

# Prime Minister: Science and the Modern Industrial Strategy

## INTRODUCTION

Jodrell

Bank was established in 1945, in a Britain rebuilding in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Motors

from the gun turrets of battleships were built into the machinery used to rotate the dish of the awesome Lovell Telescope behind me.

The

first scientists to use it were continuing research into radar which had begun

in wartime, with the purpose of defeating our enemies, but which they continued

in peacetime, to extend human knowledge.

Memories

were fresh of the destruction that had been wreaked through what Winston Churchill called 'the lights of perverted science'.

But

stronger than the doubts about technological change was a faith in the potential of scientific inquiry to overcome the great challenges of their time

– want, disease, ignorance and squalor – and to light the path to a better future.

They

were men and women who stood at the threshold of a new age.

Their

grand-parents lit their homes with oil lamps and travelled by horse and cart, but they would live to see jet travel and space flight.

Jodrell

Bank is an icon of the United Kingdom's tradition of scientific achievement and

is today at the cutting edge of twenty-first century discovery.

And

as I look towards the future, that spirit of scientific inquiry, and its power

to shape a better tomorrow, is at the heart of my vision.

Because

the world today stands at the threshold of a new technological age as

exciting  
as any in our past.

Great  
changes in how we live, how we work, how businesses trade will reshape our  
economy and transform our society in the years ahead.

This technological revolution presents huge opportunities for countries with  
the means  
to seize them.

And  
Britain is in pole position to do just that.

We  
are ranked first in the world for research into the defining technologies of  
the next decade, from genomics and synthetic biology, to robotics and  
satellites.

With  
1 per cent of the world's population, we are home to 12 of the top 100  
universities.

And  
London is Europe's leading tech start-up cluster, attracting more venture  
capital investment than any other city.

But  
this success is not automatic.

We  
are at the forefront of scientific invention because we embrace change and  
use  
regulation not to stifle but to stimulate an environment for creativity.

We  
have great universities because we have strengthened historic institutions  
and  
nurtured new intellectual powerhouses with public investment.

Britain's  
businesses can take on the world because they have access to a skilled  
workforce and modern infrastructure.

Key  
to our success has been the combination of individual ingenuity and ambition  
with government action to invest in the future.

## **BRITISH SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT**

UK  
global leadership in science and innovation is one of this country's greatest  
assets.

For  
Centuries Britain has been a cradle of scientific achievement.

William  
Harvey's discovery that blood circulates around the body provided the basis  
for  
modern physiology and led directly to every great medical advance of the  
last  
400 years.

Isaac  
Newton's establishment of the laws of motion, optics and gravitation defined  
the parameters of physics and laid the foundations on which modern science  
rests.

Michael  
Faraday's discovery of electromagnetic induction unlocked the potential of  
electricity to light up the world and power the modern age.

Every  
day, we benefit from the work of generations of British scientists and  
engineers.

Every time we use a computer or go online, we benefit  
from the genius of Alan Turing and the foresight of Sir Tim Berners-Lee.

Every journey in an airliner is powered by the turbo-jet technology  
pioneered by Frank Whittle.

Every day my life and the lives of millions of people  
around the world are made infinitely better because of the ground-breaking  
work  
on the structure of insulin by Dorothy Hodgkin.

Each of these scientists and inventors has an inspiring  
story of human achievement borne of hours of patient labour from which we all  
reap the rewards.

Contemporary British science is just as inspiring.

Developing gene therapies to treat – and even cure –  
diseases that until now have been beyond us.

Creating new materials like graphene that open-up opportunities  
across industry and medicine – from lighter display screens to synthetic bone  
tissue.

Producing CT and MRI scanners to provide new ways of  
seeing inside the body to diagnose disease and target treatments.

Scientific research is a noble pursuit and a public good  
– whether or not it leads directly to a commercial application.

But

when a discovery does have the potential to create or transform an industrial sector, time and again British entrepreneurs have been the first to capitalise on it.

