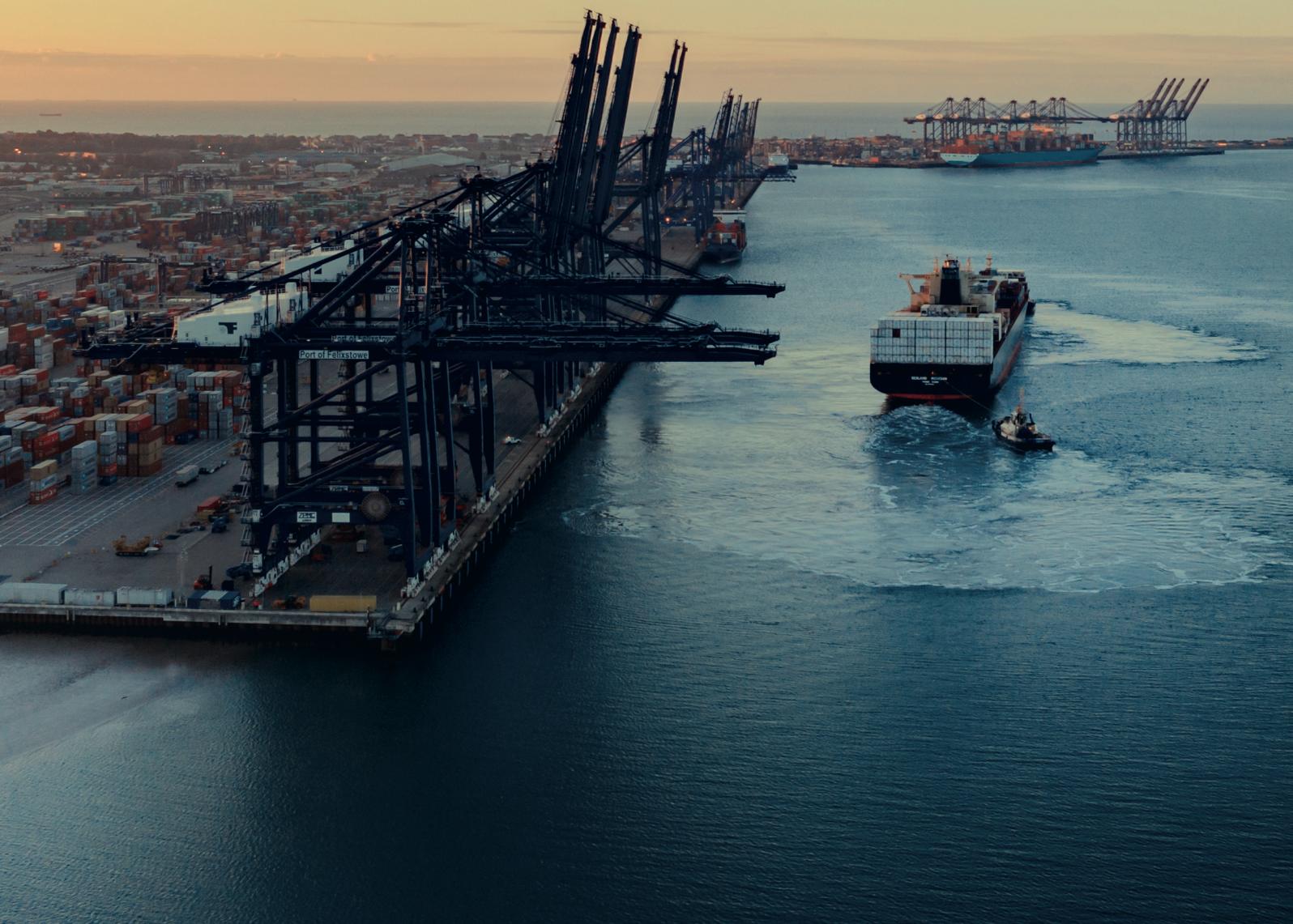


# THE BENEFITS OF BREXIT

How the UK is taking  
advantage of leaving the EU.



HM Government





HM Government

# The Benefits of Brexit: How the UK is taking advantage of leaving the EU

January 2022



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## Foreword by the Prime Minister

**On 31 January 2020 the UK left the EU. We got Brexit done to take back control, to make our own laws, and to manage our own money.**



The United Kingdom's uncoupling from the rules, regulations and institutions of Brussels was never simply about the moment of our departure; the act of Brexit was not an end in itself but the means by which our country will achieve great things.

And so that historic night two years ago marked not the final page of the story, but the start of a whole new chapter for our country, our economy and our people.

A future in which we don't sit passively outside the European Union but seize the incredible opportunities that our freedom presents and use them to build back better than ever before—making our businesses more competitive and our people more prosperous.

This paper sets out how we'll go about it. Untangling ourselves from 40 years of EU membership, keeping what works, changing what doesn't, supporting new industries, reinvigorating older ones and firmly planting the British flag on the world stage once again.

This is a hugely exciting time for our country, one filled with potential and opportunity. The bolder we are, the greater the gains will be for us all. And—as this document demonstrates—this is a government that possesses the ambition and determination the UK needs to succeed now and for many years to come.

**The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP**

## Introduction

There are a great many benefits to Brexit: control of our democracy, borders and waters; control of our own money, helping us to level up across the country; the freedom to regulate in a more proportionate and agile way that works for our great British businesses; benefits for people that put money back in their pockets, improve their rights and choices as consumers and give them access to better healthcare; the ability to shape a better environment as we achieve net zero by 2050; enhanced welfare standards for our animals; and a Britain that is truly global once again, with its own seat in international fora, reaching out and agreeing new trade deals and strategic partnerships.

Many of the benefits and the future work we set out in this document build on the work and ideas of Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP, Theresa Villiers MP and George Freeman MP and their Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform, as well as those of the numerous business groups and representative organisations who have met the Prime Minister and other Ministers across the Government and contributed their ideas.

The first section of this document sets out some of our achievements so far in these areas, the control we have gained and implemented, the laws we have changed or are in the process of changing, the further reviews of laws and policies influenced by our EU membership that we have started, the trade agreements and partnerships we have struck and are negotiating and the ways in which we have shifted our perspective from an EU-centric one to a global one.

The second section sets out how we will reform our better regulation system, review the duties of some of our regulators and review retained EU law to give us the best platform to capitalise on our regulatory freedoms for the long term. Now is also the right moment to change how we regulate, having consulted last year on changes to our Better Regulation Framework. We need the right framework to regulate for the future of our economy in an agile way and to ensure we are diverging strategically from retained EU law.

The third section sets out our vision statements for the future of policy areas, processes and sectors where we are changing our approach owing to Brexit, in the areas of: science, data and technology; business and industry; infrastructure and levelling up; climate, the environment and agriculture; and a Global Britain. This is not an exhaustive list of everything we are doing or will do in these policy areas. More detail is provided in the various strategies, green and white papers and other policy announcements the Government has made.

# Our Achievements so far

## Taking Back Control

The public voted to take back control. This Government has delivered it.

**Our objective has been to restore the UK's status as a sovereign, independent country so that we can once again determine our own future. That means changing our rules and regulations to best serve the people's priorities and returning democratic accountability to our own institutions.**

- **Ended free movement and taken back control of our borders.** In its place we have introduced a points-based immigration system, focused on skilled workers and the best global talent, with skills and salary thresholds and an English-language requirement. The UK has welcomed thousands of workers with the skills the country needs to support our domestic labour market as we build back better from the Covid pandemic, from doctors and scientists to butchers and bricklayers.
- **Restored democratic control over our lawmaking.** We gave the power to make and scrutinise the laws that apply to us back to our Parliament and the devolved Parliaments so that they are now made in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London, not Brussels.
- **Restored the UK Supreme Court as the final arbiter of the law that applies in the UK.** UK judges, sitting in UK courts, now determine the law of the land in the UK, with judgments issued in English, not French, and accessible to those who speak Welsh.
- **Made it tougher for EU criminals to enter the UK.** EU nationals sentenced to a year or more in jail will now be refused entry to the UK. Under EU free movement we had to allow some foreign criminals into the country who would otherwise have been stopped and turned away. We have now brought the rules for EU criminals who are not protected by the Withdrawal Agreement in line with other foreign criminals.
- **Ended the acceptance of ID cards for most EU nationals travelling to the UK.** Some ID cards are among the least secure documents seen at the border and are, as a rule, not as secure as corresponding national passports. We have already seen a dramatic drop in encounters of fraudulent ID cards at the border.
- **Taken back control of our waters.** The deal we struck with the EU and our new Fisheries Act allow us to chart a course once again as an independent coastal

state, bringing more quota for British fishermen and new opportunities for our coastal communities from Lerwick and Peterhead at the north-eastern end of Scotland to Brixham and Newlyn at the south-western tip of England.

- **Restored fair access to our welfare system.** We ended the preferential treatment of EU migrants over non-EU migrants, ensuring that wherever people are born, those who choose to make the UK their home pay into the system for a reasonable period of time before they can access the benefits of it.
- **Set our own tariff regime via the UK Global Tariff.** Our new UK Global Tariff is more tailored to the needs of the UK economy and denominated in pounds, not euros. We streamlined and simplified nearly 6,000 tariff lines, lowering costs for businesses by reducing administrative burdens, scrapped thousands of unnecessary tariff variations on products and expanded tariff-free trade by eliminating tariffs on a wide range of products.
- **Committed £180 million to modernise and streamline our import and export controls by creating the Single Trade Window.** This will support our ambition to make the UK the most effective border in the world by 2025 and reduce the cost of trade by streamlining trader interactions with the UK's border agencies.
- **Given UK regulators the ability and the resources to make sovereign decisions about globally significant mergers.** Decisions about globally significant mergers and acquisitions are now made by the UK's Competition and Markets Authority, giving it the ability to block or remedy mergers it considers will harm UK consumers, like S&P Global's acquisition of IHS Markit where the Competition and Markets Authority is currently putting in place remedies to address competition concerns raised by the deal.
- **Launched and are undertaking reviews of the status and substance of retained EU law.** While it was necessary in the short-term to save a lot of EU law to provide legal certainty when we left the EU, we intend to go further than the changes we have already made and to amend, replace, or repeal all the retained EU law that is not right for the UK. Our reviews are already underway and making good progress.
- **Reintroduced our iconic blue passports.** All new British passports are now blue, a return to their original appearance, with the colour first introduced in 1921, and updated to be the most technologically-advanced and secure British passports ever, with the carbon footprint from their manufacture reduced to net zero.
- **Reviewing the EU ban on imperial markings and sales.** This will give businesses and consumers more choice over the measurements they use.

Imperial units like pounds and ounces are widely valued in the UK and are a core part of many people's British identity.

- **Enabling businesses to use a crown stamp symbol on pint glasses.** The Crown Stamp is a proud emblem of our heritage that people remain fond of. We have begun the process of allowing it to be used once again, a fitting tribute to Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

## Our Money and Levelling Up

**A great part of the sovereign character of a nation is its ability to manage its own money and set its own taxes. We now have control over all aspects of our fiscal policy, the way we procure and how we grant subsidies. Free from prescriptive EU rules, we can unite and level-up the country in a way which suits our own needs.**

- **No longer paying EU Budget contributions.** Leaving the EU has meant that the UK has not had to contribute to the significant new liabilities arising from the EU's Covid response including, for the first time, the EU's borrowing of up to €750 billion between 2021–24. We have instead directed our own spending and built our own response tailored to our domestic needs including through the furlough scheme and vaccine procurement. We are able to spend our money on our domestic priorities, improving our NHS, levelling up and achieving net zero.
- **£57 billion more for our NHS.** We are spending more money on our NHS. By the 2024–2025 financial year our yearly expenditure on our NHS is projected to be £57 billion higher in cash terms than we spent in 2016–17, or over £1 billion more per week.
- **Establishing our own subsidy regime to support British businesses and innovation.** We will have greater freedom to design subsidies which deliver both local and national objectives including the economic recovery, levelling-up and net zero. For example, to support research and development, while providing certainty for business investment, supporting fair competition by preventing harmful or distortive subsidies.
- **Reforming and simplifying our public procurement rules so that the public sector can buy more local goods and services.** We have already enabled goods and services contracts below £138,760 (central government), £213,477 (sub-central authorities) and £5.3 million (construction throughout the public sector) to be reserved for UK suppliers. We are speeding up and simplifying our procurement processes, enabling us to use the £300 billion spent on public procurement each year to generate social value and unleash opportunities for small businesses, charities and social enterprises to innovate in public service delivery.
- **Delivering eight Freeports in England and at least one Freeport in each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.** Eligible businesses in our Freeports will have access to a suite of tax reliefs, simplified customs arrangements, a supportive planning environment and support to innovate. Freeports are being developed at: East Midlands Airport; Felixstowe & Harwich; Humber; Liverpool City Region; Plymouth & South Devon; Solent; Thames and Teesside. A total of

£200 million seed capital funding will be provided to support the development of these Freeports.

- **Back in control of our own VAT rates.** We used our control over our own VAT rates to immediately put an end to the tampon tax as soon as we were free from the EU law mandating it, ending VAT on women's sanitary products, helping to end period poverty.
- **Reforming our alcohol duties.** Our new alcohol duties will be simpler for businesses, with a simplified administrative regime, extend small producer reliefs, enhance the UK alcohol industry and reduce taxes for consumers on many products.
- **Reducing domestic air passenger duty.** Flights between airports in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will see a 50% reduction in air passenger duty in 2023–24, supporting the Union and enabling greater domestic tourism, by reducing the cost of air travel to and from the UK regions by around £112 million.
- **Rewriting the rules on support for places and regions to deliver on levelling up.** We can now go beyond the limitations of EU funding. We are introducing the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund, which will invest in local infrastructure projects that improve everyday life, with £1.7 billion committed in 2022–23, and will invest £2.6 billion of funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by 2025. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is the successor to EU funds that were fragmented and overlapped with domestic programmes. It will better align to our priorities.
- **Establishing new Trade and Investment Hubs in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and a second Department for International Trade headquarters in Darlington.** These hubs have been established to boost exports and bring the benefits of the Government's global trade policy to the whole of the UK. The hubs are supporting businesses with better access to major trade markets like India, the US and Japan.

## Backing our Businesses

**Brexit is also about seizing new opportunities for our businesses so that they can innovate and access new opportunities in markets around the world. The UK was the fastest growing economy in the G7 in 2021 and by maximising new opportunities to drive forward our economy, we can build on this success in 2022 and beyond.**

- **Setting out a new UK pro-competition regime for digital markets.** Our new regime will drive up competition and innovation in digital markets and rebalance the power between big tech and the businesses and consumers who rely on it. We established a new Digital Markets Unit within the Competition and Markets Authority on 7 April 2021 and will legislate to give it the powers to oversee and enforce the regime when parliamentary time allows.
- **Developing our distinctive, pro-innovation approach to artificial intelligence regulation.** Our national AI Strategy sets out a ten-year plan to make Britain a global AI superpower, unleashing growth, prosperity and social benefits for the UK.
- **Simplifying the reporting burdens for small and medium companies.** We will review the thresholds in retained EU law and the filing requirements for businesses that file micro-entity accounts with a view to reducing the reporting burden on many small companies. Micro-entities are able to prepare simpler accounts and need to send less information to Companies House. We will also explore options to enable companies to file their financial information more easily with government, instead of filing different elements of information with each department that requires it, at various times.
- **Reviewing the framework for Standard Essential Patents.** We have launched a call for views to understand how our Intellectual Property system supports British innovation and promotes competition in this area. We will exercise the flexibilities our new independence provides, delivering the maximum benefit to the British people.
- **Making Export Health Certificates digital to avoid unnecessary paperwork for businesses and speed up processes at the border.** Technical work is underway on the delivery of e-certification for export health certificates. We are in discussions with our EU partners on trialling digital Export Health Certificates this year.
- **Reforming our data laws and setting a new direction for data regulation.** Our new pro-growth data regime will be more agile and adaptable. It will help to drive growth, innovation and competition across the country and enhance the UK's

global reputation as a hub for responsible data-driven businesses, trusted by consumers to deliver high standards of data protection.

- **Reforming EU financial services regulations.** We are fulfilling our vision for an open, green and technologically advanced financial services sector, enhancing the UK's place as a leading global financial centre and setting high regulatory standards to make sure that finance acts in the interests of communities and citizens across the UK, including by providing new powers to the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.
- **Reforming the Solvency II rules to ensure the safety and soundness of insurers and to protect policyholders.** Our new rules will be more flexible and will better calibrate Risk Margin and Matching Adjustment to suit the UK's insurance market and support insurance firms to provide long-term capital to support growth.
- **Reforming our wholesale capital markets regime to ensure it works for the UK.** Areas of EU derived law are not suitable for our deep international capital markets or have not stood the test of time. We are working to deliver a fair, outcomes-based framework that supports the openness and competitiveness of our capital markets, whilst maintaining the highest regulatory standards.
- **Attracting the most innovative and successful firms and helping companies access the finance they need to grow.** We are pursuing recommendations from Lord Hill's Listings Review and conducting a fundamental review of the UK Prospectus Regime. This will enhance our position as an international destination for Initial Public Offerings and improve the capital-raising process for companies seeking to list in London, whilst maintaining the high standards of corporate governance, shareholder rights and transparency for which London is known.
- **Taking action to ensure the Payment Services legislation is fit for purpose and supports UK innovation and Open Banking.** The UK is a world-leading fintech hub and proponent of Open Banking. Since leaving the EU, the UK has already taken sovereign steps to support innovation, including the Financial Conduct Authority removing unnecessary re-authentication requirements that were posing a major barrier to Open Banking users and adoption.
- **Ensuring our iconic British products all get the recognition they deserve, through our own domestic Geographical Indication (GI) regime.** British products from Stornoway Black Pudding to Scottish Salmon, Conwy Mussels to Welsh Lamb, Armagh Bramley Apples to Lough Neagh Eels, Melton Mowbray Pork Pies to Stilton Cheese and many more, are already protected.

