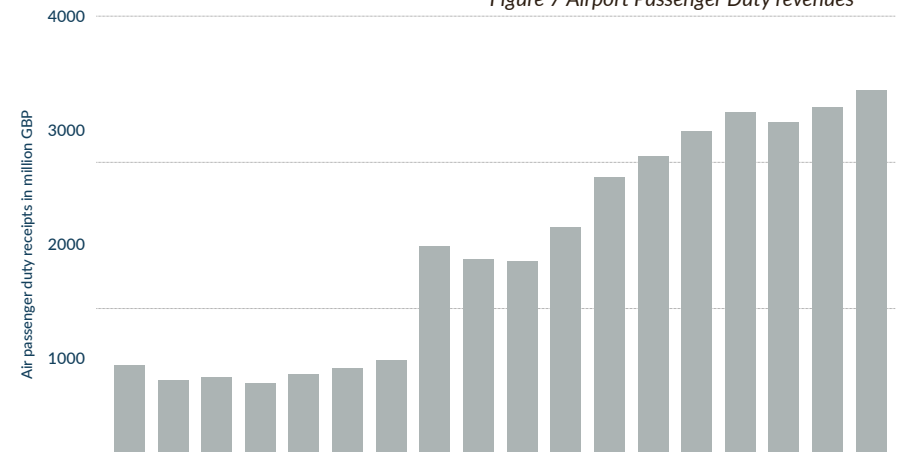
Despite the rising costs, many of the UK's arterial roads are chronically overcrowded, a factor which is almost certainly driving the use of alternative methods of travel. In 2012, the average speed on London's roads was 19.33 miles per hour, dropping to 8.98

UK's slowest motorway.

AIR

Nationalised in 1946, the industry was re-privatised in the 1980's and since then air travel has been growing fast, with 235 million passenger journeys in 2018 forecast to double by 2030, with London Heathrow Airport is one of the busiest airports in the world and regional airports are also seeing a surge in passengers

Figure 7 Airport Passenger Duty revenues



in the streets of Central London. In 2018, according to Transport for London, London cars are driving at an average of just 16.5 miles per hour, falling to 7.4 miles per hour in the city core. The average speed on the M25 is just 25mph, making it officially the

driven by a bloom of low-cost airlines. As countries, only the USA and China carry more passengers.

Around ½ of flights are within the European Union, and around 1/5th are purely domestic. This is

considered a low usage of domestic flights in comparison to other similarly developed countries, with rail still the preferred option for key routes such as Manchester to London and London to Glasgow.

Airport capacity is considered a key inhibitor to growth and there is growing support for additional runways particularly to serve London.

Air Passenger Duty is positioned as a “green tax” and currently generates £3.5Bn per annum for the Exchequer. It is notable that many other countries, including Ireland have scrapped it. Once given the power through devolution, Scotland plans to halve it.



1. REPLACE THE RAILWAYS

A Libertarian government will replace the majority of railways with dedicated coach ways, harnessing the latest driverless and electric vehicle charging technology.

BENEFITS

An economical, green and more reliable transport network. Around £50 Bn. of the national debt is held by Railtrack. The sale of Railtrack assets, specifically non-arterial rail lines, will generate significant cash to offset this debt.

NOTES

Despite growing subsidies and increasing costs, the quality of rail service is declining, with passengers often spending entire journeys standing and many operators struggle to make their franchises work profitably, with slim margins and heavy regulation. Re-nationalisation, regarded by many as the answer to these problems would only increase the burden of debt on an already heavily indebted government, it would certainly not improve efficiency and any improvement in service would be expensive and short-lived. A radical solution is needed, based on a completely new vision of a transport infrastructure fit for the 21st Century.

Rail has traditionally been considered a higher capacity option than road, however if the utilisation of the infrastructure is increased then the opposite is true. The capacity of a highly utilised road is far greater than that of a poorly

utilised railway line, meaning the network can transport a greater number of passengers, and do so in greater comfort.

The main advantage of rail is speed over long distances, therefore the Libertarian Party proposes to retain a core set of arterial rail lines connecting with the other main transport hubs (airports and ports), which will be upgraded and maintained to provide a higher speed service than is currently possible.

Network Rail will be disbanded and the existing rail infrastructure to support the restructured network will be incorporated into a holding company, of which all companies operating a service over the network would be a shareholder. The network itself will be divided into service slots which are operated by service providers, and the cost of maintaining the network falls on the providers using the slots. Service providers can then compete on the same network

operating different slots, or internally compete for specific slots.

