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UK Election 2010: A New Government

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THE NEW GOVERNMENT

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The United Kingdom entered uncharted political waters today as David Cameron and Nick Clegg announced details of the new Liberal-Conservative coalition government. Speaking to press in the Downing Street garden on their first full day in office, Mr Cameron and Mr Clegg emphasised their “shared resolve” to tackle the challenges facing Britain. The Prime Minister said the new coalition will be united behind the principles of freedom, fairness and responsibility and its key purpose would be to provide “strong, stable and determined” leadership for the long term.

The scale and extent of the change in politics was underlined by the fact that the process for appointing Ministers was conducted not by the Prime Minister alone, but together with his Deputy, Nick Clegg, with each new Cabinet Minister today meeting both men in No10. By agreeing to Liberal Democrat representation in every Ministerial department and a joint programme of government, the new government will very much be a partnership between the parties, albeit with the Conservative Party as the senior partner.

Until Monday, the working assumption had been that there would be some form of “confidence and supply” agreement between the parties. However, Liberal Democrat MPs on Monday afternoon made it clear that their price for entering into an agreement was a full coalition and a referendum on electoral reform. Fearing that they may be about to be trumped by Labour, the Tories readily agreed to these demands.

The outline of the coalition agreement was contained in a 7-page document issued by the two parties this afternoon. This will be followed by a final Coalition Agreement, covering the full range of foreign, defence and domestic policy. Expect this fuller document to be drawn up with the assistance of the civil service.

The new government has agreed to a “significantly accelerated reduction” in the structural deficit in line with proposals contained in the Conservative manifesto and that such a plan should be set out in an emergency budget to be held within 50 days. A full Spending Review will be held this autumn, but a real terms increase in NHS funding in each year and additional funding for the pupil premium has been agreed.

If the Liberal Democrats have conceded ground on deficit reduction, it is the Conservatives who have done so on tax, agreeing to the long-term policy objective of increasing the personal allowance to £10,000. As a first step, they have agreed to “a substantial increase in the personal allowance from April 2011,” as an alternative to the Tory proposals to raise Employee National Insurance thresholds. Although Conservative proposals on Inheritance tax and the Married Couples allowance have not been dropped altogether, it is clear that that they are now a low priority. With the current state of the public finances, it is questionable whether they will ever be implemented.

While there is broad agreement on banking reform, it is clear that there is a lot of detail to be worked through, with a new government committee set up to deal with this. Although Vince Cable will be in the lead on this policy, he is unlikely to have a completely free hand. Expect this to be a focus for robust discussion both within and outside the government.

There are of course points of real disagreement between the parties – principally on Europe, Trident and immigration. So how are they proposing to deal with this? On defence, they have agreed that Britain’s nuclear deterrent should be retained, but that Trident should be scrutinised to ensure value for money. Interestingly, the parties have agreed that the Liberal Democrats will be able to make the case for alternatives, a decision which may stretch the boundaries of collective responsibility. On immigration, the coalition will adopt Conservative proposals for an annual limit on non-EU economic migrants. Expect early legislation on this issue.

It is Europe which may cause the coalition most difficulty. In William Hague, the government has a Foreign Secretary who is a genuine eurosceptic. The rest of Europe will hope that the Liberal Democrat presence in the government may tame the wilder excesses on the Conservative benches. While the parties have agreed that any further transfer of power will require a referendum, the language in the Conservative manifesto around repatriation of powers – on the Charter of Fundamental Rights, criminal justice and social and employment rights - has been quietly dropped. The agreement suggests an uneasy compromise, and the government may be fortunate that the focus of the first few years is likely to be on the economy and domestic policy rather than Europe. Expect this area, however, to continue to be a potential flashpoint between the parties.

Given that Conservatives have conceded more in policy and government positions than many expected, were they outmanoeuvred by a more experienced Liberal Democrat negotiating team? Commentators have pointed to the fact that Clegg has negotiated with China on behalf of the EU, David Laws was famously well prepared when conducting the 1999 coalition negotiations in Scotland and Andrew Stunnell is an experienced negotiator in countless local councils.