- **Supporting the aviation industry in the Covid pandemic.** Since Brexit, UK Ministers are able to make decisions on airline slots alleviation that are specific to the circumstances of the UK. We have used this decision-making power to support airlines' finances, protect jobs and reduce the risk of environmentally damaging ghost flights during the Covid pandemic.
- **Repealing the EU Port Services Regulation.** The UK's seaports form a competitive private sector industry. This onerous EU regulation was never fit for purpose in the context of the UK's privately operated port system. We will get rid of it so that the UK's ports can further thrive.
- **Reviewing our Product Safety Regime.** We will consult this year on changes to the EU derived framework for product safety, ensuring the UK approach to product regulation is proportionate, innovative and forward-looking. It will be controlled by UK law makers and protect consumers from unsafe goods.
- **Trialling higher weight limits for lorries and enabling the general use of longer semi-trailers on British roads.** This will improve the efficiency of the haulage sector, reduce the number of lorry journeys required and reduce vehicle emissions, helping us to achieve net zero.
- **Committed to a robust regulatory system for the control of chemicals.** In December 2021, we announced that we will explore alternative arrangements for UK REACH transitional registrations, alongside extending registration deadlines. This will support chemical businesses whilst upholding the highest standards to safeguard public health and the environment. Work on this will continue in 2022.

## Support for people and families

**New freedoms allow us to put money back into the pockets of hard-working people and families, enhance consumer rights and protections and improve education, healthcare and patient safety.**

- **Protecting consumers in the Covid pandemic.** We have allowed consumers to make more of their purchases contact-free, by raising the contactless limit to £100, which could not have been done in the EU.
- **Removing the EU's 'Vnuk' motor insurance law to prevent increased premiums for GB motorists.** The Government is supporting the Bill that Peter Bone MP is taking through Parliament that will remove the effect of the European Court of Justice's "Vnuk" judgement on motor insurance in Great Britain. The Bill achieves the Government's aim of removing the Court's extension of motor insurance to private land and a greater range of vehicles and removing the associated financial liability imposed on the Motor Insurers' Bureau. This will avoid a potential increase in insurance premiums of around £50 a year.
- **Reducing the cost of holidays in Europe.** We are extending the Tour Operators Margin Scheme VAT rules for package holiday companies selling holidays in the EU, which are now subject to a zero rate of UK VAT instead of the standard rate.
- **Reviewing Aviation Consumer Policy to improve the consumer rights of air passengers.** We will reposition the UK's approach to air passenger consumer rights, improving consumer confidence and developing trust in booking travel by consulting on additional, flexible and modern tools to enforce consumer rights.
- **Providing life-changing experiences and opportunities in education and training across the world through the Turing Scheme.** We have set up the Turing Scheme, a new international educational exchange scheme that provides funding for international opportunities in education and training across the world so that UK students, learners and pupils can experience a wider range of cultures and international education institutions.
- **Delivering modern digital services for drivers that match the public's expectations.** We will introduce digital driving licences, test certificates and MOT testing, doing away with paper test certificates and bringing MOTs into the modern age in a way that is greener and more efficient.
- **Improving the education of our children by allowing aspiring teachers from all around the world to earn Qualified Teacher Status in the UK.** We have published new International Qualified Teacher Status Standards allowing us to

attract the best and brightest aspiring teachers to the UK to help inspire the next generation.

- **Saving UK consumers money by allowing them to do more of their shopping duty free.** We have reinstated duty free shopping for all overseas destinations, including the EU and increased allowances from British ports and airports.
- **Transforming the UK's approach to clinical trials research and providing the British public with faster access to new, innovative medical treatments.** We are transforming the way we approach clinical trial research to improve the speed and efficiency of study set-up of clinical trials. And we are reforming the regulations to facilitate new innovative medical treatments reaching the UK public faster and to help ensure the UK life sciences sector leads the world and provides more skilled jobs.
- **Improving the service people receive from our NHS.** Through the Health and Care Bill currently before Parliament, we are establishing a new bespoke health procurement regime to enable our NHS to arrange healthcare services more flexibly, reducing bureaucracy and waste and enabling it to provide a better, more efficient service to the British public.
- **Improving the safety of patients.** We are developing a world-leading regulatory framework for medical devices that prioritises patient and public safety. For example, we are reviewing how devices are assessed before being placed on the market and considering strengthening the duties of manufacturers, importers and distributors.
- **Taking steps to strengthen the consumer Cannabidiol (CBD) market.** We will respond to the recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and set out how we propose to amend the law to allow for trace controlled drug content in consumer CBD products for the first time. This will help compliant businesses to enter this market and will drive companies with potentially harmful products out of it, making the market safer for consumers.

## Protecting our environment

**As an independent country, we can go further and faster than the EU to tackle climate change and meet our ambitious net zero commitments. It also means we can go further to protect our natural environment and support our farmers.**

- **Reforming the damaging, bureaucratic Common Agricultural Policy to properly reward farmers for their role as environmental stewards.** We have passed the Agriculture Act, which enables us to pay farmers and land managers for the actions they take to protect the environment and increase the welfare of their animals. We will reform our regulatory regime to one that is clear, outcome focused and proportionate, enabling farmers to deliver on our environmental and animal health and welfare ambitions.
- **Implementing a world leading framework to clean up our air and water, halt the decline in nature and cut waste.** Our world leading Environment Act sets up our new framework of environmental protections under an independent watchdog, brings nature closer to people through net gain in development and sets new legally binding targets to deliver our commitment to leave the environment in a better state.
- **Setting a Zero Emissions Vehicle mandate.** This will put the UK on a trajectory to rapidly reduce emissions in a way that works for the UK automotive sector, with the end of the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and vans by 2030 and all new cars and vans sold in the UK zero emission by 2035.
- **Using our new UK Emissions Trading Scheme to deliver net zero.** Our new UK Emissions Trading Scheme will incentivise cost-effective abatement in industry at the pace and scale required to deliver net zero, in a way which matches our ambition. In the coming months, we will consult—in partnership with the Devolved Administrations—on a net zero consistent cap for the scheme.

## Enhancing animal welfare standards

**Brexit means that we can ban cruel practices allowed under EU law, build animal welfare into our independent trade policy and call out unethical practices in international fora.**

- **Banning the export of live animals for fattening and slaughter.** Brexit enables us to ban the export of live animals for fattening and slaughter and improve the welfare of our farm animals.
- **Ending the abhorrent, cruel practice of puppy smuggling and low-welfare pet imports.** We are reducing the number of pet dogs, cats and ferrets that can be moved under the pet travel rules which apply to non-commercial movements, in order to prevent unscrupulous traders from exploiting our pet travel rules and bringing in powers to enable us to go even further to protect the welfare of our pets by introducing new import restrictions.
- **Legislating for animal sentience to ensure all government policies take account of animal welfare.** We are applying new accountability mechanisms to all government policies, with no exemptions, unlike the EU's partial and symbolic approach.
- **Building animal welfare into our independent trade policy.** We have taken global leadership, including through the inclusion of unprecedented animal welfare provisions in our free trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand. All food and drink products will continue to have to comply with our import requirements and the UK's food regulators—the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland—will continue to provide independent advice to the UK Government on food standards.
- **Using our new, independent voice in international fora to improve animal welfare.** The UK is a global leader in animal welfare. We share the British public's high regard for our high welfare standards. We will go further in our cooperation and collaboration internationally to encourage shifts worldwide towards higher-welfare forms of livestock production. We will press for World Trade Organization rules to treat animal welfare criteria as a key consideration in trade discussions and go further in our cooperation and collaboration internationally to encourage shifts worldwide towards higher-welfare forms of livestock production.

## A Global Britain

**Our departure from the EU has given us an unprecedented opportunity to forge new alliances and strengthen our partnerships around the world. The interests of the British people now lie at the heart of everything we do around the world—from our trade policy to our sanctions policy.**

- **Agreed trade deals with 70 countries plus the EU.** This includes landmark deals with close partners including Australia and Japan. We have also launched negotiations on a trade deal with India—a market of 1.4 billion people. These deals are tailor made to benefit British businesses and consumers—creating jobs and expanding choice.
- **Became a dialogue partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).** The partnership, which is the first ASEAN has agreed in 25 years, will lead to closer cooperation between the UK and the region on a range of issues such as trade, investment, climate change, the environment, science, technology and education.
- **Reaffirm our commitment to work together with the United States to realise our vision for a more peaceful and prosperous future.** The new Atlantic Charter, building on the commitments and aspirations set out eighty years ago, affirms our ongoing commitment to sustaining our enduring values and defending them against new and old challenges.
- **Retaken our seat at the World Trade Organization as an independent trading nation.** The UK is using its regained independent seat to champion World Trade Organization reform and stabilise the Multilateral Trading System, to conclude future-leaning negotiations to secure commercial benefits and opportunities for British business and to modernise trade rules in order to strengthen UK and global trade and support UK economic growth.
- **Established an independent sanctions policy.** Our new independent sanctions policy means we are more agile when deciding how and where to use sanctions, while continuing to coordinate with our international partners. The UK uses its sanctions regimes as part of an integrated approach to promote our values and interests and to combat state threats, terrorism, cyber-attacks and the use and proliferation of chemical weapons. We were the first European country to sanction the regime in Belarus and, overall, the UK imposed sanctions against 160 individuals and entities in its first full year running a fully independent UK sanctions policy.

- **Established a strategic partnership with Australia and the USA (AUKUS).** This new partnership will protect our people, strengthen our alliances with like-minded allies, deepen our ties in the Indo-Pacific. Its first initiative is collaboration on future nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy.
- **Promoting our defence exports.** Our UK Defence and Security Industrial Strategy sets the framework for a deeper, more sophisticated and strategic relationship with industry and promotes investment in the UK and defence exports. It includes a package of legislative reform, policy changes and internal transformation that will improve the speed and simplicity of procurement, provide more flexibility in how we procure and support capability and stimulate innovation and technology exploitation.
- **Began accession negotiations to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.** Accession could mean tariff-free trade for 99.9% of our exports, including cars and food and drink, while also creating new opportunities for modern industries like technology and services, ultimately supporting and creating high-value jobs across the UK.
- **Launched trade deal negotiations with India.** India is one of the world's largest and fastest growing economies. We want to slash existing barriers on UK exports to this growing market and a bold new deal would put UK businesses at the front of the queue to supply India's growing middle class.
- **Deployed the UK's Carrier Strike Group, led by HMS Queen Elizabeth to the Bay of Bengal.** This was a powerful demonstration of the UK-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, agreed in May 2021, and the UK's commitment to deepening its diplomatic, economic and security-based ties in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Agreed more ambitious provisions for digital trade.** The UK is agreeing ground-breaking digital provisions in new trade deals, including in our trade deal with Japan and the Digital Economy Agreement we have agreed with Singapore. We are leading on tackling protectionism in online trade internationally, to the benefit of UK businesses and consumers. Advancing digital trade could also help to boost wages in the UK, with employees in the digital sector earning around 50% more than the UK average.
- **Launched our ambitious Export Strategy to support British businesses exporting globally.** Our 12-point Export Strategy, 'Made in the UK, Sold to the World' provides businesses with the tools they need to become a nation of exporters and reap the benefits of our free trade deals. The 'Race to £1 trillion' worth of exports per year by the end of this decade means more jobs, more opportunities and higher wages, helping to level up the UK and build back better.

- **Continuing UK Export Finance mission.** UK Export Finance's mission is to ensure no viable UK export fails for lack of finance or insurance, while operating at no net cost to the taxpayer. In 2020–21 UK Export Finance provided £12.3 billion in support for UK exports, providing direct support to 549 businesses, in addition to thousands in their supply chains. SMEs made up 79% of the companies seeking UK Export Finance's direct support for finance and insurance. In providing support to businesses, UK Export Finance has created or maintained around 107,000 UK jobs in 2020–2021.
- **Defending UK economic interests.** We created the Trade Remedies Authority to help defend UK economic interests by investigating complaints from UK industries about unfair trading practices and unforeseen surges in imports. It can recommend the imposition of new trade remedy measures, such as tariffs, to stop injury to UK producers harmed by the unfair trading practices.

# The Best Regulated Economy in the World

**Our regulatory system is recognised globally. We want to raise the bar even higher as we embrace our new found freedoms outside of the EU and position ourselves as a global hub for innovation and a science and technology superpower.**

We now have regulatory freedom in far more areas of law than we did before Brexit. While we have achieved a lot already, including major changes to policy and legislation and launching significant reviews in even more areas, we need to make sure that our regulatory system is set up in the right way for future changes. This will enable us to take full advantage of our new freedom and make us the best regulated economy in the world. And we need to comprehensively review and assess the EU law we retained to make sure it is right for the UK.

**There are two core ways we will do this:**

- **A renewed regulatory framework, based on our principles for regulation.** We will deliver an improved regulatory system, nesting the reforms that we are introducing under the Government's five regulatory principles. Poorly designed regulations can stifle economic growth and innovation, limit market competition and disproportionately harm small businesses. But when done well and in collaboration with business, regulation can catalyse economic growth and the co-creation of new markets. The steps we are taking, including through improved regulatory scrutiny and evaluation of impacts, will help ensure that where regulation is used it is a force for good for the UK economy.
- **Our Retained EU Law Reviews.** We are taking steps to ensure that any retained EU law on the UK statute book meets the UK's priorities for unlocking growth and is tailored for the UK market. Our intent is to amend, replace, or repeal all the retained EU law that is not right for the UK. We are also setting an ambitious target to benefit businesses by cutting EU red tape.

## Making the most of our regulatory freedoms

### **The UK will use its regulatory freedoms to become the best regulated advanced economy in the world.**

We now have the opportunity to set ourselves apart and deliver bespoke UK-orientated regulation that is primarily focused on delivering growth, innovation and competition while minimising burdens on business.

Brexit allows us to deliver this new approach across all areas of our economy for the benefit of all parts of the UK. Made well, regulation can provide markets with a framework to operate, grow and innovate within. But all too often regulation is produced with inflexible rules, heavy compliance costs and enforcement that has not kept pace with modern times. When making regulation, we and our independent regulators must always remember that the way we make and enforce regulation can directly impact how our economy functions, the success of our businesses and the welfare of consumers.

Freedom from the EU gives us the ability to supercharge the sectors where we already have competitive advantage, driving economic growth, unleashing investment and creating jobs.

The Government is committed to building on our international competitiveness in sectors such as financial services and fintech, automotive, digital, green energy and the creative industries. Regulation is an important tool in doing this.

Better regulations, co-created with businesses, will also benefit the future industries where we can build new competitive advantages and set our economy apart. We will provide flexible frameworks and rules created in collaboration with these sectors, bear down on compliance costs and ensure enforcement is modernised and joined up. The rules we set will be outcomes-focused and proportionate with the clear objective of delivering growth and innovation. Our regulation will be built for new entrants and incumbents alike and ensure SMEs are protected from the most burdensome obligations. Rules will be proportionate to the real or likely harms, not precautionary and risk averse, except in areas where it is justified, like protecting the environment.

Within government, we are changing the checks and balances on new regulatory initiatives with our response to the consultation on Reforming the Framework for Better Regulation which has been set out below. This will ensure we can apply this approach to new regulatory initiatives and deliver the economic benefits of better regulation. A summary of responses to the consultation has been published alongside this document.

## Our principles for regulation

**In our Plan for Growth, we set out how our approach to regulation is changing to focus primarily on delivering growth and innovation. The Plan for Growth set out four objectives for the UK's approach to regulatory reform: unlocking cutting-edge technologies; modernising our approach; cutting red tape and minimising burdens; and boosting competition.**

**In support of these objectives, the Government has set out five new regulatory principles:**

- 1. A sovereign approach.** We will use our new freedoms to follow a distinctive approach based on UK law, protected by independent UK regulators and designed to strengthen UK markets.
- 2. Leading from the front.** We will focus on the future, shaping and supporting the development of new technologies and creating new markets. We will use our new freedom to act quickly and nimbly and we will pursue high-quality regulation because it leads to better markets.
- 3. Proportionality.** Where markets achieve the best outcomes, we will let them move freely and dynamically. We will pursue non-regulatory options where we can. When strong rules are required to achieve the best outcomes, we will act decisively to put them in place and enforce them vigorously.
- 4. Recognising what works.** We will thoroughly analyse our interventions based on the outcomes they produce in the real world and where regulation does not achieve its objectives or does so at unacceptable cost, we will ensure it is revised or removed.
- 5. Setting high standards at home and globally.** We will set high standards at home and engage in robust regulatory diplomacy across the world, leading in multilateral settings, influencing the decisions of others and helping to solve problems that require a global approach.

We will be guided by these five principles in our approach to regulation. We have set this out in more detail in the sections below. Regulation that places the interests of UK businesses and consumers front and centre will help us build back better and level up. Regulation that keeps pace with invention and innovation can catalyse our high-growth sectors and boost the vitality of UK research. Predictable and proportionate regulation can further improve the stability of our business environment, giving companies the certainty they need to invest and grow. Now that the UK has left the EU, we can implement regulations that work better for the UK and we can move in a more agile way than the EU,

while maintaining the high standards that the UK has consistently championed. In doing these things using our newfound control of our laws, good UK regulation will encourage investment, leading to higher productivity and prosperity. And our status outside the EU means we have a new platform to effectively influence global approaches.

## A sovereign approach

**Our regulatory approach will be tailored to maximise benefits to the UK economy by supporting businesses and consumers and spurring economic growth. We will drive this forward through:**

- **Diverging from the EU in certain areas to give UK businesses a competitive advantage.** The UK no longer has to align with the EU on regulatory decisions, we are free to diverge and forge our own path, with the choice to adopt or remove regulation—where it is deemed beneficial—to serve our country and its industries best. We will diverge strategically across key sectors to help us to reach our key objectives at a quicker pace.
- **Our review of Retained EU Legislation.** Our review of Retained EU Legislation will enable the repeal or replacement of any regulation that does not work in the interest of the UK or could be made to better align with our priorities.
- **A more holistic and efficient approach.** We will take a more holistic and efficient approach to the conditions under which we scrutinise regulation, ensuring that any regulation that passes through the system aligns with UK interests. This will include, for example, basing our assessments of regulation and our scrutiny decisions on criteria and metrics that underpin the UK economy: the impacts of regulation on consumers, businesses, barriers to entry and international trade, innovation and delivering on our net zero ambitions. We also recognise that poorly designed regulation can be burdensome to the small and entrepreneurial businesses that are the foundation of our economy. The improvements that we are making to the rigour with which we scrutinise regulation will help ensure that businesses do not have to struggle through a thicket of burdensome and restrictive regulations.
- **Ensuring our regulators have the right powers and duties.** We are also reviewing how the power, discretion and accountability awarded to some of our independent regulators can best serve the UK's interests. For example, as our economic regulators have evolved, there has been divergence in their objectives and our regulatory system could benefit from improving the consistency of these regulators' obligations and duties in some areas—including through consideration of wider economic impacts such as growth, competition and innovation. Regulators should work collaboratively with businesses to ensure there is a clear feedback loop between the regulated and the regulators. This collaborative approach will also help in ensuring that any costs to business are minimised. We need to make sure regulators have the right powers and duties to enable this.
- **Our Economic Regulation Policy Paper.** As a first step, today, we are publishing *Our Economic Regulation Policy Paper* that sets out a package of commitments to

provide greater certainty to investors and consumers in the energy, water and communications sectors, through improvements to the UK's approach to economic regulation. Building on recommendations from the National Infrastructure Commission and in line with the commitment in our National Infrastructure Strategy, it sets a course to enhance the strengths of our system of economic regulation while making the changes needed to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. This includes ensuring that the regulators' duties allow them to meet systemic challenges such as Net Zero; providing strategic clarity on our long-term aims for the economy and specific sectors; how competition for strategic investment opportunities can be enhanced for the long-term benefit of consumers and investors; and how transparency and consistency in key processes like calculating the weighted average cost of capital can be improved.

