

Prime Minister: Let's get Brexit done and take this country forward

Boris

Johnson, the Prime Minister, speaking today at Conservative Party Conference at

The Manchester Convention Centre, said:

(Check against delivery)

It's

great to be here in Manchester at the best attended conference for years

and

I know that some of you may have been mildly peppered with abuse on the way in

but

are you abashed? are you downcast?

Of

course not. We are conservatives and we get on with serving the people

and

speaking of service I should begin by paying tribute to my predecessor

Theresa,

I know the whole of conference remains full of gratitude to you, and to Philip

May, for your patience and your forbearance, and yes, we will continue with the

work of tackling domestic violence and modern slavery

and

building on your legacy

I

have been prime minister for only seventy days but

I have seen so many things that give cause for hope

hospitals

that are finally getting the investment to match the devotion of the staff

schools

where standards of reading are rising through the use of synthetic phonics

police

colleges where idealistic young men and women are enrolling in large numbers to fight crime across the country

shipyards in Scotland that are building superb modern type 26 frigates for sale around the world –

and every one of those high wage high skill jobs in shipbuilding is a testament to the benefits of belonging to the United Kingdom

the most successful political partnership in history

which we will protect

and we will defend against those who would wantonly destroy it

and I say to Ruth Davidson as well

thank you for everything you did for the cause of Conservatism and unionism in Scotland

and Ruth, we will honour your legacy too

and I am proud of the role this government is playing in every one of those investments

and they are only possible because

It was this Conservative government that tackled the debt and the deficit left by the last Labour government

It was because we cleared up the wreckage they left behind that we now have

record employment

wages rising the fastest for 10 years

and we have record Foreign Direct Investment of £1.3 trillion

and

so many reasons to be confident about our country and its direction

and

yet we are like a world class athlete with a pebble in our shoe

there

is one part of the British system that seems to be on the blink

If

parliament were a laptop, then the screen would be showing the pizza wheel of doom

If

parliament were a school, Ofsted would be shutting it down

if

parliament were a reality TV show the whole lot of us would have been voted out of the jungle by now

But

at least we could have watched the speaker being forced to eat a kangaroo testicle

And

the sad truth is that voters have more say over I'm a celebrity than they do over this House of Commons

Which

refuses to deliver Brexit, refuses to do anything constructive and refuses to have an election

just

at the moment when voters are desperate for us to focus on their priorities

we

are continuing to chew the supermasticated subject of Brexit

when

what people want

what

leavers want

what

remainers want

what

the whole world wants – is to be calmly and sensibly done with the subject, and to move on

and

that is why we are coming out of the EU on October 31, come what may
Conference

let's
get Brexit done

we
can we must and we will

even
though things have not been made easier by the surrender bill

we will work for a deal with our EU friends;
but whatever happens we must come out by the end of October

let's
get this thing done – and then let's get ready to make our case to the
country

against
the fratricidal anti-semitic Marxists who were in Brighton last week

last
week Jeremy Corbyn had a number of damaging and retrograde ideas in his
speech

he
wants a 4 day week – which would slash the wages of people on low incomes

he
wants to ban private schools and expropriate their property

Even
though it would cost the taxpayer seven billion to educate the kids

he
wants to stamp out excellence in schools by banning Ofsted

the
inspectors who ensure that schools are safe for our children

but
he had one good idea

– he had a whole paragraph repeating what
he has said every week for the last three years

he wants an election now – or that is what he
was going to say, poor fellow

the only trouble is that the paragraph was
censored by John McDonnell or possibly Keir Starmer

so

we have the astonishing spectacle of the leader of the opposition being prevented by his colleagues from engaging in his constitutional function which is to try to remove me from office

and in this age of creative litigation I am surprised that no one has yet sued him for breach of contract

though it now appears that the SNP may yet try to bundle him towards the throne

like some Konstantin Chernenko figure

Reluctantly propelled to office in a Kremlin coup

so that they get on with their programme for total national discord

turning the whole of 2020 – which should be a great year for this country – into the chaos and cacophony of two more referendums

– a second referendum on Scottish independence, even though the people of Scotland were promised that the 2014 vote would be a once in a generation decision

and a second referendum on the EU? Can you imagine?