In

the eighteenth century, Stoke-on-Trent became the ceramics capital of the world after Josiah Wedgwood industrialised the manufacture of pottery.

In

the nineteenth century, George Stephenson made Newcastle the first city anywhere to export railway locomotives.

In

the twentieth century, Arthur Pilkington made St Helen's the global centre of innovation in glassmaking.

The

great towns and cities of Britain grew up as global centres of innovative production.

However,

the nature of innovation and progress is that new technology inevitably replaces old.

And

in the twenty-first century, some parts of the country that once thrived because of innovation and technology have seen the jobs and opportunities of the past fall away.

But

in others we have seen Britain's capacity for invention and reinvention create twenty-first century success stories:

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Cardiff has gone from exporting coal to pioneering in semiconductors.

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Dundee from jute to computer gaming.

.

Hull from whaling to wind-turbines.

Our

challenge as a nation, and my determination as Prime Minister, is not just to lead the world in the 4th industrial revolution – but to ensure that every part

of our country powers that success.

That  
is what our modern Industrial Strategy is all about.

Investing  
in science and research to keep us at the forefront of new technologies and  
the  
benefits they bring.

Nurturing  
the talent of tomorrow – through more outstanding schools, world-leading  
universities and the technical skills that will drive our economy.

And  
transforming the places where people live and work – the places where ideas  
and  
inspiration are born – by backing businesses and building infrastructure not  
just in London and the South East but across every part of our country.

## **SCIENCE AT HEART OF A MODERN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

Government  
has always had a crucial role in supporting scientific research and the  
technological advancements that flow from it...

...from  
the founding of the learned societies under royal patronage in the  
seventeenth  
century to the expansion of state-funded research in universities through the  
twentieth century.

In  
the last few years, Government support has helped create new landmark  
institutions,  
like the Francis Crick Institute – Europe's biomedical research facility –  
and  
the Aerospace Technology Institute in Bedford – leading on research and  
technology in the aerospace sector.

And  
in the Industrial Strategy, we have made a commitment to take our support for  
UK  
science and technology to another level.

£7  
billion in new public funding for science, research and innovation: the  
largest  
increase for 40 years.

But

to truly succeed we will go even further.

As

a Government, we have set the goal of research and development investment reaching 2.4 per cent of GDP by 2027 – more than ever before.

That

could translate to an additional £80 billion investment in the ideas of the future over the next decade.

But

even that figure fails to capture the scale of the possibility this will create.

Because

science and technology have a dynamic relationship.

The

scientific breakthroughs of today will lead to technological advances which themselves open the door to further scientific discovery, the likes of which are beyond our imagination.

And

it won't just be public funding – our R&D target covers the combined power of Government and business alike.

That

is what the Industrial Strategy is all about – not just the state spending money but using smart public investment to harness private funding.

Not

Government running enterprise, but a strategic state using its power and influence to create the right conditions to allow us to thrive in the long term.

A

strategic approach means ensuring we have an education system that gives young people the skills they need to contribute to the economy of the future.

That

means more free schools and academies providing great school places, a curriculum that sets the highest standards, and proper support for our teachers to deliver it..

It

means more rigorous science GCSEs preparing young people better for further study and work, and more young people going on to do sciences at A-level.

And

to attract talented science graduates into the teaching profession, we are offering tax-free bursaries worth up to £26,000 in priority subjects.

And  
it means going even further in the future.

Transforming  
technical education with new high-quality T-levels that are every bit as good  
as A-levels.

New  
Institutes of Technology to provide higher-level education and training.

And  
a national re-training scheme to help workers of all ages adapt their skills  
to  
the jobs of tomorrow.

This  
is action from a strategic state to drive policy changes that will benefit  
our  
economy, our society and the individuals we serve.

And  
it's not just in education.

A  
strategic approach means...

...renewing  
and extending our infrastructure with faster trains, bigger stations, better  
road connections...

