From: FOI
Sent: 19 November 2021 18:01
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 122-21 - Response
Attachments: FOI 122-21 - TPN - PA, PA Manifesto_Redacted.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI-122-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated **11/10/2021**.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and regrets that it has not done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is in bold below followed by our response.

Regarding the applications by Patriotic Alternative to register as a political party: Communications between Patriotic Alternative and the Electoral Commission; Communications between the Electoral Commission and any parts of the state e.g. ministries, police, Parliament, MPs, Lords.

Our response is as follows:

We confirm that we hold information related to your request.

Please find the information relevant to your request attached.

We have applied some exemptions to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Exemption under section 40(2) - Personal Information:

Information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) where release of the information would breach one of the data protection principles in the UK GDPR. One of the principles states that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual.
Disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states the information must be processed fairly and lawfully.

We have therefore redacted personal data, including some email addresses and names of those who sent emails. Under this provision, we have also redacted the names of Commission staff below Head level. This is because those members of staff have a reasonable expectation that their personal details will not be made public.

Section 40 confers an absolute exemption from disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

Exemption under section 38 - Health and safety

Further, information has been withheld in addition to or in the alternative to section 40(2) as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or endanger the safety of any individual.
Section 38 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to the public interest test.

Public interest factors in favour of disclosure:

The Commission recognises that with regard to the disclosure of information generally, there should be a presumption in favour of disclosure. We also recognise that there is a general public interest in promoting transparency, accountability, public understanding and involvement in the democratic process. Openness in government and public bodies increases public trust in, and engagement with, those bodies. The disclosure of the requested information could enhance the openness of government and public bodies.

Public interest factors in favour of applying the exemption:

Disclosing the requested information is likely to have an impact on delivery of National Security objectives. Also, safeguarding the safety and health of UK citizens is of paramount importance. Disclosing the withheld information has a high potential of putting the mental and physical safety of individuals and their associates at risk. Releasing information would allow key officials to be identified and targeted for access to information that is used to safeguard the National Security, interests of the UK and its citizens. Release of withheld information places these individuals and their associates in a high threat situation and exposes the public to a higher level of risk for harm.

Having carefully weighed the public interest, we have decided the safety of individuals and nation takes precedence over release of withheld information and therefore we are withholding some of the information under section 38.

Exemption under section 24(1) - National Security:

In broad terms section 24(1) allows a public authority not to disclose information if it considers that releasing the information would make the UK or its citizens more vulnerable to a national security threat.
Section 24 can only be used for information that is not exempt under section 23(1). Section 23 (Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) does not apply to the information requested as it was not directly or indirectly supplied to the Commission by, or is related to, any of the bodies specified in section 23(3).

Section 24(1) is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to the public interest test.

Public interest factors in favour of disclosure:

The Commission recognises that with regard to the disclosure of information generally, there should be a presumption in favour of disclosure. However, it does not necessarily follow that it is in the public interest to disclose any specific information relating to national security.

We also recognise that there is a general public interest in promoting transparency, accountability, public understanding and involvement in the democratic process. We also recognise the need for transparency and accountability of government and the desire for public reassurance that the measures in place to safeguard national security are effective and proportionate.

Public interest factors in favour of applying the exemption:

Disclosure of information in response to your request would jeopardise national security by compromising the integrity and effectiveness of the government to safeguard the interests of the UK and keep the public safe. Disclosure would raise the risk of a negative impact on operations that mitigate activities which may be non-conducive to the interests of the UK and the public. Disclosure could allow those of concern to the authorities to gain sensitive knowledge or information which could allow them to further or continue their activities of concern either by circumventing counter-measures in place or by employing tactics for which no counter-measures exist. The Electoral Commission, to fulfil its role, must be able to work with all areas of central and local government. To release information related to national security would not be a responsible action as it may prejudice relations among government agencies and result in ineffective delivery of the Electoral Commission's objectives.

Having carefully weighed the public interest relating to possible disclosure of information under section 24(1), we are satisfied that the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request. Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: https://ico.org.uk/.

Yours sincerely

Information Team
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Sent*: 20 July 2021 10:31 From*: Partyreg To*: [redacted] CC*: -	Patriotic Alternative - Application decision CCM:0462678	Dear [redacted] Refusal of your application to register Patriotic Alternative I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register Patriotic Alternative. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so. Equalities issues with the party's constitution We have a duty as a public body to exercise our functions in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 (EqA) which includes due regard to eliminate discrimination and advance equal opportunity between persons who shared relevant protected characteristics. Where the rules of a party's constitution could discriminate against a person by virtue of that person's protected characteristic(s), the constitution could be deemed unlawful and we may refuse it. Any association, including a political party, that has at least 25 members and which selects members under the association's rules is subject to the prohibition on discrimination in section 101 of the EqA (section 107(2)). Section 101(1) states that an association must not discriminate in the arrangements they make for deciding who to admit as a member, as to the terms on which they are prepared to admit a person to membership or by not accepting a person's application for membership. In our view, the party's constitution does not adhere to equalities law. That is because it contains provisions which would indirectly discriminate against persons with protected characteristics from becoming members. For instance, a way in which an individual can acquire membership is to be 'willing to further the aims of the party' (paragraph 3.b). We considered the fact that the party's aims include the 'plan' which we previously concluded persons of certain religions or those who identify as LGBTIQ+ would find it difficult, if not impossible to support. For example, the plan lists the following 'policies'. "Full face coverings will be banned in public and there will be no religious exception to this" "Employers will no longer be forced to provide prayer rooms or special conditions for religious groups" "Private enterprises have the right to restrict their employees' display of any religious symbols as they see fit" "Those resigning on the grounds of religious objections to working practices will no longer be instantly eligible for state benefits". "The traditional family will be promoted as an ideal to be striven for and emulated. No public body will promote any alternative as either equal or superior to the traditional family. To that end, children will be protected from exposure to sexualised material or LGBT propaganda in all public institutions In our view, the party's membership provisions are indirectly discriminatory. On this basis the constitution is not compliant with equality law and the application refused. Structure and organisation of the party as outlined in the constitution By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of PPERA defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of

		whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation and must also satisfy equality legislation. If a party does not provide us with a constitution that satisfies this criteria, then the party cannot be registered. In our view, we could not be satisfied that the constitution was complete. This is because it does not include the 'plan'. In an email received on 08 th December 2020, the party leader confirmed that the "aims objectives and policies do include the 'plan'". In our view, the plan has a fundamental position within the party's membership. As such, we would expect the constitution to include the 'plan' or at least make reference to it We concluded that the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA. On this basis, your application to register was refused. If the party were to submit a fresh application. I suggest setting out in sufficient detail the process for changing treasurer, as this was highlighted in the assessment. For completeness, the minded-to decision was to approve the party's financial scheme. Other proposed identity marks Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party's remaining identity marks did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these. However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows. Identity mark Minded-to decision and reason if relevant Name Patriotic Alternative Approve Emblem Reject – Does not meet the requirements of an emblem An emblem, by its nature, should comprise primarily of a pictorial or symbolic element. An 'emblem' that comprises only text is unlikely to satisfy the meaning of an emblem. Our guidance says that we are unlikely to register an emblem that contains only text (see page 18 here). As your emblem comprises only text, and no obvious pictorial element, we do not consider that it is an emblem under PPERA and it has therefore been refused. Emblem A proposed emblem cannot be registered if, in our opinion, a voter is likely to be misled as to the effect of their vote. In applying this test, if an acronym or abbreviation is not well-known or widely-used in everyday language, it will not normally be permitted for your party identity mark. Examples of well-known acronyms used in common language include 'UK', 'EU' and 'NHS'. The acronym "PA" is not well-known or widely used. On this basis, the proposed description was refused. Next Steps It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA. Where we have refused two applications from your party, you must now make a further £150 payment. Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application

