

# National Policy Consultation

Beaconsfield



## Discussion Brief: The Future of Deregulation and Artificial Intelligence



Strengthening Grassroots Conservatism

CPF Discussion Briefs exist to stimulate debate. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Conservative Party.

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## Beaconsfield Conservative Policy Forum Discussion on The Future of Deregulation & Artificial Intelligence

**Date:** Monday 14 August 2023

**Location:** The Two Brewers Pub on St Peters Street, Marlow SL7 1NQ

**Time:** Feel free to arrive at 7 pm to socialize, grab a drink or even a bite to eat before the relaxed group discussions commence at 7:30 pm

For any questions or further information, please contact  
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## Setting the scene

*“We do not consider regulation to be a dirty word, but it must be used only where necessary and be implemented in a way that provides the right foundations for our economy to thrive. There is little doubt that governments too often reach for the lever of regulation first, when other ways to improve and safeguard outcomes are available. The result is that businesses face hundreds of new rules being imposed on them every year, and bear costs of familiarisation, legal advice and compliance. These costs are passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices. Further, each of us as consumers lose out when such regulation blocks innovation and competition, increases prices or lowers the quality and choice of goods and services available.”* (Smarter regulation to grow the economy, 10 May 2023)<sup>1</sup>

*“AI has an incredible potential to transform our lives for the better. But we need to make sure it is developed and used in a way that is safe and secure.”* (Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister, 7 June 2023)<sup>2</sup>

*“This is the age of artificial intelligence. Whether we know it or not, we all interact with AI every day - whether it’s in our social media feeds and smart speakers, or on our online banking. AI, and the data that fuels our algorithms, help protect us from fraud and diagnose serious illness. And this technology is evolving every day.”* (Nadine Dorries MP, Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Secretary, 18 December 2022)<sup>3</sup>

*“Enthralled by machines that appear as our friends, fearful of blocking their superhuman speed, and incapable of explaining their new conclusions, humans may develop a reverence for computers that approaches mysticism. The roles of history, morality, justice, and human judgment in such a world are unclear.”* (Henry Kissinger, Eric Schmidt & Daniel Huttenlocher, *The Age of AI: And our human future*, 16 November 2021)

Three years ago, Ipsos MORI conducted a poll of younger Leave voters to determine their attitudes to regulation, deregulation and enforcement.<sup>4</sup> Just as Americans are reported to prefer, in general, more rather than less industry regulation,<sup>5</sup> the UK poll also found that the majority of 18-to-44-year-old Leave voters—even among Conservative-voting respondents—expressed a preference for maintaining or increasing regulations across diverse areas of public life (see Charts 1-3).

The government also recognises that “Regulation in many specific circumstances is necessary to protect consumers and citizens, and uphold standards or indeed catalyse innovation.”<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, it is also “committed to lightening the regulatory burden on businesses and helping to spur economic growth, ... unlock investment and boost growth in towns and cities across the UK.”<sup>6</sup> For, it believes that “Now that we have left the EU, the UK can design regulation that unashamedly supports innovation, and promotes the interests of British people and businesses.”<sup>1</sup> That is why, since the UK left the EU, it has revoked or reformed over 1,000 EU laws and it proposes to revoke around 1,100 further pieces of Retained EU law (REUL) through the schedule to the REUL Bill, the Financial Services and Markets Bill and the Procurement Bill. It has also already rolled out the first in a series of deregulation announcements expected this year, focused on delivering benefits to business.<sup>7</sup>

For the purposes of this consultation, we want primarily to focus on a rapidly-developing area—namely, that of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI can be broadly categorised into two types:

1. **Narrow AI (or weak AI)** is designed to perform specific tasks and operate within a limited domain. Examples include voice assistants (like Siri or Alexa), recommendation algorithms (as used by social media platforms and TV streaming services), generative language models (such as ChatGPT) and image recognition systems (as used in self-driving cars).
2. **General AI (or strong AI)** is designed to learn and apply knowledge across a wide range of tasks and domains. It aims to replicate or exceed human cognitive abilities, including problem-solving and creativity. While there have been significant advances in AI, the creation of a fully functioning General AI system is yet to be achieved.

*The Call for AI Ethics* was first signed by Microsoft, IBM, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Italian Government’s Ministry of Innovation and the Pontifical Academy for Life in February 2020 to promote an ethical approach to artificial intelligence. Renewed in January 2023, signatories to the Rome Call—in enterprises, governments and civil society—commit to develop AI that serves humanity as a whole. It consists of six succinct principles:<sup>8</sup>

1. **Transparency:** AI systems must be understandable to all.
2. **Inclusion:** These systems must not discriminate against anyone because every human being has equal dignity.
3. **Responsibility:** There must always be someone who takes responsibility for what a machine does.
4. **Impartiality:** AI systems must not follow or create biases.
5. **Reliability:** AI must be reliable.
6. **Security and privacy:** These systems must be secure and respect the privacy of users.

In March, the Government published a white paper detailing its plans for implementing a pro-innovation approach to AI regulation.<sup>9</sup> Its approach is based on five values-focused principles: safety, security and robustness; appropriate transparency and explainability; fairness; accountability and governance; and contestability and redress. Its public consultation closed on 21 June but, for reference, we include its questions as Appendix 1.

## The CPF AI Experiment

Earlier this year, the CPF conducted an experiment. A small number of CPF Group Coordinators were invited to evaluate a set of six submissions received in response to our Making The Case for Freedom consultation. The set of six included their own submission. Unknown to them, it also contained a response generated by ChatGPT, the generative language-processing AI model.<sup>10</sup> We were interested in several questions, including:

- Would Group Coordinators generally agree with each other in their assessments of both their own and the other submissions?
- Would the Group Coordinators be able to tell that one of the submissions had been generated by a non-human AI tool?
- How good would the Group Coordinators evaluate the AI submission compared with their own and with the others?

