



Conservatives

CULTURE, MEDIA & SPORTS

The Conservative Party will ensure a greater share of Lottery funding goes to the arts, sport and heritage. With the London 2012 Olympic Games approaching, we have a great opportunity to showcase these areas and promote Britain as the world-renowned tourist destination that it is.

HEALTH

A decade of top-down, bureaucratic mismanagement of the NHS has time and again damaged the NHS and brought this service, once the pride of Britain, to its knees. In addition to this, it has also shifted NHS priorities, creating a system where ticking boxes and meeting targets is more important than providing patients with the care Britons deserve. Conservative reforms will transfer more decision-making power to the front line, cutting NHS administration costs by a third and using released resources to support doctors and nurses. We also want to make sure NHS funding is based on clinical need rather than political convenience, and we intend to create an independent NHS Board to distribute resources to different parts of the country, making access to the NHS less of a postcode lottery.



Jordan Davidson

IMMIGRATION

Imposing limits on immigration is an essential factor in protecting the economy and the interests of the citizens of the UK. Properly monitored immigration is essential for the growth and development of the UK as this will help to fill the ever-increasing skills gap, whilst maintaining and creating more UK jobs for UK citizens. We will also allow beneficial access for those outside the European Union using our two-point plan.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We believe strongly in local democracy - too many decisions affecting local communities are taken by officials in London. The Conservative Party will give more power and freedom to local councils, and make local governments more in touch with local people. We will put an end to the current system in which unelected bodies hold significant power. We will also allow local residents to block high council tax

rises with a view of keeping council tax down. Our aim is to empower people to take action themselves, whether as individuals or as members of independent organisations and voluntary groups.

EDUCATION

Education is critical to the future of our country, yet standards of attainment in Scotland have remained static. We will improve the deliverance of education in Scotland by introducing a number of measures. These include ensuring that there are more opportunities for pupils to sit Advanced Higher examinations, as well as the introduction of "Second Chance Centres" so that perpetually disruptive pupils are removed to a more beneficial environment for their education, leaving a more positive environment for others.

GENDER EQUALITY

Being the only political party to ever produce a female Prime Minister, it is clear that we understand the difficulties that some women face in industries that are frequently dominated by men. All too often some women feel excluded from certain industries and positions. We hope to tackle this issue by introducing measures to reduce the gender pay gap and by offering support to upstanding young women with ambitions, to help them reach their goals. However we also realise that it is not just issues of employment that unfortunately negatively affect women. We also aim to reduce instances of domestic abuse by focusing on preventative measures in schools as well as adequately training the

police in how to deal with such sensitive episodes. Also of great importance is increasing awareness of male victims of domestic abuse, which will require time spent informing front line officers to be aware of this and to be vigilant. This common sense approach that the Conservative party offers will ensure a fairer more aware society.

CRIME & JUSTICE

Violent offences have risen sharply under Labour, but police officers spend 50% more time on paperwork than they do out on patrol. This obsession with bureaucracy and box ticking has hindered the fight against crime. We can't go on with the police filling in forms instead of fighting crime. We will restore the police to the noticeable presence that makes the UK safer, getting them out of police stations and onto the streets. Fighting crime is about much more than catching criminals. To make significant reductions to crime we have to break the cycle of re-offending and give those who have served their time a chance to play a positive role in society. Currently, more than half of all crime can be linked to 100,000 persistent offenders and tens of thousands of prisoners are released early for prison - we can't go on like this.