But perhaps there is another explanation. Having failed to gain the overall majority that many Tories expected, there has been a rumbling criticism within the party about the strategy, message and tactics of the campaign. Yet a more considered analysis may be that the problem was not so much the campaign, but rather the fact that an electorate which wanted change was still unconvinced that the Conservative Party had itself really changed. May Cameron himself have realised that he needed a “Clause 4” moment, deciding that the election result provided such an opportunity?

Certainly the language between David Cameron and Nick Clegg at this afternoon’s No10 press conference was warm, with Cameron describing the full coalition as “so much better than the alternative.” Interestingly David Cameron also said that the parties had discussed having a minority Conservative government, supported by the Liberal Democrats on key votes but had concluded that was “uninspiring.”

Mr Clegg admitted both party leaders were taking “big risks” but said it would bring about a “new politics.”

Nor do the Conservatives appear to be looking to leave themselves room to seek an early election. Not only have they agreed to the establishment of a 5-year fixed term parliament, but they are also proposing introducing legislation that will provide for dissolution if 55 percent or more of the House votes in favour. This figure appears to have been chosen on the basis of the 2010 results, as it would mean that if the Liberal Democrats decided to leave the coalition, the Conservatives would be able to continue as a minority government, as they hold 47 percent of the seats, blocking any “no confidence” motion. This will clearly be constitutionally controversial, and there must be some question as to whether it will be agreed to by the House of Lords.

There will be MPs and activists in both parties who will hate this arrangement, and although they may keep their counsel during the political honeymoon, they will be more than prepared to speak out in the months to come. There are still many questions unanswered and much scope for tension and rivalry. Will some Conservative MPs look at their Liberal Democrat counterparts and wonder, have they got my Ministerial job? How will Liberal Democrat MPs respond to being told what to do by a Tory Chief Whip, Patrick McLoughlin? Can the two parties deport themselves during by-elections and local council elections in such a way that it does not damage relations at Westminster? Will the parties restrain themselves during the party conference season?

The way in which the two parties and their leaders navigate these challenges will go some way in determining whether today’s announcement represents the “historic and seismic shift” in British politics which the Prime Minister heralded today.

General Election Results

	Total number of seats	Number of seats gained/lost
Conservative	306	+ 97
Labour	258	- 91
Liberal Democrat	57	- 5
Others	28	- 1

	Total Share of Vote (%)	Change in Share of Vote (%)
Conservative	36.1%	+ 3.8
Labour	29.0%	- 6.2
Liberal Democrat	23.0%	+ 1.0
Others	11.9%	+ 1.5

THE CABINET

CABINET		
Position	Name	Party
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service	The Rt Hon David Cameron MP	Con
Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Council (with special responsibility for political and constitutional reform)	The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP	LibDem
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	The Rt Hon William Hague MP	Con
Chancellor of the Exchequer	George Osborne MP	Con
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice	The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP	Con
Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equality	The Rt Hon Theresa May MP	Con
Secretary of State for Defence	Dr Liam Fox MP	Con
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills	Dr Vince Cable MP	LibDem
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP	Con
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change	Chris Huhne MP	LibDem
Secretary of State for Health	Andrew Lansley CBE MP	Con
Secretary of State for Education	Michael Gove MP	Con
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Eric Pickles MP	Con
Secretary of State for Transport	Philip Hammond MP	Con
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Caroline Spelman MP	Con
Secretary of State for International Development	Andrew Mitchell MP	Con
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Owen Paterson MP	Con
Secretary of State for Scotland (and providing ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office)	Danny Alexander MP	LibDem
Secretary of State for Wales	Cheryl Gillan MP	Con
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport	Jeremy Hunt MP	Con