The remainder of the network will be sold to private operators to be converted into dedicated, high speed, coachways. These will incorporate the latest driverless technology to reduce costs and electric vehicle charging to reduce emissions. In addition to the core service, operators can sell spare capacity to suitable vehicles (e.g., private cars) or freight carriers or offer premium services. The sale of this infrastructure will be used to repay the outstanding debt for Network Rail.

In this way, the Libertarian Party will free the country from the burden of subsidising the railways while providing a high capacity, adaptable transport system with in-built flexibility to increase capacity through the introduction of smart technology.

2. REDUCE HAULIER FUEL DUTY

We will immediately raise the rate of VAT on diesel to 25% but reduce the fuel duty on diesel by 6.45p to 51.5p. This is currently prohibited under EU regulations, however once the UK has exited the EU then we are at liberty to set our own rules on VAT.

BENEFITS

In this way, road haulage companies who are VAT registered can benefit from lower diesel fuel costs. This will provide a significant boost to the economy, adding at least £1Bn to GDP, creating jobs and reducing inflation. The reduction in fuel duty revenue will be only £45M. The reduction in fuel duty on diesel for hauliers will have a positive effect on the economy, boosting jobs and increasing GDP.

NOTES

Road transport has become a cash cow, with motorists the target of multiple layers of taxation across vehicle excise duty, fuel duty and VAT to the tune of £35Bn per annum. This is at a time when people rely on their cars to get to work or run their business, and often do not have practical alternatives.

The Libertarian Party's policy is to align taxation with need, and so far as is possible hypothecate motoring taxes such that the cost of building and maintaining roads and motoring infrastructure is met by motoring taxes, however with all the competing pressure for tax revenue to fund social programmes and the growing national debt it would be imprudent to rush towards that position.

Road Hauliers are the lifeblood of the consumer economy. In 2016 UK HGVs in the UK used 7 billion litres of diesel, which is $\frac{1}{4}$ of all diesel used and paid on average 45% more tax than their European counterparts. This puts UK Hauliers at a significant competitive disadvantage given fuel is one of the highest costs for a Haulage company and is unavoidable.

3. IMPLEMENT THE "WE'RE JAMMIN" REPORT

A Libertarian government will fully implement the recommendations of the "We're Jammin" cross party parliamentary report.

BENEFITS

In their report on signage and road safety the cross-party infrastructure group of MPs identify excessive signage and disproportionate increase in traffic control measures as costing the average motor vehicle owner more than five hundred pounds a year as a result of being unnecessarily stuck in traffic jams. Fully implementing the recommendations of the report will save the average motorist circa fifty hours a year currently wasted snarled up behind the modern equivalent of an 1865 pedestrian walking in front of your car with a red flag.

4. ABOLISH AIR PASSENGER DUTY

The high cost of air travel is one of the reasons why the UK has low usage of domestic flights. Many countries around the world, including some of our near neighbours have abolished the tax or significantly reduced it. Increased domestic flights would alleviate pressure on other forms of transport such as rail and road.

BENEFITS

This will lower the cost of flights in the UK, and encourages tourism, trade and investment.

NOTES

The Libertarian Party UK proposes to progressively reduce Air Passenger Duty to 0% over 4 years to improve the competitiveness of UK flight operators and increase the utilisation of domestic routes.

The Libertarian Party UK supports the building of further capacity in the form of new runways. We will continue to consider the most appropriate places to locate increased capacity.

CONCLUSION

In 1865 motor vehicle speed limits in built up areas were set to 2 m.p.h and each vehicle was required to follow behind a pedestrian carrying a red flag. This was the law according to the Locomotive Acts. With health and

safety zeal reducing car speed limits to 20 m.p.h., or perhaps soon less, congestion in central London reducing it to 7 m.p.h., speed limiters to be introduced to prevent you driving at more than 70 m.ph., parking at airports a sort of expedition into the heart

of darkness and overcrowding on trains the remorseless pressure on everyone to stay still is mounting. The Libertarian party does not mistake motion for action, but we are committed to getting things moving in a cost effective way.

NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
Reduced revenue from Road	0.045	£45 million reduction in diesel fuel duty.
Reduced revenue from Air	11.8	Abolition of Air Passenger Duty
SUB-TOTAL LESS PRUDENT	11.845	
Rail	10.0	50% reduction in Rail subsidies.
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	10.0	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	1.845	
ESTIMATED IMPACT ON BALANCE SHEET from sale of circa 350 square kilometres of land including buildings	130.0	£19.6 billion was lent to the Railways by the government 2014-2017. Reducing the property portfolio of the railways, as we propose, by circa 70% would reduce the borrowing need by circa £3,5 billion per annum. Moreover, Network Rail owns circa 128,000 acres, or £512 square kilometres of land and buildings worth, say, £210 billion (after adjusting 25% down for being in somewhat less built up areas on non-arterial routes). Replacement of non-arterial routes with electric or hydrogen coach ways would enable sale of, say, 70% realising, perhaps, £110 to £150 billion of cash onto the government balance sheet.



WELFARE TO THE HELPLESS, NOT THE REST

A combination of responsibility and compassion.

Sixty four per cent of Households receive some sort of state benefit. This (excluding those dealt with in other policies) costs £94 billion per annum in welfare payments.

The Libertarian Party is committed to lifting the weights that prevent wealth creation including the burden of unproductive welfare spending while committing to welfare for those unable to fend for

themselves. Our combination of responsibility and compassion is structured to bring about a substantial improvement in government finances by reducing welfare (excluding those dealt with in other policies) by thirty six per cent. Our focus is to do so in ways that encourage wealth creation and discourage family breakup (which is, usually, deleterious to children).

State benefits are never free so in so far as our policies would shrink the welfare state, which they substantially will do, for every pound taken from one person a pound would be given back to a tax paying other. Except it is better than neutral because none of the pound given back would have been wasted on administering the benefit, as part of it is at present. Moreover, the pound given back would never remove people's incentive to stand on their own two feet as a welfare benefit can do, and in practice does as you can see below in the case of several policies that benefit those who do not need a benefit remotely as much as others more helpless do.

1. ENDING WORKING TAX CREDITS

Working tax credits are a subsidy to zombie businesses too unproductive to pay their worker's competitively. Why anyone would think that the tax payer should be financing the worker in one business but not another is painful to imagine, but subsidising businesses that are so unproductive that they have to pay their crew less than other businesses is positively perverse. It is reinforcing of failure. Working tax credits, along with the equivalent (circa ten per cent) part of universal credit, will be ended.

BENEFITS

Abolition will go some way to restoring fact-based decision making to the economy as well as removing from each taxpayer a three hundred and forty three pounds per annum burden.

NOTES

Tax credits were created by the Labour government of 1999 to top up the pay of low earners. First, the trouble is gone to of taking tax from a worker. Then, the trouble is gone to of giving it back to a different worker. The more efficient thing to do would be just to not take it from the original worker in the first place. The counter-argument is that the second worker is poorer. However, if we pay workers according to how poor they are relative to each other, instead of because we value what they are doing for us, the result will be impoverishment since there will be no incentive to make anything work. Working tax credits are a perfectly dumb idea because they corrupt price information, encourage waste and embrace, instead, the impractical collectivist self-harming idea that we should be paid for being useless by those who are doing something more constructive.

