

# Chancellor: Speech to Conservative Party Conference 2019

Sajid Javid, Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking today at Conservative Party Conference in Manchester, said:

*(Check against delivery)*

Thank you for that welcome...

And can I welcome my mum.

You saw her in that video...

... and she is here with us today for her first conference.

Twenty years ago,

Mum thought it was a big deal

when she watched the first Asians move into Coronation Street,

here in Manchester.

Well, now she's watched as the first Asians move into Downing Street.

Once again, we're living above the shop...

And I'm so happy to make her proud.

It might be my mum's first Tory conference...

... but I've now been coming for thirty years.

Every

year, we talk about what is at stake for our country.

But  
never in my lifetime has there been a political moment like this.

We will  
be remembered for how we respond.

And we  
will do our duty.

Responsibly,  
firmly, and democratically.

That  
starts with getting Brexit done.

We are  
leaving the European Union.

It's  
not a matter of if –

it's a  
matter of days.

31 days  
–

deal,  
or no deal.

We  
understand

that  
preparing to leave without a deal is not only

the  
responsible thing to do...

... but  
also the best way of leaving with a deal.

In all  
my years negotiating multibillion pound international deals...

... I  
never once walked into a room without being able to walk away.

That's  
why on my first day as Chancellor

I gave  
a speech to the Treasury...

...  
about making No Deal preparations my top priority.

A few  
days later I doubled funding for it...

...  
taking our Brexit spending to a total of £4 billion this year.

And to  
give organisations and Devolved Administrations extra certainty for the year  
ahead, in the event of No Deal...

...I have  
now agreed to guarantee all £4.3 billion of EU-directed funding that they  
would  
have been expecting.

That  
doesn't mean that a No Deal would be without significant challenges.

I know  
that some businesses and households are concerned  
about  
what a No Deal outcome might mean for them.

I  
recognise that.

And I  
understand that the uncertainty around Brexit is challenging.

But our  
step-change in preparations has made a Deal outcome more likely...

...and a  
No Deal outcome more manageable.

Every  
department now has the resources available to prepare for No Deal.

That means more Border Force staff...

Better transport infrastructure at our ports...

More support for business readiness.

I've tasked the Treasury with preparing a comprehensive economic  
response

to support the economy.

Working closely with the Bank of England...

... we're ready to draw on the full armoury of economic policy if needed.

And the Bank has already revised its assessments because of the actions we've

taken.

Deal or No Deal: We will be ready.

All  
that is important –

but  
Brexit is not just something to manage or mitigate.

We  
understand this is ultimately a question of trust in democracy.

A strong economy can only be built on the foundation of a successful  
democracy.

And by definition, democracy isn't just for when it  
suits you.

Like  
the Lib Dems – who called for a referendum for years.

Then  
sort of changed their mind.

Then  
said they'd respect the result.

Then  
sort of didn't.

Then  
called for a second vote.

Then  
changed their mind again...

... and  
now want to somehow pretend the whole thing never happened.

Going  
back on our promises to the British people isn't "liberal".

And it  
certainly isn't democratic.

And  
then there's the Labour Party.

They're  
so split down the middle...

... that  
even their leader and their Shadow Chancellor don't agree

on  
whether they support Brexit.

So  
they'll hold another referendum with two options:

perhaps,  
and maybe.

What a  
leader.

A man  
for the many Brexit positions, not the few.

What  
they don't seem to understand is that millions of people voted in good faith  
over three years ago.

The  
biggest democratic exercise in our country's history.

And  
they always forget one group of those voters:

The  
millions who voted not to leave the EU...

... but  
now completely respect the result and want us to get Brexit done.

Yes,  
there are splits of opinion,

and  
strong views on all sides.

I  
passionately believe that we need to heal the divisions in our society.

But the

way to do that isn't to carry on arguing about Brexit forever and ever.

It is  
to finally deliver on the original decision...

... and  
move the whole country forward.

People  
talk a lot about the risks of Brexit.

Some  
understandable, some not.

But the  
truth is this:

and it  
isn't acknowledged as often as it should be...

The  
most reckless course of all would be to not deliver Brexit at all.

If we  
fail to deliver on the instruction of the British people...

...we are  
in danger of tearing the very fabric of our democracy.

A  
fabric that has been carefully woven together over centuries.

And if  
we do that,

I fear  
we may not be able to stitch it up again.

If  
people are going to have faith in the ballot box...

... we  
absolutely have to follow through on that vote.

No more  
second-guessing

No best  
of three.

One  
vote.

One  
mandate.