...delivering  
next generation mobile and broadband connections, with faster speeds and  
better  
coverage...

...ensuring  
we have the right regulation, modern employment standards, effective  
corporate  
governance rules.

It  
means Government doing what only it can do: fixing the essential foundations  
of  
our economy.

That  
allows researchers, innovators and businesses to do what only they can do:  
generate and develop the great ideas, products and services that create jobs  
and produce growth.

And  
if we do this – if we get the essentials of our economy right – we can focus  
our talents and ambition on seizing the opportunities of the future.

## **GRAND CHALLENGES**

We cannot predict the future or guess what technological or scientific breakthroughs might lie just around the corner.

But we can observe the long-term trends that are shaping change in our world today and which will drive and demand innovation in the years ahead.

We know that artificial intelligence and the big data revolution is transforming business models and employment practices across all sectors of the economy – especially in services, which are so important to our country.

We can see that a rising global population and ever-increasing urbanisation, combined with new transport technologies, are driving profound changes in how we move people and goods around our cities and countries.

We know that our society here in the UK, and in other developed countries around the world, is getting older – creating new demands and opportunities.

And the international determination to address climate change and deliver clean growth in the future is one of the facts of our time – and one of the greatest industrial opportunities of all time.

The modern Industrial Strategy identifies these four Grand Challenges as the areas of enormous potential for the UK economy.

By channeling our efforts into meeting them – building on our strengths in science, innovation, and commerce – we can develop technologies to export around the world, we can grow whole new industries that bring good jobs across the UK, and we can achieve tangible social improvements for everyone in our society.

## **FOUR MISSIONS**

From John Harrison's development of the marine chronometer, to the sequencing of the human genome and treatments to tackle the AIDS crisis...

...we



have seen throughout our history that setting ambitious and clearly-defined missions motivates human endeavour.

There is huge potential in a missions-based approach to drive faster solutions – and it is an approach being pioneered here in the UK, by University College London’s Commission on Mission-Oriented Industrial Strategy.

So today I am setting the first four missions of our Industrial Strategy – one in each Grand Challenge.

If they are to be meaningful, they must be ambitious and stretching.

That means that our success in them cannot be guaranteed.

But I believe that by setting a high ambition, we can achieve more than we otherwise would.

So these are the missions I am setting today.

## **AI AND DATA**

First, as part of the AI and Data Grand Challenge, the United Kingdom will use data, artificial intelligence and innovation to transform the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease and dementia by 2030.

Late diagnosis of otherwise treatable illnesses is one of the biggest causes of avoidable deaths.

And the development of smart technologies to analyse great quantities of data quickly and with a higher degree of accuracy than is possible by human beings opens up a whole new field of medical research and gives us a new weapon in our armoury in the fight against disease.

In cancer, our ambition is that within 15 years we will be able to diagnose at a much earlier stage the lung, bowel, prostate or ovarian cancer of at least 50,000 more people a year.

Combined with the great treatment and care provided by our NHS, that will mean every

year 22,000 fewer people will die within five years of their diagnosis compared to today.

We will work with industry and the medical research community to announce specific ambitions in a range of other disease areas over the coming weeks and months.

Achieving this mission will not only save thousands of lives.

It will incubate a whole new industry around AI-in-healthcare, creating high-skilled science jobs across the country, drawing on existing centres of excellence in places like Edinburgh, Oxford and Leeds – and helping to grow new ones.

## **HEALTHY AGEING**

Second, through our healthy ageing grand challenge, we will ensure that people can enjoy five extra healthy, independent years of life by 2035, whilst narrowing the gap between the experience of the richest and poorest.

We are living longer lives because of medical advances, better drugs, healthier lifestyles, and safer workplaces.

It is a sign of our success, of our progress as a society, and is to be celebrated.

But as we extend the years of our life, we should also work harder to increase quality of life in our later years.

That should not just be the preserve of the wealthy – everyone, of every background and income level, has the right to enjoy a happy and active retirement.