another 3 years of this?

but that is the Corbyn agenda – stay in the EU beyond October 31,

and paying a billion pounds a month for the privilege, followed by years of uncertainty for business and everyone else

As for the Lib Dems, their idea of serving the national interest was to write to Jean-Claude Juncker urging him NOT to give this country a better deal

While the leader has called for a second referendum

While pledging to campaign against the result

It's
time to respect the trades descriptions act

And
take the word democrat out of the liberal democrats

My
friends

I
am afraid that after three and a half years people are beginning to feel that
they are being taken for fools

They
are beginning to suspect that there are forces in this country that simply
don't want brexit delivered at all

and
if they turn out to be right in that suspicion then I believe there will be
grave consequences for trust in democracy

Let's
get Brexit done on October 31

Let's
get it done because of the opportunities that Brexit will bring

not
just to take back control of our money and our borders and our laws

To
regulate differently and better, and to take our place as a proud and
independent global campaigner for free trade

Let's
get it done because delay is so pointless and expensive

Let's
get it done because we need to build our positive new partnership with the EU

because
it cannot be stressed too much that this is not an anti-European party and it
is not an anti-European country

We
love Europe

We
are European

but
after 45 years of really dramatic constitutional change we must have a new
relationship with the EU

a
positive and confident partnership- and we can do it

Today
in Brussels we are tabling what I believe are constructive and reasonable
proposals

Which
provide a compromise for both sides

We
will under no circumstances have checks at or near the border in Northern
Ireland

We
will respect the peace process and the Good Friday agreement

And
by a process of renewable democratic consent by the executive and assembly of
Northern Ireland

we
will go further and protect the existing regulatory arrangements for farmers
and other businesses on both sides of the border

And
at the same time we will allow the UK – whole and entire – to withdraw from
the
EU, with control of our own trade policy from the start.

And
to protect the union

And
yes this is a compromise by the UK

And
I hope very much that our friends understand that and compromise in their
turn

Because
if we fail to get an agreement because of what is essentially a technical
discussion of the exact nature of future customs checks

When
that technology is improving the whole time

Then
let us be in no doubt that the alternative is no deal

That
is not an outcome we want

It
is not an outcome we seek at all

But
let me tell you this conference it is an outcome for which we are ready

Are
we ready?

Are
we determined to resolve this?

Let's
get Brexit done on October 31

because
we must get on and deliver on all the priorities of the people

to
answer the cry of those 17.4 m who voted for Brexit

because
it is only by delivering Brexit that we can address that feeling in so many
parts of the country

that they were being left behind, ignored

and
that their towns were not only suffering from a lack of love and investment

but
their views had somehow become unfashionable or unmentionable

And
let's get Brexit done for those millions who may have voted remain

But
are first and foremost democrats

And
accept the result of the referendum

and
when I say that I want us to work together, now, to bring this country
together

you
are entitled to ask yourselves about my core principles

and
the ideals that drive me and are going to drive me as your prime minister

I
am going to follow the example of my friend Saj

I
am going to quote that supreme authority in my family – my mother

(and
by the way for keen students of the divisions in my family you might know
that
I have kept the ace up my sleeve – my mother voted leave)

and
my mother taught me to believe strongly in the equal importance, the equal
dignity, the equal worth of every human being on the planet

and
that may sound banal but it is not

and
there is one institution that sums up that idea

The
NHS is holy to the people of this country because of the simple beauty of its
principle

that
it doesn't matter who you are or where you come from

but
when you are sick the whole country figuratively gathers at your bedside

and
does everything it can to make you well again

and
everybody pays to ensure that you have the best doctors and the best nurses
and
the most effective treatments known to medical science

and
after 70 years the results are – on the whole –amazing

when
I was a kid the word cancer was a death knell

and
heart attack was a terrifying thought

well,
we are slowly defeating the legions of disease

This
country has seen the fastest falls in breast cancer in Europe

but
we have so much more to do

on
Monday I went to the north Manchester general hospital

and
I saw the incredible work they are doing with reconstructive maxillo-facial surgery

on
people who only a decade ago would have been permanently disfigured by their traumas

and
for whom hope and confidence is so important

I
talked to the patients and every one of them was bursting with praise for the staff and their energy and devotion

but
conference that fantastic hospital was built in 1876

To
serve the workhouse

and
we were walking down long narrow nightingale wards that were designed by the pioneer of nursing

and
as one of the managers told me

that
asking those professionals to work in that environment

is
like asking a premiership footballer to play on a ploughed field

and
so I was proud to tell them under this government we will totally rebuild that hospital

