

## Liz Truss – Policy Crib Sheet

Foreign Secretary Rt Hon Liz Truss MP is expected on Monday to be announced as the new leader of the Conservative Party and therefore the UK's new Prime Minister, after an election by Conservative Party members. Over the past five weeks, Ms Truss has used the Tory leadership campaign trail to set out her key policy aims if elected, which can be found below:

### Cost of Living

- Would introduce a temporary moratorium on the green energy levy for two years
- Would review the Bank of England's mandate to "make sure it is tough enough on inflation"
- No decisions on further financial support will be taken until after the end of the conservative leadership contest
- Would reverse the planned National Insurance increase and "cut taxes from day one"
- Would "immediately" review the taxation of families to allow a person taking time off work to care for their relative to transfer their personal tax allowance to a working member of the household
- Would remove green levies from energy bills
- Would provide 'support' for cost of energy bills
- Opposes the freeze in the energy price cap
- Opposes further windfall taxes on energy firms

### Economy

- Would introduce an emergency Budget and new Spending Review
- Would review inheritance tax
- Would cancel the planned corporation tax rise
- Would review mandate agreed between Government and Bank of England on inflation
- Would review taxes on the self-employed
- Would deregulate the insurance industry and City of London
- Pledged no new tax rises
- Plans to introduce a 10-year plan for the economy
- Wants to pay COVID-19 debt off over a longer period, starting in 2025
- Would resist a cashless society

### Health and Social Care

- Pledged to tackle issues around taxation rules for NHS pensions, particularly for GPs
- Wants fewer layers of NHS management
- Would maintain commitment of 40 new hospitals
- Supports extra social care funding
- Would oppose under-18s making medical gender transition
- Would review pensions of doctors
- Would ensure NHS budget rises in real terms
- Would deliver extra NHS funding through general taxation
- Would maintain abortion access across the United Kingdom
- Would try and bring doctors out of retirement
- Would cancel tax relief for patients who opt for private health care
- Would ensure there is a mental health nurse in GP surgeries
- Would ensure relevant hospital wards are single sex

### Levelling Up

- Would create low tax zones with lower businesses rates and fewer planning restrictions in left-behind areas to encourage investment
- Would amend the Levelling Up Bill to replace centralised targets with tax cuts and reduce red tape in "opportunity zones" to make it easier and quicker for developers to build on brownfield land in those areas
- Has committed to the Northern Research Group pledge card
- Would reverse decision to downgrade Northern Powerhouse Rail project
- Would devolve more power to metro mayors (such as Andy Street of the West Midlands)

## Energy and Climate

- Would commit to the Net Zero 2050 target
- Committed to the Conservative Environment Network pledge card
- Would introduce a temporary moratorium on the green energy levy for two years
- Would lift the ban on fracking, leaving local residents to decide whether fracking takes place in their area
- Would review the EU's habitat directive and develop a stronger British biodiversity target focused on the animals and plants endangered here, rather than the whole of Europe
- Would approve a series of oil and gas drilling licences in the North Sea in one of her first acts as prime minister, inviting applications for as many as 130 drilling licences to explore new fields
- Has ruled out energy rationing
- Would ask industry leaders to review business legislation
- Would review carbon leakage and push for more use of gas
- Would expand nuclear power usage and underwrite cost of nuclear
- Opposes solar panels in fields
- Supports small modular reactors
- Would utilise hydrogen energy in the UK's energy network
- Supports Wylfa power station developments
- Would re-examine the Severn barrage

## Foreign Affairs and Brexit

- Would review all EU law, including Solvency II, by the end of 2023, with industry experts tasked with creating "better home-grown laws" to replace those that fail the test of whether it stimulates domestic growth or investment, if not ditched altogether
- Has vowed to overturn the EU's MiFID 2 directives that regulate the financial sector
- Would review and scrap some parts of the NI protocol
- Would seek reform of the European Convention of Human Rights (over the Rwanda deportation policy), but would be prepared to leave
- Would publicly recognise genocide in China
- Wants a 'New Commonwealth Deal' to strengthen economic ties across the Commonwealth and expedite bilateral trade agreements with Commonwealth partners
- Would maintain current levels of foreign aid
- Would expand alternative to Belt and Road initiative with G7 counterparts
- Would continue to counter Russian disinformation through the Government Information Cell

## International Trade

- Would seek to secure a free trade deal with Israel
- Wants to expand market for British sales
- Wants to limit tech exports to authoritarian regimes

## Defence

- Would bring forward the target for defence spending to increase to 2.5 per cent of GDP target to 2026 and, by the end of the decade, would increase defence spending to 3 per cent of GDP by 2030 (
- Would review Government plans to cut the size of the army to 72,500 in 2025
- Would declassify more MI6 intelligence on Russia to further expose Putin
- Would update integrated review to expand focus on China and Russia
- Would continue to support Ukraine with weapons and Russian sanctions but oppose direct UK involvement in the war
- Opposes giving away any Ukrainian territory
- Would appoint a veterans minister in Cabinet
- Would renew nuclear deterrent, submarine fleet and advance cyber warfare

## Housing

- Would scrap local authority housing targets and would amend the Levelling Up Bill to legislate for new low-tax "investment and building zones" for new homes
- Would review how mortgages are assessed
- Would expand urban density by building higher-rise accommodation