We can do that by supporting more people to stay happy, healthy and independent in their own homes for longer, instead of going into hospital.

It will take a collective effort to achieve this.

Employers can help, by meeting the needs of people who have caring responsibilities and by

doing more to support older people to contribute in the workplace – and enjoy the emotional and physical benefits of having a job if they want one.

Businesses

can contribute, and benefit, by supplying the needs of a growing market.

Innovative

and well-designed products and services – from housing adaptations that make our homes safer for older people to live in, to smart technologies that help people continue to enjoy life if they have a health condition.

These

innovations can also be exported to a rapidly growing market around the world.

And

we can all play our part – by making healthier lifestyle choices ourselves, and by supporting our friends and neighbours as they get older.

We

can build a stronger society, where more people can contribute their talents for longer and fewer people face loneliness and isolation.

## **FUTURE OF MOBILITY**

Third,

in the future of mobility grand challenge, we have a mission to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles and for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

Technology

is revolutionising how we power vehicles, how they are driven, how we navigate and how we access information about public transport.

Britain

led the world into the railway age. We pioneered jet air travel.

By

putting the UK at the forefront of the twenty-first century transport revolution, we can ensure our automotive sector – one of our greatest success stories – continues to thrive and create good jobs across the country.

We

can make our towns and cities cleaner, safer and more productive places to live and work.

We

can set a global standard for managing technological change to maximise economic and environmental benefits.

We will work with industry to achieve this ambition, and share the benefits this opportunity presents.

## **CLEAN GROWTH**

And fourth, in the clean growth grand challenge, we will use new technologies and modern construction practices to at least halve the energy usage of new buildings by 2030.

Heating and powering buildings accounts for 40 per cent of our total energy usage.

By making our buildings more energy efficient and embracing smart technologies, we can slash household energy bills, reduce demand for energy, and meet our targets for carbon reduction.

By halving the energy use of new buildings – both commercial and residential – we could reduce the energy bills for their occupants by as much as 50 per cent.

And we will aim to halve the costs of reaching the same standard in existing buildings too.

Meeting this challenge will drive innovation and higher standards in the construction sector, helping it to meet our ambitious homebuilding targets and providing more jobs and opportunity to millions of workers across the country.

It will be a catalyst for new technologies and more productive methods, which can be exported to a large and growing global market for clean technologies.

These four missions are just the beginning – and in setting further missions across the four grand challenge areas, we will work closely with businesses and sectors.

In each one of these four missions, scientific and technological innovations have the potential to create jobs, drive economic growth across the country and

deliver tangible improvements for everyone in our country.

This represents a level of ambition every bit as high as that which created Jodrell Bank and rebuilt Britain in 1945.

We live in a different world today. Our economy is more globalised. Our strengths are in services, as well as in manufacturing. Our population is older.

And the Industrial Strategy sets its sights on our future, not our past.

As we look towards that new future for the UK outside of the European Union, the UK's ingenuity and creativity will be what drives our progress as a nation.

## **SCIENCE AFTER BREXIT**

William Wordsworth described the statue of Sir Isaac Newton that stands in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge as being 'the marble index of a mind forever voyaging through strange seas of thought, alone.'

That romantic image belies the truth that the essence of scientific progress is not private contemplation, but collaboration.

Nothing is achieved in isolation and it is only through co-operation that advances are made.

Every great British scientist could only reach new frontiers of invention because they built on the work of others, exchanged ideas with their contemporaries and participated in an international community of discovery.

William Harvey learned medicine at the University of Padua.

The first secretary of the Royal Society, Henry Oldenburg, was an immigrant from Germany.

The discovery of DNA in Cambridge was the work of an Englishman, Michael Crick; an

American, James Watson; a born New Zealander, Maurice Wilkins; and a descendent of Jewish immigrants from Poland, Rosalind Franklin.

Indeed Newton himself put it best when he wrote that, 'if I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants'.

Science is an international enterprise and discoveries know no borders.

