## £2 bus fare cap across England to save passengers money

- people could save more than £3 per single bus ticket to help with cost of living pressures
- £2 bus fare cap on almost every single journey across England, saving people 30% on the average fare, helping millions with travel costs for work and essential journeys
- government providing up to £60 million over 3 months to subsidise operator costs and incentivise greener travel for commuters

Millions across England will save money through a new £2 cap on single bus journeys from January to March 2023, backed by up to £60 million to ensure affordable transport across the country.

The Transport Secretary has today (3 September 2022) announced the government will provide up to £60 million from January to March next year, to help bus operators to cap single adult fares at £2 per journey.

The move will help passengers with travel costs for work, education, shopping and medical treatments over the winter months while they are facing pressures from the rising cost of living.

Bus fares vary across different parts of the country and between bus operators, and can even reach almost £6 for a single journey in rural areas. The new cap means passengers in those areas could save more than £60 a month if they took 4 single trips a week.

The average single fare for a 3-mile journey is estimated at over £2.80, meaning that the new fare will save passengers almost 30% of the price every time they travel.

The funding to keep fares down follows the government's announcement of  $\underline{\texttt{f130}}$  million last month to protect vital bus routes and services across the  $\underline{\texttt{country}}$ , which those on lower incomes in particular rely on.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

Buses are by far and away the most used form of public transport, so ensuring that almost all bus journeys are no more than £2 will assist passengers over the winter months and provide direct help to thousands of households across the country.

This £60 million boost will mean everyone can affordably get to work, education, the shops and doctor's appointments.

We know people will be feeling the pressure of rising costs this winter, and so we have been working hard this summer to provide

practical concrete help that will lower daily expenditure.

The new initiative follows the allocation of more than £2 billion to support bus services in England through the pandemic and a commitment to fund improved services, new bus priority measures and new electric or hydrogen buses as part of <a href="Bus Back Better">Bus Back Better</a>, the ambitious national bus strategy, published last year.

During the pandemic bus passenger numbers declined significantly, along with other public transport users, and figures show usage has not returned to prepandemic levels.

However, ensuring the public can access affordable bus fares will encourage more people to choose buses for local journeys, which helps to reduce carbon emissions as the country moves towards <a href="Net Zero targets">Net Zero targets</a>. The scheme is estimated to take at least 2 million car journeys off the roads, cutting congestion and pollution for everyone.

Introducing the fare cap by January enables the government to work with operators and local authorities to implement a scheme that most effectively delivers real savings for passengers. Operators representing around 90% of the bus market have expressed support for the scheme and we hope that all bus operators will participate.

The fare cap builds on lots of offers around the country in areas with high bus demand, which include daily, weekly and monthly ticket options and promotional offers. Single fares which are already lower than £2 will not be affected by the cap.

The government will continue to work closely with bus operators and local authorities and consider future support to help passengers continue accessing reliable and affordable bus services after March.

A flat-rate bus pilot scheme, backed by £23.5 million of government funding, launched in Cornwall this January and has already seen an indicative 10% increase in passenger numbers. The 'Any Ticket Any Bus' scheme, running over 4 years, includes a £3 day ticket within towns or a £9 day ticket across all of Cornwall, which is valid across different bus operators.

Dawn Badminton-Capps, Director for England for charity Bus Users, said:

The cap on fares being announced today will bring welcome, short-term relief to the millions of people who rely on buses to access education, employment and health services. Buses make a vital contribution to society and government support is critical in protecting services for the future.

Paul Tuohy, Chief Executive of Campaign for Better Transport, said:

This will be very welcome news for the millions of people who rely on the bus to get to work, to the shops, to medical appointments and to connect with friends and family. It will also encourage more people to find their nearest bus stop and give the bus a try... where could YOU go for just £2?

Buses have great potential to cut traffic and carbon emissions, to connect communities and ease loneliness. This £2 fare cap — which we have called for — will help set buses on the road to a bright future.

Alison Edwards, Policy Director at the Confederation of Passenger Transport:

Bus fare caps at £2 are an eye-catching initiative which could help attract new passengers onto the bus, particularly at a time when networks are adapting to new travel patterns, and both customers and operators are facing cost of living and business cost challenges.