So
that we are not only recruiting more doctors and nurses, and training them

but
in the next 10 years we will build 40 new hospitals

in
the biggest investment in hospital infrastructure for a generation

because
after 70 years of the existence of the NHS

– 44 of them under a Conservative government

it is time for us to say loud and clear

We are the party of the NHS

and I claim that title because it is our one nation conservatism

that has delivered and will deliver the economic growth

that makes those investments possible

and it is we Conservatives who will solve the problem of social care

and end the injustice that means people have to sell their home

to pay for their old age

and if you ask me how we are going to do it

how we are going to grow the UK economy

I will tell you that it is by raising the productivity of the whole of the UK

not with socialism

not with deranged and ruinous plans borrowed from the playbook of Bolivarian revolutionary Venezuela

but by creating the economic platform for dynamic free market

capitalism

yes, you heard it right

capitalism

– and when did you last hear a Tory leader talk about capitalism

we
are the party of the NHS precisely because we are the party of capitalism

not
because we shun it, or despise it

and
we understand the vital symmetry at the heart of the modern British economy

between
a dynamic enterprise culture and great public services

and
I have seen this formula in action

now
who comes from London?

who
lives there?

no
disgrace in that – I used to be mayor there

and
it is one of the many astonishing things about our nation's capital that it
is
the most productive region in the whole of Europe

because
in 1863 this country led the world in putting trains in tunnels, among other
breakthroughs

and
yet there are many other regions of the country that are far less productive

and
that represents not just an injustice

but
a massive opportunity

I
believe that talent and genius and initiative and chutzpah are evenly
distributed across the whole UK

but
it is also clear that opportunity is not evenly distributed

and
it is the job of this one nation conservative govt

– to unlock talent in every corner of the

UK

because that is the right thing to do in
itself

and

because that is the way to release the economic potential of the whole
country

and

the first thing we must do in spreading opportunity is to insist on the equal
safety of the public wherever you live

to make your streets safer

and

that is why we are recruiting 20,000 new police officers

and that is why we are committing now to
rolling up the evil county lines drugs gangs

that predate on young kids and send them to
die in

the

streets to feed the cocaine habits of the bourgeoisie

and we will succeed

and

yes we will be tough on crime

we

will make sure that the police have the legal powers and the political
backing

to use stop and search

because it may be controversial

but

believe me that when a young man is going equipped with a bladed weapon

there

is nothing kinder or more loving or more life-saving you can do than ask him
to

turn out his pockets

and

yes, when people are found guilty of serious sexual or violent offences,

we

will make sure that they serve the sentence they should – if only for the
protection of the public

but we will also do everything we can to stop
people becoming criminals

with rehabilitation

education in prisons

so
that they are not just academies for crime

and we are investing in youth clubs and better
FE training

to
give young people the best possible antidote to the criminal instinct

the
prospect of a good job

and
indeed the best way to level up and to expand opportunity

is
to give every kid in the country a superb education

so
that is why we are levelling up education funding across the country

So that every child has the chance to express
their talents

and that's why we are investing in transport

from
northern powerhouse rail

to
a huge new agenda of road improvements

And
yes I admit I am a bit of a bus nut

I
confess that I like to make and paint inexact models of buses

With
happy passengers inside

But
it is not just because i am a bus nut that we want

to
expand bus transport

With
clean, green buses and contactless payment by card or phone

a
good bus service can make all the difference to your job

To
your life

To
your ability to get to the doctor

To
the liveability of your town or your village

And
to your ability to stay there and have a family there and start a business
there

