

CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO COMMITMENTS

Chapter 2

INFLATION

"We shall endeavour to bring inflation lower still. Our ultimate goal should be a society with stable prices".

"We shall continue to set out a responsible financial strategy which will gradually reduce the growth of money in circulation".

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY

"We shall...continue to seek sensible arrangements for determining pay in the Civil Service and the National Health Service"

TRADE UNIONS

"We shall give union members the right to:

- hold ballots for the election of governing bodies of trade unions;
- decide whether their unions should have party political funds".

"We shall also curb the legal immunity of unions to call strikes without...a fair and secret ballot".

"In the event that the trade unions are not willing to ensure that members decide for themselves whether to pay the political levy the Government will be prepared to introduce measures to guarantee the free and effective right of choice".

"We shall consult about the need for...essential services to be governed by adequate procedure agreements, breach of which would deprive industrial action of immunity".

UNEMPLOYMENT

"As long as unemployment remains high, we shall maintain special [employment] creation measures".

"We will maintain special help for the long-term unemployed through the Community Programme, and for the older unemployed through early retirement schemes".

TRAINING

"The Youth Training Scheme...should help 350,000 youngsters by the autumn of this year. From now on, no school-leaver need be unemployed in his first year out of school".

NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES

"We shall transfer more state-owned businesses to independent ownership".

"Our aim is that British Telecom - where we will sell 51% of the shares to the private sector - Rolls Royce, British Airways and substantial parts of British Steel, of British Shipbuilders and British Leyland, and as many as possible of Britain's airports, shall become private sector companies. We also aim to introduce substantial private capital into the National Bus Company. As before, we will offer shares to all who work in them".

"We shall...transfer to the private sector the remaining state-owned oil business - the British Gas Corporation's offshore oil interests".

"We shall seek...means of increasing competition in, and attracting private capital into, the gas and electricity industries".

Chapter 3

TAX

"Further improvements in allowances and lower rates of income tax remain a high priority, together with measures to reduce the poverty and unemployment traps".

"[Wider ownership] means lowering taxes on capital and savings; encouraging individuals to invest directly in company shares; and encouraging the creation of more employee share schemes".

TECHNOLOGY

"We will now promote...the Alvey programme for research into advanced information technology".

" We will [encourage] science parks; help firms to launch new products through pilot schemes and public purchasing; ...sanction...new cable networks".

PLANNING

"We will bring open-cast coalmining within normal proper planning control, and we shall establish more control over intensive livestock units near residential areas".

ENERGY

"The interests of the whole country require Britain's... coal industry...to return to economic viability".

"We shall press ahead with the development of safe nuclear power".

"We shall set up an Energy Efficiency Office to co-ordinate the Government's conservation effort".

TOURISM

"We shall continue to support the Tourist Boards".

AGRICULTURE

"We shall legislate...to make more farm tenancies available for young people".

"During the next Parliament, we shall introduce measures to restructure the fishing industry".

Chapter 4

HOUSING

"For public sector tenants, the present "Right to Buy" scheme will be improved and extended to include..houses on leasehold land and the right to buy on a shared ownership basis. The maximum discount will be increased by one per cent a year for those who have been tenants for between twenty and thirty years, taking the maximum discount to 60 per cent".

"We shall extend our Tenants' Charter to enable council tenants to get necessary repairs done...and be reimbursed by their councils".

"We shall conduct early public consultation to enable the building societies to play a fuller part in supporting the provision of new housing and would bring up to date the laws which govern them".

PENSIONS

"Pensions will be related to actual and not estimated price increases".

"We shall continue to protect retirements pensions and other linked long-term benefits against rising prices".

"Public sector pensioners will also ...be protected on the basis of realistic pension contributions".

"We shall make further improvements in the operation of [the] earnings rule".

"The Christmas bonus...will continue to be paid every year".

"We will consider how the pension rights of 'early leavers'... can be better protected".

HEALTH SERVICE

"We shall continue to make extra provision for those parts of the country in the North and the Midlands which have always been short of resources".

FAMILY LIFE

"We will reform the divorce laws to offer further protection to children, and to secure fairer financial arrangements when a marriage ends".

Chapter 5

LAW AND ORDER

"We shall be ready to increase police establishments where necessary".

"We shall build more courtrooms".

"We shall set up more compulsory attendance centres".

"We propose to introduce specific legislation to deal with... the dangerous spread of violent and obscene video cassettes".

"We will accept the case for an independent prosecution service, and will consider how it might best be set up".

"We intend to extend substantially the grounds that disqualify those with criminal records from serving on juries".

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

"We shall legislate to curb excessive and irresponsible rate increases by high-spending councils, and have ready, if necessary, a general scheme for limitation of rate increases".

"We will require local authorities to consult local representatives of industry and commerce before setting their rates".

"We shall give more businesses the right to pay by instalments. And we shall stop the rating of empty industrial property".

"We shall abolish the Metropolitan Councils and the Greater London Council".

Chapter 6

TRANSPORT

"We shall further relax bus licensing".

"We shall set up a new London Regional Transport Authority".

"A high-quality, efficient railway service...does not mean... a programme of major route closures".

"We shall examine ways of decentralising BR and bringing in private enterprise".

ANIMAL WELFARE

"We propose...legislation to update the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876".

Chapter 7

DEFENCE

"If the Soviet Union does not...over the coming months [agree] to eliminate [the SS20] class of weapons, we will start deploying cruise missiles by the end of this year".

"We propose to amend the Civil Defence Act 1948 to enable civil defence funds to be used in safeguarding against peacetime emergencies as well as against hostile attacks".