2. WITHDRAWAL OF SELECTED WELFARE BENEFITS FROM THE VERY WEALTHY

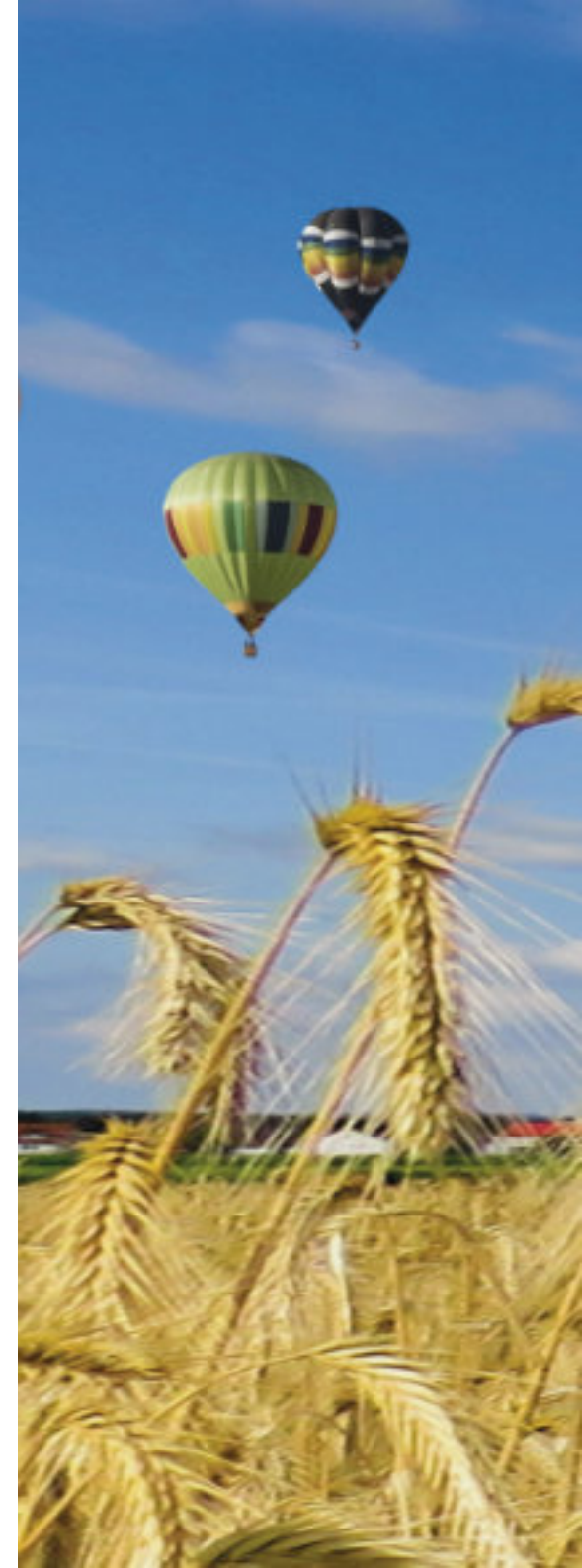
For the most prosperous one in five by gross income (those with a median gross income of £58,000 per annum) disability living allowance, personal independence payments, incapacity benefits & carer's allowance will be withdrawn.

BENEFITS

The change will help to arrest the ballooning of this benefit, whose cost has increased far in excess of inflation, but in a way that will fall on those more able to bare it.

NOTES

Our calculations assume that among the most prosperous one in five 35% would not claim these benefits under the current system. After adjusting for population growth, and the increased frailty of an older population, sickness and disability payments have still risen fifty per cent faster than inflation in the period since 2000. In 2000 they were £19 billion and in 2020 it is predicted they will be £50 billion. Although we propose a 12% reduction in Sickness and Disability payments all this will do is take us back to where we were in 2015. However, unlike in 2015 all the money paid out will be focused on the least prosperous 80% so none of it will go to assist those relatively well able to finance their own care.



3. ABOLITION OF CHILD TAX CREDIT

The Libertarian Party UK is not comfortable with taxpayers subsidising businesses more heavily if their workers have more children, and is not comfortable with those who do not have children being taxed to support those who do. We are willing to countenance this if it discourages family breakup but that is a wider

matter essentially of child welfare. Child tax credits, like working tax credits, are a subsidy to arbitrarily selected businesses. We will scrap the credit.

BENEFITS

Abolition will result in better public finance ultimately contributing to economic growth. Economic growth is the reliable long term way of delivering the wealth that would enable those who want children to afford them.

NOTES

It might be said that potential parents have already suffered the injury of childlessness without the insult of a tax burden to fund other's better fortune being added. For many of those who consider it no injury to have missed out on children there will be even less reason for government to finance the sort of choices they have themselves rejected.

4. WITHDRAWAL OF CHILD BENEFIT FROM THOSE EARNING MORE THAN AVERAGE

For the most prosperous one in two by gross income child benefit will be withdrawn.

BENEFITS

This will halve the taxing of those who have no children to support those who do, and increase the extent to which the decision to have children will become an individual one in which each person will be financially accountable for the decision they make rather than significantly not being thanks to the generosity of tax payers.

NOTES

Halving this benefit will grant a saving of £5.3 billion per year to the tax payer.

5. REPLACE STATUTORY MATERNITY AND PATERNITY PAY WITH JOINT PARENT TAX RETURNS

Statutory paternity and maternity pay will be scrapped. Instead couples will be allowed to submit unified self-assessment tax returns if they wish for so long as they have children under seventeen years of age. This will, over time and speaking financially, more than offset, for many if not most, the effect of scrapping maternity and paternity pay, but in a way that will incentivise bringing children into the world in a family context as opposed to as a single parent.

BENEFITS

An arbitrary burden will be removed from business. Families will have an incentive to stay together (which is usually in the best interest of children) and one individual, among the couple, who wishes to prioritise child rearing will be more economically free to do so. The way this will work is that the wealthier member of the family will be able to use, say, a dependent partner, or very low earning partner's, tax free allowances to set against their own tax liability. The threshold for applying the lowest level of income tax could also be broadened to combine the two individual's entitlements. This would mean the couples that did not gain from the tax benefit would tend to be those who could best afford not to.