The United Kingdom today is at the centre of a web of international collaboration.

Our immigration system supports this, with no cap on the number of the students who can come to our universities, and thousands coming every year, learning from some of the finest academics and contributing to the success of some of the best universities in the world.

Indeed, since 2010 the number of overseas students coming to study at UK universities has increased by almost a quarter.

The UK will always be open to the brightest and the best researchers to come and make their valued contribution.

And today over half of the UK's resident researcher population were born overseas.

When we leave the European Union, I will ensure that does not change.

Indeed the Britain we build together in the decades ahead must be one in which scientific collaboration and the free exchange of ideas is increased and extended, both between the UK and the European Union and with partners around the world.

I know how deeply British Scientists value their collaboration with colleagues in other countries through EU-organised programmes.

And the contribution which UK science makes to those programmes is immense.

I

have already said that I want the UK to have a deep science partnership with the European Union, because this is in the interests of scientists and industry right across Europe.

And today I want to spell out that commitment even more clearly.

The United Kingdom would like the option to fully associate ourselves with the excellence-based European science and innovation programmes – including the successor to Horizon 2020 and Euratom R&T.

It is in the mutual interest of the UK and the EU that we should do so.

Of course such an association would involve an appropriate UK financial contribution, which we would willingly make.

In return, we would look to maintain a suitable level of influence in line with that contribution and the benefits we bring.

The UK is ready to discuss these details with the Commission as soon as possible.

## **CONCLUSION**

What I have set out today – unprecedented investment into science and research; four missions to drive businesses, academia, and government to meet the Grand Challenges of our time; and a clear commitment to extend our international collaboration after Brexit – build a positive vision for our country's future.

An open and innovative economy.

The best place to start and grow a high-tech business.

An outward-looking country, open to talent and ideas from around the world.

A global centre for scientific discovery and creativity, where progress is driven by an optimism about the possibilities technological change can bring.

There

is no escaping the complexity of the challenge, but there should be no mistaking the scale of the opportunity before us either.

The world is about to change – and is indeed already changing – at a remarkable pace.

Technologies with the potential to transform our society will come of age in the years ahead.

This is an exciting time to be alive – and rich in possibility for the curious, the inventive and the determined: the children in schools today studying STEM subjects in record numbers thanks to our education reforms.

The undergraduates from an ever more diverse set of backgrounds now embarking on higher studies.

The aspiring engineers and skilled workers who will benefit from our reforms to technical education over the coming years.

The young researchers from around the world, starting their careers working in British laboratories.

All have the chance to be part of one of the most exciting periods of discovery the world has ever known.

Amongst their number will be names to be inscribed alongside the greatest figures of the past on the honour roll of scientific achievement.

And together, we can continue a tradition of innovation that will extend our horizons and transform our lives.

**ENDS.**

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# “Under the Conservatives unemployment continues to fall to record lows, meaning more people have the...”

“

Under the Conservatives unemployment continues to fall to record lows, meaning more people have the security of a job and are able to provide for their families.

“And with wages rising faster than prices, paypackets can go further. Labour would put all of this at risk.

“The Conservatives will continue to keep our economy strong, creating jobs and opportunities so people can get on in life.

”

–

Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, Esther McVey, responds to the latest unemployment figures.

## Figures

released today by the independent Office of National Statistics (ONS) show that

unemployment has fallen again and the unemployment rate is at its lowest in over four decades. The unemployment rate was 4.2%, down from 4.6% a year earlier and the lowest rate since 1975. Thanks to measures this Government has

taken, wages are also rising faster than prices, with weekly earnings up 2.9% on the year.

