## **Conservative Party Conference 2017 Snapshot**



## The Party Leader's Speech: Theresa May MP

- Theresa May began her speech by praising party members for their hard work which led to a
   Conservative victory. However, she said that the result was not what they wanted and apologised. May said the campaign was too scripted and too presidential and accepted responsibility for the outcome.
- She said that the party must now look to the future and work to deliver "the British Dream," a dream that May said the Conservatives are protecting by delivering income tax cuts, record employment, and lower income inequality.
- May said that she wants to be Prime Minister to pursue a Conservatism she believes in: one which
  promotes "fairness and justice and opportunity for all."
- In defence of the free market, May said that it has been the "basis of our prosperity and security" and has
   "lifted millions around the world out of poverty."
- May warned that Jeremy Corbyn wants to "pile on taxes to businesses," borrow "hundreds of billions of pounds to nationalise industries," and scrap the nuclear deterrent.
- On Brexit, May said that the Government's most important duty is to get Brexit right. She reaffirmed that the Conservative's position is to build a "new deep and special partnership" between the EU and the UK.
- The Conservatives plan to extend the Free Schools programme and reinvigorate skills training through the new T-levels and Technology Institutes.
- o May pledged a further £10bn for Help to Buy and an additional £2bn in affordable housing.
- A Draft Bill on an energy price cap will be presented next week.

## **Conference Highlights**

- Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond MP talked about the economic threat posed by a Labour Government. He warned that Corbyn's "Marxist policies" would take Britain back to where it was in the late 1970s. Hammond promised to defeat Labour's ideas through "logic" and "experience of history."
- Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson MP gave an optimistic speech on Brexit and the future of the Conservative Party. After affirming his loyalty to Theresa May, he talked about Labour, saying the Conservatives "want a country with a government that works for everyone" while "Corbyn wants a Britain where everyone works for the government." He concluded that it was up to a Conservative Government to "let the lion roar."
- Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party Ruth Davidson MSP said that the Conservative's best performance in Scotland in decades was due to "grafting hard between elections." She also talked of the need to rebalance Britain's economy.

- Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt MP praised the NHS for its role in the aftermath of national emergencies. He said the NHS needs more doctors and nurses and pledged to increase the number of nurses in training by 25%. Hunt said the NHS "should not be a political football, not a weapon to win votes" but "there for all of us with support from all of us."
- Education Secretary Justine Greening MP announced an additional £6m for the Conservative's Maths Hubs programme as well as a new £12m network of English Hubs. The Government is freezing tuition fees and increasing the amount graduates earn every year before they start paying back their fees. Greening announced that the Government will pilot a loan forgiveness programme for new teachers.
- Communities Secretary Sajid Javid MP focused on the impact on young people of the "broken housing market." He promised a "top-to-bottom review" of social housing but also measures to increase home ownership of all types of homes.

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