Overall, the Group Coordinators broadly agreed which were the most and the least noteworthy responses. As expected, they also tended to rank their own response as better

than others did. None of them spotted the AI odd-one-out, although one noted that it was “perhaps a little too idealistic about Conservatism as the panacea for all ills.” That said, they all ranked it as one of the best—but not the best submission. We can glean some useful ideas from AI, but the best human groups are—at least for the foreseeable future—more insightful, more relevant and more original in their thinking than the best public AI tool.

At times, Groups ask whether we might publish any of the most noteworthy submissions as examples of “best practice” for others to learn from. We have not normally felt able to do so, as it would be inappropriate to distribute more widely what are confidential reports. We have no such reservations, however, about sharing content that has been generated by what is essentially a piece of freely-available computer software, the biases of which reflect both those of its programmers and those of the authors of the content on which the programmers trained their software—that is, 300 billion words “of data obtained from books, webtexts, Wikipedia, articles and other pieces of writing on the internet.”<sup>10</sup>

If your group participated in one or more of the Making The Case for Conservatism consultations, we invite you to carry out the Self-Review Exercise provided in this briefing document—and let us know what you conclude. We would suggest doing this at a separate meeting to your discussion of the questions on The Future of Deregulation & Artificial Intelligence. We hope you find the exercise both interesting and informative!

## Questions for discussion

Groups should not feel obliged to discuss all of the following questions. Groups may wish to focus their discussions on the ones that most interest them.

1. What regulations hold back businesses and should the government consider for reform?
2. How can we ensure that AI systems are developed and deployed in a manner that aligns with ethical principles and respects societal values?
3. How can we safeguard individual privacy rights and protect sensitive data in the age of AI?
4. What strategies can be implemented to reskill or upskill workers whose jobs may be at risk of automation and AI-driven job displacement?
5. How can we bridge the existing digital divide and ensure fairness and equity in the development and deployment of AI technologies, particularly in relation to access, benefits, and opportunities?
6. How can we establish mechanisms to hold AI systems and their developers accountable, ensuring transparency in their decision-making processes and data usage?
7. How can we address the national security implications of AI, including potential vulnerabilities and threats?
8. How can we foster international cooperation and establish global norms, standards, and frameworks for AI development, deployment, and regulation?
9. Is there any other observation you would like to make?

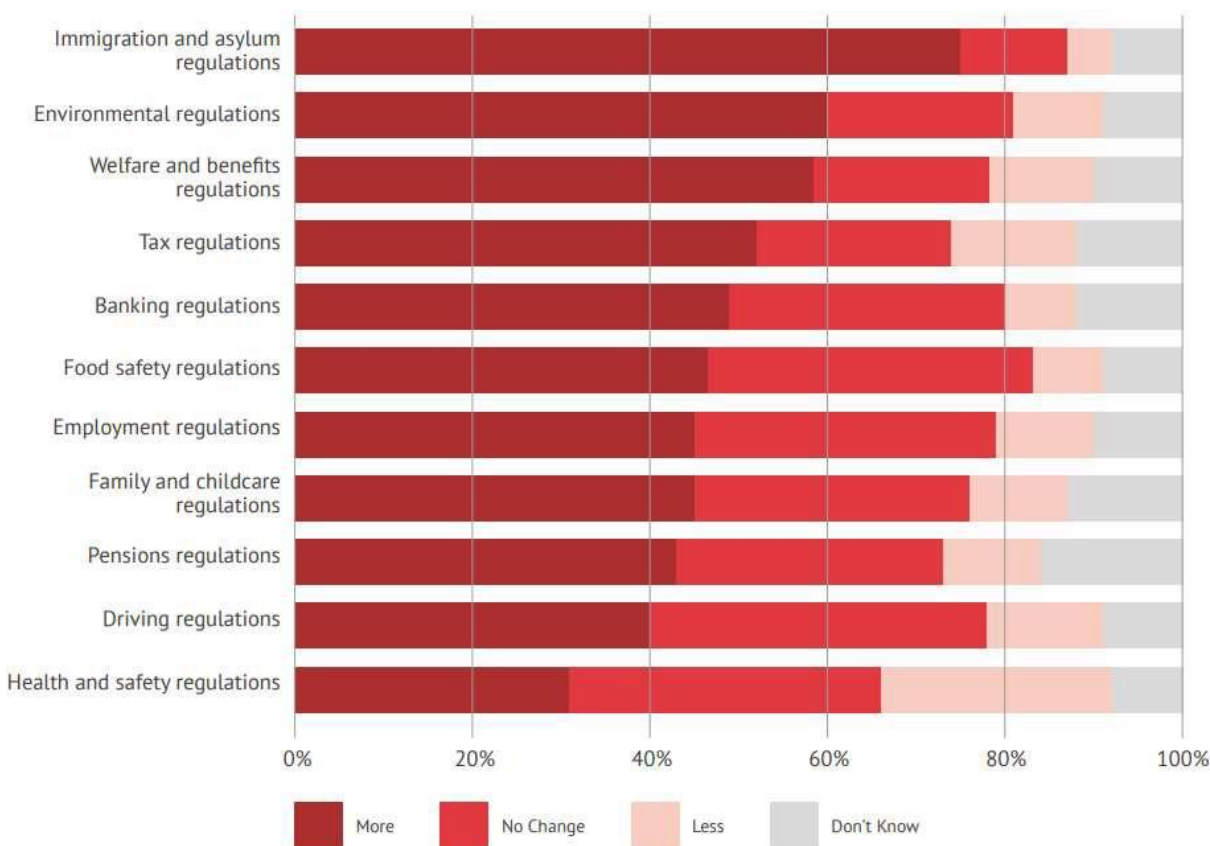
## CPF Groups’ Self-Review Exercise

If your group participated in one or more of the Making The Case for Conservatism consultations, please complete the following questions for at least one of your submissions. Feel free to do so for all three, if you participated in the whole series.

