

Theresa May: Speech in Aberdeenshire

29th April 2017

(Check against delivery)

“It’s great to be here in Aberdeenshire today as we approach the most important election the United Kingdom has faced in my lifetime – an election in which every single vote will count. And my message to the people of Scotland is clear – every vote for me and my team will strengthen my hand in the Brexit negotiations. That will strengthen the union, strengthen the economy and the UK and Scotland together will flourish, because if Scotland is flourishing, the rest of the United Kingdom is flourishing too. And that’s really important, because as Prime Minister for the United Kingdom, I want to see every part of our country succeed. I want businesses here in Aberdeenshire to succeed and to thrive just as I do businesses across the rest of the United Kingdom. I want young people in the northeast of Scotland to have a secure job and a bright future, just as I do for young people in the south west of England. I want to see every single part of our country thrive and succeed.

And of course as I say, every vote for me and my team will be a vote to strengthen our hand in those Brexit negotiations. And my commitment is to ensure that we get the right deal from those Brexit negotiations, and that’s what is important. As I say, every vote for me and my team strengthens my hand in those negotiations. Every vote for me and my team is a vote for 5 years of strong and stable leadership to take us through Brexit and beyond. Every vote for me and my team is a vote for strong and stable leadership in the national interest, and that is what this election is about. It’s about leadership, it’s about stability, it’s about doing the right thing for Britain, and you’ll only get that with the strong and stable government that the Conservatives can provide, because that is what we have shown in government. If you just think back, when I first took over as Prime Minister just after the referendum, the predictions of immediate financial crash, of economic danger, but actually because of the strength the government has shown, what we’ve seen is consumer confidence remain high, we’ve seen that there are record numbers of jobs and overall growth has been beyond all expectations. When I took over as Prime Minister, people said the country was divided. They said it would never come back together again, but actually today I see a unity of purpose as people want the government to get on with Brexit and make a success of it.

And when I took over as Prime Minister, what was needed was a clear vision and the determination to get on with that job of Brexit, and that's exactly what the government provided. And that's the security that strong and stable government can provide. I think it's what leadership looks like. So at this general election people will have a very clear choice. Between 5 years of strong and stable leadership with me and my team, or a coalition of chaos led by Jeremy Corbyn. And that's what's on offer of course, because if you look at the other parties, they're lining up to prop up Jeremy Corbyn. We see it from the Liberal Democrats and we see it from Nicola Sturgeon's Scottish Nationalists.

And what they're doing is they want to disrupt our Brexit negotiations, undermine the task ahead, stop us from taking Britain forward, and every SNP MP who's elected to Westminster puts a step closer Jeremy Corbyn getting in to Downing Street. And they want to disrupt our Brexit negotiations by disrupting this election. And make no mistake, it could happen. Just remember this, the opinion polls were wrong in the 2015 general election. They were wrong in last year's referendum. And Jeremy Corbyn himself has pointed out, he was a 200-1 chance as Labour leader in 2015 – look what happened there.

No, this election is going to be won by real people voting on June 8th, real votes on June 8th, and it's important that we get that strong and stable government that will only come under the Conservatives. Because we want to build a stronger future for this country. Because we want to ensure we get the right deal for Britain in Europe. A deal that works for every part of the United Kingdom – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, for North and South, for town, for city, for countryside – that's what the Conservatives have a plan for. That is what our vision is. And you only get that with a strong and stable government. And we want to provide that stronger future by ensuring we build a stronger economy, an economy where hard work is rewarded. An economy where we see secure jobs, well paid jobs.

An economy where we see people able to get on through their own talents. It's what our modern industrial strategy is about – ensuring that we help firms grow and prosper across the whole of the United Kingdom. That's why the strategy here in Scotland would continue to support the oil and gas sector, making the most of future opportunities. It's why we will ensure that we support and give a

brighter future, a better future, for Scottish fishermen, by coming out of the common fisheries policy. And we want to support Scottish manufacturing, including in the vital defence sector and the great Scottish shipyards. But also we want to build new markets for Scotland's world leading food and drink products. And we want to ensure that we build a more secure and united nation.

And that means taking action against the extremists who would divide us, and standing up against the separatists who want to break up our country.

There is only one party that is committed to the union. There's only one candidate for Prime Minister who will stand up and defend the United Kingdom. And my commitment is clear, that if you strengthen my hand in those Brexit negotiations, I will work to ensure that Scotland and the UK flourish together. So on June 8th, vote for 5 years of strong and stable leadership. Give me the mandate to lead Britain. Give me the mandate to speak for Britain. Give me the mandate for Britain, and give me the mandate to deliver for Britain."

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