And
it is for exactly the same reason

To
increase connectivity and liveability

that
we are putting in gigabit broadband

spreading
across the country like tendrils of superinformative vermicelli

because
that is the way to unite the country

to
spread opportunity

to
bring the country together

and
there is another vital effect

with
the right infrastructure and education and technology

you
increase the productivity of the whole UK economy

if
the streets are safe, and if the transport links are there, and if there are
good broadband connections

you
enable new housing to go ahead

on
brownfield sites that were never considered viable before

we
enable young people to get a foot on the housing ladder

and
we enable people to live near the good jobs

and
above all – with safe streets and affordable housing and fantastic wifi – we
give business the confidence to invest and to grow

that
is the virtuous circle

that
is the balance and the symmetry at the heart of our one nation project

and
there are so many ways in which we are pulling ahead

London
has overtaken New York as the number one city for investment in fintech firms

and
that is before we have even delivered Crossrail

which
was on time and on budget when I left

And
isn't it time we had a Mayor who is focused on the job – which is why i am
backing Shaun Bailey

here
in Manchester we are seeing an extraordinary growth in genomics, with

a
flood of inward investment from banking and insurance to IT

and
that is before we have delivered northern powerhouse rail

in
the west midlands we are seeing a 21st century industrial revolution
in battery technology

one
in five of the electric cars sold in Europe is now made in the UK

and

that is before we have begun Andy Street's vision of a West Midlands metro

With

infrastructure education and technology we will drive up the productivity of this country and bring it together

I

do not for one moment doubt the patriotism of people on all sides of this Brexit argument but I am fed up with being told that our country can't do something

when

I believe passionately that it can

thanks

to British technology there is a place in Oxfordshire that could soon be the hottest place in the solar system

the tokamak fusion reactor in Culham

and if you go there you will learn that this country has a global lead in fusion research

and

that they are on the verge of creating commercially viable miniature fusion reactors for sale around the world

delivering

virtually unlimited zero-carbon power

now I know they have been on the verge for some time

it is a pretty spacious kind of verge

but remember it was only a few years ago when people were saying that solar power would never work in cloudy old Britain

and

that wind turbines would not pull the skin off a rice pudding

well there are some days when wind and solar are delivering more than half our energy needs

we

can do it

we

can beat the sceptics

we

are already using gene therapy to cure blindness

– this country leads the way in satellite technology

and

we are building two space ports, one in Sutherland and one in Newquay

soon

we will be sending missions to the heavens

geostationary satellites

conference

can you think of anyone who could trial the next mission

can

you think which communist cosmonaut to coax into the cockpit?

and

let's get Brexit done on October 31

not

just because we have such an immense agenda to take this country forward

but

because Brexit is an opportunity in itself

We

will take back control of our fisheries and the extraordinary marine wealth of Scotland

and

it is one of the many bizarre features of the SNP that in spite of being called names like Salmond and Sturgeon they are committed to handing back those fish to the control of the EU

we

want to turbo-charge the Scottish fishing sector; they would allow Brussels to charge for our turbot

we

will be able to allow UK businesses to have bigger tax breaks for investment in capital

we

can do free ports and enterprize zones

we

can ban the shipment of live animals

and
yes, we will have those free trade deals

we
already have some astonishing exports

just in the last few months I have seen an Isle
of Wight ship-builder that exports vast leisure catamarans to Mexico

we
export Jason Donovan CDs to North Korea

we exported Nigel Farage to America – though
he seems to have come back

and
across the world there are countries that are yearning to engage with us

where
we have old friendships and burgeoning new partnerships

and
that is the vision for Britain

a
country that is open, outward-looking, global in mindset and insisting on
free
trade

a
high wage, low tax, high skill, high productivity economy – with incomes
rising
fastest for those who are lowest paid

a
country where we level up and unify the entire United Kingdom through better
education, better infrastructure and technology

a
country where provided you obey the law and do no harm to others you can live
your life and love whomsoever you choose

a
country that leads the world with clean green technology and in reducing
greenhouse gases that cause climate change

a
country that is happy and confident about its future

that
is the vision for the country we love

and

when the opposition finally screw their courage to the sticking point and agree to have an election

when the chlorinated chickens waddle from the hencoop where they are hiding

that is the vision of the country that we will put to the people

–

and the choice is clear

We put up wages – with the biggest expansion of the living wage for a generation; Corbyn would put up taxes for everyone

We back our superb armed forces around the world; Corbyn has said he wants them disbanded

We want an Australian-style points based system for immigration; Corbyn says he doesn't even believe in immigration controls

If Jeremy Corbyn were allowed into Downing Street, he would whack up your taxes, he would foul up the economy, he would rip up the alliance between Britain and the USA, and he would break up the UK

We cannot allow it to happen

but it is worse than that

It has become absolutely clear that he is determined now to frustrate Brexit

What do we want and need? Do we want more dither and delay

Do we want to spend another billion pounds a month that could be going on the NHS?

