



**REFORM
UK**

SENEDD 2021
CONTRACT WITH
THE PEOPLE
OF WALES
CHANGING POLITICS FOR GOOD

Promoted and printed by Nathan Gill on behalf of Reform UK, at Bryn Aethwy, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, LL59 5HS.

OUR KEY PLEDGES



A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT IN WALES WILL:

- ✓ **ENSURE NO MORE LOCKDOWNS** for the people of Wales or any area of Wales. We will adopt an approach where data drives decisions.
- ✓ **CLEAR THE NHS BACKLOG CAUSED BY COVID** by investing around £1 billion over the next four years to put waiting lists to pre-pandemic levels.
- ✓ **GIVE PARENTS THE RIGHT TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN ON HOLIDAY** giving flexibility to take children out of the classroom for up to ten days.
- ✓ **BUILD THE M4 RELIEF ROAD** and new train stations to improve infrastructure in Wales.
- ✓ **REDUCE THE COST OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT** by cutting the number of local authorities and pass these savings on to the communities in Wales.

OUR BELIEFS

Reform UK is not a new political party, rather we are the next phase in the evolution of what started as **The Brexit Party**. We are here because we see that there is a need to change. If Wales does not move forwards, we will move backwards on the world stage. Many of you put your trust in us in 2019, we are now asking you to do the same.

One thing became very apparent between the Brexit Referendum in June 2016 and the UK finally leaving the EU in January 2020. **Our political system was not fit for purpose**. We have an antiquated electoral system designed to keep the two old parties in power. **Millions who do vote have no representation at all**, and millions more do not even bother to vote.

Reforming the Senedd, Westminster and The House of Lords is at the heart of Reform UK.

Our beliefs tell you more about who we are, and what kind of a government we would form:

1. We believe that the **people of Wales are supposed to be in charge of elected politicians**, and NOT the other way round.
2. We believe in **protecting and defending freedom of speech**, belief, expression and conscience.
3. We believe that all **people should be free to live their life** however they choose as long as those choices don't harm others or restrict the freedom of others to do the same. Basically, live and let live.
4. We believe that you and your family are more likely to prosper if **taxes are kept as low as possible**.
5. We believe that **governments should be kept as small as possible** and should be simple and clear to understand by ordinary people.
6. We believe in **keeping decisions as close as possible to the people** that need to implement and live with those decisions. Bad decisions are often made by inadequate politicians.
7. We believe in actively **working towards an economically self-reliant Wales**, instead of a Westminster-reliant Wales.
8. We believe that proactively **scrapping bad laws and regulations is just as important as creating new laws and regulations**. We believe a responsible government should be constantly, actively reviewing legislation to remove laws and regulations that either don't work or are doing more harm than good.
9. We believe that raising and **educating children is the responsibility of parents and not the government**, and that no government has the right to force mandatory sex education on children against the wishes of their parents.
10. We believe all these things because above all else, **we believe in you. We believe in the people of Wales**. We believe that the brightest future for Wales does not lay in the hands of badly informed politicians with their own questionable agendas, but in the **hearts and minds of the people of Wales**.



Nathan L Gill
Leader Reform UK in Wales

Nathan Gill
Welsh Party
Leader



Richard Tice
Party Leader

COVID-19

The default position of many countries over the past year in response to rising cases of Covid has been to lockdown the entire nation. Back in March 2020, when we had the first UK lockdown, choosing this path had some logic. The virus was spreading at a time when we had little information about who was at risk. Countries went into lockdown one by one. It was a safe option for politicians to follow rather than try something different.

A year on, and with so much rich data, Reform UK would not follow the same path of lockdowns. We will assess risk based on the data and give equal weight to both health and economic harm. Governments around the world have failed to produce cost benefit analysis on lockdowns, which has led to the cure being worse than the illness.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ☒ **No more lockdowns for the people of Wales or any local area of Wales. We will adopt an approach where data drives decision making and those most at risk are offered protection to save lives and save businesses.**
- ☒ **Establish an expert advisory group that considers not only the health effects of Covid-19 but the wider effects of policy on the health system and economy.**
- ☒ **Keep schools open. The risk of not being in education on young people's development and mental health outweigh the benefits.**
- ☒ **Keep leisure and fitness facilities such as swimming pools and gyms open. Keeping people healthy and fit is vital for public health and well-being**
- ☒ **Never introduce vaccine passports and will remove guidance for wearing masks in class.**