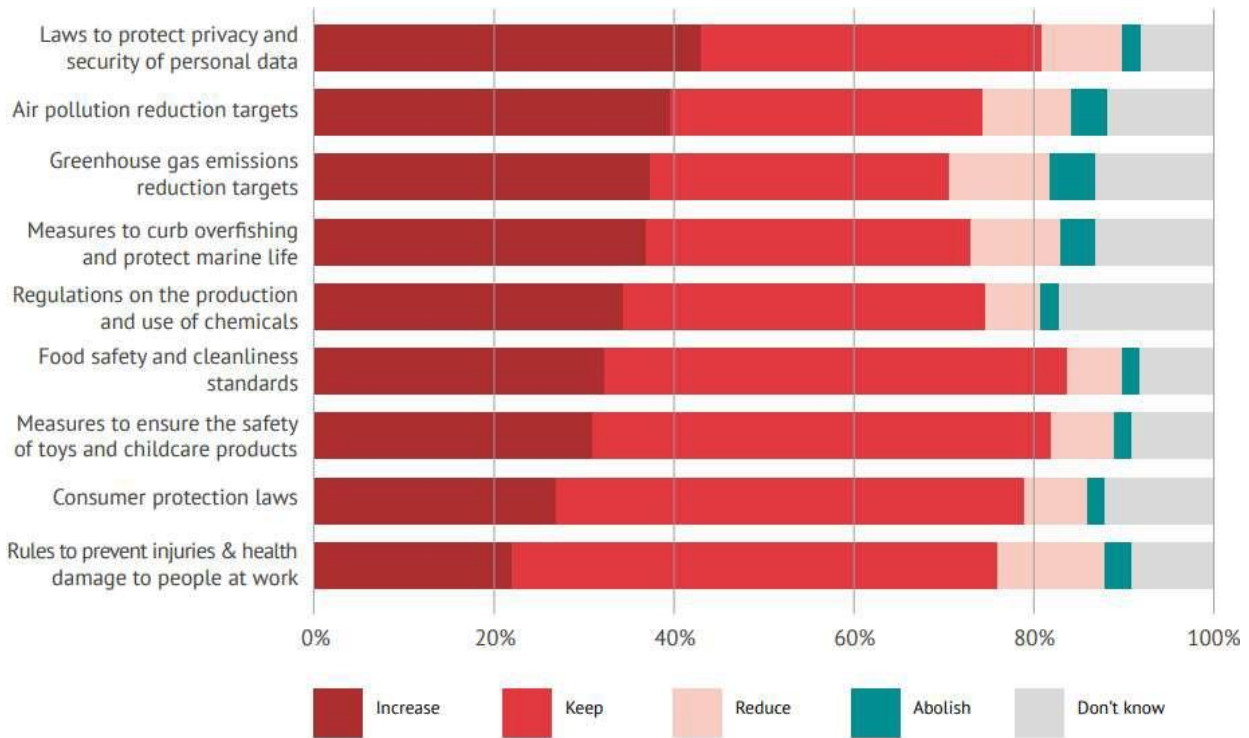
1. For each question in the consultation, how would you rate your response compared with that of the AI-generated response in Appendix 2? (Much better / A little better / About the same / A little worse / Much worse) And, in no more than a few words, why?
2. Overall, how might you change how you report on your future group discussions in order to improve your submissions?

## Charts

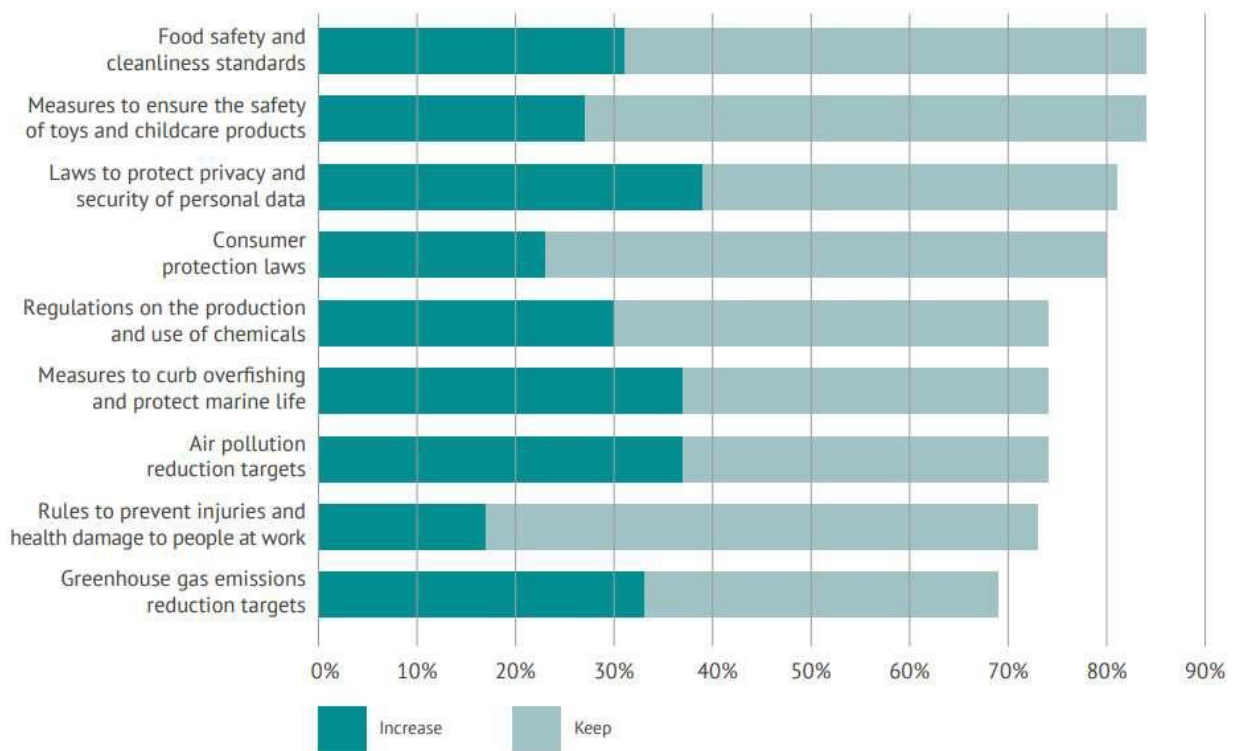
**Chart 1: Thinking about the following areas, do you feel there should be more regulation, less regulation, or no change to the current level of regulation<sup>4</sup>**