We look forward to understanding in detail how the proposed fare cap will work in practice to ensure it supports the long-term sustainability of bus networks, which are vital in connecting communities with jobs, education and skills, as well as friends, family and essential public services.

# Sailor who restored hundred-year-old steamship recognised with achievement award

- government celebrates Merchant Navy Day by awarding 14 mariners Merchant Navy Medals the highest medal of honour within the maritime sector
- mariner awarded medal for his services in restoring historic ship for future generations
- women's rights champion awarded for her services to building a diverse maritime sector

A skipper from Liverpool who has put his life's work into restoring a historic steamship and a sailor who has dedicated her work to advocating for women's rights are among those to be awarded Merchant Navy Medals in honour of their achievements today (3 September 2022).

Merchant Navy Medals have been awarded since 2016 for significant

contributions to the maritime industry. Each year, seafarers are nominated by their colleagues, friends and family for the medals — the highest medal of honour within the maritime sector.

This year 14 mariners have been awarded Merchant Navy Medals, including Captain Dan Cross from Liverpool and Master Mariner Ann Pletschke from Hampshire.

Captain Dan Cross has received the prestigious Merchant Navy Medal for his efforts in restoring the iconic SS Daniel Adamson, which first set sail in 1903. Through Dan's restoration efforts, he has supported young people from all backgrounds and abilities to learn, participate and eventually volunteer as part of the ship's crew and go on to lead careers in engineering and across the maritime sector.

Captain Dan Cross with the SS Daniel Adamson.

Master Mariner Ann Pletschke has championed the rights of women and underprivileged individuals in the industry. She has also supported future Commonwealth seafarers, including disadvantaged children, in obtaining a maritime education, even paying the educational fees for the first ever marine engineer officer to hail from Mauritius.

Maritime Minister Robert Courts said:

It is an honour to celebrate British mariners like Ann and Dan, whose efforts have changed maritime for the better.

Every single nominee embodies the values of the maritime sector and has gone above and beyond within their field. We're grateful to all 14 recipients for their efforts to make the industry better, safer and more accessible for all.

### Captain Dan Cross said:

I am deeply honoured to be awarded this wonderful medal alongside some prestigious recipients over the years. I played a small part in saving and returning the Daniel Adamson back to operational condition for future generations to enjoy and benefit from. It is often said the ship runs on 2 things, steam and volunteers and this reflects what a magnificent team effort the project is.

Having worked on harbour tugs for nearly 30 years, the work of the harbour tug is often overlooked. As a key part of ensuring goods keep flowing in and out of the ports and harbours in the UK it is great that services to harbour towage is recognised and the work we do can be remembered through vessels like the Daniel Adamson, which also offers great training and education opportunities.

Master Mariner Ann Pletschke said:

With this award I would like to spotlight many others who work tirelessly for the same aims and to inspire others to give back — if we each do a little, we can all make the industry a safer, more diverse and better industry for all.

Master Mariner Ann Pletschke with her marine engineer colleague from Mauritius.

Merchant Navy Medals form part of the UK government's commitment to a diverse maritime workforce. Launched in 2019, the <u>Maritime 2050 People route map</u> sets out how the government and industry will work together to diversify workforce over the coming decades.

The 2022 recipients are:

- Captain Ann Pletschke, services to diversity, inclusion and wellbeing in the maritime sector
- Captain David Warden-Owen, services to maritime charities
- Captain Andrew Shearer, services to supporting Sea Cadets
- Mr Paul James Scotter, services to safety in the fishing industry
- Captain Peter Scott Roberts, devotion to duty, services to training and contribution to charity
- Mr Mark Ranson, services to workboat safety standards and training
- Captain Iain Macneil DUNIV MNI AFRIN, services to maritime safety and technical publications
- Captain Les Hesketh CMMAR FNI, services to maritime education and training
- Captain Stephen G Gudgeon HCMM, services to seafarer welfare
- Mr Robert J Greenwood MNI, services to safety in the fishing industry
- Captain Heather Enness, services to promotion of diversity and wellbeing within the maritime sector
- Captain Daniel J Cross, services to the preservation of a maritime history and towage sector
- Captain Andrew K Cassels, services to the Merchant Navy Welfare Board
- Captain David Barnicoat, services to raising awareness of the maritime sector and supporting seafarer welfare in Falmouth

## Karen Carney MBE to lead major review

## of women's football

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries has announced that former England and Great Britain footballer Karen Carney MBE is to chair an in-depth review into the future of domestic women's football.

