

**THE QUEEN'S SPEECH 2019**

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**AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

Last week's seismic election not only changed the political landscape, it has broken the parliamentary deadlock of the last three years and allowed the country to go forward. Millions of people, many of them who have never voted Conservative before, put their faith in this Government and voted overwhelmingly for us to move this country on and deliver change. We have no time to waste, and we begin immediately with the most radical Queen's Speech in a generation to deliver on the priorities of the British people.

Our first task is to get Brexit done and we will leave the EU at the end of January. As I said many times over the course of the election campaign, we have a pre-cooked Brexit meal ready to pop in the microwave – and we will bring it before Parliament this week.

We will release the country from the stranglehold of indecision restoring confidence to people and businesses. We will avoid the trap of further dither and delay – by ruling out any extension to the implementation period beyond 2020. And we will maximise the opportunities of Brexit – taking back control of our money, our laws, our trade and our borders, introducing an Australian style points based immigration system so we can attract the brightest and the best from across the world.

Then we will move on and focus on the people's priorities. And if there is one message that came through loud and clear over the past weeks, it is that the overwhelming priority of the British people is our NHS. Already we are giving the NHS the biggest ever cash injection in its history. We are upgrading 20 hospitals, and building 40 more. We are going to have 50,000 more nurses, including grants for student nurses, 6,000 more primary care practitioners, 6,000 more doctors – and create 50 million more doctor's appointments.

Now for the first time ever we will enshrine the NHS multi-year budget into law. We will introduce a new fast-track NHS visa to attract the best healthcare professionals from around the world. We will put an end to unfair hospital car parking charges for staff and vulnerable patients. And with the mandate given to us at the general election, we will focus on finding a long-term solution to social care that commands cross-party consensus.

We will concentrate on other priorities, including making our streets safer. Recruitment for the 20,000 new police officers I announced in the summer is already underway, but more action is needed to ensure dangerous criminals and terrorists remain locked up for longer, the police can tackle knife crime, protections for domestic abuse victims are strengthened, and we better support victims. Legislation in this session will ensure those things. Our current justice system needs serious change, so we will establish a Royal Commission on the criminal justice process.

And as we move our country on, we are going to level up with better education, better infrastructure and better technology. It is my abiding and unshakeable conviction that talent and genius are uniformly distributed in our country, but opportunity is not. Time and again that was borne out during the campaign as I met brilliant people, visited brilliant businesses and heard brilliant ideas right across the country.

We must work to expand opportunity. We will boost investment in schools by £14 billion over the next three years, and implement the biggest infrastructure revolution in living memory. We will reform the railways, modernise our airspace, speed up the delivery of gigabit capable broadband and publish a National Infrastructure Strategy. We are going to put rocket boosters under our space programme and double investment in basic science research.

And we are going to start giving people the better quality of life they deserve. We are going to make life easier for hard-working families by raising the National Insurance threshold and the National Living Wage, and we are going to bring in greater protection for renters while also making home ownership more achievable.

Our ambition is nothing short of a complete transformation of our country for the better. We will deliver for the whole of our great Union, investing in and levelling up every part of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We will ensure that 2020 is a year of growth and opportunity, bringing together our United Kingdom, and moving on from the division and uncertainty of the last three and a half years.

We will strengthen our democracy by repealing the Fixed-term Parliaments Act, and we will establish a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission to develop proposals to restore trust in how our democracy operates.

We will lead on the world's stage, with our NATO commitment of 2 per cent of GDP spent on defence. And we will protect those who protect us, giving the Armed Forces Covenant a more solid legal footing and introducing legislation to tackle unfair and vexatious claims against those who have served their countries. And we will re-set our foreign policy in 2020 through an Integrated Security, Defence and Foreign Policy Review that I will lead. This will be the most radical reassessment of our place in the world since the end of the Cold War, covering all aspects of international policy from defence to diplomacy and development.

And as we bring in radical change, we will make it an absolute priority to protect our planet for future generations, taking action to meet our target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and introducing our landmark Environment Bill – the first for a generation.

This is a radical Queen's Speech – it will take us out of the EU, overhaul our immigration system, and will enshrine in law record investment for the NHS . And it will take our country forward with an ambitious One Nation programme to unite and spread opportunity to every corner of our United Kingdom.

Just imagine where this country could be in 10 years' time. A country with 40 new state of the art hospitals. More fantastic nurses and fantastic doctors. More police officers making our streets safer. Children given a chance to reach their full potential. Cleaner air. Biodiversity protected. Scientists making incredible breakthroughs in technology. Better transport. Better infrastructure bringing people together. Greater connectivity. Greater opportunity. A Britain where we are uniting and levelling up.