		submitted in the future. Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements. Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message. Yours sincerely, Registration Team The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk
Sent*: 12 May 2021 17:35 From*: Partyreg To*: [redacted] CC*: -	Application to register Patriotic Alternative CCM:0462585	Dear [redacted] We are currently still considering your application. Unfortunately we have not been able to complete this assessment within our aimed for 6 weeks. Please accept my apologies for the delays. It is currently being considered as a priority. Kind regards, The Registration Team The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

		[redacted]
Sent*: 15 January 2021 14:06 From*: Partyreg To*: [redacted] Patriotic Alternative (GB) CC*: [redacted]	Patriotic Alternative - application decision CCM:0389413	Dear [redacted] Refusal of your application to register Patriotic Alternative I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register Patriotic Alternative. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so. Proposed constitution A party cannot be registered unless it has supplied a copy if its constitution to us. Section 26(9) of PPERA defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation, and must also satisfy equality legislation. If a party does not provide us with a constitution that satisfies this criteria, then the party cannot be registered. We concluded that the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA. On this basis, the application was refused. The reasons for this are outlined

		in further detail below. For completeness, the minded-to decision was to approve the party's financial scheme. Equalities issues within the party's constitution We have a duty as a public body to exercise our functions in accordance with the EqA which includes due regard to eliminate discrimination and advance equal opportunity between persons who shared relevant protected characteristics. Where the rules of a party's constitution could discriminate against a person by virtue of that person's protected characteristic(s), the constitution could be deemed unlawful and we may refuse it. Any association, including a political party, that has at least 25 members and which selects members under the association's rules is subject to the prohibition on discrimination in section 101 of the Equality Act 2010 (EqA) (section 107(2)). Section 101(1) states that an association must not discriminate in the arrangements they make for deciding who to admit as a member, as to the terms on which they are prepared to admit a person to membership or by not accepting a person's application for membership. "Indirect discrimination" is defined under section 19 of the Equality Act as follows: "A person (A) discriminates against another (B) if A applies to B a provision, criterion or practice which is discriminatory in relation to a relevant protected characteristic of B's." The protected characteristics are also defined in section 19 of the Equality Act. These include race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. Your constitution states that "Membership of the party is open to all those aged 16 years or over who broadly agree with its aims and policies…" The party lists various policies on its website which persons of certain religions or those who identify as LGBTIQ+ would find it difficult, if not impossible, to support. For instance the party's "plan" lists the following policies: "Full face coverings will be banned in public and there will be no religious exception to this" "Employers will no longer be forced to provide prayer rooms or special conditions for religious groups" "Private enterprises have the right to restrict their employees' display of any religious symbols as they see fit" "Those resigning on the grounds of religious objections to working practices will no longer be instantly eligible for state benefits". "The traditional family will be promoted as an ideal to be striven for and emulated. No public body will promote any alternative as either equal or superior to the traditional family. To that end, children will be protected from exposure to sexualised material or LGBT propaganda in all public institutions" We wrote to you on 02 December 2020 seeking clarification on your constitution in line with the concerns identified above. In response, you provided answers to our questions. We considered the responses you provided as part of our wider consideration. As part of this correspondence, you confirmed that: "The core aim and objective for the party to provide a 'Patriotic Alternative' for Britain. The aims objectives and policies do include

		the ‘plan’.” After carefully considering these matters, we concluded that the party’s constitution did not adhere to equalities law. This is because it contains provisions that would indirectly discriminate persons with protected characteristics from becoming members of the party. On this basis the constitution was not approved and the application refused. Furthermore, your constitution states that “Membership can be acquired by anyone, whatever their ethnicity religion or culture…”. Although we do not regulate the policies of applicant parties, the information provided on the party’s publically available website casts doubt on whether the party’s constitution accurately reflects the party’s membership requirements (i.e. that the party will, in reality, accept members in a non-discriminatory manner) and therefore on whether the constitution accurately determines the structure and organisation of the party. Other proposed identity marks Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party’s remaining identity marks did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these. However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows. Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party’s remaining identity marks did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these. However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows. Identity mark Minded-to decision and reason if relevant Name Patriotic Alternative Approve Emblem Reject – Does not meet the requirements of an emblem An emblem, by its nature, should comprise primarily of a pictorial or symbolic element. An ‘emblem’ that comprises only text is unlikely to satisfy the meaning of an emblem. Our guidance says that we are unlikely to register an emblem that contains only text (see page 18 here). As your emblem comprises only text, and no obvious pictorial element, we do not consider that it is an emblem under PPERA and it has therefore been refused. Next Steps It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA. You won’t have to pay a further application fee if you submit an application to us within one calendar month of this message. You will only get one opportunity to submit a fresh application without a fee. Any further applications after that will require the non-refundable application fee. Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future. Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements. Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the

		information in this message. Applying ahead of the 2021 May Polls If you would like to: register a new political party; amend a name for an existing party; amend or add an emblem; or add a description to be included on ballot papers for the elections taking place on 6 May 2021, please ensure that your application is with us by Sunday 31 January 2021. We cannot guarantee that we will make a decision in time on applications submitted after this date for use on ballots papers at the elections. Where a party has submitted an application containing all of the information required by law, we aim to reach a decision within 6 weeks of submission. However, it may take longer than this if the application is complex. We therefore advise that parties wishing to contest the May 2021 elections to submit their applications as soon as possible. In order to contest each type of election, new parties must be registered with us by a certain date. You can find out more information about when these dates are on our website . Yours sincerely, [redacted] [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