## Leading from the front

**The UK already has some of the best regulation in the world. We will drive an approach to regulation that supports innovation and delivers competitive advantage to the UK economy. We will do this through a number of channels:**

- **Outcome-focussed, experimental regulators.** We will encourage bold, outcome-focused and experimental activity from regulators, who will work collaboratively with businesses, for example using test-beds and sandboxes to support innovation and the co-creation of future industries.
- **Our regulatory system will strengthen and support the UK's position as a global science and technology superpower.** We will actively collaborate with businesses and institutions to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution—including the advancement of robotics and artificial intelligence—to unleash innovation at an unprecedented pace, benefit UK citizens and catalyse our economic growth. This will allow us to build back better and level up across the economy.
- **We will embrace new technologies.** Whilst at times the Government needs to guard against risks from new technologies, we must not miss out on the benefits of these technologies by being too cautious. For example, cutting-edge medical technology promises significant benefits with improved health outcomes and it is therefore a high priority that it is regulated properly, allowing rapid and safe deployment—such as with Covid-19 vaccines. Our regulatory system will recognise that not every potential harm of an emerging technology turns into an actual harm of an established technology, while continuing to place the protection of consumers at the forefront of decision-making.

## Proportionality

**New regulations must be proportionate to the outcome they are trying to achieve. Our approach to regulation will seek to achieve this in the following ways:**

- **Regulation to support businesses, not burden them.** We will keep the administrative costs of complying with regulation as low as possible. We recognise the particular importance of this for the small and innovative businesses that underpin our economy.
- **Regulation only where absolutely necessary.** We will also improve our regulatory framework so that we are only pursuing regulation where absolutely necessary and where it is likely to be the most impactful intervention. This means making the best use of alternatives to regulation and pursuing these as far as possible. Under these plans we will introduce independent scrutiny earlier in the process of developing new regulation, asking government departments to provide a clear justification of their decision to pursue regulatory options. To help departments to fully consider alternatives to regulation they will be required to engage with the alternatives team in the Better Regulation Executive, who will offer support ranging from sign-posting to examples of best practice to bespoke support as needed.
- **Regulators will work collaboratively with industry to identify issues and target measures to address them.** Compliance and enforcement approaches must be similarly proportionate, with open communication channels to support a culture of information sharing between industry and regulator. We want to drive a culture of constant improvement, through collaboration between regulators, regulated businesses and other stakeholders. Trust between the regulator and business will be underpinned by data and information sharing.
- **A government target to cut £1 billion of business costs from retained EU red tape.** Alongside these channels, we also want to take steps to ensure that our existing stock of regulation is proportionate, not imposing unnecessary costs on businesses and benefitting the UK economy as a whole. For example, we remain committed to reducing the burden of retained EU law which was not previously in scope of previous government targets to reduce regulation. We are therefore announcing a government target to cut £1 billion of business costs from retained EU red tape.

The Government also considered further measures, such as reintroducing a one-in-two-out rule. While there are many merits to such a rule, including the galvanising force it will create across government and regulators, we do not think it is consistent with delivering world-class regulation to support the economy in adapting to a new wave of technological revolution or to achieving net zero.

## Recognising what works

**We want to ensure that, where regulation is used, it is delivering on the intended outcomes and not imposing unnecessary burden on businesses or consumers. We will therefore take the following steps:**

- **More emphasis on evaluation.** We are placing a stronger emphasis on the use of evaluation, to ensure that regulation remains relevant and proportionate. As part of our earlier scrutiny process, we will ask departments to share their criteria for subsequently judging whether a regulatory intervention has been successful and to set out a proportionate plan for evaluating their regulation.
- **Reviewing regulations at the right time.** The time period for completing post-implementation reviews of regulation will be proportionate to the impacts of the regulation in question and the availability of evidence. If this information is not provided, a review will take place two years post-implementation, with findings published in the third year. We will ensure that the system encourages best practice in the evaluation of regulations, for example by encouraging departments to review related regulations as a group.
- **Greater accountability.** We will also do more to hold departments to account on timely completion of post implementation reviews. Where departments do not complete reviews on time, any new regulatory proposals will face additional scrutiny to ensure they are necessary and effective. This will help ensure that where regulation is not achieving its objectives or is achieving its objectives at unacceptable cost, it can be removed or revised to improve its operation or lower its administrative burdens.
- **Reformed Impact Assessments.** As we improve the rigour with which we scrutinise and assess the impacts of regulation using our more holistic approach, we will remove the Business Impact Target in its current form, which focuses too narrowly on net direct costs to business. To ensure a smooth transition, there will be another year of reporting under the Business Impact Target while the Government works on the replacement metrics and assessment. As part of this drive for a more rigorous approach, we will also reform the impact assessment that government departments complete to explain their rationale for regulating and ensure that they succinctly and accessibly capture key information.
- **Use of sunset clauses and Legislative Reform Orders.** We will provide guidance to departments on the use of sunset clauses in regulations and Legislative Reform Orders, including when they should be used, as well as the kinds of regulation for which sunset clauses and Legislative Reform Orders are unlikely to be appropriate.

## Setting high standards at home and globally

**We will engage in robust regulatory diplomacy across the world, leading in multilateral settings, influencing the decisions of others and helping to solve problems that require a global approach. This will involve:**

- **Bringing together governments, standards bodies and industry to influence rules, norms and standards.** In particular we will do this in rapidly evolving areas such as space, cyberspace, emerging technologies and data.
- **Focusing our regulatory diplomacy.** We will focus our regulatory diplomacy on the areas that most affect our long-term strategic advantage, economic security and competitiveness, core values and security in support of UK business and citizens now and in the future.
- **Working with a wide range of partners.** This will include technology companies, independent standards bodies, civil society and academia—across an increasing number of specialised international institutions.

The Government's Plan for Growth and the digital and national data strategies will be core planks of this effort, supported by the pro-growth, pro-innovation regulatory reforms set out in the white paper on regulation for the fourth industrial revolution.

We will ensure that, in new and exciting areas with significant innovation such as digital markets, artificial intelligence, gene editing, cultivated meats and autonomous vehicles, we will deliver a distinct regulatory framework that provides an economic advantage.

We will apply these principles when setting out the rules of regulation; in our approach to ensuring compliance; and when taking enforcement action, when rules are found to be breached.

## Retained EU Law

### **Our intent is to amend, replace, or repeal all the retained EU law that is not right for the UK.**

As a condition of membership, the UK was required to abide by EU law, giving up its sovereignty and the ability to set rules that diverged from the EU. These laws were implemented into the UK legal system during our EU membership, through the European Communities Act 1972 and other legislation.

To ensure continuity and certainty immediately after Brexit, the UK transferred this EU legislation and EU case law and principles into UK law as retained EU law, through the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

We never intended for these retained EU laws to stay on the statute book without review. EU rules were often agreed as a result of compromise between the different regulatory approaches from 28 countries, with UK ambitions often levelled down and simplified to reach agreement. Now we have taken back control of these rules and regulations, there are two key priorities:

- **Reviewing retained EU law to meet the UK's priorities.** We must look carefully for aspects of retained EU law where the Government should prioritise reform, such as those referred to in the *'Achievements So Far'* section. We have already begun a process of reviewing them to make sure they meet the UK's priorities for unlocking growth and are tailor-made for the UK market.
- **Allowing changes to be made to retained EU law more easily.** There needs to be a specific approach to allow changes to be made to retained EU law more easily. Currently, many changes to these retained EU laws require primary legislation, even if amending technical details that would more usually sit in domestic secondary legislation—for example, certain energy performance certificates are in retained EU law and require primary legislation to change. This means that any changes to this, or other retained EU law, will take a lot longer to deliver, even if minor or technical in nature. The pipeline of primary legislation would dominate the legislative agenda for several Parliaments, reducing the ability to deliver more fundamental domestic reforms. We are determined to maximise the opportunities of Brexit and to rebuild the economy as we emerge from the Covid pandemic. We cannot delay much needed regulatory change, or risk baking in outdated EU law.

## Accelerating and prioritising reform

**The Government will now prioritise areas where reform of retained EU law can deliver the greatest economic gain.**

Building on the legislative mapping completed to prepare the statute book for Brexit, the review into the substance of retained EU law is working with departments to deliver an authoritative assessment of where retained EU law is concentrated on the statute book and across sectors of our economy. Once all retained EU law has been categorised, we will make this catalogue public and any subsequent changes to retained EU law accessible. The public has a right to know where EU-derived law is still on the UK statute book. The public will be able to track government's progress as we reform retained EU law.

In addition, as set out above, the Government will cut £1 billion of business costs from retained EU red tape and the Prime Minister will regularly check progress against this target.

## Amending retained EU law

**We are reviewing the status and technical operation of retained EU law to put it on a more agile footing going forward.**

As well as reviewing the substance of retained EU law, the Cabinet Office is also reviewing its status and technical operation, to put retained EU law on a more sustainable footing going forward. The Ministry of Justice has an interest in how this may affect the operation of courts and tribunals. The review also may have constitutional implications regarding the role of retained EU law, which would be the purview of the Attorney General's Office.

Our intention is to ensure that this foreign-derived body of law has the appropriate status given that we are no longer a member of the EU. The review will address a number of important legal issues. First, we are considering revising the status of certain types of retained EU law for the purposes of amendment. This will normalise such retained EU law in UK domestic law and will make it easier to repeal or replace.

Accompanying this, we are considering the utility of a power that would enable the amendment of retained EU law for certain purposes. For over 40 years, the European Communities Act 1972 provided a mechanism for automatically giving effect to thousands of EU Regulations without further implementation by the UK legislature. In addition, a large number of EU laws were implemented using the powers in section 2(2) of the 1972 Act. In order to ensure legislative continuity as the UK left the European Union, EU measures were preserved onto the UK statute book. Many of these retained laws, including those containing technical detail, are afforded the status of primary legislation for the purposes of amendment. As Parliament has so many substantial policy questions to consider, the Government considers it not a good use of finite Parliamentary time to require primary legislation to amend all of these rules. A targeted power would provide a mechanism to allow retained EU law to be amended in a more sustainable way to deliver the UK's regulatory, economic and environmental priorities.

Second, we are looking at how to remove the continued effect of supremacy of EU law over domestic law which was made before the end of the transition period. Such a change will allow Parliament to more clearly define the relationship between retained EU law and UK law. We are considering what might be the most appropriate relationship between these two bodies of law in light of the need to promote legal certainty and whether any ancillary powers will be required for the courts for these purposes. This will provide an opportunity to consider creating a bespoke rule that would address cases where retained EU law came into conflict with domestic law, that had the benefit of specific authorisation by Parliament.

In addition, we are considering how other features of retained EU law should be treated in the future. This includes whether we should retain directly effective EU rights that overlap

with existing domestic law rights; the extent to which domestic courts should follow historic decisions of the EU courts; the role of the general principles of EU law in relation to retained EU law; and how to remove retained EU law where it is declared invalid by the EU courts.

We will bring forward legislation that will clarify the status and operation of retained EU law, with the aim of ensuring that retained EU measures can be amended in a proportionate and sensible way. We plan to simplify the complex status provisions that apply to retained EU law. Legislation could make any further changes as recommended by the retained EU law status review, as discussed above.

To ensure that we swiftly maximise the opportunities of Brexit across the economy, we plan to create new powers to amend retained EU law by way of domestic secondary legislation, where appropriate, to ensure that key industries do not wait decades for simplified, agile regulation. We will work with Parliament on how to frame such a power and ensure its use has the appropriate levels of parliamentary scrutiny.

However, different approaches may be necessary for different sectors of the economy. For example, HM Treasury is developing specific proposals to rationalise and streamline retained EU law under its Future Regulatory Framework Review. The Government published a consultation on 9 November 2021 setting out its proposals and seeking views. This includes proposals to repeal a significant volume of retained EU law relating to financial services, so that the financial services regulators can take responsibility for making the appropriate rules in these areas.

In time, we will amend, replace, or repeal all retained EU law that is not right for the UK. The review into the status of retained EU law aims to provide the mechanisms to make that possible.

The UK Government is working jointly with the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to develop UK Common Frameworks. Common Frameworks ensure a common approach is taken where powers and law have returned from the EU which intersect with policy areas that fall within devolved competence. Some reviews and proposals will fall within the policy areas and retained EU law covered by these frameworks. We have not highlighted each instance where this is the case, but we will continue to work jointly with the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive through the Common Frameworks programme in the development of policy proposals where appropriate. The Government is committed to the proper use of Common Frameworks and will not seek to make changes to retained EU law within Common Frameworks' without following the ministerially-agreed processes in each framework.

# A World of Future Opportunities

**Brexit has given the UK a world of future opportunities.**

The following sections set out our vision statements for the future of policy areas, processes and sectors where we are changing our approach owing to Brexit, in the areas of: data, science and technology; business and industry; infrastructure and levelling up; climate, the environment and agriculture; and a Global Britain.

**Data, Science and Technology.** Across research and development and emerging technologies like quantum computing, Brexit has given us control over how we spend our money to better invest in innovation. In the digital economy we are able to make changes to EU law on data and move in a more agile way to regulate new digital markets and AI, taking a different approach to the one the EU is taking. In our use of technology and data in trade we have the ability to take a global approach, aligned to our independent trade policy, reaching agreements with more countries around the world. Online, in cyber security and in the security of connected products, we can move with more agility and implement proposals ahead of related ones being developed by the EU. In the life sciences, we are able to take a different approach by amending retained EU law and through our own independent regulators, improving clinical trials and patient safety.

**Business and Industry.** In financial services we have an ambitious programme of reform in areas previously regulated by the EU and can take a more global approach. In professional business services, we can reform retained EU law and take a tailored, non-EU-centric approach to the recognition of professional qualifications. In legal services, we will be able, through our trade deals and other international agreements, to take better advantage of international markets. There are new opportunities to set regulations for zero emission vehicles in the automotive sector and new autonomous flight vehicles in the aerospace sector. Our new domestic subsidy control regime will allow us to better support the UK economy. In consumer and retail goods and in hospitality we can now take a more global approach to exporting and to our talent pipeline having ended free movement. In food and drink, we are taking a new approach in areas that were formerly regulated by the EU—for instance in the regulation of novel foods and wine. In culture we are able to depart from EU regulations and take a more global approach to our cultural exports. Across all sectors, we will continue to support SMEs to achieve their potential through less burdensome regulation, improving access to finance, and support for exporters.

**Infrastructure and Levelling Up.** In transport we are able to take a different approach moving faster to regulate for the future of transport than the EU will. We have set the regulatory tone for Space and will strike more agreements with more countries internationally. We can change regulations that were previously set by the EU in aviation, rail road and maritime. We now have our own regulator for nuclear safeguards. We can change rules that apply to the housing and construction sectors. We can simplify

processes, including for subsidies and procurement, and will have more freedom over how we spend our money to support local and regional growth, helping to level up the country. We can take a more global approach to education. We can change EU-derived laws to improve our public health.

**Climate, the Environment and Agriculture.** We can do more to achieve net zero, including internationally, and will be able to do so in a way that is best suited to the UK. An estimated 80% of our environmental regulation came from the EU, we can now reform it to deliver cleaner air, create new habitats and reduce waste in a more tailored manner. We are outside the Common Agricultural Policy and taking a new approach to supporting our farmers. We have control over our waters, outside of the Common Fisheries Policy and are taking a new approach to marine management. We can go further than the EU on animal welfare, setting higher standards than those under EU law and doing more internationally through our independent trade policy and voice in international fora.

**Global Britain.** We now have control over our customs and border processes and are using that control to make the UK border the best in the world. We have control over our migration policy and have ended EU free movement replacing it with a points-based immigration system. We are free to negotiate our own trade deals around the world, tailored to our country. We are asserting our international voice with our own independent seat in international fora and the ability to move faster than the EU and go further without the need to reach consensus first.

We will go further, faster and forward to achieve our vision for the UK in these areas, building on what we have already achieved. In some cases this will mean changes to our regulations, legislative frameworks and processes where we were previously constrained by EU law, or where we can take a different approach to one the EU is set to adopt in future; in some cases it will mean making our own decisions on how we spend our money now that we have control over it; and in some cases it will mean exercising our new found sovereignty in our trading relationships, our international relations and our immigration policy.

# Science, Data & Technology

## Research and Development

**A science superpower by 2030, building the industries of tomorrow and delivering economic growth and societal benefits for decades to come.**

Britain has a proud history of innovation, with home-grown inventions spanning from the humble bicycle to the lightbulb. We were home to the world's first national DNA database, we discovered graphene and our cutting-edge scientists should be proud to follow in the footsteps of titans like Ada Lovelace and Nobel Laureates Francis Crick and Peter Higgs.

This Government has placed research, development and innovation at the heart of its vision for the UK and declared its intent to make the UK a science superpower by 2030 and a global hub for innovation by 2035. Our emphasis on science and technology will build the foundations for the new industries of tomorrow and deliver economic growth and societal benefits across the UK for decades to come. Research and development is a fundamental part of our Plan for Growth and a key component of building back better. Post-Brexit we have a new, less-bureaucratic mindset and more willingness to undertake high-risk, high-reward research and we have increased our research and development funding to record levels.