Chief Secretary to the Treasury	David Laws MP	LibDem
Leader of the House of Lords, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	The Rt Hon Lord Strathclyde	Con
Minister without Portfolio (Minister of State)*	Baroness Warsi	Con

**Unpaid*

ALSO ATTENDING CABINET MEETINGS

Position	Name	Party
Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General	The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP	Con
Minister of State – Cabinet Office (providing policy advice to the Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office)	The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP	Con
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal	The Rt Hon Sir George Young Bt MP	Con
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip	The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP	Con

ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND CABINET MEETINGS WHEN REQUIRED

Position	Name	Party
Attorney-General	Dominic Grieve QC MP	Con

BIOGRAPHIES OF CABINET MEMBERS

RT HON DAVID CAMERON MP

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service



David Cameron's emergence at the front of the 2005 leadership race relatively soon after becoming an MP in 2001 launched him firmly into the public domain. As Prime Minister of the first coalition government in 70 years, Cameron's first task will be to prove that he can provide strong leadership to lead a united and decisive administration which must make difficult economic decisions. His open approach to Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats has already surprised many and it remains to be seen whether concessions on tax and electoral reform will sit well with Conservative voters. His biggest challenge will be steering the coalition to successfully overcome inevitable disagreements between the two parties when the honeymoon is over.

RT HON NICK CLEGG MP

Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Council (with special responsibility for political and constitutional reform)



As the newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg is the highest ranking Liberal Democrat since David Lloyd George became Prime Minister in 1916. Leader of his party since 2007, Clegg has only been an MP since 2005 and is relatively inexperienced and untested in the higher echelons of UK politics. Clegg previously worked as an aide to Sir Leon Britton when he was Vice-President to the European Union. Clegg is centrist and pragmatic – the question is whether he can carry his party with him as he works to form a stable government with the Conservatives.

RT HON WILLIAM HAGUE MP

First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs



One of the few members of the cabinet with previous government experience, as Welsh Secretary, William Hague is seen as being on the right of the Cabinet and is popular amongst grassroots members. He remains a firm eurosceptic, who may clash with whichever Liberal Democrat MP is put into the Foreign Office. Hague attended state schools in Yorkshire and then Oxford University. Expect the maintenance of a strong transatlantic relationship to be a priority – his first visit as Foreign Secretary is to the United States.

GEORGE OSBORNE MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer



George Osborne is a long-standing and trusted ally of the Prime Minister and has been his right hand man since Cameron won the leadership in 2005. Since becoming Shadow Chancellor in 2005, Osborne has clashed with the Labour Government over their interventionist approach to failing banks during the economic meltdown and was criticised for hesitating on the Conservative deficit reduction policy at the beginning of this year. His task in the coming weeks will be to reassure the markets and draw up the emergency budget.

RT HON KENNETH CLARKE QC MP

Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice



Ken Clarke has extensive experience in government, spanning three decades. He has served in two of the four Great Offices of State: Chancellor and Home Secretary and was a minister throughout the 18 years of successive Conservative governments. He has contested and lost the Conservative Party leadership three times – in 1997, 2001 and 2005, defeats which were attributed to his famously pro-European views.

RT HON THERESA MAY MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equality



Theresa May entered the Shadow Cabinet in 1999 when she was appointed Shadow Education and Employment Secretary. In managing two significant briefs, Theresa May's key policy challenges will include negotiating a cap on immigration with her new Liberal Democrat colleagues, tackling crime and promoting the new government's programme to safeguard civil liberties.

DR LIAM FOX MP

Secretary of State for Defence



One of the right-wing members of the new Cabinet, Liam Fox will be seen very much as a hawk as the new Defence Secretary. Someone who has cultivated strong links with the Republican Party, he will now need to build bridges with the Democratic Administration. A firm critic of Europe, expect a far greater focus on NATO rather than greater European defence co-operation. He will oversee a wide ranging defence review.