Let's get Brexit done

and
let's finally believe in ourselves and what we can do

This
country has long been a pioneer

we
inaugurated the steam age, the atomic age, the age of the genome

we
led the way in parliamentary democracy, in female emancipation

and
when the whole world had succumbed to a different fashion, this country and
this party pioneered ideas of free markets and privatisation that spread
across
the planet

Every
one of them was controversial, every one of them was difficult

but
we have always had the courage to be original, to do things differently, and
now we are about to take another giant step

to
do something no one thought we could do

to
reboot our politics

to
relaunch ourselves into the world

and
to dedicate ourselves again to that simple proposition that we are here to
serve the democratic will of the British people

and
if we do that with optimism and confidence then I tell you we will not go
wrong

Let's
get on with sensible moderate one nation but tax-cutting Tory government

and
figuratively if not literally let us send Jeremy Corbyn into orbit where he
belongs

Let's
get Brexit done

Let's

bring our country together

ENDS

Alun Cairns: Speech to Conservative Party Conference 2019

Alun Cairns, Secretary of State for Wales, speaking today at Conservative Party Conference at The Manchester Convention Centre, said:

(Check against delivery)

“Thank you for that kind introduction.

It is a privilege to share a platform with my good friends and cabinet colleagues, Julian Smith and Alister Jack.

Although we work closely together and agree on almost everything, don't accept a word they say about rugby or football. They know nothing. Take my word for it, it is definitely Alun Wyn Jones that will be lifting the rugby world cup in just a few weeks time!

And as we leave the EU, our Union, the Union of the United Kingdom will become more important and relevant than ever before.

Our Union is the most successful Union of nations in human history. It's not forced. It's practical and pragmatic. It comes together through natural bonds. A family of nations with a common culture and a shared identity.

The way we identify ourselves, how we feel as a people and how we express our loyalties can be complex but nationality doesn't have to be mutually exclusive – I am proudly British *and* I'm proud to be Welsh.

It's a Union where each nation and region contributes to the success of the other. Where each community can excel in manufacturing, technology, services, tourism or agriculture. All contributing to the greatness of our nation.

Wales has great strengths –

In aerospace, half the world's passenger aircraft have Wings that were built in Broughton

The F35 Global Repair Hub is in Flintshire

The world's largest compound semiconductor cluster is in South Wales, where your smartphone technology was developed

We're part of the Cyber Security golden triangle and have the best new Nuclear Offer anywhere in Europe

Cardiff University is the world's leading centre in Precision Medicine

And I could highlight so many more areas – Fintech, tourism, food production....

And of course, rural Wales rears the best lamb in the world too.

And it is the strength of our Union that allows us to invest and to support these sectors.

A new, fair funding settlement for Wales with additional investment in –

Growth Deals across every part – the UK's largest City Deal is in Cardiff

The Semiconductor sector and Active Homes and Precision Medicine projects are supported by UKRI

The MoD playing a pivotal role in attracting the US Airforce to Sealand

And the National Cyber Security centre facilitating investment by recognising our great strengths.

Tomorrow's industries built on the strength of our Union today.

From initiatives like these –

Wales has seen record levels of employment, the highest growth in the UK and the brightest future.

These are the outcomes of Conservative Government's investment and confidence in Wales.

I'm prepared to accept that Scotland may have *some* of the best whiskys, Northern

Ireland *does* have Titanic Studios

producing film and TV hit after hit, England *could* be considered to have some of the best universities in the

world – but Wales, well, where do I begin, the best sportsmen and women, the best rugby and football teams, the best entrepreneurs, the best musicians and I could go on and on.

This friendly rivalry is what makes our relationship so special.

BREXIT

There is no doubt that we are living in the most dynamic political times.