The review will look at how to deliver bold and sustainable growth of the women's game at elite and grassroots level. This will be with a particular focus on:

- Assessing the potential audience reach and growth of the game by considering the value and visibility of women's and girls' football in England, including the potential to grow the fanbase for women's football and whether current growth still supports home-grown talent and can be achieved without overstretching infrastructure.
- Examining the financial health of the game and its financial sustainability for the long term. This will include exploring opportunities and ways to support the commercialisation of the women's game, broadcast revenue opportunities and the sponsorship of women's football.
- Examining the structures within women's football. This includes the affiliation with men's teams, prize money, the need for women's football to adhere to the administrative requirements of the men's game; and assessing the adequacy, quality, accessibility and prevalence of the facilities available for women's and girls' football for the growth and sustainability of the game.

To kick off the review, a call for evidence will be launched by the Football Association (FA) in the coming weeks.

Carney will lead a series of group meetings with industry experts across the country. She will be supported in the evidence gathering and analysis by senior officials from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the FA. A full report is expected to be published early next year, with the Government formally responding shortly afterwards.

The news comes following Sarina Wiegman's Lionesses winning UEFA Women's EURO 2022 in July, a range of Government measures to support the women's game, and ahead of the Women's Super League season beginning on 10 September.

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said:

The Lionesses' spectacular performance shows how far we have come at the top of the women's game. While it is right that we celebrate

and reflect on that success, we need an equal emphasis on improving participation, employment opportunities, commercial investment and visibility in the media.

We want to make sure everyone can enjoy the benefits of team sport and there is a robust infrastructure to sustain women's and girls' football for the future. A thorough review of the game will help ensure it is here for the long term.

## Karen Carney MBE said:

Over the last few years, the game has grown significantly and at a rapid pace. Of course, this is an exciting time, but there is an urgent need to ensure there are processes and structures in place that protect the interest of the game and the people working in it. I have always said that the sport needs to be built on solid foundations to give it long-lasting success in a sustainable way.

For me, this is a defining period for the sport and this review will be at the heart of that.

We must capitalise on these powerful moments and can look back on 2022 as a year where we made great strides forward in the growth of the game.

Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston said:

We have been clear that we are right behind growing women's and girl's sport in every aspect — from grassroots all the way up to the elite level.

Domestic women's football has made significant progress in recent years. However the pandemic highlighted the shallow resources within the elite game, which have the potential to affect its long-term growth.

This review will look in depth at how to grow the game at elite and grassroots level, as we push to level the playing field.

During her career, Carney achieved 144 caps for England and represented Team GB at the London 2012 Olympic Games. She enjoyed a club career for Arsenal, Chicago Red Stars, Birmingham City and Chelsea. She is now a respected voice on both mens and women's football and works as a broadcaster and columnist for the Guardian, ITV Sport and Sky Sports, as well as her role as a sponsorship consultant for Visa.

The women's game has made significant progress in recent years, with UEFA Women's EURO 2022 highlighting the changing attitudes to women's sport.

Records were shattered, with a record global audience of more than 365 million people, 574,875 tickets sold, nearly half of all ticket holders female, and nearly 100,000 children. There were sell-out crowds wherever the Lionesses played, and the final broke the all-time record attendance for a EUROs final — in either the men's or women's game.

The launch of the Women's Super League in 2011 generated a wave of bespoke sponsorship and broadcast rights deals. The England men's and women's senior players are now being paid the same match fee for representing their country, and clubs in the top two tiers of domestic football are introducing improved contracts and employment rights.

In a further long-term boost for the visibility of women's football, the Government recently confirmed that the FIFA Women's World Cup and Women's Euros have been added to the listed events regime, which will mean they will continue to be made available to free-to-air television broadcasters.