**Chart 2: Now that the UK has left the European Union, it will have the ability to abolish, keep or change laws that EU members are required to have. In your opinion, what should happen to each of the following types of regulation and standards<sup>4</sup>**



**Chart 3: Support for regulation among Conservative-voting respondents (percentage selecting 'keep' or 'increase')<sup>4</sup>**





## Appendix 1: The Government's AI White Paper Consultation Questions

1. Do you agree that requiring organisations to make it clear when they are using AI would improve transparency?
2. Are there other measures we could require of organisations to improve AI transparency?
3. Do you agree that current routes to contest or get redress for AI-related harms are adequate?
4. How could current routes to contest or seek redress for AI-related harms be improved, if at all?
5. Do you agree that, when implemented effectively, the revised cross-sectoral principles will cover the risks posed by AI technologies?
6. What, if anything, is missing from the revised principles?
7. Do you agree that introducing a statutory duty on regulators to have due regard to the principles would clarify and strengthen regulators' mandates to implement our principles while retaining a flexible approach to implementation?
8. Is there an alternative statutory intervention that would be more effective?
9. Do you agree that the functions outlined in Box 3.1 would benefit our AI regulation framework if delivered centrally?
10. What, if anything, is missing from the central functions?
11. Do you know of any existing organisations who should deliver one or more of our proposed central functions?
12. Are there additional activities that would help businesses confidently innovate and use AI technologies? If so, should these activities be delivered by government, regulators or a different organisation?
13. Are there additional activities that would help individuals and consumers confidently use AI technologies? If so, should these activities be delivered by government, regulators or a different organisation?
14. How can we avoid overlapping, duplicative or contradictory guidance on AI issued by different regulators?
15. Do you agree with our overall approach to monitoring and evaluation?
16. What is the best way to measure the impact of our framework?
17. Do you agree that our approach strikes the right balance between supporting AI innovation; addressing known, prioritised risks; and future-proofing the AI regulation framework?
18. Do you agree that regulators are best placed to apply the principles and government is best placed to provide oversight and deliver central functions?
19. As a regulator, what support would you need in order to apply the principles in a proportionate and pro-innovation way?
20. Do you agree that a pooled team of AI experts would be the most effective way to address capability gaps and help regulators apply the principles?
21. Which non-regulatory tools for trustworthy AI would most help organisations to embed the AI regulation principles into existing business processes?
22. Do you have any other thoughts on our overall approach? Please include any missed opportunities, flaws, and gaps in our framework.

## Appendix 2: ChatGPT responses to the *Making The Case* CPF consultations

### RESPONSES TO MAKING THE CASE FOR CAPITALISM QUESTIONS

#### 1. If you had 30 seconds with someone to make the case for capitalism, what would you say?

Capitalism is the bedrock of our prosperity and individual freedom. It fosters competition, innovation, and economic growth, enabling individuals to pursue their ambitions and create wealth. It rewards hard work, entrepreneurial spirit, and risk-taking, allowing for upward mobility and social progress. By embracing free markets, private property rights, and limited government intervention, capitalism empowers individuals to make choices and allocate resources efficiently. It encourages efficiency and the efficient allocation of resources. While acknowledging the need for a safety net, capitalism respects personal responsibility and encourages self-reliance. It has proven to be the most effective system in promoting economic development, raising living standards, and expanding opportunities for all.

#### 2. How might we best promote capitalism to the next generation?

Prioritise education and foster an understanding of its core principles and benefits. Teach young individuals about the importance of free markets, private property rights, and entrepreneurship. Integrate economic literacy into school curricula, offering courses that explore the workings of market economies, and highlight real-life success stories of entrepreneurs and innovators.

Engage young people through various mediums, such as social media, emphasising the values of hard work, personal responsibility, and self-reliance to instil a sense of ownership and encourage young individuals to pursue their ambitions.

Encourage internships, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurial programs, creating opportunities for them to apply their skills and ideas in real-world scenarios, to inspire their entrepreneurial spirit and showcase the rewards of free enterprise.

Promote open and respectful discussions about different economic systems to help dispel misconceptions, foster critical thinking among the next generation, and develop informed perspectives on the merits of capitalism and its role in promoting prosperity and freedom.

#### 3. What international example do you think best exemplifies the benefits of capitalism?

Singapore: Through free markets, limited government intervention, and pro-business policies, Singapore has achieved remarkable economic growth, high living standards, and a robust business environment. It demonstrates how capitalism can foster innovation, attract investment, create jobs, and improve the overall quality of life for its citizens.