This is a time when we can re-shape our Union ambitions because in 29 days' time, we will leave the EU and a new dawn will break across *our* Union.

I don't say this just because Wales voted to leave – something that Labour and Plaid choose to forget. -the so-called parties of Wales ignoring the people of Wales is nothing but shameful.

I say this because Brexit enables us to respond to the growing opportunities right across the globe so that our areas of expertise can compete in new markets, win new business and attract global investment.

Looking outward is part of our being. There is an old Welsh proverb, "Eang yw'r byd i bawb" which means 'The world is wide to everyone' – this is exactly the attitude we take as Conservatives – outward looking and ambitious.

With 90% of Global Growth will come from outside of the EU over the next 20 years. The United Kingdom will not only be ready to respond, we will be central to that opportunity.

Brexit will give us the prospect to strengthen our Union – where a Global Britain serves all parts of our country and where nations and regions serve a Global Britain.

The Welsh Labour First Minister, Mark Drakeford said that his support for the Union is conditional. He wants further constitutional change and greater separation, when businesses are longing for certainty.

Labour's flirting with the Nationalists is driving a wedge between our nations.

There are traditional proud Labour supporters, passionate about our Union who feel let down and rejected by the state of their Party.

Well, I want to say something directly to Welsh Labour:

Ignoring the will of the people and attempting to undermine our Unity as a nation won't distract the public from your failings on the Welsh NHS and education system.

After 20 years of Welsh Labour– we've seen money wasted and squandered and an obsession with restructuring and centralising powers away from doctors, nurses and teachers.

Now is not the time to be looking inward. We need to think big, act decisively and grasp the many opportunities before us.

This is my fourth Conference speech as Secretary of State for Wales, a job which, as a son of a Welder at the Port Talbot steel works, growing up in the Swansea Valley, I could never have dreamed I would be doing.

I have the privilege of travelling the length and breadth of my home nation, of talking to some truly inspiring people and visiting some of the most innovative, ambitious and exciting businesses.

I also have the opportunity to talk to International investors and global traders who are looking at the UK in a new and exciting way.

It is this knowledge of the country I love and an appreciation of the opportunities before us that gives me great hope and confidence for our next chapter.

Conference, we come together as people of different backgrounds, different communities and different nations but as Conservatives we all want the same thing.

Get Brexit done and move on to deliver the people's priorities.

.
A United
Nation

.
A fairer
society

.
And a Global
Britain.

Thank you."

ENDS

Julian Smith: Speech to Conservative Party Conference 2019

Julian Smith, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, speaking today at Conservative Party Conference at The Manchester Convention Centre, said:

(Check against delivery)

Conference

– it is a privilege and an honour to be here as NI secretary today and a massive relief to no longer be the Government's Chief Whip. Northern Ireland is a unique part of the United Kingdom with an important and difficult history that all of us are familiar with...

Since

being appointed Secretary of State 70 days ago, I've been travelling to every corner of Northern Ireland meeting hundreds of people... And when talking to entrepreneurs, hospital staff, youth groups and volunteers...

I

have been struck by people's attitude... by their huge ambition and commitment despite the absence of political decision making from Stormont... ..Whether at Musgrave Park Hospital or Ashfield Boy's School in Belfast or at Derry City and Strabane District Council...

People

have not only been unfailingly challenging, engaged, and fair to me as a new Secretary of State... but there is a real entrepreneurial spirit, a desire for Northern Ireland to grow and prosper.

Just

a few weeks ago, I saw this first hand at an event organised by a new trade group... This trade group was formed just a year ago by three business people ... Glyn Roberts, Stephen Kelly and Colin Neill... it

brought

350 businesses to Westminster... It was Northern Ireland's largest ever business delegation ...To represent the region's growing and self-confident business community...to convey a clear message – Northern Ireland is open for business.

