

2024
General Election
Manifesto
Summaries

2024 General Election Manifesto: Key Points

ECONOMY / BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT		
LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No increase in VAT, National Insurance or Income Tax • Move budget into balance so day-to-day costs are met by revenues • Debt must be falling as a share of economy by fifth year of the forecast • Labour will introduce a new industrial strategy that is mission-driven and focused on the future • Establish an Industrial Strategy Council on a statutory footing • Establish a National Wealth Fund, capitalised with £7.3bn over the next Parliament to support Labour's growth and clean energy missions • Corporation tax capped at 25% • Retain a permanent full expensing system for capital investment and the annual investment allowance for small business • Business rates replaced to level the playing field • Ten-year infrastructure strategy aligned with industrial strategy and regional development priorities • Will reform procurement rules to give small businesses greater access to government contracts • Close loopholes in the windfall tax on oil and gas companies • Introduce carbon border adjustment mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will look to extend 'full expensing' policy to leasing, once the fiscal conditions allow • Will not raise corporation tax • Keep VAT threshold under review and explore options to smooth the cliff edge at £90,000 • Improve access to finance for SMEs including through expanding Open Finance and exploring the creation of Regional Mutual Banks • Retain key tax incentives that encourage small businesses to grow • Ensure that Basel III capital requirements do not inhibit lending to SMEs • Work with public sector organisations including local authorities and NHS trusts and companies benefiting from government contracts to ensure that procurement opportunities are focused on SMEs in their local economies where possible and practical • Rate of VAT will not be raised • Clamp down on tax avoidance / evasion by people and companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in green infrastructure, innovation and skills to boost economic growth and create good jobs and prosperity in every nation and region of the UK, while tackling the climate crisis • Develop an industrial strategy that will give businesses certainty and incentivise them to invest in new technologies to grow the economy, create good jobs and tackle the climate crisis • Expand the British Business Bank to perform a more central role in the economy, to ensure that viable small and medium-sized businesses have access to capital, and enable it to help 'crowd-in' private investment, in particular in zero-carbon products and technologies • Boost small businesses and empower them to create new local jobs, including by abolishing business rates and replacing them with a Commercial Landowner Levy • Implementing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism for high-emission products, protecting UK businesses from unfair competition

NET ZERO

LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1bn to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture • £500m to support manufacturing of green hydrogen • Clean power by 2030 by doubling onshore wind, tripling solar power and quadrupling offshore wind • Introduce Energy Independence Act to establish a framework for energy and climate policies • Create Great British Energy to drive investment in clean home-grown energy production • Maintain strategic reserve of gas power stations • Will reward clean energy developers with a British Jobs Bonus allocating up to £500m per year from 2026 to incentivise firms offering good jobs, terms and conditions, build their manufacturing supply chains in industrial heartlands, coastal areas and energy communities • Warm Homes Plan to offer grants and low interest loans to support investment in insulation and other improvements such as solar panels, batteries and low carbon heating to cut bills • Will work with private sector including banks and building societies to provide further private finance to accelerate home upgrades and low carbon heating • Will ensure homes in the private rented sector meet MEES by 2030 • Nobody will be forced to rip out their boiler as a result of Labour's plans • Create a new Clean Power Alliance bringing together a coalition of countries at the cutting edge of climate action • Extend Awaab's Law to the private rented sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will invest £6 billion in energy efficiency over the next three years to make around a million homes warmer. • Will fund an energy efficiency voucher scheme, open to every household in England, to support the installation of energy efficiency measures and solar panels, helping families lower their bills • No new green levies or charges while accelerating the rollout of renewables • Annual licensing rounds for oil and gas production from the North Sea to provide energy to homes and businesses • Will back up renewables and prevent the prospect of blackouts with new gas power stations • Invest £1.1bn into Green Industries Growth Accelerator to support British manufacturing capabilities, boost supply chains and ensure our energy transition is made in Britain • Implement a new import carbon pricing mechanism by 2027 • A vote in the next Parliament on the next stage of our pathway to Net Zero with adoption of any new target accompanied by proper consideration of plans and policies required • Reform Climate Change Committee mandate so it has to consider cost to households and UK energy security in its future advice • Introduce more efficient local markets for electricity • Give households choice of smart energy tariffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Zero by 2045 • Would create a 10-year emergency upgrade programme to ensure all new homes are zero carbon • Free insulation and heat pumps for those on low incomes • Introducing a new subsidised Energy-Saving Homes scheme, with pilots to find the most effective combination of tax incentives, loans and grants, together with advice and support. • Immediately requiring all new homes and non-domestic buildings to be built to a zero-carbon standard, including being fitted with solar panels, and progressively increasing standards as technology improves • Reintroducing requirements for landlords to upgrade the energy efficiency of their properties to EPC C or above by 2028