At grassroots level it has become the most played team sport for women and girls in England, with 3 million registered players and 12,000 registered teams. The Government is putting the game at the very centre of its plans to level up access to sport for all, with a £230 million package being rolled out to build or improve up to 8,000 grassroots football and multi-sport pitches across the UK by 2025. This funding kicked off in March with an initial £25 million benefiting over 170 facilities. Following the EURO 2022 Final, the Culture Secretary also announced that some of these facilities will be named after the 23 players in and around each of their respective hometowns or places that shaped their footballing careers, in honour of their achievements. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government stood by women's football. It provided £2.9 million in grant funding to the Women's Super League and FA Women's Championship to cover essential costs and allow the completion of their seasons through the Sport Survival Package, but there were still delays in the return of competition compared to the men's game, due to a lack of investment from the football authorities in COVID-19 testing for the women's game. Spectators were also slower to return, a number of sponsorship deals withdrawn and a number of clubs have experienced financial hardship.

The fan-led review of football governance for men's professional football recommended a review of the women's game. Those who gave evidence highlighted the need for women's football to be properly financed — including the commercialisation of women's football, the opportunities for the game to benefit from broadcast revenue and implementing a stronger administrative structure. Concerns were also raised that the sport had failed to keep up with its own popularity and there was a danger of demand being unmet.

**ENDS** 

## Notes to editors:

• The terms of reference for the review of domestic women's football are

#### here.

- The review of the women's game will not focus on elements that are shared with the fan-led review of football governance, such as club heritage, owners' and directors' tests, financial sustainability of clubs and independent regulation, as the outcomes of the fan-led review will apply to women's football in the same way.
- The <u>fan-led review of football governance</u> recommended that "given the many, but interconnected, issues affecting a meaningful future for women's football needing to be addressed and resolved successfully...women's football should be treated with parity and given its own dedicated review." It stated that "there is huge potential for the game to grow further, but to make this a reality there needs to be serious investment in women's football, in its finances, in its infrastructure, and in the administration of the game". The Government's full response can be found <u>here</u>.
- The Government's Sport Survival Package has provided millions of pounds to protect the future of women's football, netball, rugby, badminton and basketball over the course of the pandemic. This is alongside clubs and sports bodies benefitting from the multi-billion pound package of Government support that has been made available to the sector. See more details on women's football here and here.
- The Government put £4.6 million towards the staging of EURO 2022.
- Further details on the implementation of reforms to ensure the sustainability of men's football in the long-term will be published through a white paper in due course.
- The Women's EUROs has been one of a number of high profile sporting events being hosted in the UK in the coming months that will put women's sport centre stage. The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games was the first major multi-sport event in history to feature more women's medal events than men's. The second edition of The Hundred is now underway (following the first being the most watched women's sporting competition on television in 2021), and the World Gymnastic Championships in Liverpool, and the Rugby League World Cup in October and November (where the men's, women's and wheelchair events will be played simultaneously) will take place later this year, further boosting the UK's credentials as the destination of choice for the world's major sporting events.

## Minister Collins statement following G20 Digital Ministers' Meeting

News story

The UK Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, Damian Collins, attended the G20 Digital Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.



The UK Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, Damian Collins, attended the G20 Digital Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia to discuss global digital priorities, including skills, connectivity and data free flow with trust. The meeting brought together ministers and senior officials from G20 countries including the US, Canada and Australia.

Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy Damian Collins said:

The diverse membership and collective economic power of the G20 makes it one of the most important international meetings where the challenges facing global digital economies are discussed. It is right that G20 Digital Ministers continue to work together to deliver solutions for the benefit of citizens around the world, based on democratic values and human rights.

In my speech to the G20 digital ministers I condemned Russia's unprovoked and brutal war in Ukraine, as well as their use of cyber attacks and aggressive state sponsored disinformation campaigns to cause further disruption around the world.

I also thanked the Indonesian Presidency for ensuring G20 discussions advanced in some key areas. Progress was made on shared priorities including digital connectivity, skills and literacy, and data free flow with trust.

It has also been a positive opportunity to develop the UK's relationship with Indonesia. I am pleased that Minister Plate and I share the same enthusiasm for the joint projects like developing the Satria 2 satellites which will improve connections for rural

communities and help close Indonesia's digital divide. Our discussions will be a firm foundation to build the UK-Indonesia relationship on digital and technology over the coming years.