HEALTH

The NHS will face continuing pressures after the Covid-19 pandemic. In prioritising Covid-19 over everything else, the Welsh Labour Government has created an enormous increase on waiting times which will take several years to clear. In January 2021, the overall waiting list in Wales was almost 550,000, an increase of 17% on a year earlier. The number of patients waiting over 26 weeks to start treatment was around 260,000, up 241% on a year earlier.

The pandemic has led to a fall in referrals from primary care services, which will inevitably lead to a further surge of patients requiring treatment as people seek medical help. The Wales Governance centre puts the cost of returning waiting lists to pre-Covid levels at around £1 billion over the next four years. NHS investment itself has been £1.4 billion since May 2020 to cover the cost of the pandemic. We believe every life matters and will work to fix the damage done. Investment is just one part of this, as without the staff to do the work we will never tackle the crisis. We need to keep and recruit staff as money alone will not fix the problem.

Mental health while not always visible, has a significant impact on lives and families. The number of people suffering a severe mental health problem has more than doubled over the pandemic. We believe the NHS should treat mental health on an equal footing with physical health.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ☒ **Invest to clear the backlog of NHS waiting times over the next four years.**
- ☒ **Invest in community services to ensure everyone gets the support they need on mental health and normalise mental illness with powerful health promotion campaigns.**
- ☒ **Develop a medical model that focuses on prevention, recovery and co-production as well as cure.**
- ☒ **Develop a workforce policy that ensures adequate numbers of high quality and motivated staff are kept and recruited.**

ECONOMY

On May 6th Reform UK is standing 500 candidates in four elections across England, Wales and Scotland. Delivering change that will improve our lives requires big picture reforms delivered at a national level. Reform UK is a national party with big ambitions.

To succeed, we must become a low tax, smartly regulated, high growth economy. Faster growth is the only way to better wages and more tax revenues to invest in better healthcare and other public services. Our bold economic vision will free up over six million people from paying income tax and over 1.2 million small businesses and the self-employed from paying corporation tax. We will also remove a raft of stifling taxes. This will generate the faster growth that we need to take advantage of our freedoms now that we are once again a free and independent country.

The UK has huge potential if we can deliver the low tax, high growth reforms needed to transform our economy. Your vote for Reform UK Wales on May 6th is a vote to support our vision for unlocking the potential of the UK economy and all of the benefits this will bring to our four nations.

Take a look at our bold economic plan here: [Reform UK Economic Plan](#).

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ☒ **Raise the threshold at which people start paying income tax to £20,000.**
- ☒ **Free up 1.2 million small businesses and self-employed from paying corporation tax.**
- ☒ **Create an internet sales tax and scrap business rates in Wales.**
- ☒ **Stimulate the North Wales economy by supporting Wylfa Newydd.**



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wales has 22 local council authorities serving 3.2 million people but having so many increases the cost of politics and management across Local Government. Businesses strive to innovate and seek efficiencies to pass on cost savings to consumers and become more competitive, and public services should be no different.

In 2014, the Welsh Labour Government promised to reduce the number of local authorities to create efficiencies and save money. It's now 2021, and they have delivered no tangible action.

Some of the Chief Executives running these authorities have a total remuneration of over £200k per year. The cost of Local Government has spiralled out of control. No business would allow this.

There is also great disparity between the salaries of Chief Executives in Wales, with some earning over a half more than in other local authorities. There is also disparity in the population size that each local authority serves. The Chief Executive of Merthyr Tydfil oversees services for 60,000 as opposed to 240,000 people in Rhondda Cynon Taf. No business would follow the model adopted in Wales to Local Government.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ☒ **Cut the cost of local politics by halving the number of local authorities.**
- ☒ **Level up the responsibilities of Local Government by ensuring each Chief Executive oversees services for similar sized populations, allowing for some Rural disparity.**
- ☒ **Level up the salaries between the Chief Executives of the remaining local authorities.**
- ☒ **Put a cap on Chief Executive's salary of £150,000 per year.**
- ☒ **Invest cost savings of Local Government reform into freezing council tax.**

SENEDD

We believe in keeping decisions as close as possible to the people that need to implement and live with those decisions.