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extend Awaab's Law to the private rented sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reverse Labour's ULEZ expansion in London as the ULEZ tax rise only has a 'moderate' or 'minor' effect on pollution.Rule out top-down blanket Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and 20mph zones. While 20mph zones can help improve road safety in residential areas or outside schools, misuse undermines public trust and risks congestion and pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tackling air pollution and poor air quality in public buildings with a Clean Air Act based on World Health Organization guidelines, enforced by a new Air Quality Agency

RETENTIONS / PAYMENT

LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Will take action on late payments to ensure small businesses and the self-employed are paid on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote digital invoicing and improve enforcement of the Prompt Payment Code to support small businesses with the perennial challenge of cashflow, building on our creation of the Small Business Commissioner with powers to tackle unfavourable payment practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tackle the late payments crisis by requiring all government agencies and contractors and companies with more than 250 employees to sign up to the prompt payment code, making it enforceable

BUILDING SAFETY

LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take decisive action to improve building safety including through regulation to ensure we never see a repeat of the Grenfell fireReview how to better protect leaseholders from costs and take steps to accelerate the pace of remediation across the countryPut a renewed focus on ensuring those responsible for the building safety crisis pay to put it right		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Would ensure dangerous cladding is removed from buildings and that leaseholders don't have to pay

SKILLS

LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a youth guarantee of access to training, an apprenticeship or support to find work for all 18–21-year-olds Put employers at the heart of the skills system Bring forward a comprehensive strategy for post-16 education Establish Skills England to bring together business, training providers and unions with national and local government to ensure we have the highly trained workforce needed to deliver the Industrial Strategy Devolve adult skills funding to Combined Authorities; Skills England will co-ordinate between local areas to ensure everyone can access opportunities Transform FE colleges into Technical Excellence Colleges that work with businesses, trade unions and local government to provide young people with better job opportunities and the high trained workforce that local economies need Reform Apprenticeships Levy and create a Growth and Skills Levy with Skills England consulting on eligible courses to ensure qualifications offer value for money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund 100,000 high-quality apprenticeships Transform 16–19 education by introducing the Advanced British Standard enabling young people to receive a broader education and removing the artificial divide between academic and technical learning Deliver the Lifelong Learning Entitlement giving adults the support they need to train, retrain and upskill flexibly throughout their working lives From the 2025 academic year, adults will be able to apply for loans to cover new qualifications. Will also continue to expand adult skills programmes, such as Skills Bootcamps which meet skills shortages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction sector would be put on a sustainable footing including through investment in skills, training and new technologies Fix the skills and recruitment crisis by investing in education and training, including increasing the availability of apprenticeships and career advice for young people Replacing the broken apprenticeship levy with a broader and more flexible skills and training levy Boosting the take-up of apprenticeships, including by guaranteeing they are paid at least the National Minimum Wage by scrapping the lower apprentice rate Create new Lifelong Skills Grants, giving all adults £5,000 to spend on education and training throughout their lives, and aim to increase them to £10,000 in the future when the public finances allow Developing National Colleges as national centres of expertise for key sectors, such as renewable energy, to deliver the high-level vocational skills that businesses need Review further education funding, including the option of exempting colleges from VAT