### How we will achieve our vision

**Record levels of research and development funding and a world-class research and development ecosystem.** We are investing record levels of funding in research and development, with public spending on research and development rising to £20 billion in 2024–25. This increase of over £5 billion per annum will cement the UK's position as a global science and technology superpower. We are creating a world-class research and development ecosystem, including by establishing the UK Advanced Research and Invention Agency and commissioning of independent reviews of research bureaucracy, UK Research and Investment and the research, development and innovation organisational landscape to secure a UK research system that is fit for the future. The UK Advanced Research and Invention Agency will operate with minimal bureaucracy and with autonomy from government, empowering the world's most brilliant and innovative minds to solve some of our most pressing challenges and undertaking high-risk, high-reward research.

**Implementing our Innovation Strategy.** We have set out and are implementing our Innovation Strategy, which established the Government's vision to make the UK a global hub for innovation by 2035. Implementing our strategy will create the conditions for the private sector to invest in innovation—helping achieve our target of 2.4% of GDP being invested in research and development across the public and private sectors.

**Attracting, developing and retaining the brightest talent.** We are implementing the Research and Development People and Culture Strategy which set out how the UK will attract, develop and retain talented people within research and innovation and develop the research workforce it needs and make the UK the most exciting place for innovation and research talent. Top scientists will be encouraged to move to the UK under our new immigration rules, with a fast-track immigration route to attract elite researchers and specialists in science, engineering and technology, from maths Olympiads at the very start of their careers to the winners of internationally recognised prizes and fellowships.

**Designing and implementing our Life Sciences Vision.** Our Life Sciences Vision is a 10-year strategy representing partnership between government, the life sciences sector and the NHS. It identifies seven great healthcare missions: Cancer, Dementia, Mental Health, Obesity, Ageing, Respiratory Disease and Vaccines, which government, industry, the NHS, academia and medical research charities will work together to solve at speed.

## Quantum Technologies

### **The UK as a global leader in quantum science and technology and a sustainable and diverse hub of quantum innovation.**

Quantum technologies can drive innovation and could help solve some of the biggest challenges of tomorrow. Quantum, photonics and electronics is one of the seven key technology families highlighted in our Innovation Strategy that will help tackle the challenges of the future. For example, quantum computers are expected to support an environmentally sustainable society by simulating new materials, leading to outcomes such as improved battery efficiencies or solar cells, and drive down drug development timelines and costs.

The UK has a unique global position in quantum technologies and we are determined to put ourselves at the forefront of efforts to take advantage of this post-Brexit. Since 2014 the UK Government has been supporting research in quantum through the National Quantum Technologies Programme. This programme has developed world leading strengths in quantum science and technology development by bringing together researchers, businesses and government. The Government's Commercialising Quantum Technologies Challenge, led by Innovate UK, has been a big catalyst in helping UK businesses and research organisations to partner and create commercial products and services at an early stage.

Today the UK has one of the largest, most innovative groups of quantum start-ups anywhere in the world, with a highly engaged user community. McKinsey recently reported that the UK is second only to the US in the scale of private investment in quantum technology companies over the last 20 years, attracting more private investment than the entire EU.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A new UK Quantum Strategy.** We are announcing the development of a new UK Quantum Strategy to be published later this year. We want to see the UK evolve into a sustainable and diverse hub of quantum innovation in the coming years and our new strategy will set out a plan for how we can achieve this. In line with the pillars of the UK's Innovation Strategy, the Quantum Strategy will focus on supporting early-stage, innovative businesses; making the UK the most attractive place for global quantum talent; and making sure that our research and development institutions support businesses across the UK. We will also look to run missions to tackle major societal challenges using quantum technologies. We will expand our centres of regional strength in the UK—the photonics and quantum cluster in Scotland, the advanced semiconductor and manufacturing cluster in South Wales and academic centres of excellence in Bristol, London, Oxford, Cambridge and elsewhere.

**Working with the quantum sector.** We want the views of the community to influence our quantum strategy. This is an opportunity to work together to set the trajectory for quantum in the UK for the coming decade. Events for the UK's quantum community will be held in the coming weeks to dig deeper into the objectives and challenges of the strategy and we will issue a call for evidence to ask for views and inform the development of the strategy. We will seek views on: the strategy's vision and objectives; the UK innovation system for quantum; the UK skills pipeline; how we regulate quantum technologies in the future; and how we support the adoption of quantum technologies.

**Building on recent successes within the UK quantum sector.** Our Strategy will build on recent successes within the UK quantum sector, building on the UK's position of global strength in quantum science and technology, created by the national quantum programme and the emerging sector. There have been many early successes in commercialising quantum technologies supported through the programme, from the development of quantum-enabled imaging cameras to visualise industrial gas leaks, to wearable brain imagers that are now installed in hospitals. In September 2021 the ground-breaking ceremony took place for the new National Quantum Computing Centre in Oxfordshire. The Centre will work closely with the unique quantum computing start-up and user community that we have in the UK. It will provide a top-class environment for quantum technology to flourish in the UK. The Centre has already announced partnerships with UK companies Riverlane and Oxford Quantum Circuits to provide access to hardware and software services to the wider UK community.

## Digital Economy

### **An innovation-friendly hub for responsible data-driven business using artificial intelligence to transform our economy and improve people's lives.**

The UK's digital economy is thriving, with £26 billion invested in UK tech in 2021, 35% of the total investment in tech across Europe this year. The number of UK tech Unicorns also grew significantly last year, seeing an additional 29 companies valued at over \$1 billion.

Over £83 billion worth of UK exports to our 2022 priority countries, the USA, Australia, Dubai International Finance Centre, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Columbia, are underpinned by data flows. We want to make the UK an innovation-friendly hub for responsible data-driven business that respects high standards of data protection. Removing barriers to those data flows will boost trade, investment and scientific and technological innovation. It will strengthen our security partnerships and support development around the world.

Brexit provides a significant opportunity to drive growth and innovation further, supercharging the digital economy cementing the UK's position as a global tech hub. We are now writing our own rule book for digital technologies, one that encourages growth and innovation, while protecting businesses and consumers against the most serious downsides of tech.

We are taking a pro-innovation approach, which will be more agile and lighter-touch than the approach taken by the EU. We set out the details of our approach in our Plan for Digital Regulation last summer.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A pro-growth and innovation-friendly data protection regime.** We will create an ambitious, pro-growth and innovation-friendly UK data protection regime that underpins the trustworthy use of data and supports our science and tech ecosystem. We will ensure the UK has agile and adaptable data protection laws that enhance its global reputation as a hub for responsible data-driven business that respects high standards of data protection. We are reshaping our approach to the regulation of data to secure an even better data protection regime that will help to drive growth, innovation and competition across the UK. UK Government consulted in the autumn on proposals that seek to create an ambitious, pro-growth and innovation-friendly UK data protection regime that underpins the trustworthy use of data. The Government will be publishing its response in Spring this year ahead of introducing legislation on reforms to the UK's data protection regime.

**A pro-competition regime for digital markets.** The UK's new pro-competition regime for digital markets will help to deliver a more innovative and fairer digital economy in the

interests of consumers and businesses. It will drive competition between digital firms and open up opportunities for innovative start-ups to compete with incumbents. This will result in better quality services, greater choice and lower prices. The UK's approach will be future-proofed and targeted towards the firms and activities where the risk of harm is greatest. Our regime represents a more flexible and targeted approach than the one being taken by the EU. Our proposals ensure obligations are tailored to individual firms and activities, which has generally been favoured by stakeholders. We launched a consultation in July 2021. We are now considering the response to the consultation and will legislate for the new regime when parliamentary time allows.

**Transforming our economy with AI and improving people's lives.** We are bringing forward reforms that strengthen the UK's Artificial Intelligence sector and drive prosperity across the whole of the UK, while building trust in the use of AI. We will build on our existing strengths in AI by designing a regulatory approach with innovation at its heart. As AI is a developing field, we will ensure a balanced approach, delivering against the opportunities offered while carefully managing risk. We will look to the specific applications of AI to avoid the mistakes of the past, where overregulation stifled new ideas and hamstrung innovation. The UK has demonstrated that where we can achieve a proportionate and balanced regulatory approach, the UK can become a world leader in new technologies. We will ensure we have the right rules and regulations for AI and direct its development in a responsible way. By providing clarity about how the UK expects to govern AI we will provide greater certainty to business, helping them to innovate and enable AI developers to continue to transform our economy with confidence.

## Digital Technology in Trade

### **Driving forward the global precedent on the use of digital technology and data in trade.**

We will continue to drive forward global precedent on digital technology and data in trade, leveraging the opportunities presented through agreements with like-minded partners to further increase the £207 billion worth of digitally-delivered services the UK exported in 2019.

The UK recently convened international leaders at the Future Tech Forum in December. Attendees committed to continuing an open and inclusive dialogue, bringing-in democratic partners from across the globe, to ensure that future technologies are inclusive, safe and competitive for all.

We will reduce barriers to trade and deliver significant benefits for the UK economy by digitising trade processes, eliminating costly bureaucratic requirements and maximising trade opportunities. And we will build digital identities that people can trust.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Electronic Trade Documents** We will digitise trade documents to drastically reduce the cost of global exportation for UK businesses by between £1.7 billion and £7.4 billion. We will legislate to put electronic trade documents on the same legal footing as paper documents, removing the need for wasteful paperwork and needless bureaucracy. This will make it easier, cheaper, faster and greener for companies to trade. It will bring global trade law into the 21st century by enabling businesses in the UK and around the world to move from paper-based to digital-based transactions when buying and selling internationally. As part of the landmark Digital Economy Agreement between the UK and Singapore we are working in partnership on a project to implement the digitisation of trade documents.

**Striking new data adequacy partnerships.** We will seek to strike new data adequacy partnerships with some of the world's fastest growing economies and our closest partners, such as Australia, the United States, Singapore and the Republic of Korea, and free zones in the UAE. We plan to assess many more countries than the small number the EU assessed, including with the biggest and fastest-growing economies, benefitting important sectors of our economy like finance, technology and professional and business services. Our new data flow deals will mean services can be provided more reliably, securely, faster and cheaper enabling: the development of Covid-19 or rare disease modelling, treatment tools and vaccines; high-growth UK businesses to succeed, including businesses that empower greater access to personal banking and healthcare; and cooperation with like-minded nations to fight serious crime and to uphold democratic values.

**Digital identities you can trust.** We published a prototype UK digital identity and attributes trust framework in 2021, which will be moving to beta phase in 2022. Our response to the digital identity and attributes consultation, due to be published early this year, will set out plans for robust governance of the trust framework and how digital identities can be built on trusted government data.

**Build a digital identity marketplace.** We are working to enable a secure independent digital identity marketplace based on a framework of standards, governance and legislation, reshaping its approach to trust services such as e-signatures, e-seals and time stamps. It is estimated that widespread use of digital identity products would be worth around £800 million per year to the UK economy.

**Driving forward the global precedent on digital trade and data.** Through our independent trade policy, the UK can be a world leader on digital trade. Our free trade agreements with Australia and Japan include ambitious digital trade provisions which go well beyond EU precedent. We have reached agreement in principle on a Digital Economy Agreement with Singapore, the first deal of its kind struck by any European nation, and the world's most comprehensive digital trade agreement. The UK also recently spearheaded the adoption of a set of G7 Digital Trade Principles, which set out the way in which G7 partners have agreed to approach digital trade. Initiatives like this could provide a foundation for future cooperation and consensus building, and influence wider international discussions.

## Online Safety

### **Making the UK the safest place in the world to be online.**

We plan to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. In doing so we will protect the fundamental rights and values that our democracy is based on, including defending free expression. Through our new Online Safety Bill, we will ensure a holistic solution to tackling online harms by addressing both illegal and legal but harmful material online and focusing on establishing duties of care that platforms owe their users, overseen by an independent regulator. We will tackle criminal activity, protect children and ensure that companies take action on legal but harmful toxic content that is banned under their terms and conditions.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Tackling criminal activity.** There will be no safe space for criminal content online. If something is illegal offline, it is illegal online. Our new Online Safety Bill will ensure that platforms have to quickly remove terrorist material or child sexual abuse and exploitation and will not be allowed to promote it in their algorithms.

**Protecting children.** The strongest protections in our new laws are for children and young people. They will be protected from harmful or inappropriate content such as grooming, bullying, pornography and the promotion of self-harm and eating disorders.

**Cracking down on harmful content.** There are countless examples of online content that is legal but still has a seriously damaging impact on adults, e.g. some racist and misogynistic abuse. The largest and riskiest companies will need to take action on the toxic content that is banned in their terms and conditions.

**A new online safety framework.** The Online Safety framework is due to be introduced through the forthcoming Online Safety Bill. We are currently considering the recommendations from the Joint Committee that considered the draft Bill and we will introduce the Bill at the earliest opportunity. The Bill will usher in a new age of accountability for tech companies and provide the UK with the opportunity to set the global standard for a risk-based, proportionate regulatory framework that protects users online and upholds their right to freedom of expression.

## Cyber Security & Product Security

### Protecting critical UK infrastructure from cyber attacks and providing people with secure products.

We want to ensure that our critical UK infrastructure is secure from cyber attacks and failures. Given the rapid growth of technologies over recent years, the cyber threat landscape has grown with more users and devices online. The regulatory response needs to move at pace and we will implement measures ahead of related proposals being prepared by the EU.

Ensuring that cyber security is core to the manufacturing, importing and distributing processes for everyday connectable products, such as smartphones, is an essential component of our approach to reducing risk of cyber attack on the user of these products, as well as the wider infrastructure on which we rely.

Outside of the EU, the UK has taken the lead globally in pushing for connectable consumer products to be secured by design, playing an essential role in developing the first internationally-recognised cyber security standard in the field of the Internet of Things.

### How we will achieve our vision

**Ensuring the security of critical UK infrastructure.** We have set out proposals to amend the Network and Information Systems Regulations, which help ensure the security of critical UK infrastructure from cyber attacks and failures, to ensure that they remain appropriate for the UK economy. We have launched a public consultation on our changes, covering eight legislative measures. These will expand the definition of digital services to bring in managed service providers and allow us to make technical changes to the Regulations. We will not have to implement the EU's proposed changes (Network and Information Systems 2.0) which include some measures we disagree with, including changing incident reporting to 24 hours, which would significantly increase costs on industry, and expansion of Network and Information Systems to many new sectors, which would significantly increase the number of regulated organisations.

**Connectable products, secure at purchase.** The Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill going through Parliament will provide assurance to consumers that the everyday connectable products they are using, such as smartphones, are secure at the time they are purchased. We will require organisations to secure the relevant technologies we rely on everyday. Manufacturers of products that are essential to our ability to work and socialise need to be able to assure our citizens that they have complied with baseline cyber security standards. Our legislation allows the UK to prioritise the individual, while also supporting growth and innovation across the tech sector.

## Life Sciences

### **Supercharging the life sciences sector to make the UK a life sciences superpower within the next 10 years.**

Our ambition, set out in our Life Sciences Vision, is for the UK to be a Life Sciences superpower in the next 10 years. With an £89 billion turnover; exports goods worth approximately £30 billion annually; 268,000 high value jobs; the UK life sciences sector has attracted over £6.6 billion in investment in the first 10 months of 2021, a tenfold increase on 2012.

Brexit gives us the opportunity to design a world-class sovereign regulatory environment for clinical trials that will support the development of innovative medicines and ensure that the UK retains and grows its reputation as a world leading base for life sciences, generating opportunities for skilled jobs in the UK. We now have an independent Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency that is able to operate more flexibly—fostering innovation, improving patient safety and ensuring the highest standards in the safety, quality and efficacy of medical products.

Innovation in the life sciences industry offers benefits for the whole of the UK, with improved collaboration between UK Government and the Devolved Governments on areas such as genomics and clinical trials.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Making it faster and easier to run clinical trials.** The Medicines and Medical Devices Act 2021 provides the powers to update our clinical trials regulation and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency is advancing ambitious regulatory proposals to reframe the UK legislation for clinical trials, responding to the needs of the sector to deliver a more streamlined and flexible regulatory regime, whilst protecting the interests of patients and trial participants. We will make it faster and easier to run trials in the UK, compared to international comparators. This will support patients to access pioneering safe, new treatments faster and bolster the attractiveness of the UK as a destination for innovative and ground-breaking trials of life-saving medicines.

**An attractive place to conduct efficient and cutting-edge clinical research.** We are taking steps to make the UK one of the most attractive places in the world to conduct efficient and cutting-edge clinical research that unlocks the power of new treatments and technologies. We have already worked with industry to help remove barriers to setting up trials within our NHS. Patients will start to see the benefits of those changes from April as we cut unnecessary bureaucracy. The upcoming Data Saves Lives Strategy will set out investment to deliver NHSX's bold vision to harness the potential of data in health and

care, including for cutting-edge clinical research, while maintaining the highest standards of privacy and ethics.

**A world-leading regulatory framework for medical devices.** The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency is developing a world-leading regulatory framework for medical devices. With this bold new regulatory regime, we will safeguard and advance the health of our nation by enabling the earliest access to and high-quality supply of safe, effective and innovative medical products. A public consultation on the new framework for medical devices closed in November and the government's response to the consultation will be published soon. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has also announced a work programme for the regulation of health-related software and AI that will deliver ambitious change, providing protection for patients and public and making the UK the home of responsible innovation in this sector.

# Business & Industry

## Financial Services

**An open, green and technologically advanced financial services sector that is globally competitive.**

The Chancellor set out the Government's vision for an open, green and technologically advanced financial services sector that is globally competitive in his Mansion House speech of July 2021.

Having left the EU and taken back control of financial services regulation, we are implementing an ambitious programme of reform to make it work better for the UK. We are actively seeking out opportunities to tailor the regulation of our financial services sector to better suit our markets, improve competitiveness and deliver better outcomes for consumers.

We are putting the UK financial services industry at the forefront of the major global trends that will reshape financial services over the coming decade, to cement our status as an international financial services hub. We have launched a programme of sweeping reforms that is setting the forward agenda on financial services regulation for HM Treasury, the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority for the next few years.

### How we will achieve our vision

**An open and global financial hub.** We will use our strengths as a global financial hub to establish and enhance relationships with jurisdictions around the world, attracting investment and increasing opportunities for cross-border trade. We are promoting international standard setting to encourage the global financial system to support openness through consistently high standards, including through financial services provisions in our Free Trade Agreements, and we are negotiating a ground-breaking Mutual Recognition Agreement with Switzerland.