Many people all over Wales feel a disconnect with the Welsh Government, and the Senedd. This frustration has built up over the years to such that some people contemplate reversing Devolution altogether. We wish to reform the Senedd and those working within it who serve Wales.

Every industry strives to innovate and improve the way it operates and does business. Government should be no different. Devolution provides Wales with an opportunity to govern for the 21st Century in strong partnership with the other nations of the UK. A Senedd with politicians who fully represent the voting across Wales will better reflect the views and priorities of the people of Wales. This should be the last Senedd election in Wales that has First Past The Post (FPTP) as a way people are elected.

We will adopt a full Proportional Representation model that does not favour any one party and allows the burgeoning diversity of political views and parties to have representation.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:



Oppose any increase in the number of MSs. We believe in reducing the number of paid politicians in Wales, and would advocate using the 40 Westminster MPs that represent Wales to scrutinise the Welsh Government.



We would change the way the First Minister of Wales is elected. Instead of picking the FM from a small pool of 60 MSs, we would hold a separate election for the FM, who would be elected directly and who could create a cabinet from the brightest and best talent.



We would actively seek to devolve some powers of Welsh Government to Local Authorities, bringing them closer to the people.

POLLING STATION

DEMOCRACY

Democratic accountability and bringing democracy closer to the people was a cornerstone of The Brexit Party, which very much remains the case for Reform UK.

We acknowledge devolution is not working at the moment, but we strongly believe this is because of third rate politicians, put in place by Welsh Labour, who would not last five minutes at a senior level in business. Welsh Labour's time in power has left many communities across Wales with high levels of poverty and deprivation.

Labour's policies have done a lot of damage to Wales, but this doesn't mean we should cancel devolution. Neither does it mean we should support the separatists who would break up our precious union.

Reform UK believes a strong voice in Wales will strengthen the United Kingdom. We are proud of Wales, its people, and we should treat Wales as a nation within the UK politically. Our national sports teams compete at the highest level internationally, winning the recent Six Nations and reaching the semi-finals of the 2016 football UEFA European Championships. We have a unique history and heritage and our own traditions. Wales is a nation that is more than capable of taking decisions for itself. Handing power over Wales to Westminster would be a backward step for Wales.

In recent years calls for independence and abolishing the parliament have grown, but they remain a noisy minority. There is no mandate for either, but we recognise the argument needs to be settled.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:



We will actively campaign to remain a firm member of the United Kingdom.



We will actively campaign to keep a Welsh Parliament to deliver in the best interests for the people of Wales.

EDUCATION

A good education is the backbone to helping our children prosper and give them the best chance in life. Our teachers choose the profession because they want to make a difference. After 22 years of Welsh Labour overseeing education in Wales, our country still comes out lowest on educational attainment across the UK.

Education is there to equip our children to take the step forward from childhood to adult life. Many children learn complex mathematical techniques but leave school without a clear understanding of how to manage the money they will earn, how to budget for future life events, and the risks and rewards of investments. Educating our children on skills that are directly transferable to adult life is key to transforming the way we use education to help children prosper.

Education does not start and end within the classroom, and we believe in a more flexible approach to term time holidays. The current system of inflexibility around allowing children to spend time with families during term time disproportionately affects those families with lower incomes. Families with high incomes can afford to pay fines and/or pay the premium of breaks during school holidays. We want to end the injustice of poorer families. Fining parents who want to spend quality time with their children and give them life experiences is not fair.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ☒ **Make financial education a mandatory subject for all school children at GCSE level. The subject will compliment many other core subjects on the national curriculum.**
- ☒ **Allow parents to have the flexibility to take children out of the classroom for up to 10 days for those not in their GCSE years.**
- ☒ **Reform term dates and scrap a six-week holiday in July/August to spread this out across the year.**

TRANSPORT

One of the biggest challenges in growing the Welsh economy is the current lack of good quality transport links and infrastructure.