One  
nation, moving forwards together.

As we  
get Brexit done and leave the EU...

... it's  
the right time to ask ourselves some big questions:

Who are  
we as a country?

How do  
we see ourselves in the years ahead?

How  
will we shape our economy for the future?

Last  
week we saw Labour's answers to those questions.

Jeremy  
Corbyn sees this as an opportunity to bring in nationalisation, protectionism  
and state control.

Let's  
be in no doubt about the biggest threat to the UK economy.

Whenever I speak to businesses and international investors...

... the number one concern they always raise is not  
the form of our exit from

the EU.

The real "project" to be fearful about is the  
agenda of the Labour Party.

If they  
had their way,

whole  
sectors of the economy would be renationalised.

People's  
taxes would rise to the crippling levels of the past.

People's  
jobs would be put at risk with sectoral pay bargaining.

The  
return of trade union militancy would once again hold the government to ransom...

...wasting  
hundreds of billions of pounds...

...and  
hitting families and businesses around the country.

The  
British Chambers of Commerce said last week that Labour's plans will:

"send  
an icy chill up the spines of business-owners and investors".

And  
it's no wonder.

We have  
a Shadow Chancellor who says businesses are "the real enemy"...

... and  
openly admits he wants to overthrow capitalism.

Given  
how much damage they'd do every single day they're in office...

I'm  
glad they say they would only be working four days a week.

You  
know, when I arrived at the Treasury...

... I did  
have a letter on my desk waiting for me...

... but  
it didn't say there was no money left.

That's  
because we took the difficult decisions needed to get the deficit down by four-fifths.

We have  
now taken back control of our financial destiny...



... just  
as we take back control of our laws and borders.

It's  
easy to forget how bad things were when we first came in.

Labour  
lost control of our public finances – as they always do. ...

And  
this was when they still believed in the basics of capitalism.

Our  
country borrowed £150 billion in their last year in office...

...the  
highest level in our peacetime history.

And it  
fell to the Conservatives once again to wipe up Labour's mess.

And I'd  
like to pay tribute to both my immediate predecessors...

... for  
their role in that.

We may  
disagree on our approach on Brexit...

... but  
as Conservatives we can be very proud of what they helped us to achieve.

Labour  
left behind a bankrupt Britain – and we've fixed it.

They  
don't like to hear it.

But  
when the opposition stop hiding from that election...

... I  
promise you, it won't be like last time.

We  
won't shy away from talking about our hard-earned record on the economy.

And we  
won't shy away from telling everyone...

... about

the threat their divisive...

...  
backwards...

...  
bankrupt...

...immoral,  
incompetent, ideological experiments...

will  
pose to everyone's way of life.

They  
try to claim the only alternative is a race to the bottom.

Letting  
everyone fend for themselves.

That's  
not our conservatism.

I'm not  
sure it's anyone's.

We are  
forging ahead with our positive, One Nation vision for our country's future.

We  
believe in levelling up, skilling-up, and opening up.

Embracing  
talent from around the world.

And as  
we look towards a future outside the EU...

...I'm  
very optimistic we can build on our extraordinary economic strengths...

... and  
reshape the British economy to seize the opportunities that this new

chapter  
has to offer.

We'll  
be able to pursue a genuinely independent trade policy.

We'll  
be able to replace inefficient EU programmes with better, home-grown

alternatives.

And  
from retail to green tech, we'll have the opportunity to design smarter,  
more  
flexible regulation.

To help  
us do that, I will launch a Brexit Red Tape Challenge...

...to  
help identify EU regulations that we can improve or remove.

Liberating  
our entrepreneurs, small businesses and consumers...

... from  
the burden of over-bearing bureaucracy, wherever we see it.

Doing  
what a good pro-business government does.

After  
the decade of recovery from the last Labour government...

... we  
are now bringing in a decade of renewal.

With  
this government's new leadership...

...we  
have the opportunity to hit fast-forward on that renewal.

It is  
an opportunity the Prime Minister and I are seizing.

We are  
not just neighbours, or even sometimes dog-sitters.

We are  
partners.

We  
share the same determination on Brexit...

... the  
same vision of One Nation conservatism...

... and  
we both spend the same amount of time brushing our hair.

Our vision is based on the people's priorities, and on Conservative principles.

Conservatives understand that a dynamic free market...

... is the only way to fund world-class public services.

For me, like so many others around the country...

...public services were my lifelines.

The teachers who made my career possible.

The police officers who kept us safe when the street I grew up on became a centre for drug dealers.

The NHS that cared for my dad in his final days.