The UK will support further progress under future Presidencies, starting with India in 2023. The UK and India have a strong relationship and I was pleased to meet my counterpart, Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, to discuss our mutual digital and tech interests. We agreed to launch the UK-India Strategic Tech Dialogue this year which will promote data, economic growth, and diversifying telecoms supply chains in our two countries.

Published 2 September 2022

## <u>Secretary of State speech to 2022</u> British-Irish Association Conference

It is a great pleasure to be addressing you this evening in these beautiful surroundings for the annual conference of the British-Irish Association.

I would like to start by thanking Dominic for his kind invitation and his words of welcome. I would also like to express my gratitude to Francesca Kay and all of her team for their hard work and dedication in organising this conference.

Since 1972, the BIA has played a key role in bringing people together — politicians, civil servants, academics and faith leaders. Also people from the world of business, journalists, commentators and many more, all of whom have sought to promote dialogue, understanding and good relations throughout these islands as we work to shape a better future together.

So at the outset, I would also like to thank the BIA for everything it has done and will no doubt continue to do in the years ahead.

Over the past two years, we have sadly lost two monumental figures of the peace process in Northern Ireland. In their careers and in their lives, John Hume and David Trimble demonstrated just how much progress could be made on challenges that were deemed insurmountable by coming together and seeking compromise.

They put Northern Ireland's future ahead of party interests, taking enormous personal and political risks to deliver peace. In coming together here this weekend, not only are we reminded of that spirit, but we should look to reignite it as we work together on the challenges in the months ahead.

## Belfast/Good Friday Agreement

Nearly 25 years on from the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, we shouldn't lose sight of the magnitude of what was achieved in 1998.

The Agreement marked an extraordinary achievement for Northern Ireland, laying the foundation for the more peaceful and prosperous society that we see today.

The approaching 25th Anniversary of the Agreement offers an opportunity for all communities to come together and recognise that shared achievement.

As we prepare to mark this historic moment, let us be mindful of our responsibilities, particularly to young people, and to future generations in Northern Ireland, and to do all we can to build upon the remarkable progress that has been made in the last quarter century, and to make sure that it endures into the future.

Northern Ireland has so much to offer and huge potential for an exciting and prosperous future.

## Strategic Challenges ahead

Of course, there are issues that we currently face, including the Northern Ireland Protocol, dealing with the legacy of the past, restoring a stable Executive and tackling the cost of living — these are extraordinary challenges.

But they are not insurmountable. With constructive engagement and proper understanding, these challenges can be solved, especially as we already share a common goal — to secure the very best possible outcomes for people in Northern Ireland and across these islands.

The UK Government remains committed to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and will continue to work with the Northern Ireland parties and the Irish Government to deliver our vision of reconciliation, equality and respect for all.

We are proud of the progress that we have made in this respect since this conference last met.

However, that is not to say there are not serious challenges ahead.

There are difficult issues like the Northern Ireland Protocol and addressing the legacy of the past where I know there are strong differing views. I understand that — these are complex and sensitive issues and if there were easier solutions they would have been found long before now.

What I can say is the spirit and intent of what we are doing is to deliver a better future for Northern Ireland.

#### Northern Ireland Protocol

The Northern Ireland Protocol was put in place to deal with the "unique circumstances" of Northern Ireland, recognising that a solution needed to be found that recognised Northern Ireland's place as a sovereign part of the United Kingdom and its internal market, which of course is important, in particular to those with unionist identity, as well as to the commercial life of so many businesses. And of course, the Protocol serves the equally important purpose, not just for nationalists, of preserving frictionless trade across the land border through providing access for Northern Ireland to the EU Single Market.

We also accept the importance of preserving the integrity of the EU Single Market, as well as our own. And we accept fully that the economic prosperity of Northern Ireland benefits from trade both East-West and North-South.

However, there are real issues with how the Protocol is currently operating. Those issues increase cost and complexity, and reduce choice regardless of someone's views on the constitutional position of Northern Ireland.

We are determined to fix those problems, through negotiation and agreement with the EU if at all possible, and thus to deliver stability for businesses and citizens across Northern Ireland. But with legislation if we cannot.

Our aim with the legislation on the Northern Ireland Protocol is to put in place an insurance policy so that we can ensure we have a way of resolving the issues with the Protocol. Like all insurance policies, they are better if they're not invoked but we must bring about a resolution.