**A competitive marketplace promoting effective use of capital.** We will maintain and build on the UK's attractive and internationally respected ecosystem for financial services across both regulation and taxation, tailoring it to reflect our new position outside the European Union. We will support and promote the interests of UK markets and maintain high regulatory standards in the face of new and evolving risks. We are undertaking a once-in-a-generation review to rationalise and streamline retained EU law and our financial services regulation through the Future Regulatory Framework Review; reforming our capital markets through the Wholesale Markets Review and Prospectus Regime Review; introducing a Financial Markets Infrastructure Sandbox to test the use of new technologies; progressing work on a Long-Term Asset Fund to promote investment in

long-term assets; and reviewing Solvency II and Securitisation regulation to make sure they work for the UK.

**At the forefront of technology and innovation.** We are supporting innovation and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies through nimble policymaking and agile regulation, for the benefit of businesses, consumers and the economy, while ensuring appropriate protections and promoting financial stability. We are establishing a new Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology to leverage expertise from across the UK's regions and accelerate the fintech sector's growth. We are bringing crypto-asset promotions into regulation and have consulted on a new regime for stablecoins to make sure they meet the same minimum standards of other payment methods. The Financial Conduct Authority will take forward a 'scale box' to help fintech firms grow.

**A world leader in green finance.** We will make sure the financial system plays a major role in the UK's achievement of its net zero target and ambition for a 'nature positive' future. We are pressing for global action and building international standards, including through COP26, using our leading commercial and policy expertise to reaffirm the UK as the best place in the world for green and sustainable investment. We are taking forward the work needed to become the world's first net zero-aligned financial centre, having announced a move towards mandatory disclosure of transition plans. We are building on the success of the green financing programme launched in 2021, which saw two record breaking inaugural green gilt issuances and the world's first retail Green Savings Bonds.

## Professional Business Services

### **Maintaining our lead in professional business services and ensuring that the sector remains a national success story.**

Our Professional and Business Services sector is a national success story. Our ambition is to make the UK as globally competitive as possible and maintain our leading position in this sector, including through our new trade deals. The sector accounted for £211.4 billion Gross Value Added in 2020, 11% of UK Gross Value Added, and 4.7 million jobs, representing 13% of the UK workforce. It provides 35% of the UK's total services exports and the UK is the second greatest exporter of business services, after the US, with £116.5 billion of exports in 2020.

Post-Brexit we can establish the regulatory and international trading relationships that work best for the UK Professional and Business Services sector. Professional and Business Services includes a range of knowledge-intensive industries which provide specialised support to businesses, governments and other organisations. These include: advertising and marketing; architecture and engineering; audit and accounting; employment activities like recruitment; legal activities; management consulting; office administration and business support activities; and rental and leasing activities.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A global outlook to professional qualifications.** The Professional Qualifications Bill currently in Parliament will give us powers to revoke retained EU law comprising the general system for recognition of professional qualifications and replace it with a new approach that is global in its outlook and gives greater autonomy to regulators. This will end the preferential treatment our interim arrangements currently afford professionals with qualifications gained in the EEA and Switzerland and put applicants from around the world on an equal footing. This sets the scene for creating a first in class regulatory landscape for professions, ensuring the UK's services are domestically successful and exports are globally competitive.

**Trusted audit and corporate governance.** Our objective is to restore public trust in the way that the UK's largest companies are run and scrutinised, ensure that the UK's most significant corporate entities are governed responsibly and keep the UK's legal frameworks for major businesses at the forefront of international best practice. HM Government's White Paper: *'Restoring trust in audit and corporate governance'*, sets out comprehensive and ambitious plans to strengthen the UK's audit, company reporting and corporate governance framework. The proposals follow three independent reviews of audit and recommendations made by the previous Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee in April 2019. We are considering the responses to the consultation carefully and are developing a coherent, comprehensive and proportionate package of reforms to audit and corporate governance.

**Unleashing innovation in architecture with greener, safer buildings.** Our reform of architects regulation aims to unleash innovation in the sector whilst providing greener, safer buildings for the UK, considering forms of regulation, access to and education and training in the architectural profession, sustainability and innovation.

## Legal Services

### **A global legal centre and a centre for dispute resolution.**

Legal services are a major contributor to the UK economy, with the sector contributing over £29.6 billion gross value added to the economy in 2019. We are promoting the UK's attractiveness as a legal centre and as a centre for dispute resolution.

This ambition is supported, in part, by the UK's international co-operation in the field of Private International Law. We have a strong history of outward-looking, cross-border collaboration, with bilateral treaties dating back to the early 20th century, and our record as a founding member of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Brexit means we have full policy-making competence in Private International Law for the first time since 1999. We remain committed to maintaining the UK's leadership role in the area of Private International Law, strengthening our existing cooperation and seeking new opportunities with our international partners.

In a globalised trading world, it is increasingly important for businesses to look for cost-effective measures to resolve cross-border disputes outside of the traditional court route. The mediation sector in the UK has grown considerably in the last 15–20 years, with the sector estimated to be worth £17.5 billion in 2020. It is also estimated that mediation can save businesses around £4.6 billion per year in management time, relationships, productivity and legal fees.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Consulting on the Singapore Convention on Mediation.** UK Government will consult on becoming a party to the Singapore Convention on Mediation. Becoming a party to the Singapore Convention would provide an opportunity for the UK to take a more active role on the global stage on Private International Law matters and to ensure that our pre-eminent legal services sector maintains and cements its global position as a world leader in mediation and more broadly. If the UK signed up to the Convention, we would make legal provision for any international mediated settlement to be easily recognised by our domestic courts, giving businesses the confidence to mediate their international disputes and have them recognised and enforced in the UK. Signing up to the Convention would give businesses the confidence to mediate their international disputes and have them recognised and enforced around the world, strengthening the UK mediation sector.

**Securing unprecedented provisions in FTAs.** In the recent Australia FTA, we secured the right of UK solicitors, barristers and advocates to practise using their UK title in both UK and international law. The agreement also established a legal services regulatory dialogue, designed to address behind the border barriers to legal services trade. The Digital Economy Agreement reached with Singapore is the first trade agreement to include specific

commitments on Lawtech, driving international collaboration on this area of strength for the UK. We will continue to pursue provisions that support the legal services sector with priority jurisdictions.

**Opening up new markets for UK legal services.** Legal services trade missions are creating further opportunities to open up market access for the sector as well as opportunities to promote UK legal services, English law and the UK as a dispute resolution centre. The recent GREAT Legal Services trade mission to Dubai EXPO offered networking with business leaders and senior decision-makers; panel sessions to promote UK legal services and English law; and workshops to provide insight into doing business in the UAE and Middle East. For financial year 2021–22 the mission has already generated projected business wins in excess of £1.4 million.

## Automotive

### **A renaissance in the automotive industry providing high-skilled UK employment in the UK's industrial heartlands.**

The automotive sector generated £56 billion in turnover and £12.2 billion in gross value added—7.1% of UK manufacturing gross value added—in 2020. It is a vital high-skilled UK employer, with 149,000 people employed in automotive manufacturing in the UK in 2020 and a further 249,000 jobs estimated to be supported by the industry in the wider economy. The automotive sector is undergoing a fundamental and accelerating change to zero-emissions technology. This renaissance of the automotive sector presents exciting opportunities for the UK. We are competing against other European and global locations for £8.5 billion worth of investments that would safeguard 46,000 and create nearly 12,000 new jobs, many in the UK's industrial heartlands.

To maintain a globally competitive industry and secure our position as one of the highest productivity major producers in Europe we aim to: increase the overall production of vehicles by the end of this Parliament with fully electric vehicles making up the majority of new growth; secure significant Original Equipment Manufacturer's investment opportunities; build a globally competitive UK Electric Vehicle supply chain and grow the UK's world-leading research and development ecosystem, including by securing the UK's first giga-factories and growing or attracting investments in other strategically important areas; and attract disruptors, increasing the size of the sector and encouraging new market entrants to expand their footprint for the manufacture of vehicles, batteries and the deep residual supply chain.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Attracting skills and talent.** The UK automotive sector has areas of comparative advantage in its workforce and has a strong graduate pipeline. We will use our new immigration system to attract and enable entry for workers that have the skills needed to support the transformation of the automotive sector.

**Research and development collaboration.** Given the UK's strong research and development ecosystem and reputation, we can, on leaving the EU, develop stronger bilateral collaboration with e.g. US, Japan on areas of mutual interest that would boost the auto sector such as battery recycling, semiconductors, Critical Raw Materials. In areas such as Connected and Automated Mobility we plan to attract new research and development investment with our own regulatory approach and bilateral dialogue.

**A Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate.** Our Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate will require manufacturers to sell a certain proportion of zero emission vehicles each year,

providing certainty for consumers, charging infrastructure investors and automotive manufacturers to plan their future purchasing and investment decisions and operations.

**Global trade for automotive.** Brexit enables the UK to negotiate directly with key markets for automotive companies to grow and expand their business. For example, reducing the tariff barriers to the Indian market could support Jaguar Land Rover to export more UK made vehicles and use more of its UK based supply chain in its Indian manufacturing. The Indian import demand for Automotive is estimated to grow by 94% for the period 2019–2030 and is already the fourth largest market in the world. This is important as the sector transitions to electrification and the UK seeks to secure more investment in electrified componentry, such as batteries.

**Local supply chains.** Rules of Origin in our FTAs, including our FTA with the EU, encourage the localisation of the supply chain, accelerating investment in priority areas through our flagship programmes such as the Automotive Transformation Fund. A £4–6 billion pipeline of supply chain investments made in this parliament was catalysed by the Rules of Origin we agreed with the EU.

## Aerospace

### **Anchoring major high-value commercial aircraft programmes and capturing production for the next generation of aircraft and new modes of flight.**

The UK is one of only a few nations with a competitive advantage in aerospace. We produce some of the highest value aircraft components, including half the world's wings and large engines, and are building capability in emerging zero-emissions technologies. Pre-Covid, the sector was in the top five of the UK's most research and development intensive sectors, directly supporting 126,000 jobs, and had an annual turnover of £33 billion. Aerospace activity is dispersed throughout the UK with 19% jobs in the East Midlands, 18% in the South West, 13% in the North West and key clusters in NI, Wales and Scotland.

Our strategy is to support a portfolio of collaborative research and development in sustainable technology that may be selected by Airbus, Boeing, or potential new rivals on large passenger aircraft; and de-risk emerging technologies on smaller platforms such as electric flying taxis and subregional hydrogen aircraft. This includes using collaborative research and development to encourage large incumbents to work with smaller companies as a way of deepening and broadening the UK supply chain and producing rapid growth in disruptive new entrants.

Post-Brexit, we can develop more UK-focused policy and regulation to develop the next low- and zero-carbon aerospace products in the UK, boost private sector investment in research and development and support high-value jobs across the UK.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A more innovative and tailored approach to aviation regulation.** Post-Brexit regulatory independence for the Civil Aviation Authority provides the opportunity for a more innovative and tailored approach to aviation regulation, particularly for Urban Air Mobility vehicles, drones and new forms of propulsion—for example, batteries or hybrid electric. We aim to exploit a first-mover advantage for new technologies and programmes helping us to capture a greater share of emerging markets. We will work towards developing a progressive regulatory and business environment for new aviation technology and adopt a less prescriptive approach than the EU to incentivise greater inward investment, get technology to market quicker and generate sector spill-overs.

**More flexible and targeted support to aerospace.** Our new UK-focused subsidies policy will allow for more flexible and targeted support to aerospace as we invest in the next generation of sustainable aircraft technology. Greater flexibility to tailor support to UK policy objectives and a more streamlined process will mean that support gets to companies more quickly. Subsidies will be delivered through new or existing Strategic

Partnering Agreements with key companies and through the Aerospace Technology Institute.

**A global aerospace outlook.** Brexit gives us the opportunity to use our independent status to reach new Free Trade Agreements and bilateral industrial partnerships with key countries like the USA, Canada and Japan. Our new points-based immigration system allows us to attract and enable the people with the skills the aerospace industry needs to live and work in the UK, like highly-qualified aerospace engineers.

## Retail and Consumer Goods

### **A profitable and resilient retail and consumer goods sector that is socially and environmentally responsible.**

Post-Brexit we will support the Retail and Consumer Goods sector to exploit areas of competitive advantage and seize opportunities for international trade. Retail contributed around £100 billion to the UK economy in 2020, 5.2% of total UK GVA. Consumer Goods manufacturing contributes around £13 billion to the UK economy and employs over 240,000 people.

We are committed to working with the Consumer Goods industry, which is primarily comprised of SMEs, to leverage its competitive advantage outside the EU Customs Union and rebuild resilience in the wider sector and supply chains following the Covid pandemic, through innovation, reshoring, sustainability and skills development, contributing to both Levelling Up and Net Zero. We are committed to working with the retail sector and the Retail Sector Council in particular, to ensure that businesses are profitable, resilient, innovative and support local economies in socially and environmentally responsible ways.

The sector estimates that there are over a million high-spending international visitors to the UK due to the status of retail destinations such as London's West End, Bicester Village and other cities and towns across the UK. They have indicated that this generates over £2 billion in sales in the UK as well as generating both retail and consumer goods employment, particularly associated with luxury and high-end British status brands.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A competitive advantage in UK-made, niche and heritage products.** The UK Retail and Consumer Goods manufacturing sector has competitive advantage in UK-made niche and heritage products, sold globally, based on UK design, quality and provenance. These products are made in historical manufacturing clusters across the country which provide community and regional employment and are often sold under iconic British brands and by Royal Warrant Holders. Examples include Burberry; Northwest textiles; Derbyshire woollen wearing apparel; Northampton handmade men's welted shoes, Harris Tweed; and Scottish cashmere and leather car seats for Aston Martin. Our "Made in the UK, Sold to the World" campaign, in addition to GREAT, are testament to the global appeal of UK manufactured goods. High-end and heritage products also have a particular appeal in Asia and the USA. The UK is also perceived, particularly in sub-sectors such as fashion and textiles, to be a leader in sustainable design and production. Outside of the EU Customs Union we will leverage this sustainable and "UK-made" competitive advantage for both domestic and overseas consumption.

**Building our domestic talent.** There is now an opportunity to build a domestic talent pipeline that is fit for purpose as jobs become more automated, digitised and green. There is also an opportunity to boost the consumer goods manufacturing sector with support for innovation, infrastructure and green processes.

## Hospitality

### **A skilled and professional hospitality sector that attracts visitors from around the world and provides clear and rewarding career pathways for hospitality workers.**

The hospitality sector comprises approximately 148,000 businesses, employs over two million people across the UK and generated £42 billion in gross value added in 2019 prior to the Covid pandemic. Hospitality businesses are geographically dispersed, operating in all corners of the UK, providing vital jobs for younger workers and those who do not hold qualifications higher than A-Levels, with 37% of the workforce aged 16–24 and 73% holding no qualifications higher than A-Levels employed in hospitality.

Our restaurants are recognised internationally as being some of the very best and our nightclubs attract visitors from all over the world. As part of our Hospitality Strategy, we want to work with hospitality businesses to establish themselves abroad, by working with the sector to address export challenges, building on the opportunities of Brexit. This will help us promote UK hospitality abroad by developing its presence on the international stage.

We want to sell the potential rewards of a career in the sector and so attract more home-grown talent to hospitality. Improved training schemes within hospitality, including apprenticeships, and the rise of wages within the sector post-Brexit, will help make companies that were significantly reliant on a workforce from the EU in the past consider alternative domestic recruitment and enable UK workers to view the hospitality roles as a rewarding career.

Our aim is to improve the skills and professionalism of the sector, strengthen the hospitality workforce and provide clear and rewarding career pathways.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Helping hospitality businesses to export.** Innovative SMEs can build their presence in overseas markets, particularly through support provided by Innovate UK EDGE and the Department for International Trade. The Department for International Trade utilises a regional network of international trade advisors, to support SMEs to address export challenges and develop viable strategies to achieve commercial success abroad. In parallel, Innovate UK EDGE provides tailored advice, learning and networking for businesses to establish connections and identify partnership opportunities in new global markets. VisitBritain's Tourism Exchange Great Britain, is a business-to-business platform that connects England's tourism suppliers with international distributors.

**Showcasing and promoting the best of hospitality in the UK to international visitors.** Hospitality is an important component of tourism and the visitor economy with international

visitors spending an average of £339 on eating out. Our Hospitality Strategy commits us to working with the GREAT Campaign and VisitBritain to promote the link between hospitality and tourism eco-systems. The GREAT Food and Drink Campaign is raising the international profile of Britain's food, drink and hospitality offering amongst international trade audiences and uses high profile chefs and ambassadors.

## Food & Drink

### **A highly-resilient food supply chain, from farm to fork.**

Farmers and food manufacturers are vital to this country's food security. The events of the last two years have taught us how much domestic food production matters and shown that we have a highly resilient food supply chain.

There is a food manufacturer in every parliamentary constituency in the UK. These manufacturers provide employment opportunities in areas where there might otherwise be deprivation. They offer apprenticeships and opportunities for the next generation; they invest in research and development and they give local areas a sense of pride and identity.

We will do more to ensure the UK is at the forefront of food innovation globally, giving consumers the choice and ability to consume more sustainable proteins that align with their values, while also supporting our net zero ambitions and strengthening the UK's food security.

Whether it is Cornish Pasties, Melton Mowbray Pork Pies, Scotch Beef, Welsh Lamb, or Lough Neagh Eels, or any of the countless other foods and recipes that we continue to celebrate and protect from every part of our country, none of our food manufacturers could succeed without the farmers who supply them with high quality produce.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A food system that empowers people.** In the coming weeks we will publish our Food Strategy White Paper, setting out in full the Government's vision for the future of the food sector, from farm to fork. It will set out how we will empower people, wherever they are, to make healthy and sustainable food choices. We will look at optimising food information, such as that on labelling, so consumers are better able to make informed choices. We want to see the agri-food sector go from strength to strength and ensure that the food system provides choice and access to high-quality, nutritious food for all. Along with the plans outlined in the Government's obesity strategy, this work means we will go further and faster to support healthier diets and tackle the obesity crisis that has become all too apparent in recent years.

**Supporting our agri-food sector.** We will always support our agri-food sector and we will never compromise on our high environmental, food-safety and welfare standards. We want people around the world to be lining up to buy British. With an independent trade policy, we will support our sectors to make the most of opportunities around the world.

**At the forefront of cutting-edge research and innovation.** The UK is at the forefront of cutting-edge research and innovation, with world-leading science infrastructure and the highest calibre of researchers from around the world. We will do even more to coordinate research and innovation priorities across research councils, government, industry and consumers; pull through our research and development to real life application; and draw global investment to the UK.