#### 4. What international example do you think best highlights what can go wrong when capitalism is neglected?

Venezuela: By adopting socialist policies, excessive government intervention, and disregard for private property rights, Venezuela has experienced economic collapse, hyperinflation, scarcity of basic necessities, and widespread poverty. This demonstrates the detrimental consequences of undermining market mechanisms, stifling entrepreneurship, and failing to uphold the principles of capitalism.

#### 5. Please share any helpful short quotes from world leaders making the case for capitalism.

- "The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries." - Winston Churchill
- "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." - Margaret Thatcher

- "Capitalism is the only system that can make freedom, individuality, and the pursuit of values possible in practice." - Ayn Rand
- "The market economy is the most productive supplier of human needs and economic justice." - Ronald Reagan
- "The best social program is a productive job for anyone who's willing to work." - Bill Clinton
- "Capitalism has been the greatest engine of prosperity and progress in history." - Barack Obama

## 6. What should capitalism look like when translated into policy in each of the following areas?

### i. Cost of living

It is important to strike a balance between market forces and ensuring social stability:

- Promote market competition to prevent monopolies or oligopolies that can drive up prices. Foster an environment that allows new businesses to enter the market and compete, leading to more choices for consumers and downward pressure on prices.
- Implement fair regulations that protect consumers from unfair practices, such as price gouging or deceptive advertising, yet avoid excessive regulations that stifle innovation or discourage entrepreneurship.
- Support market transparency to ensure consumers have access to clear and accurate information about prices, products, and services, allowing them to make informed choices and compare options, promoting price efficiency and competition.
- Foster innovation and productivity by encouraging investment in research and development, technology, and infrastructure, which lead to cost reductions in the production and distribution of goods and services, ultimately benefiting consumers.
- Support job creation, skills development, and economic growth to help increase wages and income levels, allowing individuals to better afford the cost of living.
- Have targeted social safety nets to support those facing financial difficulties, providing temporary assistance and promoting self-sufficiency, while also incentivising individuals to participate in the workforce.
- Address housing affordability by encouraging the construction of new housing units, streamlining regulations, and promoting innovative solutions, thus helping to alleviate the burden of housing costs on individuals and families.

### ii. Energy security

- Encourage a diverse mix of energy sources, including fossil fuels, renewable energy, and nuclear power, to ensure resilience and reduce dependence on a single energy type.
- Create an environment that attracts private investments in energy infrastructure, exploration, and innovation. Market competition can drive efficiency and promote technological advancements.
- Establish clear and consistent regulations that balance environmental concerns with the need for energy security, ensuring fair competition, promoting safety standards, and providing incentives for research and development.
- Foster domestic energy production to reduce reliance on foreign sources, encouraging exploration and responsible development of domestic energy resources.
- Promote energy efficiency measures across sectors, encouraging businesses and individuals to reduce consumption and optimise energy use.
- Engage in strategic partnerships and alliances internationally to enhance energy security through diversification of supply sources, information sharing, and coordinated responses to energy disruptions.

### iii. NHS health and social care

- **Universal access:** Ensure that all individuals have access to essential healthcare services regardless of their financial status. Uphold the principle of providing healthcare as a fundamental right.
- **Public-private partnership:** Encourage a balanced approach that combines public funding and oversight with the involvement of private sector expertise and innovation. This can help improve efficiency, access to specialised services, and technological advancements.
- **Patient choice:** Empower patients to make informed decisions about their healthcare by promoting choice and competition among healthcare providers. Offer a range of options for patients to access care, including public and private providers.
- **Efficient resource allocation:** Implement policies that encourage cost-effective practices, optimise resource allocation, and reduce inefficiencies within the healthcare system. This can involve streamlining administrative processes, embracing technology, and promoting evidence-based medicine.
- **Long-term sustainability:** Develop policies that address the long-term financial sustainability of the healthcare system. This may involve exploring funding models, such as a combination of public funding, private insurance, and user contributions, while ensuring affordability and accessibility.
- **Focus on outcomes:** Shift towards outcome-oriented healthcare policies that prioritise quality of care, patient satisfaction, and health outcomes. Encourage performance measurement, transparency, and accountability in healthcare provision.

### iv. Global influence

- **Promote free trade:** Embrace open markets and advocate for free trade agreements that foster economic growth, job creation, and increased global cooperation. Seek to reduce barriers to trade and promote fair and reciprocal trade practices.
- **Attract foreign investment:** Create a business-friendly environment that attracts foreign investment, promotes entrepreneurship, and encourages innovation. Offer incentives for international companies to establish operations in the UK, contributing to economic growth and technological advancements.
- **Diplomatic and economic partnerships:** Forge strong diplomatic and economic partnerships with other nations, seeking collaboration on areas of mutual interest. Strengthen alliances, engage in international organizations, and participate actively in global discussions and negotiations.
- **Innovation and research:** Invest in research and development, science, and technology to foster innovation and maintain a competitive edge in key industries. Promote collaboration between academia, private sector entities, and government institutions to drive innovation and knowledge creation.
- **Education and skills development:** Prioritise education and skills development to ensure a highly skilled workforce that can compete globally. Invest in vocational training, STEM education, and lifelong learning programs to equip individuals with the skills needed in a rapidly changing global economy.
- **Soft power and cultural influence:** Utilise the UK's rich cultural heritage, arts, and media to project soft power and enhance the country's global influence. Promote cultural exchange programs, support creative industries, and leverage digital platforms to share British values and perspectives.

### 7. Is there any other observation you would like to make?

Alternative words and phrases could be used to present the fundamental ideas and principles associated with capitalism in a way that may resonate better with individuals who have a negative impression of the term "capitalism". E.g. Free-market economy, Market-based system, Economic liberalism, Free enterprise or Private sector-led economy.