DR VINCE CABLE MP

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills



Vince Cable is an economist by trade and during the economic crisis he has forged a reputation as a “voice of reason” on the economy. He was Shadow Chancellor for the Liberal Democrats and well regarded within the party. It is expected that he will be closely involved in economic policy and will oversee the new government’s reform of the banking system.

RT HON IAIN DUNCAN SMITH MP

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions



In a move that will no doubt appease the right of the Party, former Leader Iain Duncan Smith has been appointed Work and Pensions Secretary. He is Chairman of the Centre for Social Justice, an influential think tank which has been instrumental in shaping Conservative policy on welfare reform. His experience at CSJ ensures he will be well acquainted with his new brief which will require him to implement flagship reform of the welfare system.

CHRIS HUHNE MP

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change



Previously a Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Chris Huhne is seen as a big hitter within the Liberal Democrats after challenging Nick Clegg for the leadership in 2007. His appointment is likely to be welcomed by environmental leaders and reassure those who feared that a Conservative government would bow to pressure from its backbenches and water down its commitment to tackling climate change.

ANDREW LANSLEY CBE MP

Secretary of State for Health



Andrew Lansley, who has been Shadow Health Secretary since 2005, is seen as having a comprehensive understanding of his brief. Lansley has established strong links with healthcare professionals and argues that they should be given greater autonomy and accountability under a Conservative Health Service. Lansley long ago announced his intention to give the NHS semi-independence from political process. Expect him to work well with any Liberal Democrat appointed to his team as there are many similarities in the two parties’ approaches to health policy.

MICHAEL GOVE MP

Secretary of State for Education



A former journalist and policy commentator elected in 2005, Michael Gove quickly became a key member and speechwriter on the Cameron team. Gove has been passionate about his education brief and will be pleased to have held onto this role in government. He will pursue his stated objectives of raising standards, encouraging new providers and giving parents more say in schooling with conviction.

ERIC PICKLES MP

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government



A former shadow CLG spokesman for the Conservatives, Eric Pickles has been appointed Communities and Local Government Secretary. A popular Party Chairman, Pickles is a determined and ambitious politician known for combining straight talking with an affable façade. Unlike many of the new cabinet, Pickles entered politics as a local councillor and is likely to bring his grass-roots background into play in this local government role.

PHILIP HAMMOND MP

Secretary of State for Transport



With wide-ranging background and business experience, Philip Hammond impressed many within the Conservative Party as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He has now been given the role of Secretary of State for Transport. As a trusted and experienced member of the Conservative frontbench, Hammond will be familiar with the brief previously serving on the Environment, Transport and the Regions Select Committee before being promoted to the Shadow frontbench in 1998.

CAROLINE SPELMAN MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



As Shadow Communities and Local Government Minister Caroline Spelman quietly but effectively held the government to account. Despite being accused, and subsequently acquitted, of abusing parliamentary expenses, Spelman has a reputation for being a decent and hard working politician. Her open and liberal stance bode well for co-operation with the Liberal Democrats in this administration.

ANDREW MITCHELL MP

Secretary of State for International Development



Andrew Mitchell retains his existing brief in the new cabinet. He has campaigned for an Independent Aid Watchdog to maximise the impact of British aid, called for an Africa-wide free trade area to help create wealth on the continent, and pressed for tougher action over international crises in Darfur, Burma and Zimbabwe.

OWEN PATERSON MP

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland



Owen Paterson was first elected at the 1997 General Election. He has been a frequent visitor to Northern Ireland and has built up a network of contacts with political parties, business organisations and community groups. He played a significant role in his party's electoral alliance with the Ulster Unionist Party. This may lead to questions as to whether he will be regarded as an even-handed broker, essential to this sensitive role.

DANNY ALEXANDER MP

Secretary of State for Scotland (and providing ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office)



A close ally of Nick Clegg, his former Chief of Staff and author of his party's manifesto, Danny Alexander played a key role in the Liberal Democrat negotiating team. The role of Scottish Secretary may allow Alexander to raise his profile and pursue a political role for the Liberal Democrats. A former Director of Communications of the European Movement, he is likely to be vocal on EU issues when they are discussed in Cabinet.