**Reviewing our novel foods regulation to support innovation in the sustainable protein sector.** We will use the freedom Brexit gives us to review our novel foods regulatory framework. This will include working with the Food Standards Agency to update the process for approving novel foods, to create a transparent and effective system that is the best in the world for innovators, investors and consumers and encourages safe innovation in the sustainable protein sector.

**Removing burdensome EU regulations on our wine sector.** We produce some excellent English Sparkling Wine that has been recognised internationally as holding its own against some of the best Champagnes. We will do even more to supercharge our burgeoning English and Welsh wine industry and bolster the wine trade, by reforming the regulations we inherited from the EU, which may include introducing new product categories, and other changes to the marketing of wine.

## Culture

### **A thriving culture and thriving cultural industry and competitive sport sectors, recognised around the world and competing globally.**

Our culture, media and sport sectors play a vital role in the UK economy. The Creative Industries contributed £115.9 billion to the UK economy in 2019 and supported 2.1 million jobs. These sectors make the UK a great place to live and work and play a valuable role in investing in diverse home-grown talent and attracting the very best expertise from abroad.

#### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Equivalent standards however you watch television.** We are considering whether to move away from EU aligned provisions on video-on-demand content regulation, to strengthen protections for audiences by bringing regulation more in line with UK broadcasting standards. This will ensure UK viewers can access content with confidence that equivalent standards are applied however they watch television. We launched a consultation in August 2021 to level the playing field between traditional broadcasters and video-on-demand streaming services, to provide a fair competitive framework and ensure UK viewers receive equivalent standards. We are now considering the response to the consultation ahead of publishing the Government's response.

**Removing the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights from broadcasting law.** Following the implementation of the Audiovisual and Media Services Directive, UK legislation currently references the Charter of EU Fundamental Rights. It is the Government's intention to replace the EU definition in the Communications Act 2003 with a UK specific measure over the coming months due to our concerns about the chilling effect it has on free speech.

**Delivering an innovative world leading regulatory system for football.** The Government has accepted the case for a new independent regulator for English football, in principle. If taken forward, this new regime would be a global first. The proposed system would mean introducing a new system of regulation to ensure the sustainability of English football for the long-term and protecting the interests of fans.

**Digitising the system for cultural exports.** We are digitising the export licensing system for cultural goods to facilitate the trade in art and antiquities, promoting legitimate trade and helping police and law enforcement combat the illicit trade in cultural goods. This would not have been possible under the EU's paper-based system. This new system will be launched later this year following further consultation with users.

# Infrastructure & Levelling Up

## The Future of Transport

**A major revolution in transport that provides improved access alongside economic and environmental benefits.**

A major revolution in transport is underway. The introduction of electric and self-driving vehicles, drones and new mobility and freight business models are just some of the trends we expect to emerge in the transport sector over the next 20 years.

We need to make sure the UK benefits from these developments and to secure our world leading position. A new regulatory landscape that is both flexible and forward facing will harness these new innovations and opportunities, preparing the UK for transport in the 21st century and for future generations.

We want to make sure transport is inclusive for all, including giving people in urban and rural areas greater choice and freedom to get around. Safer streets, better accessibility, cheaper travel options and smoother journeys will help create a cleaner, quieter, more equitable and less congested transport system.

Enabling new technologies will help increase investment in UK companies and create export opportunities. New technologies will bring new high-quality jobs and require a range of new skills which the UK is primed to deliver. Harnessing new technologies will also help us meet our commitments on decarbonisation and net zero, as well as improving air quality and reducing congestion.

A new regulatory landscape will enable everyone to be able to access electric vehicle chargepoints, no matter where they live; allow vehicle standards to be raised, delivering cleaner air; and enable self-driving vehicles to be safely deployed.

The global autonomous ships market was recently estimated to be worth US\$88 billion in 2020 and is projected to reach US\$135 billion by 2030. Drone technologies could deliver £42 billion net benefits to the UK economy and create 628,000 jobs by 2030. The market for connected and autonomous road vehicles is forecast to be worth £41.7 billion to the UK economy by 2035, creating 38,000 new skilled jobs.

Around a quarter of adults in England do not have a full driving licence and only a quarter of those aged 17–20 hold a full licence. New modes of transport like self-driving vehicles will allow people to travel in new ways as well as providing alternatives to those that are currently reliant on private car use.

## How we will achieve our vision

**Electric vehicle chargepoints and smartcharging.** We will bring forward measures to more adequately regulate the Electric Vehicle charging market and the infrastructure installed; and to ensure charge points are deployed in sufficient numbers, in a manner which meets consumer needs. Our objective is to facilitate wider Electric Vehicle uptake ahead of the 2030 phase out date for the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and the 2035 phase out date for the sale of new hybrid cars through improved consumer confidence and engagement with Electric Vehicle charging.

**Modernising vehicle standards.** We will update our legislative framework to enable the introduction of safer, cleaner and more technologically advanced vehicles, prevent software tampering and ensure swift remedial action can be taken if vehicles or other automotive products are found to be unsafe or non-compliant.

**Self-driving vehicles.** We will create a new legislative framework for safe self-driving road vehicles, because road regulation to date has been built around humans controlling vehicles. This will ensure that deployment of self-driving technology is safe and delivers the benefits we want to see. Manufacturers and-or operators will be accountable for the way vehicles behave when driving themselves and human drivers will have clarity on their responsibilities and how the technology can be used safely.

**Maritime Autonomy and Remote Operations.** We will develop a Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships regulatory framework that dovetails into the current non-Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships legal framework and ensure that the UK is at the forefront of any developments in the field by allowing the safe operation of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships.

**The future of flight.** We will bring forward measures to support the development of the drone and Advanced Air Mobility industry and reduce risks posed by new aircraft to other users of airspace and the general public.

**Recycled Carbon Fuels.** We will amend the Energy Act to allow recycled carbon fuels to claim support under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation scheme.

## Aviation

### **A better experience for UK air travellers, supporting new opportunities for UK growth and greater climate ambition.**

Brexit is enabling us to improve the experience of UK air travellers. This includes increasing protections, such as access to compensation, for UK travellers, as well as enhancing competition, which over time will reduce prices, improve service quality and expand passenger choice. We will deliver a lower environmental impact and an aviation sector that drives sustained growth across UK regions, levelling up the UK.

Brexit is supporting new opportunities for UK growth. We have greater freedom and flexibility to enable airports to support local areas through inward investment, jobs and levelling up across the UK.

Emerging forms of aviation will create new ways to travel, create new markets, support a net zero economy and increase domestic connectivity to level up the UK. We expect that unmanned aircraft will routinely fly beyond visual line of sight and could then allow new economic opportunities worth up to £42 billion and 628,000 jobs by 2030.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A better experience for UK air travellers.** We will enhance protections for UK travellers. We are consulting on amending compensation available for delayed UK domestic flights and increasing protection for wheelchairs and mobility equipment that may be damaged during a UK domestic flight.

**Keeping air travellers safe.** We now have more autonomy to develop safety regulations that meet both UK needs and global standards. We will act more swiftly to tackle the safety risks that affect UK aviation and citizens around the world, influence global safety standards and form new and stronger partnerships with key states to support our industry and maintain our reputation as a global leader in aviation safety.

**A better system for airline slot allocation.** We are looking at how we can improve the slots allocation system to make the best use of airport capacity and deliver a better outcome for passengers and contribute to lower fares, more destinations and more service innovation by airlines and to allow citizens to benefit when additional new capacity is created by airport expansion. We are currently working on the case and options for reforms.

**Levelling up through aviation.** We can now reform our Public Service Obligation route eligibility requirements and conditions set out in retained EU legislation to align Public Service Obligation policy with government objectives for Levelling Up and the

environment. We are also exploring alternative means of route support such as reinvigorating start up support. This could mean lower fares and more routes within the UK where alternative transport modes are not viable.

**Supporting UK growth.** We will support further growth of General Aviation (non-scheduled aviation) by making further changes to improve the regulatory environment for the sector, including on crew licensing, medical requirements and aircraft maintenance. We will encourage creation of new sustainable ways for goods to travel to benefit citizens and grow markets, through developing technical standards for new and emerging aviation technologies.

## Space

### **A powerhouse of satellite design, manufacturing, informatics and applications and the leading provider of commercial launch in Europe.**

This year, the UK intends to become the first country in Europe to launch a small satellite into Space. Our aim is to become the leading provider of commercial satellite launch in Europe by 2030. The Government has invested in spaceports in England, Scotland and Wales, by establishing a modern regulatory framework and licensing regime, deepening priority international partnerships and working closely with launch operators and spaceports to put in place plans for first launch this year, leading to a robust pipeline of subsequent launches in the coming years.

The National Space Strategy, published in September 2021, sets out our plans to build one of the most innovative and attractive space economies in the world. As we build up the UK space sector, we will increase exports, grow employment across the UK, attract international talent and inward investment and further integrate space data and technologies into daily public life. Last year Seraphim launched its Space Investment Trust here in the UK, raising £180 million to create the world's first listed Space Tech fund.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Building our emerging markets.** The UK is a global powerhouse of satellite design, manufacturing, informatics and applications. Developing launch capability is a major strategic step forward for the UK as a leading spacefaring nation, paving the way for end-to-end services in financing, designing, building, launching and operating satellites. British businesses will develop new services like “in-space” manufacturing and removing space debris from a range of orbits, which is fast becoming an international concern. Capitalising on these services, the UK will become an open free market hub for SpaceTech financing, insurance and regulatory leadership.

**Long-term, sustainable, regulatory reform.** The UK is leading the world in ensuring a safe, secure and sustainable space environment that is accessible to all and remains a valuable resource for future generations. We are implementing a long-term sustainability plan into our national regulations. Our space sustainability roadmap is considering a number of regulatory reforms, including: actively removing and preventing the creation of debris in space while developing and promoting capabilities to track objects in orbit to help prevent collisions; improve the sustainability of satellites, building and repairing them in space and generating energy and materials from space; protect the space environment and supporting its growing service industries while protecting against disruption to astronomers, radio frequency users and others; develop innovative ways to secure insurance markets for Space operations; and encouraging compliance with the 21-point sustainability plan published by the UN.

**Global leadership and international collaboration.** The UK will provide global leadership across space activities and work closely with our allies to protect and defend our space interests. Through the UN, we are developing space sustainability and security guidelines, furthering international adoption of best practice in space and leading on space security as part of UK efforts to remove the threat of weaponisation of space. We are establishing new international space trading arrangements in our Free Trade Agreements, building on the success of Space Bridge agreements with international partners. Our Space Bridge with Australia is already proving successful. We are maintaining European Space Agency participation while building new and enhanced partnerships with other nations around the world. We are already developing closer ties with India through the UK-India Space Consultations. A Space Memorandum of Understanding will be signed imminently with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We are working with our partners on cutting-edge scientific missions such as the Solar Orbiter, a UK-led mission to study the Sun built jointly with NASA and our European partners.

## Rail

### **Simpler, better, customer-focussed railways.**

EU rail law has had a significant impact on how the rail industry in the UK is organised, promoting a model which fragments the railway between those who operate the trains and those who run the tracks. The EU focus on interoperability through EU-wide technical standards also reduced flexibility and injected complexity into rail. There are key opportunities to take advantage of our new freedoms to create a railway that works better for passengers and freight and to create simpler, better customer-focussed railways.

Ultimately, this will lead to better use of the railways' capacity to deliver journeys that customers and communities want to see and reliability will be improved for passengers and freight as we are better able to deal with problems when something goes wrong.

We will undertake a root and branch reform of our railways—through the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail and will use our additional freedom to set out technical standards to meet UK needs and deliver for UK passengers.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A simpler, better railway.** We will increase accountability and collaboration and ensure a joined-up approach to rail. Through the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail we have a major opportunity to reform our railway, creating accountability, collaboration and a more joined-up approach, where previously there was fragmentation and confusion. We are now working, through the implementation of the Plan to maximise the opportunities for a more integrated, customer focussed railway, with a new organisation, Great British Railways, at its heart. Legislative proposals are being developed and we are currently working closely with the industry to create this simpler, better railway.

**Technical standards that work for the UK.** There is a significant opportunity to streamline and improve the regulations that govern the setting of rail standards in Great Britain, many of which derive from EU legislation. Given the international nature of many markets, standardisation can have benefits, so we will take the time needed to get this right. We are currently completing a post-implementation review of the current framework for the setting of technical standards, which we expect to complete early this year. We intend to develop a consultation on options for changing the existing regulations, with the aim of reducing the time and cost involved in applying standards. In the meantime, we are working with the rail industry to develop improved guidance and to improve the operation of the existing regulations. We are already seeing the benefits of our new regulatory independence. For instance not having to comply with EU standards, HS2 platforms can

be designed to be as passenger friendly as possible, with level, step-free access to promote accessibility.

## Roads

### **Zero carbon and autonomous vehicles transporting people and goods in safety and comfort.**

By harnessing technology and innovation, we will lead the world in zero carbon and self-driving vehicles, which will increasingly be used to transport people and goods in safety and comfort. Our HGV sector will be efficient and safe, we will optimise transport as a key enabler of our supply chains and we will maintain our world-leading position on road safety.

We are working with industry to deliver innovation, trial new technologies, modernise our infrastructure and update our regulations and legislation. We will ensure our regulations and legislation are efficient, safe and flexible for the future, to avoid any unnecessary burdens on motorists.

### **How we will deliver our vision**

**The right standards for vehicles on the UK's future roads.** To drive technological change and set the right standards for the vehicles on the UK's future roads we are enabling greater flexibility to support the innovative technologies we need in connected and self-driving vehicles and driving the highest new vehicle standards via our own vehicle type approval regime. Our new vehicle type approvals regime will enable new and innovative mobility solutions, improve vehicle safety and protect the environment.

**Stream-lining the path to HGV licence acquisition.** We have already reduced unnecessary staging requirements before testing for driving a lorry and trailer. We have also made changes to allow car drivers to tow trailers without further testing, while maintaining our safety standards. And we are committed to reviewing the rules for driving licences and tests further, including considering changes to licence entitlements, such as those for driving small lorries.

**Professional training is fit for purpose, not a barrier to drivers.** An urgent review of professional driver training has confirmed a clear case and support for change. We will make evidence-based changes that will improve the working practices of professional drivers.

**Heavier and longer vehicles to reduce CO2 emissions and journeys from the HGV fleet.** We intend to reduce restrictions on HGV weights, length and delivery windows, giving greater flexibility. This includes launching a trial of 48 tonne vehicles on intermodal freight haulage. We have also trialled a longer semi-trailer design, shown to have already saved 60,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and reduced journeys by 8.3%, which is due to be allowed in general circulation for all hauliers to benefit from in April.

**A modern licensing regime.** We can now change the training of transport managers working for domestic operators and modernise our operator licensing rules to support safe and fair business practices. Changes are being made this year to operator licences for international goods transport. We are considering the best legislative basis for Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency sanctions against serious and serial breaches of commercial road transport rules. The proposals would affect both UK and non-UK vehicles and operators.

**Identifying and reducing frictions in our supply chains.** We are identifying and reducing frictions in our supply chains at our border and within the UK. We will continue to work closely with industry to ensure that the regulatory environment facilitates the optimal use of existing transport infrastructure. Transport is a key enabler of international and domestic trade and we will provide the right balance between the free flow of goods and environmental and safety considerations. We have already been able to implement changes more quickly and efficiently since we regained our decision-making sovereignty on 1 January 2021. We have been able to introduce temporary changes to cabotage and drivers' hours rules rapidly, reflecting the exceptional challenges the supply chain has faced due to the Covid pandemic.

**Maintaining our world leading position on road safety.** We remain world leading when it comes to road safety, but we are not complacent. Our new Road Safety Strategic Framework will set out our long-term vision to change the perception and approach people take to road safety, with the aim of improving road safety and road safety knowledge and learning. We want to ensure all road users feel safe on their journey and there is a collective and collaborative approach to eliminating harm on our roads.

## Maritime

### **A globally-competitive maritime sector, providing growth and jobs and helping to level up the UK's regions.**

Brexit allows us to streamline the regulation of UK ports, making them more competitive globally, helping to deliver our Global Britain ambitions. Our ports and freeports will bring new jobs and opportunities to the coastal communities, attract inward investment into the UK and become true global champions of innovation and connectivity. Our thriving ports will benefit consumers as cost savings are passed onto them. We will also provide greater opportunities for the cruise industry by allowing people to get married at sea.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Eight Freeports in England and at least one Freeport in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.** Leaving the EU means the UK has more freedom over the flexibilities and tax concessions it can offer in “free zones”. Eligible businesses in our Freeports will have access to a suite of tax reliefs, simplified customs arrangements, a supportive planning environment and support to innovate. Freeports are being developed at: East Midlands Airport; Felixstowe & Harwich; Humber; Liverpool City Region; Plymouth & South Devon; Solent; and Thames and Teesside. A total of £200 million seed capital funding will be provided to support the development of these Freeports.

**Repealing the EU Port Services Regulation.** The UK's seaports form a competitive private sector industry. The Port Services Regulation imposes unnecessary red tape on the UK's competitive and successful ports sector. This onerous EU regulation was never fit for purpose in the context of the United Kingdom's privately operated port system. It was designed to increase competitiveness in state owned ports in the EU. We will get rid of it so that the UK's ports can further thrive. Removing the Port Services Regulation will facilitate cost savings to ports, which could then be passed on to consumers.

## Nuclear

### **Renewing our investment in nuclear, to ensure the UK remains a world leader in the generation of nuclear energy.**

In 2020, nuclear power stations produced 16% of the electricity generated in the UK. There are six nuclear power stations across England and Scotland, however, our fleet is ageing and most of the currently operating reactors are planned to retire in the current decade. Outside of Euratom, the UK is now responsible for its own nuclear safeguards and will ensure that the UK remains a world leader in the generation of nuclear energy.

As announced in the Net Zero Strategy, we will publish in 2022 a nuclear roadmap to outline civil nuclear's path to 2050. The roadmap will inform investment decisions the Government will take during the next Parliament on further nuclear projects, establishing a clear strategy to provide visibility to the nuclear industry. The strategy will support our objectives of creating a more resilient nuclear pipeline, driving down costs, mobilising private investment and boosting innovation. We will ensure that the UK remains a world-leader in the generation of nuclear energy, demonstrating our commitment to safety, security and safeguards whilst looking to attract appropriate future investments.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Establishing the Radiological Safety Group to influence international nuclear standards.** We have set up the Radiological Safety Group—a partnership between the four nations of the UK which enables us to influence international standards with one voice and move with agility together to implement the newest changes in nuclear rules in a way that maintains our high standards of nuclear safety and fits our legal traditions, to gain the benefit from innovation.