## RESPONSES TO MAKING THE CASE FOR FREEDOM QUESTIONS

### 1. If you had 30 seconds with someone to make the case for freedom, what would you say?

Freedom is essential to the flourishing of individuals and societies. Protecting individual liberties and limiting government interference in people's lives allows people to pursue their own interests and goals, express themselves, and make choices about their lives. Without freedom, people are constrained and unable to fully realise their potential. Freedom also fosters creativity, innovation, and progress, leading to greater prosperity and well-being. It is a fundamental human right that should be protected and cherished, embraced and fought for, so that we may all live in a more just and vibrant world.

### 2. How might we best promote freedom to the next generation?

Emphasise the importance of individual liberty, limited government, and free markets:

- Teach the principles of conservatism: Educate young people about the core principles of conservatism through educational programs, seminars, and discussions.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation: Remove barriers to entry and reduce government regulation of businesses.
- Promote civic engagement: Encourage young people to become more involved in their communities and take an active role in shaping the direction of their society. This can be done by supporting volunteer work, community service, and political activism.
- Emphasise the value of personal responsibility: Conservatives can emphasise the importance of personal responsibility and self-reliance, encouraging young people to take control of their own lives and not rely on government handouts.
- Support education choice: Conservatives can promote educational freedom by supporting school choice programs that give families more control over their children's education.

### 3. What international example do you think best exemplifies the benefits of freedom?

The United States. While not without its challenges, benefits include:

- Economic growth: One of the largest and most prosperous economies in the world, with a high standard of living and a thriving private sector that drives innovation and job creation.
- Innovation and technology: A world leader in technological innovation, with many of the most successful tech companies and startups located there.
- Political stability: Despite its size and diversity, the United States has a stable political system that has been able to weather many challenges over the years.
- Cultural diversity: The United States is a melting pot of cultures and ideas, which has led to a rich and vibrant society with many different perspectives and viewpoints.

### 4. What international example do you think best highlights what can go wrong when freedom is neglected or abused?

Venezuela: experienced catastrophic decline in recent years due to a combination of political corruption, economic mismanagement, and government abuse of power. Venezuela's socialist policies led to widespread corruption, inflation, and economic collapse, as well as significant human rights abuses such as censorship, repression, and the suppression of opposition voices.

The People's Republic of China: The government restricts freedom of speech, religion, and association, and has been known to suppress dissent and opposition voices. It exercises strict control over the economy, with state-owned enterprises dominating many industries and private enterprise facing significant regulatory hurdles, which has led to inefficiencies and a lack of innovation, and has been a barrier to the development of a thriving private sector.

North Korea: The government's near-total control over its citizens' lives and strict control over the economy mean its citizens are unable to fully realise their potential and live fulfilling lives and experience widespread poverty, lack of access to basic necessities, and significant human rights abuses, including forced labour and imprisonment in brutal prison camps.

**5.** Please share any helpful short quotes from world leaders making the case for freedom.

- "Freedom is the oxygen of the soul." - Moshe Dayan
- "Freedom is not the sole prerogative of a chosen few, but the universal right of all God's children." - Ronald Reagan
- "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." - Ronald Reagan
- "Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes." - Mahatma Gandhi
- "The only way to deal with fear is to face it head on, and that's what we've done in America - and we have emerged stronger and better because of it." - George W. Bush
- "Freedom is not the absence of commitments, but the ability to choose - and commit myself to - what is best for me." - Paulo Coelho
- "Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." - Pope John Paul II

**6.** What should freedom look like when translated into policy in each of the following areas?

**i.** Cost of living

Create a more competitive and innovative marketplace where individuals have greater choice and flexibility:

- Reduce regulations and barriers to entry for businesses, allowing more competition.
- Cut taxes on individuals and businesses, allowing individuals to keep more of their hard-earned money and businesses to reinvest in growth and innovation.
- Promote innovation and entrepreneurship through investment in education and infrastructure.
- Encourage greater flexibility in the labour market, allowing individuals to work in a way that suits their needs and preferences, whether that means full-time, part-time, remote work, or gig work.
- Foster financial literacy and responsibility, providing individuals with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their finances and avoid high levels of debt.

**ii.** Energy security

Create an environment that supports innovation, competition, and market-driven solutions:

- Encourage investment in a diverse range of energy sources, including renewable energy and new technologies, through tax incentives and regulatory reform.
- Reduce regulations that stifle competition in the energy market, allowing more market-driven solutions to emerge.
- Promote consumer choice and transparency, allowing individuals to make informed decisions about their energy consumption and to access the best prices and deals available.
- Encourage private sector investment in energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and storage facilities, to increase energy security and resilience.
- Foster innovation and research in new energy technologies, through investment in research and development and public-private partnerships.

**iii.** NHS health and social care

Create an environment that supports patient choice and individual responsibility, while ensuring that basic healthcare is accessible to all:

- Expand patient choice by allowing individuals to choose their healthcare provider, whether that is the NHS or a private provider, by increasing competition and reducing barriers to entry for private healthcare providers.
- Encourage greater transparency in healthcare pricing and quality, allowing individuals to make informed decisions about their healthcare provider and the services they receive.
- Promote preventative healthcare through investment in education and public health campaigns.
- Foster innovation and research in healthcare, through investment in research and development and public-private partnerships.
- Simplify regulations and bureaucracy in the healthcare system, reducing the burden on healthcare providers and allowing them to focus on patient care.

#### iv. Global influence

Create an environment that supports free trade, human rights, and democratic values, while also maintaining a strong national defence:

- Pursue free trade agreements with other nations.
- Support democracy and human rights around the world, through diplomatic efforts and foreign aid programs.
- Maintain a strong national defence, ensuring that the UK is able to defend its interests and promote peace and stability around the world.
- Foster cultural exchange and understanding.
- Encourage greater innovation and research in emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, biotech, and green energy.