This

message was heard very loudly yesterday when the energy company Infrastrata announced its acquisition of the iconic Belfast shipyard Harland and Wolff. Throughout the Summer I've been working with the unions, Gavin

Robinson

the DUP local MP, the administrators and the workforce to save the yard from closure. Shipbuilding will now continue and thrive in Belfast thanks to a Conservative government. And this Conservative Government is supporting the ambition of all people...

and

businesses across Northern Ireland – by investing in the nation's growing economy. ...through the biggest day-to-day funding settlement for Northern Ireland in a decade – £400M announced for NI in the spending review

...This

morning I announced that the people and businesses of Mid-South West Northern Ireland and Causeway Coast and Glens will benefit from £163 million of UK Government funding ... supporting economic growth, job creation and investment in local projects.

This

means that every part of Northern Ireland now benefits from Growth Deal funding. Under this Conservative Government, Northern Ireland's economy is growing. Ambition is being encouraged and

entrepreneurial

spirit is thriving. We've seen unemployment fall to a record low of 2.8% and employment is at a near record high.

...And for this prosperity to continue, we must get Brexit done and deliver a stable devolved Government.

I

am clear that the people of Northern Ireland, just like this Government, and this Prime Minister want a deal. And I will be doing everything I can in my

role as Northern Ireland Secretary to help the Prime Minister secure a deal

—
to protect the NI economy, the Good Friday Agreement and through that the hard-won peace process. And in the context of Brexit, the challenge of restoring Stormont has become even more important...

...There has been no devolved government for over 1,000 days... ..political decisions impacting citizens lives left unmade
...Vital actions relating to health and social services, education, agriculture not taken.

We now must urgently do all we can to collectively invoke the spirit and trust of those who built the peace process... To listen to young people who have an inspiring and amazing hope for the future...

In spite of and because of the challenges they and their families have faced in the past... .. They will benefit from new jobs created in Northern Ireland as a result of this Government's commitment to attracting investment...

...From the increased university funding committed in those new city and growth deals... And if Stormont was up and running, even more could be achieved... apprenticeships and skills academies across the region...

...encouraging wealth creation and new jobs for school-leavers and graduates... ..delivering on health and social services. The Government stands ready to support a northern Irish political leader in all these aims.

Because above all... it is vital for those young people that we deliver a prosperous future for Northern Ireland. A future that can only be delivered through the union and by getting a good economy and security-protecting Brexit deal and getting Stormont back up

and running.

And I'll be spending the rest
of the coming weeks trying to do exactly that.

ENDS

Jack: Strengthening Scotland's place in the United Kingdom

Alister

Jack, Secretary of State for Scotland, speaking today at Conservative Party Conference at The Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, said:

***(Check
against delivery)***

"I'm delighted to have
the opportunity to talk today about the action this government is taking to
strengthen the Union.

An enduring partnership
that binds the nations of the UK.

Allowing us to achieve
so much more together than we could apart.

I belong to the Scottish
Conservative and Unionist Party.

We will always fight for
our Union, and fight to strengthen Scotland's place in the United Kingdom,
and
we will do that with everything we've got.

Because we know that
Nicola Sturgeon is once again demanding the right to hold another
independence
referendum.

It does not matter that
the 2014 result was decisive or that she promised that it would settle the
issue for a generation.

Or that people in
Scotland don't want more division and uncertainty, and just want to move on.

She is preparing to ask
again because it is her obsession.

The SNP will never give
up. And so we will never stop making the case for keeping our Union together.

Because only we can.

We now know that the
surrender-ists in the Labour Party will sell out the Union to get Jeremy
Corbyn
into No 10.

And the Liberal
Democrats don't have the strength to stand up to the SNP across Scotland.

We know the UK is Scotland's
most important partnership.

Our trade with the rest
of the UK is worth more than three times as much as our trade with the EU.

The Union dividend is
worth nearly £2000 for every man, woman and child in Scotland in higher
public
spending.

But for me the case for
keeping our Union together goes deeper.

Our 300 year old ties of
history, family and friendship.

So, I will never stop
fighting for the United Kingdom.

Part of keeping our
Union strong is delivering Brexit.

We must honour the
result of the Brexit referendum so that we can take advantage of the
opportunities life outside the EU will bring.

Recently, I visited the
bustling fish market at Peterhead and sat down with fishing industry leaders.

They relish the
opportunities leaving the Common Fisheries Policy will afford them.

I've also talked to
farmers and to representatives of key sectors of the Scottish economy.

This Conservative and

Unionist Government and our Scottish Conservative MPs will keep delivering for Scotland. And I'm going to shout from the rooftops about our achievements.