NOTES

Maternity and paternity leave pays out, to the average worker, circa £5,500 per parent over weeks one to thirty nine. The parents have the additional reward of having their old job guaranteed which is worth, say, £3,300 to the employee. Both costs are carried by the business not the taxpayer (although the taxpayer does bare £2.5 billion of cost too).

Assuming a family with one family member providing child care and assuming median British earnings of circa £26,000 per year the tax on this income would be £4,782 in 2018-19. With the tax free earnings allowance of the couple,

under our policy, at £25,000 the net benefit would be circa £4,600 in tax no longer due. This contrasts with an estimated value of £8,800 for average paid maternity or paternity leave over thirty nine weeks combined with job security. However, in the long, say, sixteen year term the benefit to the couple on average wages would be £73,600. A very substantial discouragement to family breakdown for those couples to whom it would apply.

Our policy will make the potential parent more responsible for the decision to give birth, and the government's influence on that decision less, which is as it should be.

NOTES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
Unified Self-Assessment Tax Returns for couples who so wish.	12.0	£4,600 net tax forgone from averagely or more than averagely wealthy couples (where one member is relatively poor). With circa 16.5 million couples living together in the UK and circa 9.9 million couples (60%) earning enough to benefit in full from a unified for couples self-assessment tax system, allowing for 25% not organising themselves to submit tax in the beneficial way and for 65% of those who do being individually both too wealthy, or too poor, to benefit as couples in such a way, we estimate that the tax foregone from the estimated 2.6 million couples affected would be £12.0 billion per annum.
SUB-TOTAL LESS PRUDENT	12.0	
From Sickness and Disability.	6.0	Disability living, Personal independence and Incapacity benefits & Carer's Allowance & Other (£46.5 billion). Withdrawal (at 50% of the set) from the 10% with the largest gross income (> £64,000) for £2.3 billion and withdrawal (at 80% of the set) from the 10% with the next largest gross income (£43,000 - £64,000) at £3.7 billion.
	2.1	Universal Credit (£8 billion 2018-19). Abolish the working tax credit component estimated at 10%. Abolish the child tax credit component estimated at 16%.
	10.0	Abolish working (also known as a personal) tax Credit (£10 billion 2018-19).
	16.0	Abolish Child (also known as a personal) Tax Credit (£16 billion 2018-19).
	5.3	Child Benefit (£11.5 billion 2018-19). Withdraw child benefit from the 50% with the largest gross income (the top 10% already forfeit it), namely, those with gross income of > £26,000.
	2.5	Statutory Maternity and Paternity Pay (£2.5 billion). Scrap this.
	1.4	National Insurance Social Security in the welfare cap (pro rata reduction)
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	43.3	
Decreased interest payments	0.6	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	31.9	



SUMMARY TABLE - CHANGE IN UK GOVERNMENT BUDGET FROM LIBERTARIAN PARTY POLICIES

NUMBERS BILLIONS OF £	SPENDING CHANGES PER ANNUM	INCREASES IN SPENDING ARE IN RED AND REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING IN BLACK
	1.8	Transport Policy (though there is a big gain for the government balance sheet in our transport policy).
	21.4	Defence Policy
	0.5	Home Affairs Policy
SUB-TOTAL LESS PRUDENT	23.7	
	1.3	Digital, Media and Sport
	12.1	Economic Policy
	5.2	Education Policy
	18.4	Foreign Policy
	14.1	Housing Policy
	44.5	Health Policy
	1.9	Pensions Policy
	32.8	Welfare Policy
SUB-TOTAL MORE PRUDENT	130.3	
Decreased interest payments	1.7	
TOTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES	110.8	<p>This improvement in public finances would eliminate the £27 billion per year government deficit (2018) and enable repayment of the £1,840 billion government national debt over twenty three years before compound interest so in practice perhaps seven years sooner. It should be noted that the true debt of government is greater in that the £1,840 does not include £500 billion of bank deposit protection liability, £4,000 billion of unfunded state pensions and £917 billion of unfunded public sector defined benefit workplace pensions a total of £5,417 billion. Even this vast debt, minus the deposit protection which a Libertarian government would withdraw, so £4,917 billion could be fully funded after about forty years of continuous Libertarian government at the level of prudence committed to in this our Manifesto.</p>



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