CHERYL GILLAN MP

Secretary of State for Wales



Cheryl Gillan was born in Llandaff, Cardiff. She was initially opposed to the creation of the National Assembly for Wales, saying that there was not a large enough majority in favour of it in the Welsh devolution referendum in 1997. However after becoming Shadow Welsh Secretary in 2005, she declared her support for the Welsh Assembly, and hinted at Conservative support for further devolution of power.

JEREMY HUNT MP

Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport



Jeremy Hunt retains his existing brief in the new cabinet but gets specific responsibility for the 2012 London Olympics. The addition of the Olympics brief sees it reintegrated into the department's main offices. As Shadow Culture Secretary, Hunt stated that if the Conservatives won the election they would move swiftly to scrap the BBC Trust and give the National Audit Office full access to the corporation's accounts.

DAVID LAWS MP

Chief Secretary to the Treasury



A co-editor of *The Orange Book*, David Laws will be regarded as someone with whom the Conservatives will be able to work closely. His new role, working as part of the Chancellor's Treasury team, is set to be a key one given the stated coalition priority of reducing the UK government's deficit.

RT HON LORD STRATHCLYDE

Leader of the House of Lords, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster



Lord Thomas Strathclyde joins the Cabinet as the Leader of the House of Lords, having been the Conservative Party leader in that House since 1998. Lord Strathclyde has authored several studies on the UK constitution. He has advocated a largely elected Senate, retaining the independent expertise of appointed cross-benchers.

BARONESS WARSI

Minister without Portfolio



As the first Muslim woman to serve in the British cabinet, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi succeeds Eric Pickles as Conservative Party Chairman and Minister without Portfolio. In her new role she will oversee Conservative Central Office and have responsibility for the party machine.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

The National Security Council has been set up by the Prime Minister to oversee all aspects of Britain's security. The Council will co-ordinate responses on key security issues, integrating at the highest level the work of the foreign, defence, home, energy and international development departments, and all other arms of government contributing to national security.

The Council will be chaired by the Prime Minister. Permanent members will be the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for International Development and the Security Minister.

Other Cabinet Ministers, including the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, will attend as required. The Chief of the Defence Staff, Heads of Intelligence Agencies and other Senior Officials will also attend as required.

Prime Minister's National Security Advisor: Peter Ricketts, Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service

Peter Ricketts is a former Permanent Representative to NATO in Brussels. He was also previously the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, leading him to give evidence to The Iraq Inquiry in November 2009. As National Security Advisor, a new role based in the Cabinet Office, he will establish the new National Security Council structures, and coordinate and deliver the Government's international security agenda.

COALITION POLICY PLAN

Initial agreements reached between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats were outlined today. This will be followed in due course by a final Coalition Agreement, covering the full range of policy areas. The agreed policy areas can be found below:

Deficit Reduction

- Significantly accelerate reduction in the structural deficit, with the main burden of deficit reduction *borne* by reduced spending *rather* than increased taxes.
- Arrangements to protect those on low incomes from the effect of public sector pay constraint and other spending constraints.
- A plan for deficit reduction should be set out in an emergency budget within 50 days of the signing of any agreement – the parties note that the credibility of a plan on deficit reduction depends on its long-term deliverability, not just the depth of immediate cuts.

- Cuts of £6 billion to non-frontline services can be made within the financial year 2010-11, subject to advice from the Treasury and the Bank of England on their feasibility and advisability.
- Reductions to the Child Trust Fund and tax credits for higher earners.

Spending Review

- A full Spending Review will be held, reporting this Autumn, following a fully consultative process involving all tiers of government and the private sector.
- Funding for the NHS should increase in real terms in each year of the Parliament.
- Hold a full Strategic Security and Defence Review alongside the Spending Review with strong involvement of the Treasury.
- Renewal of Trident should be scrutinised to ensure value for money. The Liberal Democrats will continue to make the case for alternatives.
- The parties commit to establishing an independent commission to review the long term affordability of public sector pensions, while protecting accrued rights.
- Restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011 with a “triple guarantee” that pensions are raised by the higher of earnings, prices or 2.5 percent.