That is the future we are going to deliver. That is the future I am going to be working round the clock to achieve. I am humbled by the trust millions of voters placed in this Government last week. The work to repay that trust starts here.

Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister

## **Housing**

*“My government will take steps to support home ownership, including by making homes available at a discount for local first-time buyers.”*

- The Government will support people to realise the dream of homeownership. One of the biggest divides in our country is between those who can afford their own home and those who cannot.
- The Government will shortly launch a consultation on First Homes. This will provide homes for local people and key workers at a discount of at least 30 per cent - saving them tens of thousands of pounds.
- The discount on First Homes will be secured through a covenant. This means these homes will remain discounted in perpetuity, supporting people now and in the future who aspire to own a home of their own.
- The Government will also renew the Affordable Homes Programme, building hundreds of thousands of new homes for a range of people in different places. This will help us prevent people from falling into homelessness while also supporting further people into homeownership.
- We will introduce a new, reformed Shared Ownership model, making buying a share of a home fairer and more transparent. This new model will be simpler to understand and better able shared owners to buy more of their property and eventually reach full ownership.
- To deliver on the homes this country needs, the Government is committed to building at least a million more homes over this Parliament. In the coming months we will set out further steps to achieve this, including an ambitious Planning White Paper and funding for critical infrastructure.
- The Planning White Paper will make the planning process clearer, more accessible and more certain for all users, including homeowners and small businesses. It will also address resourcing and performance in Planning Departments.
- The new £10bn Single Housing Infrastructure fund will provide the roads, schools and GP surgeries needed to support new homes. Alongside First Homes, this will ensure local people truly benefit from house building in their area and build support for new developments
- To help those who rent, the Government will build a rental system that is fit for the modern day – supporting landlords to provide high quality homes while

protecting tenants. The Government's Better Deal for Renters will fulfil our manifesto commitments to abolish 'no fault' evictions and to introduce lifetime deposits, alongside further reforms to strengthen the sector for years to come.

- The Government is taking forward a comprehensive programme of reform to end unfair practices in the leasehold market. This includes working with the Law Commission to make buying a freehold or extending a lease easier, quicker and more cost effective – and to reinvigorate commonhold and Right to Manage.
- The Government will ensure that if a new home can be sold as freehold, then it will be. We will get rid of unnecessary ground rents on new leases and give new rights to homeowners to challenge unfair charges. The Government will also close legal loopholes to prevent unfair evictions and make it faster and cheaper to sell a leasehold home.
- For those in the social rented sector, we will bring forward a Social Housing White Paper which will set out further measures to empower tenants and support the continued supply of social homes. This will include measures to provide greater redress, better regulation and improve the quality of social housing.
- This Government has committed to end rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament. The Government will continue to invest in key rough sleeping interventions, building on the progress that we made last year in reducing rough sleeping numbers. The Government will also continue to support those at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping through the continued enforcement of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

## **Key facts**

### Home Ownership

- In 2018 the number of first-time buyers reached nearly 360,000 - an eleven year annual high and an increase of 84 per cent since 2010.
- First Homes are a new initiative which will deliver homes below market prices prioritised for local first-time buyers. This means that these homes will continue to benefit the local community every time they are resold. We will consider both planning changes and legislation in order to deliver this.
- The discounts on these homes will be funded by developers. These developer contributions are an established mechanism for ensuring that new developments deliver benefits for local communities.

### Housing Supply/Affordable Homes

- Annual net additions in England reached over 241,000 in 2018-19, the highest in over 30 years.
- Since 2010, we have delivered over 464,500 new affordable homes, including over 331,800 affordable homes for rent.
- Through the Housing Infrastructure Fund, the Government has already allocated £3.07 billion to unlock over 280,000 homes.

### Leasehold

- The proportion of new build houses in England and Wales sold as leasehold rose from 7 per cent in 1995 to 15 per cent in 2016, and has subsequently fallen to 2 per cent in Q2 2019.

### Private Rented Sector

- There are currently 4.5m households in the private rented sector making it the second largest tenure (19 per cent of households).
- The quality of rented housing has improved over the past decade – the number of private rented homes failing to meet the Decent Homes Standard is down 15 per cent since 2010.

### Homelessness and rough sleeping

- The total number of people counted or estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night was 4,677 in 2018. This represents a 2 per cent reduction on the 2017 single night snapshot but an increase of 165 per cent since 2010.
- As of June 2019, there were 86,130 households in temporary accommodation, including 61,800 families with 127,370 children.
- Local authorities accepted homeless applications from 173,870 single households last year.