Today I can announce £25 million for a new Growth Deal for Argyll and Bute. To date we have already invested £1.4 billion in our city and growth deal programme in Scotland, transforming local economies and creating high skill jobs.

And we are going to complete the programme – with deals for Falkirk and the Islands to be announced in the near future.

We have announced a £1.25 billion contract to build the Royal Navy's new Type 31 frigates in Fife. They couldn't go to the Clyde because it has no capacity left – another success story.

We are bringing the international COP26 Climate Conference to Glasgow.

We are introducing post-study work visas which will bring the brightest and the best to Scotland's world renowned universities.

And, as the Prime Minister announced in Aberdeenshire, we are providing an extra £211 million for Scottish farmers, resolving the long-running dispute over CAP allocations.

It's an issue I raised as a newly-elected backbencher – and now as Secretary of State for Scotland I'm extremely proud to have seen it resolved by this Conservative Government.

Since Scotland elected a strong group of 13 Conservative MPs to Westminster in 2017, they have consistently delivered for Scotland.

The last two Budgets have frozen duty on spirits, backing our biggest exporter, the whisky industry, and on fuel, giving motorists, especially in rural areas, a helping hand.

We have saved for the Scottish police and fire services £40 million every year by lifting their requirement to pay VAT.

Clearing up a mess of

the SNP's making.

We've also ended the unfairness of serving military personnel having to pay higher income tax simply for being stationed in Nicola Sturgeon's high tax Scotland.

The Scottish Government's budget has also been increased by billions of pounds.

That is money the SNP should be using to improve our public services.

Instead, the SNP have made Scotland the highest taxed part of the UK.

And on education, supposedly Nicola Sturgeon's number one priority, they have cut 3,100 teachers and allowed Scottish education, once the best in the world, to be viewed internationally as just "average".

Under their management, a quarter of Scottish patients are waiting too long for treatment in our hospitals.

The delays and extra costs at the new Sick Kids hospital in Edinburgh is just the latest scandal to hit the Scottish NHS.

At a time when satisfaction with Scotland's schools, healthcare and public transport has fallen to an all-time low, we must challenge them to do better.

Our fantastic MSPs are doing just that.

Recently they forced the SNP Government to finally abandon its intrusive Named Persons scheme.

Let me take a moment to thank Ruth Davidson.

Ruth has done so much to transform our party into a strong opposition to the SNP and their efforts to break up Britain and we should all pay tribute to her, and I know Jackson Carlaw will continue that great work in holding the SNP to account.

Our hard-working Conservative MPs and MSPs are a far cry from the noisy and ineffective Nationalists.

For them, Holyrood is a vehicle for their drive for separation and Westminster is about stunts and grievances.

We are there to get things done. And we have got things done.

I'm confident we have the right approach.

We have a record of delivery to be proud of.

And we have a Prime Minister who is totally committed to the Union.

Scotland – at the heart of the United Kingdom – has a very bright future.”

ENDS

Alok Sharma: “We will end preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030”

A commitment has been made to prioritise ending preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030.

This Conservative Government will step up its efforts to ensure this target is met, investing in more vaccines for deadly diseases, prioritising access to healthcare for women and girls around the world, and investing in research to diagnose and treat diseases more quickly and effectively.

Every day, over 800 women lose their lives from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth and around 7,000 new-born babies die. The majority of these deaths are in the developing world and are preventable.

Significant progress has been made to reduce these unnecessary deaths over the last 30

years. But we still fall short of a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every child lives a healthy life.

**International
Development Secretary, Alok Sharma, said:**

“Every
11 seconds, a pregnant woman or new-born baby dies somewhere in the world. These deaths are mostly preventable, and we should not allow this needless loss
of life to continue.

“We
will boost our support for developing countries to ensure everyone has access to healthcare. We will invest more in vaccines and research so developing countries benefit from the very best of British and international expertise. And we will put sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women and girls at the heart of this commitment.”

“Everyone
in the world deserves to be able to access the healthcare they need to live a healthy life.”

This
commitment follows the announcement of a £600 million aid package to give millions more women and girls living in the world’s poorest countries access to
family planning.

ENDS