EMPLOYMENT / WORKERS' RIGHTS

LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will reform the points-based immigration system so that it is fair and properly managed, with appropriate restrictions on visas, and by linking immigration and skills policy • Create a partnership between business and trade unions by implementing 'Labour's Plan to make Work Pay: Delivering a New Deal for Working People' in full, with legislation introduced within 100 days • Introducing basic rights from day one (sick leave) and protection from unfair dismissal • Create a Single Enforcement Body to ensure employment rights are upheld • Remove age bands from living wage and change remit of Low Pay Commission to account for cost of living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take another 2p off employee NI so it will be 6% by April 2027 • Abolish the main rate of self-employed NI entirely by the end of the Parliament • Legal cap in migration so numbers fall every year but still bring in skills business need • Rate of income tax will not be raised • Maintain National Living Wage at 2/3 of median earnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End retrospective tax changes such as the loan charge brought in by the Conservatives, and review the Government's off-payroll working IR35 reforms to ensure self-employed people are treated fairly • Establish a powerful new Worker Protection Enforcement Authority unifying responsibilities currently spread across three agencies – including enforcing the minimum wage, tackling modern slavery and protecting agency workers • Shifting the burden of proof in employment tribunals regarding employment status from individual to employer • Reform Statutory Sick Pay so it is available to more people, is aligned with the NWM, payments are available from Day 1, not 4 and supporting SMEs with Statutory Sick Pay costs • Replace the Conservatives' arbitrary salary threshold with a more flexible merit-based system for work visas, with the relevant department working with employers in each sector to address specific needs as part of a long-term workforce strategy that also focuses on education and training to address skills gaps from within the UK

OTHER

LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce mandatory National Service for all school leavers at 18, either competitive placement in military or civic service 	

From the Home Nations*

THE SNP	PLAID CYMRU	SINN FEIN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejoin the EU and Scottish Independence • Demand full devolution of tax powers • Reform of VAT to address imbalances • Reform of the fiscal rules to allow greater investment in renewing infrastructure and services • Demand a devolution of powers over energy regulation, pricing and production • Establish a Four Nations Climate Response Group • Statutory social tariff for energy • Call for combination of the Warm Homes Discount and Energy Company Obligation • Introduce fair energy pricing and rebate scheme for Highland and Islands residents • Scrap exploitative zero hours contracts and banning 'fire and rehire' • Increase maternity pay to bring the UK into line with other European countries and promoting shared parental leave • Devolve employment rights and the minimum wage • Amend the definition of worker to strengthen protections • Scrap the sick pay threshold • Protect the right to strike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full control of economic levers, including income tax bands and threshold setting powers for the Senedd • Re-enter the EU Single Market and Customs Union • Welsh Green New Deal to create rewarding fair work in the emerging green and Net Zero sector, including res-skilling and supporting Welsh employees and apprentices in those sectors • Establish a Just Transition Commission • Business Rates reform to better support small businesses • Work towards a target of 75% of Welsh public sector spending being with companies located in Wales • Seek to map out our skills needs by sector and create an environment where learners are incentivised to remain on apprentice courses • Implement an apprenticeship living wage • Devolution of employment law to Wales • Introduce a Business, Human Rights and Environment Bill that would mandate private companies to conduct due diligence in their supply chains to prevent environmental harms and human rights abuses • Place vocational education on the same foundations as academic learning in school and university • Take forward the recommendations from the review of Vocational Qualifications <p><i>(continued on next page)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejoin the EU and Irish unity referendum • Want to increase productivity and opportunities for skills and training • Committed to strong legal protections for workers and the right to join a trade union • Devolution of fiscal powers

* NB: The Democratic Unionist Party are yet to release their manifesto.

THE SNP**PLAID CYMRU****SINN FEIN**

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- Increase funding for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to enable it to fully develop its Further Education and Apprenticeship Welsh-medium Action Plan
- Create a Lifetime Learning Allowance consisting of a mixture of grants, loans and a right to free provision
- A grant of £5,000 to the Personal Learning Accounts of every individual over 25 to train or retrain with added loans to cover more expensive courses
- Tuition and maintenance loans at Levels 4, 5 and 6 including for vocational qualification made available to adults 18+ in both further and higher education
- Unnos policy aims to support Welsh construction by creating centres of excellence in new construction and retrofitting existing housing stock
- Devolve responsibilities of Ofgem
- Support a long-term plan for retrofitting existing properties that would make them more energy efficient
- Increase Statutory Sick Pay in line with Maternity Pay
- Reform Cold Weather Payments assessments to expand eligibility