		[redacted]
Sent*: 08 December 2020 10:30 From*: Patriotic Alternative (GB) To*: Partyreg CC*: -	RE: Patriotic Alternative - request for further information	Dear [redacted] In answer to your questions: What are the aims, objectives and policies referred to and do they include the plan? The core aim and objective for the party to provide a 'Patriotic Alternative' for Britain. The aims objectives and policies do include the 'plan'. Could you please explain what "broadly agree" means in practice. Broadly agree means simply that people agree with the majority, but not all of our aims, objectives and policies. It would be unreasonable to expect any person to agree with 100% of the policies of any party. We do not expect any person joining PA to agree with 100% of anything we write or publish. On what grounds would a prospective member be refused for not broadly agreeing with the aims, objectives and policies of the party? If someone did not agree with the majority of policies of the party then it would be best that such a person found another party that was more representative of their views. All parties in the UK operate in a similar manner – and many registered with the electoral commission have the same wording in their constitution. Could you please offer clarification or comment as to how, in practice, you would apply those parts of the plan (or other statements of the party's aims, objectives and policies) that appear to breach the Equality Act 2010 in considering an

		application for membership. Quite simply, if someone joined Patriotic Alternative and they were not in agreeance with at least 50 per cent of our aims and objectives, and they made this known and were actively campaigning against the values that we have adopted, they would have their membership terminated. This is exactly the same as the way that other political parties operate. Thanks [redacted] Sent from Mail for Windows 10 From: Partyreg Sent: 02 December 2020 15:32 To: [redacted] Cc: [redacted] ; [redacted] Subject: Patriotic Alternative - request for further information Dear [redacted] We are currently assessing Patriotic Alternative's application to register a political party, which was received on 02 October 2020. Before we are in a position to determine your application, we require some additional information in relation to that application. The Commission considers all registration applications carefully in line with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ("PPERA"). In assessing the application to register Patriotic Alternative, we will apply the statutory party registration tests in PPERA. Party constitutions and the Equality Act 2010 Under paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 4 of Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) a party must supply a copy of its constitution as part of its application to register. Any association, including a political party, that has at least 25 members and which selects members under the association's rules is subject to the prohibition on discrimination in section 101 of the Equality Act 2010 (EqA) (section 107(2)). Section 101(1) states that an association must not discriminate in the arrangements they make for deciding who to admit as a member, as to the terms on which they are prepared to admit a person to membership or by not accepting a person's application for membership. There are two types of discrimination defined in the EqA. The first is Direct Discrimination . This is defined under section 13 of the EqA as treating a person less favourably because of a protected characteristic . The following characteristics are protected characteristics: Age Disability Gender reassignment Marriage and civil partnership Pregnancy and maternity Race, including: colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins Religion or belief (including philosophical belief and lack of religion/belief) Sex Sexual orientation The second is Indirect Discrimination . This is defined under section 19 of the EqA as applying a provision, criterion or practice (i.e. the membership rules in a constitution) which is discriminatory in relation to a person's relevant protected characteristic. Where the rules of a party's constitution could discriminate against a person by virtue of that person's protected characteristic(s), the constitution could be deemed unlawful and we may refuse it. Furthermore, we have a duty as a public body

		to exercise our functions in accordance with the EqA which includes due regard to eliminate discrimination and advance equal opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics. Where the rules in a party's constitution are discriminatory, we may advise the party to remove or amend those rules to bring them in-line with the requirements of the EqA. Similarly, where the rules in a constitution may be discriminatory, but those provisions are established to achieve a legitimate, non-discriminatory aim, we may advise the party to clarify, remove or amend those provisions. Your party's constitution Your constitution states at point 3.1 that membership is open to those who broadly agree with the party's 'aims, objectives and policies'. These are not set out in your constitution. The party website includes "a plan for a healthy, successful and prosperous United Kingdom". The constitution does not reference the plan. It is not clear whether the plan has been incorporated into the party's constitutional aims, objectives and policies (which members are required to broadly agree with). If it has been, it would likely amount to indirect discrimination against some prospective members. For example, the plan explains the following: Family Values "The central building block of our nation is the traditional, nuclear family, which consists of a mother, father and children. The traditional family will be promoted as an ideal to be striven for and emulated. No public body will promote any alternative as either equal or superior to the traditional family. To that end, children will be protected from exposure to sexualised material or LGBT propaganda in all public institutions". Religious Life in the UK "The British people have the right to religious freedom, including the right to worship freely and wear religious symbols and clothing in public places. However, the UK is a Christian country and Christianity is an integral part of our cultural heritage and will continue to be promoted accordingly. The state will also acknowledge ancient, native pre-Christian influences and protect sites of cultural significance to our ancestors. Private enterprises have the right to restrict their employees' display of any religious symbols as they see fit. Those resigning on the grounds of religious objections to working practices will no longer be instantly eligible for state benefits. Employers will no longer be forced to provide prayer rooms or special conditions for religious groups. The right to religious freedom must never undermine the rights and safety of the British people. As a matter of public safety, full-face coverings will be banned in public and there will be no religious exception to this...." As explained above sexual orientation and religion are protected characteristics under the EqA. In order for an individual with these protected characteristics to be eligible for membership, they would have to "broadly" agree with the party's objectives. If the examples set out above are considered part of the party's policies and objectives, membership may involve those individuals denying their

		personal identity and agree with objectives contrary to their own rights. It would therefore put that individual at a particular disadvantage compared with a prospective member without one of those protected characteristics. Constitution and request for further information We have reviewed the constitution submitted with the application as well as the plan publically available on the party's website. Before we are in a position to determine whether to approve the constitution, and the registration of the party, we should be grateful if you would answer the following questions by Wednesday 9 th December 2020 . Section 3.1 of the constitution states that "Membership of the Party is open to all those, aged 16 years or over, who broadly agree with its aims, objectives and policies". What are the aims, objectives and policies referred to and do they include the plan? Could you please explain what "broadly agree" means in practice. On what grounds would a prospective member be refused for not broadly agreeing with the aims, objectives and policies of the party? Could you please offer clarification or comment as to how, in practice, you would apply those parts of the plan (or other statements of the party's aims, objectives and policies) that appear to breach the Equality Act 2010 in considering an application for membership. Please note that given the Commission requires further information as part of the assessment of this application, it is unlikely that we will be able to meet our aim of processing the application within 30 working days. We will of course work to conclude the application as quickly as possible. If you wish to discuss any of the matters in this email, please do not hesitate to contact me. Yours sincerely, [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Sent*: 09 October 2020 16:08 From*: Partyreg To*: [redacted] CC*: [redacted] Patriotic Alternative (GB)	Patriotic Alternative - Receipt of application CCM:0462339	Dear [redacted] We confirm receipt of your application to register Patriotic Alternative and your payment of £150 on 02 October 2020. We will now assess your application against the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). At this point we cannot confirm whether or not the application will be approved. Next steps We will publish the details of your application shortly on our ' Current Applications ' page for public comment. The Registration Team will assess your application against the PPERA requirements and put it to our internal Approvals Board. This Board is chaired by the Director of Regulation who takes the final decision. We aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application. We may write to you during the assessment process seeking further information from you about the application. Otherwise, we will contact you again once we have made a decision. In the meantime, you can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website . Yours sincerely, [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk
Sent*: 26 May 2020 17:56 From*: Partyreg To*: [redacted] Patriotic Alternative (GB) CC*: [redacted]	RE: Patriotic Alternative– Application decision CCM:0462970	Dear [redacted] . Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission. You have written to us seeking further information about your application submitted on 28 February 2020. Although we aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application. At times this may take longer. . Your most recent application was rejected for the reasons set out in my email of 04 May 2020. I cannot identify another reason why we would have rejected the application. I am unable to comment on the statement regarding the constitution being based on that of another party. That is because I have not reviewed the constitution in question. All assessments are conducted on a case by case basis on the facts of the matter. As you are aware, it is your responsibility to determine the details of your application and to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). Please note, it is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA . Yours sincerely, [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk From: [redacted] <[redacted] Sent: 18 May 2020 09:51 To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk> Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]