- Wants incremental housing development in the countryside

### Transport and Infrastructure

- Would implement supply side reforms, including reforming Solvency II and The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFid) regulations to encourage investment in British infrastructure, energy projects and the high-tech industry
- Would legislate for minimum service levels on critical national infrastructure in the first 30 days of Government
- Would raise ballot threshold for strike action from 40 to 50 per cent of employees and increase the minimum notice period for strike action from two to four weeks
- Pledged to deliver Northern Powerhouse Rail in full
- Would end smart motorways
- Would create a “leveling up” funding formula to support struggling areas
- Wants to counter the ‘anti-car’ narrative
- Would fully dual the A1
- Would build an M4 relief road

### Home Affairs

- Would bring back national crime targets for police to cut homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime by 20 per cent by the end of the current Parliament, including the publication of performance league tables
- Chief constables of failing forces would have to attend a meeting of the National Policing Board chaired by the home secretary to explain how improvements would be made
- Would outlaw wolf-whistling and catcalling, making it an offence to harass women on the street
- Would introduce a register of domestic abusers
- Would expand use of stop and search
- Would give PCCs greater powers to veto training that focuses on identity politics
- would tell forces to stop investigating online discussions as possible hate crimes, and would check new guidance on 'non-crime hate incidents' protects freedom of speech
- Would review whether not paying the BBC licence fee should be a criminal offence
- Would deliver on manifesto commitment to recruit 20,000 additional police officers, with a focus on frontline policing
- Would consider an inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Oldham and Rochdale
- Would support youth clubs to provide spaces for young people

### Immigration

- Would keep the Rwanda deportation policy and expand it to more countries involved in a Rwanda-style deal
- Would increase frontline border staff by 20% and double Border Force Maritime staffing levels
- Would appoint a single Home Office Minister to oversee the Border Force and explore ways of deterring illegal crossings
- Would implement the findings of the Downer Report
- Would stop funding to France unless they deal with the migrant crisis

### Welfare & Pensions

- Would reinstate the currently suspended state pension triple-lock
- Would examine incentives in the benefits system
- Would give no further support to WASPI women
- Would review war widow inequality

### Education

- Five-point plan for education:
  1. Would expand high performing academy schools, and replace failing ones with a new wave of free schools and grammar schools
  2. Pledged to drive up the quality of maths teaching and meet the 'target for 90% of primary children to reach the expected standard in literacy and numeracy;

3. Would give parents greater flexibility to use Government money available on wraparound childcare and on a wider range of providers
  4. Would bring current childcare ratios for those looking after three and four year olds in line with Scotland
  5. Would move subsidies from poor quality degree courses to vocational training.
- Every pupil in the country who gets straight As at A-Level would be offered an Oxbridge interview
  - Would review whether schools are doing enough to educate pupils and teachers about antisemitism” and “rid university campuses” of it
  - Would review university funding and widen the admissions process for talented pupils
  - Would commit to Voxbridge – two brand new vocational institutions in the North of England, which will be the vocational equivalents of Oxford and Cambridge.
  - Would explore reforming university admissions to be post-exams
  - Would demand universities give refunds if they don’t deliver
  - Would ensure mental health support in schools
  - Would expand support for SEND children and their parents
  - Would extend school opening hours
  - Would expand youth apprenticeships

### **Tech, Research and Development**

- Would overhaul EU Solvency II rules to allow pensions fund to invest in high tech start ups
- Would ban all Confucius Institutes in the UK
- Would review of all UK-Chinese research partnerships which might assist them technologically or have military applications, as well as expanding MI5’s reach to provide greater support to British businesses and universities to counter allegations of industrial espionage
- Would implement an amendment to the Higher Education Bill that would force universities to disclose foreign funding partnerships of more than £50,000
- Would seek to speed up the research grant process and has pledged to increase annual spending on public R&D investment to £20bn by 2024/5; has set a target to increase the amount of laboratory space and would adopt a cross-government taskforce-style approach towards science and technology

### **Devolution & the Union**

- Committed to the Northern Research Group pledge card, which includes a right to devolution for all areas of the UK
- Would not agree to a second Scottish independence referendum
- Would give herself the role of Minister for the Union
- Would give members of the Scottish parliament parliamentary privilege
- Would ensure freeports in NI

### **Food & Rural Affairs**

- Would extend the seasonal workers scheme allowing farmers to recruit unskilled migrants to pick fruit and vegetables to allow migrants can stay longer if they are needed
- Would abolish all remaining EU “red tape” on farmers, allowing them to use drones to spread fertiliser and chemicals and promoting the use of precision breeding technologies to increase food production, including gene editing
- Would scrap plans to restrict multi-buy deals on food and drink high in fat, salt, or sugar and would not impose any new levies on unhealthy food
- Would ensure full control over fishing waters
- Would work to protect endangered species
- Would hold water companies to account over pollution
- Would review energy and water regulators

### **Culture**

- Would ensure Online Safety Bill balances protection with freedom of speech
- Would reform the BBC License Fee

### **Cabinet Office**

- Would protect single sex spaces and stand up for free speech
- Would combat supposed civil service anti-Semitism
- Would act as minister for the union
- Would maintain a minister for the north
- Would publish her tax returns
- Would lay out a 10-year plan for public service reform
- Would move whips' office back into No. 12 Downing Street
- Would review role of ministerial ethics adviser
- Wants to cut 91,000 jobs in Whitehall
- Would vote to end parliamentary inquiry into Boris Johnson
- Would re-establish Lib Dem Unit at CCHQ
- Would implement National Disability Strategy
- Would utilize Conservative Party members by appointing a single party chairman