**Our domestic safeguards regime.** The new UK's domestic nuclear safeguards regime has been operating successfully for the past 12 months, enabling the UK to meet all of its international safeguards and non-proliferation obligations.

**The Nuclear Energy (Financing) Bill.** We are legislating to enable use of the Regulated Asset Base model for new nuclear projects. Regulated Asset Base is a tried and tested funding model, used on UK infrastructure projects including the Thames Tideway Tunnel, which we believe could reduce the cost of financing new large-scale nuclear projects, reducing their overall cost by more than £30 billion and encouraging private investment.

**Reassessing the Office of Nuclear Regulation capability.** We are carrying out a statutory post-implementation review of the Office of Nuclear Regulation, carried out under the provisions of the Energy Act 2013. This is a chance to assess the Office of Nuclear Regulation's capability now and for the future, reviewing the effectiveness and efficiency of

the Office of Nuclear Regulation in delivering public value and policy outcomes in line with the Act.

**New powers to scrutinise and intervene in acquisitions.** The National Security and Investment Act came into operation on 4th January 2022 and gives the Government powers to scrutinise and intervene in acquisitions that may pose national security risks, including in the nuclear sector. It also provides businesses and investors with predictable, legally defined timelines and processes for decisions on acquisitions.

**A new National Policy Statement for nuclear developments.** We will develop a new National Policy Statement for nuclear developments post- 2025 and are continuing to enhance our nuclear third-party liability regime and creating an improved investment climate for the UK nuclear sector.

## Housing and Construction

### **More homeowners, in better quality, safer and greener homes, across all tenures and in all parts of the country.**

Brexit offers the opportunity to deliver better quality, safer and greener homes across all tenures and in all parts of the country.

Our housing strategy post-Brexit aims to drive up home ownership, a life ambition that all people should have access to whatever their circumstances. We will reduce the cost of housing by delivering a £12 billion investment in affordable housing, which will unlock a further £38 billion in public and private investment in affordable housing, and by improving the planning system, giving councils the tools they need to regenerate land and building the homes communities need. We will also legislate to transform the Social Housing sector and set out plans to deliver better security and quality for private renters through a White Paper.

Our plans will enable us to build back better and level up our great towns and cities, supporting jobs in the construction industry for years to come. We are supporting the construction sector to ensure it has the right skills to build the homes that Britain needs, including through an emphasis on new and innovative technology. We are working to support the UK workforce on labour and skills issues so we are able to fulfil our commitment to an additional million better quality, affordable, safe and sustainable homes over the course of this parliament, and 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s.

### **How will we achieve our vision:**

**Embracing modern methods of construction.** New technology and innovation can help housebuilders deliver good-quality, energy-efficient, new-build homes more quickly. We have a programme of work underway to accelerate the use of modern methods of construction in housebuilding and we are stimulating demand through our funding and land programmes. Adopting modern methods of construction will broaden the labour pool as it utilises a mix of advanced manufacturing skills and entry-level assembly roles and will create new employment opportunities.

**Revising our planning regulations so they meet national needs.** We are delivering an improved system of environmental assessment. As set out in the Planning White Paper and the National Infrastructure Strategy, we intend to deliver a new framework that provides clarity, removes duplication and ensures environmental considerations are embedded effectively in decision making at an early stage. Our reforms will ensure environmental protections are more relevant and enforceable with a stronger focus on delivering the outcomes we need. We are also considering how habitats regulations could be amended to help address problems with nutrient pollution.

## Local Government

### **A sustainable and resilient local government sector that can effectively deliver priority services and empower communities.**

Local authorities are at the heart of the Government's agenda to level up the country. They are also key to enabling the success of our biggest cross-government ambitions. Brexit created a unique opportunity for the UK to take back control of policy that was previously governed by the EU. This has allowed us to better tailor our laws, policies and regulations to support the interests of local people and local businesses that make up the heart of communities across the UK. Local authorities are key to delivering those changes on behalf of their residents.

#### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Taking back control over where local growth funding is spent.** We have taken back control over how local growth funding is spent, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be the successor programme of the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. These EU funds were bureaucratic, fragmented and overlapped with domestic programmes. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will invest in local areas more effectively, delivered with local insight and in a way which better aligns with domestic priorities. UK taxpayer money will be spent on the priorities of the UK population with decisions made by UK elected representatives. Further details on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be published alongside the Government's Levelling Up White Paper in early February.

**A simpler funding landscape.** We recognise that the local growth funding landscape can be complex. We are taking steps to ensure that the funding landscape is streamlined, to alleviate administrative burdens on local government and provide local areas with further powers over where funding is directed.

**Simpler procurement rules.** Changes to our procurement laws will simplify and speed up the EU procurement rules that regulated how councils buy goods and services so that councils can boost growth and create jobs, thereby supporting local and national economies. The steps we are taking will enable us to use the £300 billion spent on public procurement each year, £64 billion of which is by councils, to generate social value and unleash opportunities for small businesses, charities and social enterprises to innovate in public sector delivery.

## Education

### **Opportunities for students, teachers and the economy from high-quality UK education and research.**

Education is the hallmark of a civilised society, the engine of its productivity and the foundation of its culture. The UK has long been recognised across the world for the quality of its education and research. As well as building opportunity for those in the UK, education exports make an important contribution to the UK economy, £25.2 billion in 2019. Through education we can enhance existing international partnerships and encourage the forging of new relationships across the world.

The Turing scheme is set to provide funding for more than 41,000 participants from schools, colleges and universities to study and work across the globe during the 2021–22 academic year. This is 17% higher than the 35,000 planned; it includes more than 28,000 Higher Education placements, more than 6,000 Further Education and Vocational Education and Training placements and more than 5,000 schools placements. We have particularly focused on targeting students from disadvantaged backgrounds to support our focus on Levelling Up. More than 19,000 (48%) of the planned placements have been taken up by students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This academic year (2021–2022), the scheme will be able to support mobilities in over 150 destinations worldwide. The networks created help the UK forge lasting relationships with countries around the world and strengthen our Global Britain agenda.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Building networks through the Turing Scheme.** The Turing scheme is backed by a budget of £110 million for the 2021–2022 academic year and funding was confirmed for the continuation of the scheme for the next three years, including £110 million for the academic year 2022–23.

**Embracing Global Britain in our International Education Strategy.** Through our International Education Strategy, we are committed to growing the value of education exports with two key ambitions to achieve by 2030: increasing education exports to £35 billion per year and hosting at least 600,000 international higher education students in the UK per year. New data shows we have delivered on our ambition for the first time in 2020–21 nearly 10 years early with 605,130 international students studying in the UK.

**New opportunities for aspiring teachers and for teacher training providers.** We are launching a new, international teaching qualification from September 2022, to export English-style teacher training across the globe. The best and brightest aspiring teachers, wherever they are from, will be able to train to top quality English standards, creating a

pool of highly qualified teachers able to teach here and worldwide and inspire the next generation.

**Student Finance that benefits the UK.** As an EU member state, we participated in reciprocal higher education funding and financing arrangements for EU-resident students, including offering home fee status and access to student finance. This had the effect of offering EU students significantly better terms than were available to students from the rest of the world, including members of the Commonwealth and other UK allies. Under this arrangement, UK taxpayers provided billions of pounds in student loans to EU residents. In 2020–21 alone loans to EU-domiciled students totalled £590 million, over half of which we never expect to be repaid. By ending this arrangement, we have released hundreds of millions of pounds annually to be reinvested in upskilling UK residents, as part of our additional £3.8 billion of additional investment in further education and skills over the course of the Parliament. This will ensure that more people can access high-quality training and education that leads to good jobs, addresses skills gaps, boosts productivity and supports levelling up.

**Multiplying the benefit of our money.** EU Structural Funds, to which the UK taxpayer contributed, were hugely bureaucratic frequently used to support projects that were not optimally designed directly to benefit the UK public. Brexit has allowed the Government to take back control of such funds and deploy them more effectively. Our flagship numeracy programme, Multiply, will directly address the challenge of adult innumeracy, which we know holds back too many hard-working individuals from accessing the opportunities that would allow them to improve their lives. The Multiply programme will go live from Spring 2022 and help transform the lives of hundreds of thousands.

## Health

### **Helping people to live longer in good health and tackling health disparities.**

We want people to live longer in good health, to rely on our NHS and social care less and later in life, to be able to remain in work for longer and to stay in their own homes for longer if they become unwell. We want to help people make more informed, healthier choices for themselves and their families as well as encourage businesses to reformulate their products, for example we have set out an ambition for England to be smoke-free by 2030.

There is a huge disparity in the number of years lived in poor health between the most and least deprived people across the country. A woman from York has on average a decade longer of healthy life expectancy than a woman from Doncaster 30 miles away. We want to narrow the gap, levelling up the country and reducing these avoidable inequalities in health outcomes.

Good health will help drive the UK economy, enabling people to live long and productive working lives. We can now go faster and further than the EU on addressing the top preventable risk factors for poor health, including obesity, smoking and alcohol consumption.

### **How we will deliver our vision**

**Helping people to quit smoking.** The UK is already recognised as a world leader in tobacco control and has made good progress reducing smoking rates. However, with around six million smokers in England and stark health disparities associated with smoking, more still needs to be done to help people to quit smoking. We have now launched a rapid independent review to identify which policies and regulatory reforms will be most impactful in supporting our 2030 Smokefree ambition, including where it may be beneficial to go further than the EU's Tobacco Products Directive allowed us to. We will set out proposals for our regulatory reforms in a new Tobacco Control Plan due to be published later this year.

**Promoting healthy eating and preventing obesity.** We are considering potential changes to our food labelling requirements relating to health, and how these can be done at pace. We also plan to launch a consultation on proposals to introduce new regulatory powers on the marketing and labelling of infant food and drinks to more effectively tackle childhood obesity.

**A global approach to reciprocal healthcare.** Brexit has placed a new focus on the opportunity to negotiate reciprocal healthcare arrangements with countries outside of the EU. Such arrangements can particularly support those with existing health conditions to

travel. We plan to put in place the necessary legislation to do this from late 2022. A key plank of this work will be seeking to get the new Global Health Insurance Card accepted in countries outside of the EEA and Switzerland and facilitating access to necessary healthcare for people when travelling to different countries and regions. We are also looking at modernisations including data sharing, reimbursement and other provisions that could help cost recovery. We have now successfully trademarked the GHIC to protect and promote the Global Health Insurance Card brand and to combat fraudulent services which charge the public for Global Health Insurance Card cards.

# Climate, the Environment & Agriculture

## Achieving Net Zero

**We will reach net zero by 2050.**

Our strategy for net zero is to lead the world in ending our contribution to climate change, while turning this mission into the greatest opportunity for jobs and prosperity for our country since the industrial revolution.

Following Brexit the UK now has the flexibility to determine our own decarbonisation pathways to 2050, in a way that fully utilises the unique strengths and opportunities of UK diplomacy, industry and innovation. We have already published the Net Zero Strategy, Energy White Paper and Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan on how to drive a green industrial revolution and we led the way towards global net zero through our hugely successful hosting of Glasgow COP26.

There is enormous opportunity for the UK in Net Zero and to seize this opportunity we must move first. By 2030 low carbon goods and services globally are expected to be worth between £1.1 trillion and £1.8 trillion per year. In the UK the green economy could support up to two million jobs, including in our industrial heartlands. We want to help our manufacturing sector lead the world in the green industrial revolution.

We will continue to demonstrate strong UK leadership internationally in areas of UK experience and expertise, including at multilateral settings like the G7 and G20 and bilaterally with key allies and trading partners. In 2022 the UK will publish a 2030 Strategic Framework, which will establish a common vision and clear priorities to guide UK international climate and nature action over the next decade that deliver on the areas set out in the Integrated Review.

The Presidency Year of 2022 offers an opportunity for us to place the UK at the forefront of the transition. This will allow us to shape the global transition to align with UK priorities and strengths, capitalise on export and inward investment opportunities and maximise the benefits of our own transition to net zero at home.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**A world-leading approach to green finance.** The investment we have seen into Net Zero has been facilitated by our world-leading approach to green finance, which has been embedded since the publication of our 2019 Green Finance Strategy. The UK has cemented its position as a leader on green finance through the launch of the UK Infrastructure Bank; the issuance of Green Gilts totalling £16 billion; becoming the first

G20 country to introduce mandatory Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure-aligned climate-related financial disclosure requirements; and through 75 UK firms, with assets under management of £18.9 trillion, joining the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.

**A world leading Energy-Related Products Framework.** We published our energy-related products framework in November 2021 and set out the UK plan for how we will drive products to use less energy, resources and materials, to contribute to achieving net zero. Existing product policies already reduce the average dual fuel bills by around £75 and saved eight metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2021, with further significant potential carbon and energy savings outlined in our Fifth and Sixth Carbon Budgets. We have also introduced new or amended product regulations since we left the EU, across 8 product categories, that will further reduce consumer bills and support consumers' 'right to repair' products.

**Our new UK Emissions Trading Scheme.** We will use our new UK Emissions Trading Scheme to incentivise cost-effective abatement in industry, power and aviation at the pace and scale required to deliver net zero. In the coming months, we will consult, in partnership with the Devolved Administrations through the common framework, on a net zero consistent cap for the scheme. Our aim is to deliver the world's first net zero compliant cap and trade market. We will also explore expanding the UK Emissions Trading Scheme to the remaining two thirds of uncovered emissions.

**Helping consumers make green choices.** Standards and labels designed in the UK can help consumers make green choices and encourage the market for green products to grow. This will in turn boost our competitiveness as the world heads towards net zero and encourage other countries to follow suit. We are collecting views from UK industry and others through our Call for Evidence: towards a market for low emissions industrial products, which is open until 28 February, and plan to publish proposals on this later this year, with measures starting from the mid-2020s.

**Taking our own seat at international institutions and using our trade negotiations to drive global climate action.** We are using our independent trade policy, including our seat at the World Trade Organization, to promote global trade rules that are aligned to net zero and the Paris Agreement. This includes seeking to improve market access for green goods and services. In November the UK will be able to drive UK priorities as we take our seat at the COP27, independently from the EU team.

**Exploring options to mitigate carbon leakage.** We will continue to explore options to mitigate carbon leakage, with emphasis on an international multilateral effort to tackle carbon leakage at source through global action on industrial decarbonisation and climate regulation, with continued monitoring of related global policy developments.

## The Environment

### **Delivering cleaner air for all, creating thousands of hectares of new habitat, halting the decline in nature and reducing waste to create a circular economy.**

Last November, we led the world at COP26 with nearly 200 countries agreeing the Glasgow Climate Pact to ‘keep 1.5C alive’. We won historic commitments from countries to act on coal, cars, cash and trees.

In addition to acting and leading on climate change, we will set legally-binding targets to clean up the country’s air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste, make better use of our resources and halt the decline in species by 2030, helping to reverse declines of iconic British species like the hedgehog, red squirrel and water vole. Delivering our environmental targets will stimulate innovation and economic growth, helping to create and support green jobs. We are now able to design a framework for doing so that specifically supports the UK and its priorities.

Our aim is to lead internationally in maximising resource efficiency, minimising waste and moving towards a more circular economy. We will make choices that reflect UK priorities post-Brexit and drive a shift in the market towards products that are lasting, can be repaired and can be recycled. We will enable citizens to make fully informed purchasing decisions through clear labelling. And we will ensure those who place packaging on the market take more responsibility for the costs any waste of that packaging imposes. We will ensure producers pay the full net cost of dealing with their packaging waste, where they currently only pay about 10%.

We have already banned the sale of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds, increased the plastic bag charge to 10p and extended it to all retailers. We have launched a consultation on banning single use plastic cutlery, plates and polystyrene cups and a call for evidence on other problematic single use plastics. And we have just passed our world-leading Environment Act 2021—now it is time to deliver on it.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Reforming, streamlining and strengthening our environmental regulation.** We are reviewing and reforming the estimated 80% of our environmental law that came from the EU to ensure it is rational, cohesive and fit for the UK’s unique economy and natural environment. We are continuously improving our consenting and permitting processes. These improvements will ensure systems are streamlined, cost-effective and proportionate, whilst supporting nature recovery. We will ensure that we have the right regulation in place to deliver the goals set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan and statutory targets.

**Bringing people closer to nature with biodiversity net gain, new community forests and landscape recovery projects.** We will introduce a mandatory approach to biodiversity net gain, requiring developers to put back more nature than was there before the development. We have launched three new Community Forests in Cumbria, Devon and the North East and our landscape recovery schemes will deliver the Prime Minister's 10 point plan commitment to create 30,000 football pitches of wildlife rich habitat.

**Our Nature Recovery Green Paper: Protected Sites and Species.** This is the next step in delivering on the benefits of Brexit, setting out our proposals to establish a new system of protections for sites and species tailored to restoring British biodiversity. The Green Paper will seek views on how we designate protected sites and species to create a more coherent, modern approach and make sites and species more resilient to climate change and other natural changes. It will look at how we regulate habitats to enable us to deliver better outcomes for nature in a more flexible and integrated way and create more space for decisions based on scientific judgement.

**All plastic packaging reusable or recyclable by 2025, all avoidable waste of any kind eliminated by 2050.** We will deliver a circular economy where it is easier to reuse and recycle, protecting the environment, reducing our reliance on imports and protecting UK resources. We will take steps to ensure all councils recycle properly, making it easier for people to do the right thing with their waste, no matter where they live.

**Ending the throw-away culture.** We will ensure consumers get better-quality products that last longer and are easier to reuse and recycle. We will drive up standards for product manufacture, making products better quality and easier to repair and eventually recycle. We will restrict the most damaging types of single-use items. We have already restricted the supply of plastic straws, cotton buds and drinks stirrers and we are consulting on banning single-use plastic plates, cutlery, balloon sticks and certain types of polystyrene food and drink containers. We will extend producer responsibility to powerfully incentivise producers to cut waste and ensure they, not taxpayers, pick up the cost of disposing of it.