		<[redacted] [redacted] Subject: RE: Patriotic Alternative– Application decision CCM:0462970 Dear [redacted] I believe you have in bad faith with this application. We amended all the details you informed us were incorrect with the previous application, only for you to find something 'new' that was wrong with the document. Not only did you find something 'new', but it took months for you to discover this. However you have acted much more swiftly with other applications, this suggests that you have also acted in a discriminatory manner. What's more, and even more interesting, is that our constitution is based on that of another party which was accepted. Which begs the question, why are their registered parties who hold constitutions worded in the same way as ours, yet we have been rejected. Again, this demonstrates that there may have been discrimination. I wish to ask you a question: Was this the only matter wrong with the constitution, and if so, on changing this to 'comply' with the PPERA, would this constitution have been passed? Thanks [redacted] Sent from Mail for Windows 10 From: Partyreg Sent: 04 May 2020 11:52 To: [redacted] Cc: [redacted] ; [redacted] Subject: Patriotic Alternative– Application decision CCM:0462970 Dear [redacted] Refusal of your application to register Patriotic Alternative I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register Patriotic Alternative The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so. Proposed constitution By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of PPERA defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation we must be satisfied that it does so before we can approve it. A constitution must be consistent with the party's financial scheme. We came to the decision that your constitution, did not adequately show the structure and organisation of the party. This is because of the provisions that could result in the leader or treasurer being removed from the national council and it being unclear whether and how they could continue to fulfil their legal duties in that situation. The constitution explains that a National Council member may be removed from the National Council in the event of a member missing 3 consecutive National council meetings without adequate explanation. If fulfilled this creates a scenario where officers such as the Leader and Treasurer are at risk of not being able to fulfil their duties. For example: I. If the treasurer is removed from the national council, they will no longer be involved in the drawing up and maintenance of

		the party's financial rules as per paragraph 7.9(c). II. The National Council will cause financial accounts to be prepared within 4 months of the end of the financial year and those accounts to be audited. However, If the party treasurer is removed from the national council (as per 7.13), they will no longer be involved in the preparation of the auditing of the party's accounts. III. The party leader (also the party chairman) can be removed from the board. This means the party leader will no longer be entrusted in deciding the political direction of the Party and the management of its day-to-day running. IV. The National Chairman will no longer be able to appoint party officers that subsequently form the National Council. Overall, in our view the above demonstrates that if the National Chairman (Leader), or treasurer was to be removed from the National Council, the party could be in a position where they are unable to function. Proposed financial scheme Pursuant to section 26(1) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act (PPERA) a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which "sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of [PPERA]." By law, therefore, applicants must give us a financial scheme that is accurate and consistent with the party's constitution, and must have adopted its scheme. We came to the decision that your constitution did not adequately show the structure and organisation of the party for the reasons outlined above. On this basis, the proposed scheme was refused and we could not be satisfied that the party has adopted its scheme. Since the party has not adopted a scheme as defined by PPERA, we refused the party's application. Other proposed identity marks Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party's identity marks did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these. However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows. Identity mark Minded-to decision and reason if relevant Name Patriotic Alternative Approve Emblem Approve Next Steps It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA. Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future. Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements. Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message. Yours sincerely, [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk

Sent*: 09 March 2020 13:38 From*: Partyreg To*: [redacted] [redacted] Patriotic Alternative (GB) CC*: -	RE: Patriotic Alternative - Resubmission CCM:0288877	Dear [redacted] We confirm receipt of your application to register Patriotic Alternative and your payment of £150 on 28 February 2020. We will now assess your application against the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). At this point we cannot confirm whether or not the application will be approved. Next steps We will publish the details of your application shortly on our ‘ Current Applications ’ page for public comment. The Registration Team will assess your application against the PPERA requirements and put it to our internal Approvals Board. This Board is chaired by the Director of Regulation who takes the final decision. We aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application. We may write to you during the assessment process seeking further information from you about the application. Otherwise, we will contact you again once we have made a decision. In the meantime, you can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website . Yours sincerely, [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk From: [redacted] [redacted] < [redacted] Sent: 28 February 2020 14:29 To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk> Subject: Re: Patriotic Alternative - Resubmission CCM:0288877 Dear [redacted] I have resubmitted the application, it says it has been accepted, but I was assured we wouldn't be charged for this, can you please confirm everything was received correctly? Thanks [redacted] From: Partyreg < Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk > Sent: 28 February 2020 12:28 To: [redacted] [redacted] < [redacted] > Subject: RE: Patriotic Alternative - Resubmission CCM:0288877 Dear [redacted] Your treasurer already has login details from the party’s original submission and can simply use these details to access the system, navigate to the ‘Declarations’ page and select the option ‘I authorise online’. The system will only send out an email to the officer to confirm their association with the party when their user account is first registered so that they can create login details and confirm that they are an officer of the party. This is not required a second time, which is why the officer can simply use their existing login details to access the system and why they have not received another email. As your application is ‘Sanctioning’ and your treasurer has login details, they can provide their authorisation at any time. Yours sincerely, [redacted] [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk

		From: [redacted] < [redacted] > Sent: 28 February 2020 12:00 To: Partyreg < Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk > Subject: Re: Patriotic Alternative - Application decision CCM:0462845 Dear [redacted] I have repeatedly tried to re-upload the constitution - which has now been checked by a solicitor, who has assured us it completely compliant with the PPERA. However on the page of declarations it claims the treasurer has not sanctioned this - however despite me requesting authorisation for him, he hasn't received any emails allowing him to authorise the application. He has repeatedly checked his inbox and spam folders, and without this I cannot proceed with the application. Can you please look into this asap. Thanks [redacted] From: Partyreg < Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk > Sent: 04 February 2020 15:26 To: [redacted] < [redacted] > Subject: RE: Patriotic Alternative - Application decision CCM:0462845 Dear [redacted] For example, it is not clear how decisions made at the party's meetings will be recorded. Before you resubmit your application, I would strongly suggest that your proposed officers go through the constitution and ensure all of the below points are covered in sufficient detail. Otherwise your constitution is at risk of not properly setting out the arrangements for your party's governance and the rules for carrying out its business. · The constitution should reflect which register the party are applying to register in. Where a party is applying to register in both the Great Britain and Northern Ireland registers, the party's financial scheme must show that the financial affairs of the party in Great Britain will be conducted separately from those of the party in Northern Ireland. The constitution should also reflect that. · The party's aims and objectives. · A reference to an intention to stand candidates and at which elections. · The candidate selection process (or at least a statement that the party will have one). · The structure of the party and who is responsible for managing the party, including the responsibility of the party officers, the terms of office and procedure for change of those officers. · How the party will make and record decisions, as well as any other governance arrangements. For example the frequency, timing and type of meetings and the quorum for meetings. · If the party has membership, and if so the process and rules governing that membership. · That the party have adopted its financial scheme. · How the constitution can be changed and the process for dissolution of the party. · The constitution must also be consistent with a party's financial scheme. Once this has been done please submit the application. As outlined in my previous email, if submitted within one calendar month you do not need to pay on this occasion. On the payment page please select "pay by

cheque". Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Yours sincerely, [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted] < [redacted] > Sent: 04 February 2020 14:30 To: Partyreg < Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk > Subject: Re: Patriotic Alternative - Application decision CCM:0462845 Dear [redacted] I have carefully read through this email, all points are clear except those relating to: III. The constitution does not set out how the party will record decision Can you please make it clear which particular decision you are referring to. Can you please clarify this and I will get this the amended constitution back to you as soon as possible Thanks [redacted]