## Today's

figures show:

- Weekly earnings are up 2.9% and have overtaken inflation.
- The employment rate for women is at its highest since records began, with 71.2% of women in work.
- The number of people working full time has increased to a new record high.
- Unemployment is down 116,000 over the past year and the unemployment rate is at its joint lowest since 1975 at 4.2%.
- Youth unemployment has fallen by over 40% since 2010.
- Over 1000 jobs have been created every day since 2010

# [This Conservative Government understands that whether it is...](#)



This Conservative Government understands that whether it is in the labs of our great universities or in the marketplace, success relies on fostering the "can-do" spirit our nation is built on, writes Sam Gyimah for the Daily Telegraph

# [Comprehensive, independent coverage of the UK Conservative Party](#)



## [The best way to protect the freedom of the press would be to repeal Section 40 for good](#)

Watson et al lost today, but they will inevitably return. The Government should honour its pledge to delete the preferred weapon against free expression.

[ToryDiary](#) | By [Mark Wallace](#) | 9 May 2018 at 4:45 pm | [4 comments](#)



## [Andrew Gimson's PMQs sketch: May keeps playing and missing against Corbyn](#)

The Labour leader showed up the Prime Minister's unsustainable indecisiveness.

[ToryDiary](#) | By [Andrew Gimson](#) | 9 May 2018 at 2:58 pm | [49 comments](#)



## [WATCH: "Typical Labour, letting people down" – Corbyn and May cross swords over the Customs Union](#)

"The Labour manifesto said they wanted to strike trade deals, now they've gone back on that policy."

[Video](#) | 9 May 2018 at 2:55 pm | [6 comments](#)



## [Ben Roback: On Iran, Trump again displays the art of breaking deals](#)

The President is often taken literally but not seriously, whereas he should be taken seriously but not literally.

[International, Tracking Trump](#) | By [Ben Roback](#) | 9 May 2018 at 11:00 am | [34 comments](#)



## [Robert Halfon: Last week's elections blazed a trail for fusing workers' and metropolitan conservatism](#)

The Conservative Government is also going to have to get back to its DNA – cutting taxes. Reductions for those on incomes below £45,000 would send a powerful signal.

[Comment](#), [Highlights](#) | By [Robert Halfon MP](#) | 9 May 2018 at 6:30 am | [19 comments](#)



## [Daniel Kawczynski: We must back Trump's withdrawal of support from the Iran deal](#)

Obama and his partners ignored the loudly-voiced concerns of our key Gulf strategic partners and Israel that the deal ignored potential Iranian interference in the region.

[Comment](#), [Highlights](#) | By [Daniel Kawczynski MP](#) | 9 May 2018 at 6:20 am | [105 comments](#)



## [How Barnet was won](#)

It wasn't just about antisemitism. The Conservatives pledged to maintain weekly bin collections. Labour did not.

[Local Government](#) | By [Harry Phibbs](#) | 9 May 2018 at 6:10 am | [28 comments](#)



## [WATCH: Trump announces that America will withdraw from the Iran deal](#)

“In just a short period of time, the world’s leading state sponsor of terror will be on the cusp of acquiring the world’s most dangerous weapon.”

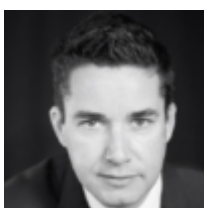
[Video](#) | 8 May 2018 at 8:28 pm | [61 comments](#)



## [Handouts to 25-year-olds won’t solve the housing crisis, still less the wider issue of generational unfairness](#)

The Resolution Foundation’s new report is a serious piece of work, but its proposals to improve social care funding also bring political problems.

[ToryDiary](#) | By [Mark Wallace](#) | 8 May 2018 at 3:53 pm | [99 comments](#)



## [J.P.Floru: In defence of tax havens. May’s threat to the British Overseas Territories is un-Conservative.](#)

Do we really want them either to declare independence, or else become benefit claimants, funded by British taxpayers?

