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# The New Prime Minister

Briefing note and analysis  
September 2022



# LIZ TRUSS IS THE NEW PRIME MINISTER

After years of being seen as a rising star, Liz Truss' ascendency is complete and she takes over as Leader of the Conservative Party and, from tomorrow, as Prime Minister. She defeated her rival, Rishi Sunak, by 81,326 votes to 60,399 votes after a long, and sometimes bad-tempered, campaign.

Truss is something of a political chameleon, but embarrassing clips of her as a young Lib Dem who spoke out against the monarchy and saying that British workers need 'more graft' did not derail her campaign. A former Remainer, she has reinvented herself as the pro-Brexit successor to Boris Johnson, winning many of his backers – many of whom will now want to be rewarded for their support with top jobs.

Her first few months will be a baptism of fire as all eyes will now be on how Truss and her new government tackle the cost of living and energy price crises, as well as the growing number of strikes across multiple industries.

Her campaign was heavy on promises of tax cuts and deregulation and light on direct support for those who will face the harshest impacts from the crises – we expect there to be an Emergency Budget on 21<sup>st</sup> September that will set out more detail.

This briefing sets out the main policy positions set out by Liz Truss during her campaign, and will be updated later in the week with her new Ministerial team.

## Final Result

Truss  
57%

Sunak  
43%

## Key policy checklist

Cancel National Insurance increase

Oppose a second Scottish referendum

Maintain Net Zero in 2050 target

Increase defense spending

Scrap Corporation Tax rise

Abolish housing targets

Uphold Rwanda deportation policy

Crackdown on the unions and minimum service levels



# ON THE ISSUES: POLICY GRID

## Housing



- Will **change the planning system** to make it easier for the incremental expansion of villages.
- Will **replace housing targets** and 'Stalinist' red tape with tax and regulatory incentives for companies to build new homes.
- Will **change how mortgages are assessed**.

## Environment



- Will **maintain the 2050 Net Zero commitment**.
- Will put a **temporary moratorium on the Green Energy Levy**.
- Will **lift fracking ban** and leave local residents to make final decision and **expand on nuclear power usage**.
- Committed to Conservative Environment Network pledge card.
- **Review EU habitat directive** to prioritise British biodiversity target.
- Will **approve oil and gas drilling licenses** in North Sea - potentially up to 130.
- **Review** water and energy regulators.

## Levelling up



- She has **signed the Northern Research Group's (NRG) Pledge** for the North - including delivering the **Northern Powerhouse Rail**, creating a **Minister for the North** and two new vocational institutions in the North, review the Levelling Up Formula.
- Pledged to **reduce planning restrictions** and **create low-tax zones** in left-behind areas to encourage investment.

## Welfare & Pensions



- Will reform welfare and encourage people to get back into work.
- Will **reinstate state pension triple-lock**.

## Employment



- Promised to **crackdown on trade unions** and legislate for **minimum service levels on critical national infrastructure** to counteract the impact of strikes.

## Immigration



- **Maintain the Rwanda deportation policy** and seek other countries with which to form similar partnerships.
- **Increase frontline border staff by 20%** and double Border Force Maritime staffing levels.
- Appoint a Home Office Minister solely for **detering illegal crossings and overseeing Border Force**.
- Will **remove the cap** on immigration.
- **Oppose** asylum seekers working.

## Crime



- Will bring back **national crime targets**.
- Will create a **police force league table**.
- Will **outlaw the harassment of women** on the street.
- Will introduce a **register of domestic abusers**.
- Investigate the **decriminalisation of TV licence** non-payment.
- **Recruit 20,000 more police officers** with focus on frontline policing and support continuation of police and crime commissioners.
- Will give Police and Crime Commissioners powers to **veto identity politics training**.
- **Expand** use of stop and search.

## Agriculture



- **Extend seasonal worker scheme** to plug labour shortages.
- **Remove EU regulations** to allow farmers to use drones to enhance food production.

## Economy



- Has committed to a **low tax economy**, with **no new taxes**, paying off COVID debt over a **longer period** and starting to pay off debts in **2025**.
- Will **halt the National Insurance increase** and reverse changes to Corporation Tax and review business tax rates.
- Will **oppose energy cap freeze** and **further windfall tax** on energy firms.
- Will **review personal taxation**, including for those who care for children or older relatives, inheritance tax and tax of the self-employed.
- Will **review BofE mandate** to ensure it is tough enough on inflation.
- Will **deliver an emergency budget** - including support for energy bills.

## Brexit



- A former Remainer turned candidate of the staunch Brexiteers.
- Will seek to **reform the European Convention on Human Rights** but is prepared to leave it.
- Hopes to implement supply side reforms, including of **Solvency II and The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive**.
- Scrap **parts of the Northern Ireland Protocol**.

## Devolution



- **Deny a second Scottish Independence referendum**.
- Commit to Northern Research Group Pledge card - including **right to devolution** for all areas of UK.
- Appoint herself as **Minister for the Union** with for aim strengthening it.

## Public Health



- Will **scrap the National Insurance increase**, which would have been used to fund reforms to adult social care.
- Committed to current plans to **increase NHS spending**.
- **Scrap plans** to restrict multi-buy deals on food and drink.
- Will **not create any more levies** on unhealthy food.

## Education



- Will **lift ban on grammar schools**.
- Offer an **Oxbridge interview** to every student receiving all As at A-Level.
- Move university applications to **after results**.
- Balance Online Safety Bill protections against **freedom of speech**.

## Foreign Affairs



- Create **'New Commonwealth Deal'** to strengthen economic ties and accelerate trade agreements.
- Recognise **genocide in China**.
- Secure **FTA with Israel**.
- **Update Integrated Review** with focus on China and Russia.
- **Maintain** foreign aid as it is.

## Defence



- Will **increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2026 and 3% by 2030**.
- Will review plans to **cut the size of the army**.
- Will **declassify MI6** intelligence on Russia.
- Continue to **support Ukraine**.

# KEY DATES FOR THE NEW PM

## MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

LEADERSHIP ELECTION RESULTS  
ANNOUNCED

## LATER THIS WEEK

EMERGENCY  
ENERGY PLAN  
ANNOUNCED

## TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2022

BORIS JOHNSON STEPS DOWN AS PM -  
LIZ TRUSS APPOINTED

## REST OF THE WEEK

RESHUFFLE TAKES PLACE

## WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

LIZ TRUSS' FIRST PMQs

## WEDNESDAY 14 or 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

EMERGENCY BUDGET

## 2-5 OCTOBER 2022

CONSERVATIVE PARTY  
CONFERENCE

For more information on how  
Cavendish Advocacy can help you  
engage with the new Prime Minister  
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