From: Partyreg < Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk > Sent: 04 February 2020 14:03 To: [redacted] < [redacted] > Cc: [redacted] < [redacted] >; [redacted] < [redacted] > Subject: Patriotic Alternative - Application decision CCM:0462845 Dear [redacted] Refusal of your application to register Patriotic Alternative I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register Patriotic Alternative. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so. Proposed constitution By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of PPERA defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation. We came to the decision that your constitution did not adequately show the structure and organisation of the party. For the bellow reasons: I. There is a provision in the constitution which states The National Chairman/National Council may appoint officers or working groups to further the objectives of the party. This includes 7.1(c) managing the organisation and finance of the party. This indicates someone other than the treasurer can take over the financial responsibility of the party without being a registered officer. This appears to be incompatible with the party's scheme which states that only the person registered as the treasurer has the responsibility for the party's compliance with the act. This provision would allow someone other than the registered treasurer to authorise party spending and provide returns etc. II. Paragraph 10.1 explains authorised signatories on cheques, standing orders, direct debits etc. shall always include the person, normally the treasurer, denoted at the time by the National Council to be

		responsible for keeping the party financially stable and within the Electoral Commission's guidelines. As alluded to in the previous paragraph we are concerned that the party believe the financial obligations of the treasurer can be shared amongst other members. If the party are to resubmit - I recommend the party further clarify this point. III. The constitution does not set out how the party will record decision IV. The constitution does not provide a process for the party to be dissolved. We concluded that the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA. On this basis, the proposed constitution was refused. Proposed financial scheme Pursuant to section 26(1) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act (PPERA) a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which "sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of [PPERA]." By law, therefore, applicants must give us a financial scheme that is accurate and consistent with the party's constitution, and must have adopted its scheme. We could not be satisfied that the scheme set out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party of the purposes of PPERA. For reasons set out in points I and II above. On this basis, the proposed scheme was refused we could not be satisfied that the party has adopted its scheme. Other proposed identity marks Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party's remaining identity marks did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these. However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows. Identity mark Minded-to decision and reason if relevant Name Patriotic Alternative Approve Emblem Refuse A proposed emblem cannot be registered if, in our opinion, a voter's understanding of voting instructions (either on a ballot paper or elsewhere) is likely to be hindered by that emblem. In our view, the tick on the emblem is quite prominent and deliberate and is therefore likely to hinder a voter's understanding. On this basis, the proposed emblem was refused. Next Steps It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA. You won't have to pay a further application fee if you submit an application to us within one calendar month of this message. You will only get one opportunity to submit a fresh application without a fee. Any further applications after that will require the non-refundable application fee. Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future. Party registration applications ahead of the of the 2020 May Polls If you would like to register a new political party ahead of the

		elections taking place on 7 May 2020, please ensure that your application is with us by Monday 10 February 2020. We cannot guarantee that we will make a decision in time on applications submitted after this date for use on ballots papers at the elections. You can find more information about registering and maintaining your party on our website . Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements. Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message. Yours sincerely, [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk
Sent*: 15 January 2020 14:19 From*: Patriotic Alternative (GB) To*: Partyreg CC*: [redacted]	Re: Patriotic Alternative - Additional documents CCM:0462819	Dear [redacted] Please find attached our manifesto, if you need anything else, please contact me. Thank you [redacted] From: Partyreg Sent: 14 January 2020 15:56 To: [redacted] Cc: [redacted] Subject: Patriotic Alternative - Additional documents CCM:0462819 Dear [redacted] Your application to register Patriotic Alternative is currently in assessment. I note your constitution refers to the party's 'manifesto' on a number of occasions. Could you please provide a copy of the party's manifesto to be considered alongside the party's constitution? Please do so as soon as possible and no later than Thursday 16 January 2020. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Yours sincerely, [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk
Sent*: 06 November 2019 10:39 From*: Partyreg To*: [redacted] Patriotic Alternative (GB) CC*: [redacted]	Application to register a political party CCM:0462723	Dear [redacted] There will be a UK Parliamentary general election on 12 December 2019. We are writing to you because you currently have an application pending with us to register a new party. In order to appear on the ballot paper, a party must be registered with us by 12 November 2019, which is two days before the deadline for delivering nomination papers to the Returning Officer. As you have recently submitted an application and due to the short timeframe until close of nominations, it is highly unlikely that it will be possible for us to make a decision on your application in time to take effect for the 2019 UK Parliamentary general election. Whilst we process all registration applications as quickly as possible, undertaking our necessary assessment process means that a decision will not be granted immediately. If we have all of the information we need, we aim to reach a decision in about six weeks. You may still contest or campaign at the election in other ways. Details of how to do so are highlighted below. Standing as an independent candidate You may choose to stand as an independent candidate at the 2019 UK Parliamentary general election.

		You can find out more information about how to do this on our website . Independent candidates have the option to use the word 'Independent' (and/or 'Annibynnol' in Wales) as a description on the ballot paper. No other descriptions are allowed for candidates who are not standing for registered political parties. Campaigning at the 2019 UK Parliamentary general election You can still campaign at the election even if you are not standing as a party. Individuals and organisations that campaign in the run up to elections but do not stand as political parties or candidates are known as non-party campaigners . There are rules non-party campaigners must follow on campaign spending, donations and reporting. Please refer to our website for more information about the rules, including how to register as a non-party campaigner. Yours sincerely, [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk
Sent*: 23 October 2019 16:46 From*: Partyreg To*: [redacted] CC*: -	Patriotic Alternative - Receipt of application CCM:0462687	Dear [redacted] We confirm receipt of your application to register Patriotic Alternative and your payment of £150 on 18 October 2019. We will now assess your application against the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). At this point we cannot confirm whether or not the application will be approved. Next steps We will publish the details of your application shortly on our ' Current Applications ' page for public comment. The Registration Team will assess your application against the PPERA requirements and put it to our internal Approvals Board. This Board is chaired by the Director of Regulation who takes the final decision. We aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application. We may write to you during the assessment process seeking further information from you about the application. Otherwise, we will contact you again once we have made a decision. In the meantime, you can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website . Yours sincerely, [redacted] The Electoral Commission electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 26 February 2021 15:09
To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Patriotic Alternative - request to remove personal data CCM:0389452

Dear Alejandro

Thank you for the email.

I don't believe that any law has been broken. I also don't believe that disclosing the names of people who are essentially public servants is a crime, nor something I need to get 'consent' to do. It is also well within the law to speculate on potential conflicts of interest.

I personally, nor my cohost in the video made derogatory comments, and I am not in control of viewers or other onlookers.

I am happy to remove the video from YouTube, but I do this out of good will, not because I have done anything wrong.

The fact of the matter is, you have denied us a political platform, not because we haven't complied with the PPERA, but because of the views we hold.