These aren't just numbers on a spreadsheet – they are the beating heart of our country.

That's why public services are at the heart of this government's agenda.

Earlier this month, I announced our spending plans for Britain's first year outside the EU.

A New Economic Plan for a new era.

Thanks to the hard work of the British people...

... and our responsible economic management...

... we are able to invest an extra £13.4 billion in our public services.

This Spending Round will make a real difference in people's lives.

That includes recruiting 20,000 new police officers...

...restoring our rightful reputation as the party of law and order.

Increased funding for every school in the country...

... and a

renaissance for further education.

Continuing  
our record investment in the NHS...

... and  
making a large down-payment on social care.

These  
are the people's priorities.

These  
are our priorities.

And  
it's our Conservative government that is delivering on them.

Brexit  
was a wake-up call that we need to be better connected...

... both  
across our country, and beyond our shores.

One of  
the things I remember most from my international career is the energy in the  
air you can feel in places like Southeast Asia.

The  
quick turnaround between vision to implementation – from new towns to new  
airports.

It  
echoes our industrial revolution of the Victorian era...

... which  
laid the foundations for over a century –

from  
the railway network to

the  
electric telegraph.

That's  
the spirit we need to rekindle in Britain.

But the  
truth is,

successive  
governments failed to invest enough for the long-term.

We've  
started to put that right, but we can do more – a lot more.

This  
government is going to build Britain's future,  
and  
bring in a new infrastructure revolution.

Infrastructure  
is the foundation of everything.

It's  
the new road that connects local communities.

The bus  
you need to get to school.

And the  
broadband that helps your small business trade around the world.

The  
full benefits of our infrastructure revolution may not be felt for some time.

But the  
work must start here and now.

So  
today I can announce the first wave of this revolution...

... the  
good kind of revolution.

Our  
roads are the arteries of our country.

We will  
soon launch the new Roads Investment Strategy...

... with  
£29 billion committed for strategic and local roads over the next five  
years.

And  
today we are getting the shovels out early on several important road  
projects...

...  
including upgrading the nearby M60 Simister Island...

...  
dualling the A66 Transpennine,

and  
starting work on the A428 between Cambridge and Milton Keynes.

Now  
buses...

... they  
haven't been given the attention they deserve from politicians...

... but  
they are still the backbone of our public transport in most of the country.

Well,  
not only do you have a Chancellor with a well-known family connection to  
buses...

... but a  
PM who likes to paint them!

At the  
Spending Round we allocated £220 million to buses alone.

This  
will form part of a National Bus Strategy next year.

Rolling  
out new 'superbus' networks...

...  
expanding our fleet of low emission buses...

... and  
delivering better value for money for passengers.

And  
last but not least:

connecting  
us to the modern, global digital economy with gigabit broadband.

We have  
rolled out superfast broadband

but we  
have fallen behind many European countries

on the  
next generation of technology.

And as  
we catch-up I don't want any part of our country to fall behind others.

So I  
can announce we are committing £5 billion...

... to  
support full-fibre rollout to the hardest to reach 20% of the country.

All of  
these measures will level up areas of our country that feel left out.

There  
are three principles that will underpin our approach to them.

First,  
we will be smart and responsible in the way we invest for the long-term.

We can  
do this by taking advantage of incredibly low interest rates...

...and  
borrowing-to-build, not borrowing-to-waste like the Labour years.

Second,  
we will have a bias towards anything that brings our country together.

For a start  
that means protecting our United Kingdom.

And I'd  
like to pay tribute to Ruth Davidson...

...for  
all she did to prevent a socialist-separatist alliance from running –  
from  
ruining – our country.

Thank  
you Ruth.

Bringing  
our country together also means rebalancing our economy...

That's  
why the first big policy decision of this government  
was to  
support the development of Northern Powerhouse Rail.

And we  
know it's no good just decreeing from on high what local areas need.

Too  
many people already feel power is distant to them – be it in Brussels or  
Westminster.



So I  
can announce today we will bring forward a White Paper on further devolution  
in  
England.

Giving  
more local areas more local powers...

... to  
drive investments in the infrastructure and services they know they need.

We  
already have four brilliant Conservative metro mayors...

Let's  
get one in Manchester too!

And  
third, we will take a dynamic, market-driven approach to driving down our  
carbon emissions.

Not  
only are we the first large economy to commit to Net Zero by 2050.

Last  
week at the UN General Assembly...

... our  
Prime Minister committed to doubling Britain's funding

for  
global environmental and climate change programmes.

They  
are the approaches we will take in building Britain's future.