Tax Measures

- Increase in Employer National Insurance threshold.
- Increase in personal allowance for income tax.
- Will announce in the first Budget an increase in the personal allowance from April 2011, with the benefits focused on those with lower and middle incomes.
- Take priority over other tax cuts, including cuts to Inheritance Tax.
- Detailed agreement on taxing non-business capital gains at rates similar to those applied to income, with generous exemptions for entrepreneurial business activities.
- Agree that tackling tax avoidance is essential for the new government, and that all efforts will be made to do so, including detailed development of Liberal Democrat proposals.

Environment

- Establishment of a smart grid and the roll-out of smart meters.
- Continuation of proposals for public sector investment in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology for four coal-fired power stations; and a specific commitment to reduce central government carbon emissions by 10 percent within 12 months.
- Establishment of feed-in tariff systems in electricity.
- Measures to promote a huge increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion.
- Creation of a green investment bank.
- Establishment of an emissions performance standard that will prevent coal-fired power stations being built unless they are equipped with sufficient CCS.
- Establishment of a high-speed rail network.
- Cancellation of the third runway at Heathrow, as well as the refusal of additional runways at Gatwick and Stansted.
- Agreed a process that will allow Liberal Democrats to maintain their opposition to nuclear power while permitting the government to bring forward the national planning statement for ratification by Parliament so that new nuclear construction becomes possible.

Banking Reform

- Introduce a banking levy, seeking a detailed agreement on implementation.
- Agree the flow of credit to viable SMEs is essential for supporting growth. This will include consideration of both a major loan guarantee scheme and the use of net lending targets for the nationalised banks.
- Bring forward proposals to give the Bank of England control of macro-prudential regulation and oversight of micro-prudential regulation.
- Rule out joining the European Single Currency during the duration of the agreement.

Immigration

- An annual limit on the number of non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work.

Political Reform

- The establishment of five year fixed-term parliaments.
- Bring forward a Referendum Bill on electoral reform, which includes provision for the introduction of the Alternative Vote in the event of a positive result in the referendum, as well as for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies.
- Bring forward early legislation to introduce a power of recall, allowing voters to force a by-election where an MP was found to have engaged in serious wrongdoing and having had a petition calling for a by-election signed by 10% of his or her constituents.
- Establish a committee to bring forward proposals for a wholly or mainly elected upper chamber on the basis of proportional representation.
- Bring forward the proposals of the Wright Committee for reform to the House of Commons in full – starting with the proposed committee for management of programmed business and including government business within its scope by the third year of the Parliament.
- Implement a full review of local government finance.

Pensions and Welfare

- Phase out the default retirement age and hold a review to set the date at which the state pension age starts to rise to 66.
- Realign contracts with welfare to work service providers.
- Reform the funding mechanism used by government to finance welfare to work programmes to reflect the fact that initial investment delivers later savings in lower benefit expenditure.

Education

- Investment to reduce class sizes for children from poorer backgrounds.
- New independent schools in state sector to be set up.

Relations with the EU

- There should be no further transfer of sovereignty or powers over the course of the next Parliament.

- Examine the balance of the EU's existing competences and will, in particular, work to limit the application of the Working Time Directive in the United Kingdom.
- Examine the case for a United Kingdom Sovereignty Bill to make it clear that ultimate authority remains with Parliament.
- Agreed that Britain will not join or prepare to join the Euro in this Parliament.

Civil Liberties

- Remove the ID card scheme, the National Identity register, the next generation of biometric passports and the Contact Point Database.
- Outlawing the finger-printing of children at school without parental permission.
- Further regulation of CCTV.
- A new mechanism to prevent the proliferation of unnecessary new criminal offences.