Thanks
[redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Partyreg
Sent: 22 February 2021 09:13
To: [redacted]
Subject: Patriotic Alternative - request to remove personal data CCM:0389452

Dear [redacted]

It has come to our attention that the Electoral Commission's decision to refuse your recent application for registration of Patriotic Alternative as a political party was discussed on a live-streamed video on 29 January 2021. This video, entitled "Patriotic Alternative January Update – with Laura Towler" was hosted on a number of platforms (BitChute, Youtube and D-Lite).

During that discussion, you disclosed the names of individual members of our staff ([redacted] and [redacted] discussed their ethnic and religious backgrounds and speculated about the motivations behind the Commission's decision. The public disclosure of their names and purported disclosure of their ethnic and religious backgrounds was neither notified nor consented to by Commission staff.

On behalf of [redacted] and [redacted] I am hereby requesting that their personal data be removed from the above-named platforms without undue delay.

The reasons for the rejection of Patriotic Alternative's application are as set out in our email of 15 January 2021. The tests and criteria for making that decision are set out in law and the Commission applied them in this case; the decision was taken by the Director of Regulation in line with our published procedures. Staff are required to act in the interests of the Commission and are prevented from furthering their own private interests. In discussing the outcome of your application and the purported backgrounds of our staff, you sought to cast doubt on the independence in our decision-making. We categorically deny this.

Furthermore, the discriminatory and derogatory comments targeted at our staff in your video and in the audience comments are unacceptable and risks inciting harassment of our staff. This is wrong and objectionable.

Please let us know by 1 March 2021 whether you have taken the action we have requested. Please be aware that if the video is not taken down we will consider contacting the platforms on which it is hosted to bring to their attention material that falls outside their terms of use.

Yours sincerely

Alejandro Alonso-Martinez
Head of Registration and Reporting

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

PATRIOTIC ALTERNATIVE MANIFESTO

BREXIT

First and foremost, we are democrats. Patriotic Alternative stands behind the 2016 referendum mandate. We consider the nation state to be the upper limit of democracy. The European Union is not and never will be a social democratic enterprise.

- We support ratification of the new Withdrawal Agreement so long as that can be achieved by January 31,2020. If it cannot be then we must leave the EU on that date without a deal. Our departure from the EU must not be further delayed.
- A public inquiry will be held into the conduct of Brexit preparations and negotiations by Her Majesty's Government, to encompass the behaviour and conduct of key political figures such as former prime ministers.

TAXATION

Businesses, the wealthy and all other members of society must behave responsibly and pay their taxes – although in a geographically mobile world, tax rates should not be set so high as to be self-defeating. We believe that intergenerational equity requires that the constraints of sound government finance are respected. There is nothing moral in leaving future generations with unmanageable debt.

- Reduce income tax through the introduction of new 10p and 30p bands. The 10p band would be the initial rate of tax for earnings in excess of the personal allowance. The 30p band would be the initial rate of tax for earnings in excess of basic rate tax.
- The top rate of income tax shall be increased to 47%, although Patriotic Alternative pledges that the combined income tax and national insurance burden shall never exceed 50% of an individual's income.
- Finance income tax reductions through the imposition of a new luxury rate of VAT on a limited number of high value items.
- Introduce a zero rate of VAT on female sanitary products.
- Introduce a 'turnover tax' for multinationals that exceed a certain turnover in the UK but pay an inadequate level of tax.
- A new 'luxury' council tax band will be introduced on high value homes as well as an increased council levy on second homes.
- The planned reduction in corporation tax from 19% to 17% will be scrapped. Instead we will introduce significantly greater tax incentives to invest in R&D and plant and machinery.
- We will introduce a 2-year employer's National Insurance premium for businesses employing foreign nationals directly from abroad to assist in the financing of new vocational training initiatives for UK nationals.
- The interest rate on outstanding student debt shall be limited to the level of the CPI measure of inflation.
- We shall abolish the basic rate income tax for the U-21's as part of a wider package of reforms to offer a significantly better deal for those young people who choose not go to university.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Public services such as education and the NHS have been badly let down by the two-party system. Labour and Conservative governments have produced wild swings in expenditure with periods of unsustainable spending followed by periods of austerity.

- The NHS, free at the point of need, must remain the bedrock of healthcare in our country. We reject suggestions that it is not sustainable long-term.
- The share of national income spent on the NHS over future parliamentary terms shall be increased.
- Funding for mental health services shall be increased as a share of overall NHS spending over future parliamentary terms for so long as the growing incidence of mental illness justifies this.
- A National Care Service (NCS) shall be established to organise social care and fund it once a recipient has reached an agreed ceiling for their own financial contributions.
- National Insurance ID Cards will be issued to all citizens to help ensure that health services are provided for those who are entitled to them.

WELFARE & SOCIAL SECURITY

The liberal-left tends to blame culturally embedded problems solely on spending cuts instead of acknowledging that many of our problems stem from decades-long shifts in attitudes and values. Welfare and public services should be used responsibly. If not, the mutuality upon which they depend will be eroded.

- The transition of claimants to Universal Credit will be suspended until changes have been made to some of the principles, processes and administration of UC to mitigate negative impacts to claimants, taxpayers and businesses. Instead new claims will continue to be supported by legacy benefits.
- For existing UC claimants, we will reinstate direct payments of Housing Element to landlords, reduce the earnings taper, introduce partial upfront payment on claim, introduce less frequent assessment periods for the self-employed and make further changes to eliminate areas of the system causing delay and hardship.
- We will replace technocratic decisions on sanctions to shelter the vulnerable while targeting persistent offenders.
- We will strengthen the contributory element principle in unemployment benefits, rewarding those who have a history of work and paying in to the system.
- Launch a Citizens' Bank to safeguard vulnerable adults by assisting essential payments (utilities, housing) and by improving access to cheapest tariffs while helping businesses improve rates of collection.
- We will create Community Hubs at Local Authority level to improve access to multidisciplinary social services saving claimants time and cost while increasing the efficiency and knowledge of welfare services.
- National Insurance ID Cards will be issued to all citizens.

CRIME & JUSTICE

From government to the police, from universities to schools, the politicisation of Britain's institutions in the service of fashionable ideology is leading to a loss of faith in the pillars that uphold our society.

- Police and Crime Commissioners will be abolished. The oversight of policing will be the responsibility of Police Authorities comprising elected members from local government together with co-opted members from police unions, victims groups, the NHS and the Fire Service.
- Cannabis shall remain illegal for recreational use but licensed derivatives shall be permitted for medical treatment.
- Community policing shall be prioritised and frontline police numbers shall be increased by 20,000 throughout the parliamentary term.
- Legal aid shall be maintained to ensure all that need it can be represented fairly and equally.
- Increased investment in the prison system, to ensure justice for victims of crime, containment of criminal activity and rehabilitation.
- Better protection and support will be secured for blue light service workers on and off duty, including the reintroduction of police housing within our communities.
- Leadership roles will be developed within prison governance to include current or former - - head teachers with responsibility for ensuring a high quality education is offered to all, and ensure support and development is offered by the local education authority where required.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The ecological and demographic challenges of the 21st century require international coordination, and Britain must play a leading and constructive role within the UN, NATO, the WTO and the Commonwealth.