#### 7. Is there any other observation you would like to make?

Learn lessons from how governments responded to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Governments should:
  - be transparent in their decision-making, and accountable to the public for their actions, seeking feedback and input from the public.
  - continuously review and update crisis management plans based on emerging science and best practices.
  - be mindful of the impact of their actions on individual freedoms and take steps to limit restrictions on personal liberties wherever possible.
  - consider the economic and social impacts of their actions, and work to minimise harm to individuals and communities.
  - invest in science and research to better understand the causes and impacts of crises, and to develop effective interventions and treatments.
- Citizens should:
  - stay informed about the latest developments and policies related to the pandemic and to seek out reliable sources of information.
  - speak out against policies that infringe on individual freedoms or democratic values, by writing to elected officials, participating in protests, or sharing information on social media.
  - hold their governments accountable by demanding transparency and accountability in decision-making, and by participating in democratic processes such as elections and public consultations.
  - support civil society organizations that promote and defend human rights and democratic values by volunteering, donating, or advocating for their causes.
  - remain vigilant against abuses of power and advocate for the protection of individual freedoms and democratic values.

## RESPONSES TO MAKING THE CASE FOR RESPONSIBILITY QUESTIONS

### 1. How would you define the Conservative value of responsibility and why it is a distinctive Conservative value?

Individuals have a moral duty to take responsibility for their own actions and their impact on society. This includes being accountable for one's own choices, fulfilling obligations and commitments, and working hard to achieve personal and societal goals. By taking personal responsibility, individuals can improve their own lives and contribute to the well-being of their communities. This, in turn, helps to foster a sense of self-reliance, resilience, and independence, which are important for maintaining a free and democratic society. Responsibility is closely linked to other important values such as self-discipline, prudence and respect for tradition and authority. So it is also a means of preserving social order and upholding the moral fabric of society. By emphasising the importance of personal responsibility, Conservatives aim to promote a culture of accountability and self-reliance, which is essential for maintaining a strong and prosperous society.

### 2. How might the importance and benefits of responsibility for both individuals and society be effectively communicated to young people and those who may not prioritise it?

This requires a positive, practical, and engaging approach that emphasises the value of personal accountability and its impact on both individuals and society:

- Provide practical examples: Young people are more likely to understand the importance of responsibility if they see how it applies to their own lives and can lead to positive outcomes, such as academic success or career advancement.
- Emphasise the social benefits: Responsibility is not just important for individuals, but also for society as a whole, and can contribute to the well-being of communities, and even the wider world.
- Use positive messaging: Focus on the positive benefits of taking responsibility, encouraging young people to take ownership of their actions and empowering them to make a positive difference.
- Highlight role models: Highlighting examples of responsible leaders, celebrities, or community members that young people admire and look up to.
- Involve young people in community service: Help young people to develop a sense of responsibility and show them how their actions can make a positive difference to society.

### 3. How could responsibility be better encouraged and fostered in individuals and communities?

Fostering responsibility requires a multifaceted approach that includes education, role modelling, incentives, community service, collaboration, communication, and consequences. By emphasising the importance of responsibility and providing individuals with the tools and motivation to act responsibly, we can create a more responsible and accountable society:

- Education and Training: Provide education and training programs that emphasise the importance of responsibility and equip individuals with the skills to act responsibly. E.g., teach practical skills such as time management, decision making, and conflict resolution.
- Role Models: Encourage responsible behaviour by setting a good example. Leaders and authority figures should demonstrate responsible behaviour and hold themselves accountable for their actions.
- Rewards and Incentives: Encourage individuals who act responsibly to continue doing so, e.g., through recognition programs, promotions, or other incentives that recognise and reward responsible behaviour.
- Community Service: Community service programs can help to foster a sense of responsibility; encourage individuals to give back to their community; help individuals develop practical skills; and provide opportunities to work with others towards a common goal.



- Collaboration and Communication: By working together, individuals can hold each other accountable and encourage responsible behaviour.
- Consequences: Hold individuals accountable for their actions and provide consequences for irresponsible behaviour, e.g. through disciplinary action, loss of privileges, or other consequences that demonstrate the importance of responsible behaviour.

**4. How should Conservatives balance the value of personal responsibility with the need for a social safety net for those who are truly in need?**

This requires a nuanced approach that emphasises individual initiative and self-reliance, while also recognising the importance of providing support and assistance to those who are truly in need:

- Promote a safety net that emphasises individual responsibility and self-reliance: E.g., provide temporary assistance to those who are facing financial or other challenges, but also encourage them to take steps to improve their situation, such as seeking education or training, finding employment, or starting a small business.
- Incentivise responsible behaviour and discourage dependency on government assistance: E.g., support programs that provide job training and education to help people become self-sufficient, or programs that require recipients to participate in community service or job search activities as a condition of receiving assistance.
- Provide basic support and assistance for individuals and families who may require more long-term support due to disabilities, illness, or other circumstances beyond their control.

**5. How can society address the issue of individuals who may abuse responsibility and take advantage of others? How can we ensure that responsibility is not used as a justification for discrimination or unfair treatment of marginalised groups?**

This is essential for creating a fair and just society. It requires a multi-faceted approach that includes clear guidelines and expectations, effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms, empowerment of individuals and communities, promotion of diversity and equity, and fostering a culture of responsibility:

- Establish and enforce clear guidelines and expectations for responsible behaviour: E.g., laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination and exploitation, and codes of conduct that outline expectations for responsible behaviour in various contexts, such as the workplace or community. These guidelines and expectations should be enforced through effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms.
- Empower individuals and communities to hold others accountable for their actions: E.g., create avenues for reporting and addressing instances of abuse of responsibility or discrimination, and ensure that there are effective systems in place to investigate and address such cases.
- Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of society: E.g., actively work to identify and address systemic barriers and biases that can lead to discrimination and unfair treatment. Create opportunities for marginalised groups to participate fully in society and have a voice in decision-making processes.
- Foster a culture of responsibility that emphasises empathy, respect, and accountability for one's actions: E.g., through education and training programs that teach responsible behaviour and promote ethical decision-making, and through role-modelling by individuals and organisations who embody these values.