[Comment](#) | By [JP Floru](#) | 8 May 2018 at 3:00 pm | [65 comments](#)

Wednesday 9th May 2018

## Brexit 1) May's Customs Partnership will 'please no-one', Cabinet Minister tells ConservativeHome



'Theresa May's proposal for a customs partnership is a "broken compromise" that risks "pleasing no one", a Cabinet source has warned as they claimed that Downing Street may have got its numbers wrong on support for remaining in the customs union. An unnamed Cabinet minister has claimed that the Government's fears over support for a customs union has forced Mrs May and her team to draft proposals that they believe MPs can be persuaded to vote for. However, the source argues that support for a customs union has been overstated, and that Mrs May should instead focus her efforts on a light touch arrangement, such as the maximum-facilitation (max-fac) proposal...Mrs May has now been forced to return to the drawing board, and is currently developing the options to make them more palatable to her ministers. However, speaking to the website Conservative Home, a Cabinet source has claimed that Mrs May should abandon the customs partnership altogether.' – [Daily Telegraph](#)

- Downing Street still won't take the partnership idea off the table –

## [Daily Mail](#)

- Grieve suggests the Foreign Secretary should resign – [City AM](#)
- The Prime Minister decline to rebuke him for his latest outburst – [The Times](#)
- She must lead – and that means facing down the Europhiles – [The Sun Says](#)
- The clock is ticking – [Daily Telegraph Leader](#)
- Some fear she might try to bypass the Brexit sub-committee – [Daily Telegraph](#)
- Cabinet Brexiteers worry Williamson may 'rat' on them – [The Sun](#)
- Fox to reveal Dubai deal – [The Sun](#)
- Hammond grants DIT £10 million extra funding – [FT](#)

## Opinion

>Today: ToryDiary: [The consequences of Customs Union indecision. How Britain could end up with EEA-lite – formally or informally.](#)

>Yesterday:

### **Brexit 2) Lords defy May and Corbyn to vote to stay in the Single Market**

'The House of Lords voted to keep Britain in the single market last night, causing headaches for both Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn. The government was defeated on an amendment that would have forced Britain to remain a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) by 247 votes to 218, with rebels from both parties. Mr Corbyn had ordered his peers to abstain but 83 ignored him and 17 Tories abstained to deliver one of four defeats last night on the government's Brexit legislation, amid signs of growing discord in the Lords. Ministers must now decide whether to undo 14 amendments to the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill when the legislation returns to the Commons.' – [The Times](#)

### **Brexit 3) Trimble: Stop this baseless scaremongering about peace in Northern Ireland**



'In recent months senior politicians – some of whom were partners in the peace process – have sought to spread fear about a return to violence. They have warned about a breakdown in community relations and talked-up threats to the Good Friday agreement. Yet, as a new paper published today by Policy Exchange shows, those seeking to alter the position of the democratically elected UK government in delivering the result of the Brexit referendum with such scare tactics cannot appreciate the strength of peace – nor the facts of how a modern border can operate. The reality is that even Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and the moderate nationalist SDLP have said that Brexit will not result in a return to violence. What is more, fears over a hard border are only as strong as the refusal of those who do not engage with a workable technological solution. As highlighted by Policy Exchange, studies have shown how technology, pre-customs clearing and mutual standards recognition can be deployed to avoid physical barriers at the border. It is sad then that some have sought to disregard the facts for the sake of temporary political advantage...' – [David Trimble, The Times](#)

- Policy Exchange report finds that light-touch border solutions can work – [City AM](#)
- The Government explores further responses to Brussels' hardline on Galileo – [The Times](#)
- The EU splashes millions on propaganda campaign targeting the young – [The Sun](#)

### **May, Macron and Merkel 'regret' Trump's decision to pull out of the Iran deal**

'Prime Minister Theresa May said in a statement issued on behalf of the three nations 'it is with regret and concern that we ... take note of President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States of America from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.' But EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini potentially put Europe on a collision course with the US by suggesting the European Union is determined to save the agreement, declaring 'together with the rest of the international community, we will preserve this nuclear deal.' Mogherini said the accord 'is delivering on its goal which is guaranteeing that Iran doesn't develop nuclear weapons,' before making a direct appeal to the Iranian leader to stick to the 2015 agreement. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani meanwhile said his country will remain in the deal, and will instead trade with the other countries which signed it. Although, crucially, it remains unclear whether the US would choose to impose sanctions on countries, or foreign companies who take up Rouhani's offer.' – [Daily Mail](#)

>Today: Daniel Kawczynski on Comment: [We must back Trump's withdrawal of support from the Iran deal](#)

>Yesterday: WATCH: [Trump announces that America will withdraw from the Iran deal Continue to all today's Newslinks](#)

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# Our vice-chair Kemi Badenoch writes for the Daily Telegraph...

