

Stronger together: a Union for the 21st century

Our commitment to you:

Wherever you live in the great nations of our United Kingdom, we are on your side. We will:

- **give English MPs a veto over matters only affecting England, including on Income Tax**
- **honour in full our commitments to Scotland to devolve extensive new powers**
- **implement the agreed settlement for Wales, handing over more responsibility to the Welsh Assembly**
- **continue to build a Northern Ireland where politics works, the economy grows and society is strong.**

England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – ours is the greatest union of nations the world has ever seen. Together we have done so much, and we can do much more. The Conservative Party is the party of the Union – and we will always do our utmost to keep our family of nations together.

It was right to create the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly, but the job was not finished. Without the ability to raise money, the devolved Parliaments were not accountable to taxpayers. Without devolution to local councils and communities, power felt as distant as ever. And one fundamental unfairness remains today: Scottish MPs are able to cast the decisive vote on matters that only affected England and Wales, while English and Welsh MPs cannot vote on matters that only affect Scotland. This leaves a space for resentment to fester – and put our Union in jeopardy.

We have tackled the problems we inherited. First, we held the referendum on Scottish independence. It was the right thing to do, and the question of Scotland's place in the United Kingdom is now settled. We have made the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly responsible for funding more of what they spend. We have agreed with Northern Ireland's parties a deal to help ensure that politics works, the economy grows and society is more cohesive and united. And we have set out clear plans for English votes for English laws.

All this reflects a core Conservative belief: power to the people. Around Britain you can see that principle in practice.

In town halls, councillors now have more of a say over public spending. In communities, local people have the right to vote in referendums on council tax rises. Neighbourhoods are deciding what is built in their area and what happens to assets such as parks and public buildings.

We believe in giving power to hardworking taxpayers, letting you decide on the issues that affect you and your family

Our commitment to the Union means we want to strengthen it. We will let local people have more say on local planning and let them vote on local issues. We will not let anyone impose artificial regions on England – our traditional towns, boroughs, cities and counties are here to stay. We will continue devolution settlements for Scotland and Wales, and implement the Stormont House Agreement in Northern Ireland. And we will give English MPs a veto over English-only matters, including on Income Tax – answering the West Lothian Question.

In the last five years, we have proven that we are the party of the Union. We will go further in the next Parliament, pushing power out beyond Westminster, Cardiff Bay, Holyrood and Stormont, so we keep our United Kingdom strong and secure for the long term.