**6. In what ways do you think responsibility should be a guiding principle in policymaking?**

- A. Fiscal Responsibility: Policymakers should be fiscally responsible and ensure that public resources are managed efficiently and effectively, making tough decisions about budget

priorities and ensuring that programs and policies are cost-effective and sustainable over the long term.

- B. **Social Responsibility:** Policymakers should be socially responsible and ensure that policies and programs benefit society as a whole, rather than just a select few, considering the needs of all stakeholders and ensuring that policies promote the common good.
- C. **Environmental Responsibility:** Policymakers should be environmentally responsible and ensure that policies and programs protect the environment and natural resources for future generations, taking a long-term view and considering the potential impacts of policies on the environment and natural resources.
- D. **Personal Responsibility:** Policymakers should consider personal responsibility and encourage individuals to take responsibility for their own lives and well-being, encouraging self-reliance and accountability, while also providing a safety net for those in need.
- E. **Ethical Responsibility:** Policymakers should be ethically responsible and ensure that policies and programs are developed and implemented with integrity and transparency, promoting ethical behaviour and holding policymakers accountable for their actions.

**7. How might the responsibilities of the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland be better balanced with those of the UK government?**

Increased collaboration and consultation with the devolved administrations on issues such as health, education, and social welfare to ensure that policies are aligned and that resources are used effectively. E.g., through regular meetings and consultations between the different levels of government, plus the development of joint policy initiatives and funding agreements.

Give the devolved administrations greater flexibility and autonomy: E.g., devolve additional powers in areas such as taxation, economic development, and transport, while ensuring that there are mechanisms in place for coordinating policy across the whole of the UK.

**8. How might current policies in each of the following areas better reflect Conservative views of responsibility?**

**i. Cost of living**

Prioritise self-reliance and personal accountability, while also recognising the need for a social safety net for those in need:

- **Encourage Personal Responsibility:** Promote educational and training programs that help individuals acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the job market.
- **Promote Self-Reliance:** Encourage people to save for the future, such as by offering tax breaks for retirement savings.
- **Ensure a Social Safety Net:** Support those who are unemployed or facing financial difficulties, such as increased benefits or access to job training and education.
- **Reduce the Cost of Living:** Reduce the cost of basic necessities, such as housing, food, and energy, through increased competition and market-based approaches.

**ii. Energy security**

Prioritise the need for long-term planning, focus on market-based solutions, and ensure energy security while minimising the impact on the environment:

- **Long-term Planning:** Support the development of long-term energy plans that prioritise the use of renewable energy and low-carbon technologies.
- **Promote Market-Based Solutions:** Drive innovation and increase efficiency by encouraging the private sector to invest in renewable energy and low-carbon technologies, and to develop new energy storage technologies to make renewable energy more reliable and cost-effective.
- **Support Energy Security:** Promote domestic energy production and reduce reliance on imported energy sources. E.g., support the development of new nuclear power plants.

- **Environmental Responsibility:** Encourage the development of renewable energy sources and reduce the use of fossil fuels. E.g., provide incentives for households and businesses to install solar panels or wind turbines.

### iii. NHS health and social care

Prioritise personal responsibility, individual choice and market-based solutions, while ensuring a safety net for those in need:

- **Encourage Personal Responsibility:** Promote healthy lifestyles and behaviours, such as exercise and healthy eating, through public awareness campaigns and education.
- **Promote Individual Choice:** Increase access to private health care options and give individuals more control over their care plans.
- **Market-Based Solutions:** Encourage competition and innovation in the health and social care sectors, e.g., by promoting the use of technology and telemedicine to improve access to care and reduce costs.
- **Ensure a Safety Net:** Support vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and those with disabilities, through increased funding for social care services.

### iv. Global influence

Prioritise a strong national defence, a commitment to international cooperation, a focus on promoting British values and interests around the world, and taking a responsible role in addressing global challenges:

- **Strong National Defence:** Ensure the UK has the military capabilities necessary to defend itself and its allies. E.g., through increased investment in defence spending and the development of new military technologies.
- **International Cooperation:** Promote closer ties with allies and other countries that share similar values and interests. E.g., develop new trade agreements and partnerships with other countries, and increased cooperation on security and defence issues.
- **Promote British Values:** Support initiatives that promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and increased investment in British cultural institutions and exports.
- **Global Responsibility:** Ensure that the UK plays a responsible role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and conflict. E.g., increase investment in international aid and development programs, and develop new initiatives to promote global cooperation on these issues.

## 9. Is there any other observation you would like to make?

While personal responsibility and individual choice are often emphasised, responsibility also extends to the wider community and society as a whole. This means that policies and practices that promote responsibility should not only focus on individual behaviour, but also on the broader social, economic, and political factors that shape people's choices and opportunities.

Responsibility should not be seen as a substitute for other important values such as fairness, justice, and compassion. While personal responsibility is an important value, it should not be used as a justification for ignoring the needs of those who are most vulnerable or disadvantaged. A responsible society is one that recognises and addresses the structural factors that contribute to inequality and supports those who are most in need.

The Conservative value of responsibility is an important guiding principle that can help shape policies and practices that promote individual and social well-being. However, it should be applied in a thoughtful and nuanced way that recognises the complex interactions between individual choice, social context, and broader societal values and priorities.

## Sources and Further Details

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