And  
with so much at stake for our country right now...

... I'm  
impatient to get on with it.

We have  
achieved so much in just ten weeks.

And I'd  
like to thank our brilliant ministerial team in the Treasury...

Rishi  
Sunak,

Jesse

Norman,

John  
Glen,

Simon  
Clarke...

And our  
parliamentary team...

Rachel  
Maclean,

Lee  
Rowley

and  
Mike Freer.

The  
final Conservative principle I want to talk about today is this.

We  
believe in a society where everyone knows that if they work hard, and play  
by the  
rules...

... then  
they will have every opportunity to succeed.

They  
are our values.

It's  
our mission to help people to get a job, get a home, get ahead.

But we  
do have to acknowledge that not everyone...

...in  
every part of the country...

... feels  
that they have all the opportunities they should have.

Not all  
parents feel that their children will have it better than they did.

We need  
to do more to level the playing field...

...  
between regions and generations...

...and  
give all young people the best start in life.

Last  
year I announced the Youth Endowment Fund...

...helping  
at-risk young people get off the conveyor belt to crime.

And I  
can announce today a new Youth Investment Fund.

This  
ambitious £500 million programme will roll out youth centres and services  
right  
across our country...

...  
helping millions more young people get on the conveyor belt to a better life  
and  
career.

Of  
course, one of the biggest concerns for the next generation is being able to  
buy a  
home.

To  
claim their stake in our society.

We're  
on track to increase housing supply to its highest level since 1970.

But I  
know from my time as Housing Secretary that we need to do so much  
more...

...and  
the accelerated planning proposals Robert has announced today are just  
the  
start.

Getting

ahead.

Getting  
a home.

The  
best way to achieve both those things is getting a good job.

On our  
watch... 1,000 extra people have gone into work every day since 2010.

And  
this applies to all corners of our country...

... with  
most of the new jobs being created outside London and the South East.

150,000  
more people are in employment in Greater Manchester alone...

... whenever  
I meet my counterparts in Europe, they ask me how we are doing it.

Real  
wages and household incomes are rising...

...  
putting more money in people's pockets.

And with  
full employment and strong public finances...

... we  
are now in a position to see what more we can do to help workers...

... and  
reduce the cost of living.

In  
2016, we introduced the National Living Wage...

Giving  
Britain's workers the biggest pay rise in two decades.

In  
April, we increased the rate again...

...making  
1.8 million workers better off...

Putting  
the number of low paid workers at its lowest level in four decades.

Today,

I'm delighted to announce that we will take this much further.

Over  
the next five years, we will make the UK the first *[major economy in the world]* to end low pay altogether.

To do  
that, I am setting a new target for the National Living Wage:

Raising  
it to match two-thirds of median earnings.

That  
means, on current forecasts, this ambitious plan will bring the National Living Wage up to £10.50.

Giving  
four million people a well-earned pay rise.

And to  
help the next generation of go-getters to get ahead...

... we  
will reward the hard work of all millennials too...

By bringing  
down the age threshold for the National Living Wage...

...to  
cover all workers over the age of 21.

The hard  
work of the British people really is paying off.

It's  
clear it's the Conservatives who are the real party of labour.

We are  
the workers party.

Delivering  
Brexit.

Boosting  
public services.

Backing  
enterprise and hard work.

And  
bringing our country together by levelling up across the nation  
and  
across generations.

That's  
the direction we are setting for our country.

That's  
what will be on offer at the next election:

A  
decade of renewal,  
  
or a  
decade of reversal.

We in  
this room are today's representatives of the most successful party in the  
Western  
world.

An  
institution that has helped to build Britain for over two centuries.

And now  
in 2019, we have a duty to see the country through the challenges  
ahead.

We are  
the only party that can get Brexit done.

We are  
the only party that can call ourselves democrats.

And we are  
the only party that will truly deliver for workers.

We are  
the Conservative & Unionist Party – and we will unite this country.

We are  
a responsible, One Nation party that focuses on what we have in common, not  
what divides us.

We  
believe in building on the best of the past.

Not  
just putting up with modern Britain, but embracing it.

Saying  
loud and clear that we love our country.

We are  
a welcoming, tolerant and fair society.

The  
most successful multiracial democracy in the world.

We are  
an open, global, trading nation.

One of  
the most prosperous in the world.

And we  
are a compassionate, caring, country.

Not  
just for those close to home, but also for some of the poorest in the world.

That's  
who we are.

That's  
what this party stands for.

And  
that's what we are delivering for our country.

ENDS