Failure by the Welsh Labour Government to build the M4 relief road despite it being a manifesto pledge and spending over £150 million is a colossal failure for Wales. The M4 is the major transport link into the most populated region of Wales, yet traffic regularly slows to walking pace at peak times. Now that we have removed the bridge toll charges, it is time to open up South Wales to new investment and jobs.

The M4 debacle is symptomatic of the Welsh Labour Government performance on transport policy. The A55 in North Wales needs investment and the lack of a hard shoulder makes it not only a bottleneck during a breakdown, but also dangerous to road users.

A report by the Transport Commission has recommended six new train stations between Cardiff and Newport. We fully support this plan, although unlike Welsh Labour, we will deliver it along with the M4 relief road, not instead of it.

Take a look at the report here: [South East Wales Transport Commission Report](#).

Transport links between North and South Wales are also problematic, whether travelling via rail, road or air. It is quicker to travel from North Wales to London than it is to Cardiff. The A470 which runs from Llandudno to Cardiff is 178 miles long yet only has 7 miles of dual carriageway, taking around 4 hours to drive.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ☒ **Build the M4 relief road.**
- ☒ **Build new rail infrastructure in South Wales, including SE Wales Transport Commission recommendation for six new train stations and Valley line upgrades.**
- ☒ **Improve transport links between South and North Wales.**
- ☒ **Invest in improving road links in North Wales.**

RURAL & COASTAL

Wales has some of the best countryside and coastline in the world with three National Parks. From Snowdonia to the Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire coastal park.

Our rural and coastal communities are largely made up of small market towns and villages. These communities are under threat. Young people struggle to remain in their community because of the lack of work and affordable housing. Small farms are disappearing because of often overburdening regulations. Pressure on housing stock in some coastal communities is a breaking point because of the amount of properties being lost to holiday letting and second homes. Tourism and hospitality provide vital jobs and Wales is attracting more and more visitors every year, but we must also protect our communities and young people.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ☒ **Keep the current legislation that allows local authorities to charge up to 100% extra on empty and second homes, but introduce a policy to ensure the money raised goes directly back to the communities affected.**
- ☒ **Introduce planning permission for home owners that wish to seek a change of purpose for that home to a holiday let business. Without planning permission, the homeowner could not register for businesses rates. This would enable better management of the number of domestic homes used as businesses in holiday hot spots.**
- ☒ **We will make it easier for local people to build a home in their local village or town.**
- ☒ **Rejuvenate our market town high streets by providing free parking for up to 2 hours to encourage people back to the high street.**

ENVIRONMENT

Innovation and technology will be the key to deliver a net-zero carbon future. We believe that scientists, engineers, and politicians need to work smartly together.

Everyone in Wales needs to do their bit. Government needs to support communities to change how we travel, shop and heat our homes. We can embrace the opportunities offered by the shift towards more remote working through the pandemic to reduce unnecessary commuting. Not everyone wants to, or has the space to work from home, and we support creating local hubs, where people can still socially interact without the need to travel.

The shift towards electric cars is a key feature of reducing the impact on the environment. The demand for electricity will rise significantly to power these vehicles and we need to focus on how we generate this electricity by increasing how much electricity comes from renewable sources. Wind turbines and solar panels will play a part, but the sun doesn't always shine, and the wind doesn't always blow, but the tide will always ebb and flow.

Our energy revolution must be tidal if we are to create a constant energy source. As a country surrounded by some of the biggest tides in the world, Wales can be a world leader in the tidal energy revolution. We can harness the energy created by the high tide movements along our 870 mile coastline.

We believe in an integrated approach to how we live our daily lives along with improving the environment. The shift to electric cars will only work if we increase the number of charging points on the network and create legislation to ensure all new homes have electric vehicle charging points. Local authorities own many of the car parks in our towns and cities. Putting in the infrastructure at these locations can transform car parks into the fuel stations of the future.

A REFORM UK GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ☒ **Support and invest in tidal energy to make Wales a world leader in this technology.**
- ☒ **Work with Local Authorities to create an Electric Vehicle charging network model that funds public services.**
- ☒ **We will create a National Forest for Wales with open access to all citizens.**



VOTE REFORM UK
ON 6 MAY

TO CHANGE POLITICS FOR GOOD.