There is also a bigger picture here. We need to get back to finding some common understanding and a relationship of trust between friends and neighbours with a spirit of good intent and a willingness to make things better.

A stronger UK/Ireland and UK/EU relationship is in all our interest, not least given the wider geostrategic challenges we face. Individuals and businesses look to their political leaders, on both sides, to make their lives easier rather than more burdensome.

As politicians, and as legislators, if something isn't working, we make changes to find a solution. That is what we do — day in, day out, we find the possibilities and the room to make things better for the people we are elected to serve.

I accept that the politics around this is difficult. But given the political will, this can be resolved. And of course the Protocol itself foresees the prospect of it being amended and evolving. We should aim to find a new balance through a new negotiation. And then we can all move on.

Move on to so many other issues that deserve our urgent attention — such as continuing to deal with the Russian aggression which is making Europe more dangerous now than it has ever been since the Second World War, issues

concerning the rising cost of living, the rise in energy prices and concerns over food security.

I also recognise that the UK leaving the EU was a significant change. But it is time now to reach a place of acceptance, and focus on our future relationship as neighbours, as friends, and as allies.

I believe that if we all hold to a commitment and spirit of good intent and put people and businesses first we can make this work.

## Legacy

That same genuine commitment underpins our approach to dealing with the legacy of Northern Ireland's troubled past. It is clear that the system as it stands is not delivering truth or justice to people who are still living with the pain from the years of violence and bloodshed.

We have introduced legislation which we believe will address the concerns of those impacted by the Troubles — including those seeking answers and those who served — and so assist in the process of healing and reconciliation. I want to add that we are in listening mode, and my colleagues and I continue to engage directly with the representatives of victims and survivors as the Bill proceeds through Parliament.

## Identity, language and culture legislation

In like manner, we believe the identity and language legislation which we have introduced, will support greater cultural inclusion, tolerance and openness.

#### **Abortion**

And we are determined to ensure that girls and women in Northern Ireland have equal access to healthcare. It cannot be right that in 2022 they do not have the same reproductive healthcare facilities as girls and women in the rest of the UK.

## **Economic Investment**

That ambition for a better future lies behind the unprecedented levels of financial support and investment we have delivered in Northern Ireland, to help strengthen and grow the economy, along with our contribution to ensure a safer Northern Ireland where the security threat level has reduced for the first time in over a decade.

So whilst there are challenges, there is much we can coalesce around and work together on to help make Northern Ireland a great place to live, work and invest.

## **Executive Formation**

Principal to achieving this goal is of course having a functioning devolved

government.

I therefore urge all Parties, in the strongest possible terms, to work together to form an Executive and address the issues that matter most to people.

There are people in Northern Ireland right now who are suffering. Some don't know how they are going to put food on the table for their families and themselves. I believe it is the duty of their elected representatives to ensure there is an Executive and Assembly up and running so they can start spending the money that is waiting to be spent.

The New Decade, New Approach agreement provided a lengthy period for politicians in Northern Ireland to restore functioning devolved institutions.

But let me be clear, if the Parties do not make full use of that time to earnestly engage to restore a fully functioning Executive, then I will have to call an election at the end of October.

This is not something that the people of Northern Ireland want or need, especially given the present economic circumstances.

What people want is a fully functioning Executive, taking decisive action to tackle the cost of living crisis, improve healthcare, improve education and drive the economy to its full potential.

I am in no doubt that Northern Ireland has the best of both worlds when it has a stable Northern Ireland Executive backed by the support and strength of the UK Government.

And this Government believes firmly in the Union and Northern Ireland's place within it.

I believe that all people and all communities benefit from being part of a strong United Kingdom, a place where everyone is welcome and can live, work and thrive together.

I believe that our relationships across these Islands — be they political, business, family or friendships are one of our Union's greatest strengths.

These relationships are what have got us through difficult times in the past — and will get us through the challenging times ahead.

It is the strength and power of these relationships that gave us the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.

So as we look to the 25th Anniversary of that agreement next year, let us continue to foster and strengthen our relationships to reach compromises and solutions for the benefit of all our people. And let us take inspiration from the great leaders that have gone before — so we can deliver our shared vision of an inclusive, safe and prosperous Northern Ireland.