- Patriotic Alternative strongly believes in maintaining the UK as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.
- Undertakings made to NATO in respect of national defence spending shall be maintained.
- In general, Patriotic Alternative opposes the idea of intervening in countries with a view to imposing western styles of governance by force.
- Patriotic Alternative would scrap the commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid. The target is arbitrary; it has undermined public support for worthwhile aid and has led to wasteful spending.
- The Department for International Development will be abolished and its activities absorbed within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

TRANSPORT

We support an active Industrial Policy. Britain urgently needs a strategy to improve productivity and to provide a long-term planning framework for the skills, technologies, energy resources and transport infrastructure required to support businesses.

- Our railway system will be nationalised. Rail operator franchises will be taken back into public ownership as they fall due via a re-established British Railways.

- British Railways will be a comprehensive, fully integrated system encompassing track and infrastructure, rolling stock and stations.
- A Minister for Rail will be introduced, responsible and accountable for making the system work for the public and passengers.
- We will scrap HS2 and invest some of the freed-up funds to create a Great Northern Railway Network, better linking up the towns and cities of the North of England to unleash their joint potential.
- Funding for regional and rural bus travel will be increased in order to protect the viability of and patronage on essential routes.
- VAT on motor vehicles costing more than £35,000 will be increased to 25%.
- An 'Oyster card' type system shall be introduced in every UK Region.

ENVIRONMENT

The ecological and demographic challenges of the 21st century require international coordination. We believe the UK must lead by example in being at the forefront of global action to combat pollution from plastics and other sources as well as deforestation and the destruction and endangerment of wildlife. Government must incentivise business to develop new environmentally friendly technologies.

- Direct incentives shall be introduced to encourage a switch to environmentally friendly products.
- We shall develop and strengthen existing government plans to make the UK a global leader in carbon capture and storage.
- We shall mandate energy efficiency into the planning and building regulations system.
- Best practice in the food packaging and food retail industries will be mandated by law to reduce plastics pollution.
- A 25p charge will be levied on disposable cups, refundable on return to a recycling bin and mandate that all cups returned to such bins must be recycled.
- Financial incentives will be provided to farmers, local authorities and other landowners to encourage UK tree planting and afforestation.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS

A vibrant and productive rural economy is essential for society and for the UK's economy. Agricultural innovation and productivity, environmental sustainability and animal welfare are all key elements in the future of Britain's countryside.

- After recovery of the UK's territorial offshore fishing rights the government will assist in securing investment in a revitalised UK fishing industry.
- Post-Brexit support for agriculture will prioritise investment in new technology as a means of moving UK farming gradually away from reliance on subsidies. Land-based education (agriculture, forestry, horticulture, and engineering) will receive new investment.
- Minimum standards for mobile telephone and internet connectivity shall be secured in rural areas through a combination of investment and operator regulation.
- Funding for regional and rural bus travel will be increased in order to protect the viability of and patronage on essential routes.
- Financial incentives will be provided to farmers, local authorities and other landowners to initiate carbon capture schemes including tree planting in suitable locations.

- Public bodies such as local authorities, schools and hospitals will help establish Local Food Ecosystems by sourcing food directly from local producers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We believe the state has lost confidence in its own capacity for direct provision and intervention in the service of the nation. We believe that out-sourcing – as a tool to avoid democratic responsibility – has strayed well beyond its useful limits.

- No public sector employee should be paid more than the Prime Minister. Going forward, all new local government and quango employment contracts shall be subject to this limit.
- All local government elections will be held under proportional representation.
- A system of unitary local government will be established in each county and metropolitan district.
- Parish and Town Councils will have an enhanced role in their local areas.
- Councils will have more direct responsibilities in the fields of transport and public housing.
- Police and Crime Commissioners will be abolished. The oversight of policing will be the responsibility of Police Authorities comprising elected members from local government together with co-opted members from police unions, victims groups, the NHS and the Fire Service.
- A National Corruption Office will be established with full investigatory and prosecuting powers to deal with public allegations of fraud and corruption in local government.

ECONOMIC POLICY

We believe that pro-public sector and pro-market policy can beneficially co-exist within a balanced programme – provided each inhabits its correct domain, and neither is allowed to distort our country's economy in the service of ideology.

- We shall maintain a commitment to strong public finances by setting a target for average public sector deficits across the cycle of 2.5% to 3% of GDP. This will ensure that public sector debt falls back gradually as a percentage of the overall economy, given trend growth in nominal GDP.
- We shall ensure that there is a sustained increase in both public and private sector investment, so that economic imbalances causing low economic growth are corrected.
- We shall adopt a modern industrial strategy that increases public sector investment as a percentage of GDP with a particular focus on improvements in housing, public transport and vocational training.
- We shall target further increases in the National Living Wage so that it exceeds the OECD definition of low pay (two thirds of median income) within a single parliamentary cycle.
- We shall maintain public expenditure at the affordable level of approximately 41% of GDP, investing strategically across the cycle in frontline public services. We shall avoid unsustainable increases above this level, which would result in yet another cycle of unaffordable spending followed by austerity.
- Since the government is the largest single domestic purchaser in the UK, we shall use the increased flexibility of leaving the European Union to have a government 'Buy British' policy where there are credible British suppliers.
- A UK Sovereign Wealth fund will be established making investments of £1-2bn annually on behalf of the British people. Investments will be made in the quoted equity of suitable

businesses with at least half of the fund being invested in businesses with UK operations, which generate a significant proportion of their sales overseas. Growth in the value of the fund will provide a store of value for future generations.

HOUSING

The dismantling by both Labour and the Conservatives of public sector capacity in public housing is a historic mistake we must rectify. An optimal Social Market frontier must be restored and respected.

- A new council house building programme will be introduced involving the construction of 300,000 new council homes over 10 years which will house over one million people.
- All UK District, Unitary, County and London Boroughs will participate in the programme and Community Councils will not be excluded.
- Existing council and social housing tenants will continue to enjoy 'right to buy' opportunities in their existing homes. However, 'right to buy' shall not apply to newly constructed Council Housing.
- Council house stock as a percentage of total UK housing shall be increased over future parliaments.
- New council housing will include a sufficient number of homes which are either specifically designed for, or fully modified, for the use of disabled citizens.
- Local Authorities shall offer building trade apprenticeships to young people participating in the council house programme.
- Large-scale new housing developed by private house-builders shall include new council housing as a component of planning gain.
- A new 'luxury' council tax band will be introduced on high value homes as well as an increased council tax levy on second homes.
- Tackle homelessness via increased provision of supervised hostel places with support services relating to drug, alcohol and mental health issues.
- Immigration policy shall be framed to take full account of its consequences on the rate of UK household formation and of housing policy in general.

THE FAMILY

Government must defend and support family life whenever possible, particularly in welfare and economic policy, education and housing. We will shelter British families from the economic and social pressures fracturing our society, and rebuild a prosperous and happier nation with policies that place the working family at the heart of national life.

- The tax and benefits system shall offer greater protection and support for family life. Couples raising children together (comprising a basic rate tax payer and a non-tax payer) will benefit from full sharing of tax allowances.
- The fundamental aim of national housing policy shall be to ensure that young people seeking to start a family and have children will be able to find a suitable, affordable home in which to do so.
- Government policy in all domains will be subject to the basic test as to whether it is supportive of the family as the fundamental foundation of society.

