

## General Election 2019: Conservative party manifesto science and education policies

Please note that we have summarised the party's main manifesto only. You can find the manifesto in full [here](#).

### Climate and energy

#### Conservative:

- Deliver on the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and ask partner countries to match this target.
- Not support fracking unless the “science shows categorically that it can be done safely.”
- An oil and gas sector deal for Scotland.
- Increase offshore wind capacity and aim for offshore wind industry to reach 40GW by 2030.
- Invest £800 million to build the first fully deployed carbon capture storage cluster by the mid 2020s.
- Invest £500 million to help energy-intensive industries move to low carbon techniques.
- Support gas for hydrogen production and nuclear energy, including fusion, as important parts of the energy system, alongside increasing the Government's commitment to renewables.

### Environment and ecology

#### Conservative:

- Establish a new independent office for environmental protection and introduce legal targets for things like air quality.
- Prioritise the environment in the next Budget by investing in the infrastructure science and research that would deliver economic growth.
- Invest in nature through a new £640 million “Nature for Climate” fund.
- Create new national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty and make the coast to coast path across the most beautiful areas of the North a national trail.
- Protect and enhance the green belt and prioritise brownfield development.
- Bring the ivory ban into force and extend it to cover other ivory-bearing species, and ban imports from trophy hunting of endangered animals.
- Ban keeping primates as pets.
- Set up new international partnerships to tackle deforestation.

### Agriculture and fisheries

#### Conservative:

- Lobby for farmers to farm “in a way that protects and enhances the natural environment whilst safeguarding high standards of animal welfare.”
- Move to a system based on ‘public money for public goods’ for farmers once Brexit has been done, in order to “free farmers from the bureaucratic common agricultural policy.”
- Leave the Commons Fisheries Policy upon leaving the EU.
- Establish a “legal commitment” to fish sustainably and a legal requirement for a plan to achieve the “maximum sustainable yield for each stock.”
- Introduce “tougher” sentences for animal cruelty.
- Bring in new laws on animal sentience.
- End “excessively long” journeys for slaughter and fattening.
- Oppose any changes to be made to the Hunting Act.

## Water and air

### Conservative:

- Support clean transport to ensure clean air, as well as setting “strict” new laws on air quality.
- Consult on the earliest date at which the phasing out of the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars can take place.
- Establish a new £500 million “Blue Planet Fund” to help protect oceans from plastic pollution, warming sea temperatures and overfishing.
- Extend the Blue Belt programme to preserve the maritime environment.

## Waste

### Conservative:

- Introduce a levy to increase the proportion of recyclable plastics in packaging, and well as introducing “extended producer responsibility.”
- Ban the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries, consulting with industry NGOs and local councils on the date by which this should be achieved.
- Crack down on waste that destroys the natural environment and kills marine life by increasing penalties for fly-tipping, making those on community sentences clean up their parks and streets.
- Introduce a deposit return scheme to incentivise people to recycle plastic and glass.

## Health and biomedicine

### Conservative:

- Make the UK the “leading hub for life sciences after Brexit.”

*(N.B. There are varying definitions of what life science encompass. The outgoing Conservative government usually restricted the definition to cover pharmaceuticals, drug development, clinical diagnostic and related areas of biotechnology)*

## Forestry

### Conservative:

- Build support for creating a Great Northumberland Forest which could reach an additional 75,000 acres of trees a year by the end of the next Parliament, and restoring peatland.

## Science and exiting the EU

### Conservative:

- Continued collaboration internationally and with the EU on scientific research including the Horizon 2020 scheme.
- Support “international collaboration and exchange” to ensure UK teams can recruit the skills and talent they need from abroad.

## Research funding and higher education policy

### Conservative:

- Reform the science funding system to “cut time wasted by scientists filling in forms.”
- Increases the science budget to “drive forward the development of technologies of critical importance to the UK.”
- Introduce a student visa to help universities attract talented young people and allow those students to stay on to apply for work here after they graduate.
- Review the interest rates on student loan repayments with a view to reducing the burden of debt on students.
- Explore ways to “tackle the problem of grade inflation” and “low-quality” courses and improve the application and offer system for undergraduate students.
- “Strengthen academic freedom and free speech” in universities and continue to “focus on raising standards.”
- Strengthen universities and colleges’ civic roles by investing in local adult education and require the Office for Students to look at universities’ success in increasing access across all ages.
- Investment in world-class computing and health data systems that can aid in research.
- Unlock long-term capital in pension funds to invest in and commercialise scientific discoveries.

## Schools education policy

**Conservative:**

- Invest an extra £14 billion in funding for schools, including at least £5,000 a year for each secondary school pupil and at least £4,000 for each primary school pupil. This also includes £780 million in new funding to support children with Special Educational Needs next year.
- Raise teachers' starting salaries to £30,000.
- Create a new "National Skills Fund" worth £3 billion over the next Parliament. A proportion of this funding will be reversed for further strategic investment in skills and the party will "consult widely" on the overall design.
- Invest £250 million into a cultural capital programme to support local libraries and regional museums.