## A wide climate of fear menaces free speech

It's not only young people who are allowing intolerance of other opinions to grow

**KEMI BADENOCH**



Free speech is never out of the news. Although if Labour had had their way yesterday, Parliament would certainly have stopped newspapers from speaking freely. Thankfully, we defeated their proposals to muzzle the press, including the absurd idea that newspapers should be forced to cover their opponents' legal costs whether they won or lost. Andrew Norfolk, the journalist who uncovered the Rotherham child abuse scandal, noted that if these proposals had been in place at the time, "it is inconceivable that we would even have published that article in the first place".

I don't take free speech for granted because I grew up in Nigeria, where writers were killed for protesting against the government, and newspaper editors died after opening parcel bombs. Yet freedom of expression remains under constant pressure in Britain and too many people have become complacent.

In a paper I've written for the *Freeer* initiative, published today, I highlight a new frost that's appeared in the battle not just for freedom of speech, but for diversity of thought and freedom of association, and it needs to be tackled fast.

The regular vilification of those who dare to challenge a consensus view is creating a climate of fear that undermines these long-held freedoms. Virtual lynch mobs now congregate online to intimidate anyone who doesn't pass the test of "acceptable" comment. People are scared to speak out against the status quo: their jobs and livelihoods, they believe, are at risk. Companies such as Paperchase have found themselves having to issue grovelling apologies for advertising in the mainstream press because a few people online didn't like the paper in question.

This isn't about millennials or students "no-platforming" speakers they dislike. In fact, younger people who've grown up living their lives on social media are more likely to be targeted, and they are terrified.

There is another worrying dimension to this: free speech advocates are often accused of defending hate speech. The charge is that they've never faced discrimination themselves and merely seek to defend already privileged groups. As someone who is black and female, I understand this concern. Ultimately, however, this approach conflates a number of underlying issues and the result is less robust and transparent debate, silencing down, rather than engaging down, views people don't like.

Rigour and prejudice are not unique to groups that have held privilege, and sweeping views to entire groups rather than to specific individuals is illiberal. The best way to fight bigotry, as ever, is through free expression, so that noxious views - as opposed to abuse - can be publicly debated and challenged.

So the limiting of free speech should not be dismissed as a problem only among students on university campuses. It is prevalent across society. Nor should we look for a solution involving greater legal interventions or further laws.

In order to defend freedom of expression, we each need to exercise personal responsibility. We need to make good choices about how we behave, based not on fear of strong legal repercussions or fear of the mob, but out of respect for ourselves and others. We also need to look beyond our personal discordant, see the bigger picture - and stand up for what is right. We must all play our part in this, whether we are personally affected by restrictions on freedom of our expression or not.

Labour's dangerous amendment on press freedom was defeated only narrowly yesterday, and the enemies of free expression will no doubt return in a different form. In his 2002 book, *The First Freedom*, the late ITN news editor Robert Langreaves illustrated how the principle of free speech had to be thought out by each succeeding generation throughout the ages. The battle, he says, is never over and is constantly changing.

But free speech is too important for any of us to be complacent about. Those of us with strong voices need to speak out now to save it for the future, and for those who are too scared to express themselves today.

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Our vice-chair Kemi Badenoch writes for the Daily Telegraph today: "Free speech is too important for any of us to be complacent about. Those of us with strong voices need to speak out now to save it for the future, and for those who are too scared to express themselves today"