IMMIGRATION

We will vigorously resist the naive ambitions of both 'open border' zealots and neoliberal ideologues in the interest of Britain's community relations and the survival of our hard-won welfare state. Britain's immigration policy must be skills-based, needs-based, legal and subject to democratic control.

- Immigration policy shall be based on applicant aptitudes rather than their country of origin. There must be a level playing field for applicants from every country in the world.
- Our overall aim is to contain net immigration to fewer than 100,000 per year but in addition, to introduce an annual cap on gross immigration.
- A points system will be introduced for migrants. All will be required to agree to a pledge to uphold and adhere to contemporary British values as a condition of migration.
- Information and data systems at UK border control shall be upgraded such that the UK authorities know who is in the country and who is not.
- A Royal Commission on community integration and social cohesion shall be instituted.

DEFENCE

Britain must play a leading and constructive role within the UN, NATO, the WTO and the Commonwealth. However, Western powers must learn to respect sovereign frontiers. We oppose the disastrous attempts to impose liberal democracy on complex societies in the Middle East via military intervention.

- Maintain Britain's membership of NATO and observe the NATO target of spending a minimum of 2% of GDP on defence.
- Maintain the independence of the British Military and resist any attempt to absorb it into a European Army.
- In keeping with our membership of the UN Security Council, Britain shall play a full part in fully authorised UN peacekeeping missions.
- Maintain and update Britain's nuclear defence capabilities – essential in a world where unstable regimes have, or are, developing a nuclear capability.
- The size of the British Army will be increased and recruitment shall be put back under Army control.
- Complete the Carrier programme and related air/naval investment to make and keep HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales fully operational. Aircraft carriers will form an integral part of our ability to protect our Overseas Territories. A larger surface fleet is also necessary to protect the Carriers.
- Learn from the mistakes of recent decades in relation to UK involvement in foreign wars. Future decisions on defence spending will focus primarily on the defence of British territory.
- Increase spending on Intelligence to combat terrorism and cyber-warfare as a proportion of the overall defence budget and commit to the UK's continued participation in the 'five eyes' security system.
- Build the UK's own Satellite Navigation system with trusted partners such as Canada and Australia.
- Offer a significantly enhanced deal for our veterans. Increase housing priority, dedicated medical services, and reduce employers' National Insurance for employment in the first two years after leaving the armed service, giving businesses a clear incentive to employ veterans.

EDUCATION

We hold that public services such as education have been badly let down by the two-party system. Labour and Conservative governments have produced wild swings in expenditure with periods of unsustainable spending followed by periods of austerity.

- We will invest to expand the local capacity of alternative provision, to ensure all children are given every chance to achieve and pursue meaningful education or employment.
- A teachers' National Leadership Scheme will be introduced designed to ensure the best leadership talent reaches our most deprived areas, and remains supported when they get there.
- Arbitrary limits on pupil exclusions shall be lifted, enabling head teachers to maintain high standards of behaviour in schools.
- Ofsted inspection will be reformed to abolish the current public grading criteria, which can make retention and recruitment even harder, ensuring no school is harmed by an Ofsted inspection but is instead supported to improve.
- School league table criteria shall take greater account of provision and outcomes in music, technology, and the arts to give parents more information when choosing schools.
- All state schools, where possible, shall take part in a 'Daily Mile' exercise programme for all staff and pupils.
- The sale of all sweets and sugary drinks will be banned from state schools.
- We will invest in opening a new generation of on-site welfare and support hubs that will work with schools to ensure vital support services get quickly to those children and families who need them the most.

CONSTITUTION

Our outdated voting system wilfully stifles political competition and denies new entrants a chance to contribute. As a result, people rightly feel powerless, with their voices ignored at Westminster. Reform of Britain's broken political system is long overdue, and we will be at the forefront of reinvigorating democratic politics.

- An English Parliament will be established outside London. Bids from cities in the Midlands and the North wishing to host it will be invited.
- The Parliaments of England, Wales and Scotland will have powers equivalent to, or greater than, those of the current Scottish Parliament.
- All public elections in the UK will be conducted under proportional representation to ensure that legislatures better reflect public opinion.
- The House of Lords will be abolished.
- The UK Westminster Parliament will become unicameral. The House of Commons will have responsibility for matters affecting the whole of the UK such as foreign policy, defence, national security, and immigration.
- The House of Commons will be reformed so as to increase the power of individual MP's in relation to the government. Select Committees will be given more power and there will be more free votes to reduce the stranglehold of the whips.
- A British Bill of Rights will be introduced which reflects national culture, custom and traditions.
- No public sector employee should be paid more than the Prime Minister. Going forward, all new local government and quango employment contracts shall be subject to this limit.

CULTURE, MEDIA & SPORT

A widespread values and virtues-led cultural renewal is needed, aimed at dramatically improving citizens' happiness, health and well-being.

- Abolish the BBC licence fee. Replace it with a mixture of free to view and subscription services ensuring that BBC1, BBC2 and BBC radio would continue to be free to air.
- Retain public ownership of the BBC.
- Hold a review of the best way of safeguarding BBC editorial independence whilst ensuring full impartiality.
- Mandate all schools and encourage all businesses to operate a 'daily mile' scheme, whereby pupils and colleagues are encouraged to run, jog or walk one mile a day.
- Give sports clubs the right to lease their sports grounds from Local Authority Landlords on a long-term lease at a peppercorn rent – giving clubs security of tenure and thus encouraging them to create more teams to promote health and fitness among young people.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

The correct frontier between the public and private sector is determinable. Natural monopolies – the utilities requiring universal delivery to citizens – should be returned to public ownership and operation or be subjected to significantly more effective regulation. An optimal Social Market frontier must be restored and respected.

- Utilities such as Energy and Water sit uncomfortably in the private sector. As strategic national assets they will be subject to tougher and tighter regulation in order to benefit the consumer.
- Energy policy will be based on a diverse energy mix. Nuclear and Gas power stations will carry the prime energy load but renewables will assume an increasing contribution in future years.
- Tax and other incentives will be maintained as a means of achieving investment in new energy technologies.

ANIMAL WELFARE

We believe that animals are sentient beings and we are committed to the highest standards of animal welfare.

- Free trade agreements will require trade in animal-derived products to adhere to equivalent standards as UK animal welfare laws.
- Financial support for UK agriculture will incentivise and reward farmers whose production systems adhere to higher welfare standards.
- Species-specific limits will be introduced on maximum journey times and travel conditions for all farm animals.
- The quantity of meat slaughtered under the Religious Exemption shall not exceed UK domestic demand.
- Export of meat killed by non-stun slaughter methods is to be banned and the Import of non-stun slaughter meat will also be banned unless the country of origin has equivalent animal welfare standards to the UK.

- All meat product sold in the UK shall include clear labelling regarding the method of slaughter. Labelling to be clear if the meat is Halal or Kosher.
- Abattoir inspections shall be increased and tougher sentencing will be introduced for individuals found to be mistreating animals.
- Increase funding directed towards developing and validating humane alternatives to animal experimentation.
- The use of wild animals in circuses will be banned.