**Using much less plastic, with much more recycled in the UK.** We have already introduced the world's toughest ban on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products. Our single-use plastic carrier bag charge has already cut plastic bag usage from larger retailers—and, with its extension to all retailers last year, is expected to cut single-use plastic bag usage by 80%. Consistent collections of plastics for recycling, coupled with the tax on plastic packaging without enough recycled content, will pave the way for a new generation of recycling plants—turning rubbish that once couldn't be recycled back into a useful resource and creating new British jobs.

**Banning plastic waste exports to non-OECD countries.** We will go further than the EU on banning the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries, our commitment is not limited to just one category of plastic waste like the EU's ban.

## Farming

### **Farmers are the lifeblood of our nation—producing high-quality, home-grown food and stewarding our natural environment.**

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy, with its over-prescriptive rules, was a disaster for farmers, farming and the environment—so we are charting a new course to simplify regulations and improve productivity. Our aim is that by 2028 all farmers will be: running sustainable businesses that do not need to rely on public subsidy; delivering profitable food production and supporting the recovery of nature, fusing the best modern technology with the traditional art of good farm husbandry; able to access public money to help them deliver environmental and animal welfare outcomes on the land they manage, reducing emissions and delivering on our net zero ambitions. We will reform our regulatory regime so farmers are meeting clear, outcome-focused and proportionate legal standards that champion UK food internationally, prevent environmental harm, protect biosecurity and protect health and animal welfare.

We want to see more regenerative farming as farmers combine growing crops with looking after livestock and agroforestry—trees within fields—to provide shade and store carbon. Softer edges to fields as hedges, field buffers, farm ponds and other agricultural habitats are returned and maintained, reducing the impact of farming on water. More woodland and more trees soaking up carbon and providing habitat for wildlife. Larger areas where natural processes run their course. The re-wiggling of rivers, taking them out of canals, natural regeneration of woodlands and more widespread introduction of keystone species like the beaver and white stork. Bigger and more connected protected sites, so species can move through the landscape and more people can enjoy our country's natural heritage. Greater resilience as we adapt to a warming climate and different crops, like vines in vineyards, and trees like hornbeam. And more resilient farmers undertaking sustainable intensification supported by greater use of technology. Drones monitoring soil and crops and self-driving tractors. Gene editing and crop science producing more resilient and productive crops and livestock. The UK is a world leader in genetics and genomics and we want UK researchers and commercial breeders to be at the forefront of exploring what this technology has to offer.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Rewarding farmers for the delivery of public goods.** To achieve this we are seizing the opportunities of Brexit and implementing a set of targeted financial schemes to improve the environment, productivity and the health and welfare of animals, moving away from the EU's distorting area-based subsidies. Farmers will have the freedom to choose which elements and options of three different schemes work for them and are best for their business. These schemes will play an essential role in halting the decline in species by

2030, bringing up to 60% of England's agricultural soil under sustainable management by 2030 and restoring up to 300,000 hectares of wildlife habitat by 2042.

**The Sustainable Farming Incentive.** This is the first of our three new environmental land management schemes, which are already live. Through this scheme, we will pay farmers to produce public goods such as water quality, biodiversity, animal health and welfare and climate change mitigation, alongside food production. These public goods are essential to meeting our 25 Year Environment Plan, Net Zero and animal health and welfare ambitions, alongside our ambitions for a productive and competitive agriculture sector.

**Our Landscape Recovery scheme.** We will launch the first pilots this year. This is our scheme for landowners and managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate benefits on their land. This scheme represents a new approach to supporting long-term, significant habitat restoration and land use change of the sort that will be essential to achieve our environmental ambitions.

**Local Nature Recovery scheme.** This is the successor to the Countryside Stewardship scheme in England. It will begin with a phased rollout from 2023. It will pay for locally-targeted actions to make space for nature in the farmed landscape and the wider countryside, alongside food production. Local Nature Recovery will provide a range of options so that farmers can choose the right combination for their setting and preferences and work in a locally responsive way to support the right things being done in the right places, such as coastal habitat restoration in coastal areas or peatland restoration in areas with peat.

**A scientific and proportionate approach to gene editing.** Brexit allows us to adopt a more scientific and proportionate approach to the regulation of genetic technologies. We will legislate as soon as parliamentary time allows to amend the regulatory definitions of a Genetically Modified Organism to exclude organisms that have genetic changes that could have been achieved through traditional breeding, or which could occur naturally. We will also consider appropriate regulatory measures needed to enable gene-edited crops that are equivalent to those produced through traditional breeding to be brought to market. This will help our farmers grow more resistant, more nutritious and more productive crops, helping us to tackle the challenges of food security, climate change and biodiversity loss. And it will help farmers in the UK to produce great British food in a way that is better for the environment, reducing the need for chemical pesticides and protecting bees and other pollinating insects.

## Fisheries & Marine Management

### **A more competitive and profitable fishing industry for the whole UK that is the gold standard for sustainable fishing around the world.**

The United Kingdom has waters that contain some of the historically richest fishing grounds in the world. We have now taken back control of those waters. As an independent coastal State, under international law, we are in control of the seas that make up our exclusive economic zone.

Outside the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, we can establish regulations that are tailored to our unique marine environment. We can be more ambitious environmentally; and we can make sure that our future fishing policies are truly sustainable and that they protect and enhance marine habitats, in line with the goals of our 25-year environment plan.

We are fortunate that Britain is a world leader in fisheries science and marine conservation. We will use that expertise and the flexibility that comes from new fishing opportunities to pioneer new approaches to managing fish stocks, which work better and in the interests of both the fishing industry and the environment.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Fisheries Management Plans that deliver for society, the environment and the economy.** Our Fisheries Management Plans will take a holistic approach to fisheries management and will be the chief vehicle for moving away from the Common Fisheries Policy. Fisheries Management plans will set out how we will maintain and restore fishing stocks to sustainable levels. Moving towards healthier stocks is our main goal; plans will also be able to consider the social economic impact of large cuts in fish caught. Over time, as stocks improve, quotas will go up again. Our Fisheries Management plans will be co-created and developed in partnership with industry, unlike the one-size fits all Common Fisheries Policy. We want to create plans that the fishing industry owns too. While there will still be restrictions on fishing activities, in the longer term the fishing industry will benefit from healthier fish stocks. Our Fisheries Management Plans will be bespoke to fisheries or areas, which, combined with improved technology, will allow more real-time fisheries management.

**A fishing industry for the 21st century.** Investment in digitisation and automation of record keeping, data gathering and analysis, alongside control and enforcement, will lead to fully documented fisheries with greater traceability—for example, through increased use of Remote Electronic Monitoring, inshore vessel monitoring systems, catch apps and artificial intelligence. Improved technology and automation will mean fishermen spend more time fishing and less time filling in records. Early adoption of certain technologies could result in access to more areas or quotas.

**Regulations co-created with industry.** Our regulation will be delivered in a much better way—openly and collaboratively. We will engage the industry in joint problem solving and listen to them on practical impacts, working together to create solutions and form a mutual understanding. The regulatory regime will knit together more seamlessly through our Fisheries Management Plans, where management will be done at a more rational and appropriate level rather than being driven by lines on a map. We will put an end to perverse outcomes that occurred in the EU, like having one minimum landing size on one side of an administrative boundary in a bay and a different one on the other. Close and collaborative working will improve the relationship and trust between fishermen, scientists and regulators and this should translate to better science as expertise and resources are better targeted.

**Flourishing offshore Marine Protected Areas.** One of the biggest challenges for the UK previously was securing other countries' endorsement for offshore Marine Protected Areas management measures through the Common Fisheries Policy process. Now that we are an independent coastal state, the Fisheries Act 2020 introduces new powers enabling us to better protect our Marine Protected Areas. We are undergoing a three year programme of work to implement restorative measures in all our offshore sites. We have also committed to piloting a number of Highly Protected Marine Areas, which will have the highest levels of protection in our seas to allow nature to fully recover.

## Animal Welfare

### **A nation of animal lovers, continuing to raise the bar for animal welfare and taking the rest of the world with us.**

We are a nation of animal lovers. The UK was the first country in the world to pass legislation to protect animals in 1822 with the Cruel Treatment of Cattle Act. We built on this to improve conditions related to slaughterhouses in 1875 and then passed the landmark Protection of Animals Act in 1911. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 introduced a robust framework and powers for protecting all kept animals in England and Wales.

Since 2010, we have achieved remarkable things in animal welfare. On farms we introduced new regulations for minimum standards for meat chickens, banned the use of conventional battery cages for laying hens and made CCTV mandatory in slaughterhouses in England. For pets, microchipping became mandatory for dogs in 2015, we modernised our licensing system for a range of activities such as dog breeding and pet sales, protected service animals via 'Finn's Law' and banned the commercial third-party sales of puppies and kittens through 'Lucy's Law'. In 2019 our Wild Animals in Circuses Act became law and we have led work to implement humane trapping standards.

And we are going to go further. Our manifesto was clear that high standards of animal welfare are one of the hallmarks of a civilised society. We have a long tradition of protecting animals and that will continue and we will continue to support similar efforts overseas, taking the rest of the world with us.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Treating our own animals the right way.** Our departure from the EU provided us with an opportunity to do things better. We are taking action to ban the live exports of animals for slaughter and fattening, to crack down on puppy smuggling and low-welfare pet imports and to bring in powers that will enable us to go even further to protect the welfare of our pets. Our Action Plan for Animal Welfare sets the foundation for this, laying out our aims and ambitions for animal welfare. Our proposals will shape how we interact and care for our animals, including our pets, farmed animals and kept wild animals.

**Building animal welfare into our independent trade policy.** Animal welfare plays an integral part in our trade policy, which will complement our strong domestic standards. We intend to address some unacceptable practices abroad and set a clear global sense of direction on international conservation and trade, from banning the import and export of detached shark fins to banning the advertising and offering for sale in the UK of attractions and activities that involve unacceptable treatment of animals abroad. We have taken global leadership through the inclusion of standalone animal welfare chapters and

unprecedented animal welfare provisions in our FTA with Australia and at Agreement in Principle with New Zealand.

**Taking a more assertive role on the world stage.** We are using our new, independent voice in wildlife conventions, world forums and organisations to take a more assertive role on the world stage. We will go further in our cooperation and collaboration internationally to encourage shifts worldwide towards higher-welfare forms of livestock production, including pressing for World Trade Organization rules to treat animal welfare criteria as a key consideration in trade discussions.

# Global Britain

## The UK Border

### **Making the UK border the most effective border in the world.**

We want to make the UK border the most effective in the world. We are working in partnership with industry and the devolved administrations to deliver the commitments of the UK 2025 Border Strategy. This will radically transform how the UK border facilitates trade, protects the resilience of supply chains and keeps the UK safe. We are investing over £1 billion over the next three years in transforming border technology and operations to accomplish this and we are supporting industry to invest, alongside the Government, by making innovation at the border easier.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Building a UK Single Trade Window, digitising trade processes and transforming government's use of border data.** We are investing £180 million in the creation of a single digital gateway through which traders can complete all border processes, radically streamlining the processes of importing and exporting. It will deliver significant savings to UK businesses through reduced time and cost burden of trade. Alongside development of the Single Trade Window we are working with our trade partners to drive forward commitments towards the global digitisation of import and export documentation to ultimately make end-to-end trade digital by default. To support this transformation, we will also work with businesses and their supply chains to review how border data is shared across border agencies and the legislation that enables this.

**Implementing advanced risking across control regimes at the border.** The UK now has the freedom to implement its own approach to the checks and controls that are enforced at the border across all commodity types. We will implement these to deliver the best outcomes for the UK across safety & security, biosecurity and trade. This will ensure that border agencies' interventions at the frontier keep the UK safe, while minimising delays in the movement of goods and increasing predictability within supply chains. To support this, border agencies are investing around £70 million in new risking capabilities to identify threats at the border and respond intelligently.

**Reviewing and improving our customs regime.** Now that the UK is free from the EU's Union Customs Code, HMRC and HM Treasury will consult on customs processes, the intermediary market and the Transit facilitation to seek the views and expertise of businesses and ensure that government and industry can work in partnership together to deliver a world class customs regime.

**Delivering a world-leading frictionless trade model, enabled by technology and data.**

We have launched an expression of interest to industry to pilot technologies to deliver end-to-end frictionless trade in partnership with government. Our intention is to run these pilots over 2022 at UK ports. This will allow the UK to lead the way in experimenting with how technology, data science and trusted trader programmes can come together to create a secure border where most processes are moved away from the frontier, greatly reducing costs for businesses across supply chains.

**Advanced data on goods entering the UK.** From 1 July 2022 we will receive advanced data on goods entering the UK from the EU, enabling Border Force to target its interventions against those consignments most likely to be harmful, while facilitating the flow of legitimate goods. Data is at the heart of the fight against the smuggling of high harm goods such as Class A drugs and illicit firearms. Our interventions at the border form part of a comprehensive approach to preventing the flow of these commodities onto the streets where they cause undue harm. This represents a significant increase in the quantity of data we will receive and is therefore a key security dividend following Brexit.

## Migration

### Taking back control of our borders to attract the best global talent

We have ended freedom of movement and taken back control of our borders with wholesale reform of our visas, asylum and border control systems. One year ago, we delivered the points based system, a single, global immigration system, attracting and retaining the brightest and best global talent. We have already introduced new work routes, including the Skilled Worker, Global Talent, Graduate and Health and Care routes, as well as supporting people from Hong Kong through the British Nationals (Overseas) visa route. We have granted free visa extensions for crucial healthcare workers and their dependents. We have also made our border more secure, including by ending the use of EU, EEA and Swiss national identity (ID) cards as a valid travel document for entry to the UK by most travellers.

As the UK builds back from the Covid pandemic, our immigration system is supporting the domestic labour market by attracting those people with the skills the UK needs, simplifying the application process and revamping how people are sponsored. Over the next four years, we will implement transformational change for everyone who interacts with the immigration system. We intend to be global leaders in providing a streamlined and seamless customer experience, whilst ensuring the security of the UK.

### How we will achieve our vision

**The Nationality and Borders Bill.** The Nationality and Borders Bill will deliver the Government's New Plan for Immigration—the most comprehensive reform in decades, to fix the broken asylum and illegal migration system. The principle behind the Bill—and the wider Plan—is simple. Access to the UK's asylum system should be based on need, not on the ability to pay people smugglers.

**Reforming our Sponsorship System and improving business mobility routes.** The new Global Business Mobility visa will bring together, reform and expand a number of existing routes to allow overseas businesses and innovative companies greater flexibility in transferring workers to the UK. This will make it easier to establish and operate multinational businesses in the UK. We will also continue to deliver a package of reforms to our Sponsorship System up to 2024 to further reduce the administrative burden on sponsors.

**New Highly Skilled Routes.** A new points-based route to attract the brightest and best, highest potential individuals to the UK. The new Scale-up route, launching in spring, will allow those with a job offer at the required skill and salary level from a recognised UK scale-up to qualify for a fast-track visa. These routes will assist in securing talented workers to maintain our status as a leading international hub for emerging technologies.

**Electronic Travel Authorisations.** By the end of 2024 we will introduce an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) to close the current gap in advance permissions and to enhance our ability to prevent the travel of those who pose a threat to the UK.

**Strengthening our ability to prevent the arrival of people who present a threat to the UK.** The ETA scheme is part of a suite of changes the Government will implement to transform the UK border and deliver a fully digital end-to-end user journey, improving both security and the clearance of legitimate passengers. We will make greater use of information collected in advance of travel to deliver a more targeted and automated approach to border control on arrival. Our ambition is to significantly increase the use of automation, by allowing the majority of arrivals at our main UK ports to pass through some form of automated clearance. We are looking at all available digital solutions including use of contactless solutions to create a world class customer experience.

## International Trade

### Leadership in championing the rules-based international trading system

With our ambitious trade policy, we will ensure that the UK is one of the 21st century's great trading nations and seizes the opportunities of being a sovereign trading nation. As such, the UK continues to progress negotiations for ambitious new free trade agreements that benefit businesses and consumers in every part of the UK. We will work to put the UK in the centre of a network of modern deals spanning the Americas and Pacific.

We want to champion and enhance the UK's reputation as a world-leading, open and business friendly destination for foreign investment, whilst also strengthening critical supply chains and improving the UK's security and economic resilience through international trade. In this way, we will continue to support businesses in tackling trade barriers, as well as working with partners to strengthen the international trading system and update the global trading rules in support of free and fair trade.

Government-led research estimates that exports supported 6.5 million jobs across the UK in 2016 and shows that exporters on average pay higher wages and tend to be more productive. As part of this ambition, the Department for International Trade is supporting businesses to take full advantage of the UK's Free Trade Agreement programme to export to new markets and access a greater range of products at competitive prices.

### How we will achieve our vision

**Opening negotiations on new trading arrangements with the Gulf Cooperation Council, Israel, Canada and Mexico.** In 2022 we will start updating FTAs with Israel, Canada and Mexico so they are tailored to the UK's economic strengths and launch negotiations with the 6 Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

**Expanding the Export Support Service.** No matter the size of the business, how much they export or where in the UK they are based, businesses can use the Export Support Service to get answers to practical questions. The service currently focuses on questions businesses have about trading with Europe but will expand to cover more global markets this year.

**Launching the Developing Countries Trading Scheme.** The proposed scheme would apply to 70 qualifying countries currently and include improvements such as lower tariffs and simpler rules of origin requirements for countries exporting to the UK. The scheme will allow countries to diversify their exports and grow their economies, while British households and businesses benefit from lower prices and more choice.

## International Relations and Diplomacy

### **Committed to strengthening security, bolstering alliances and shaping the open international order of the future.**

Following our withdrawal from the European Union, the UK is able to pursue an independent foreign, trade and security policy. This gives us greater flexibility to pursue the UK's international objectives, sitting at the heart of a network of like-minded countries, defending human rights and upholding global norms. The Integrated Review has committed the UK to forging new and deeper partnerships with our global network of friends and partners. An example of the UK's agility and new approach to strengthening alliances is AUKUS. It is also demonstrated by our new independent sanctions policy, where we have established two new autonomous regimes, on Global Human Rights and Global Anti-Corruption. We have also shown UK leadership on the world stage through our G7 presidency, signing the New Atlantic Charter and hosting COP26.

We have increased our defence spending to record levels. We will continue to be the leading European Ally within NATO, bolstering the Alliance by tackling threats jointly and committing our resources to collective security in the Euro-Atlantic region.

We are championing the strengths that make the UK one of the best places in the world to live and make a compelling case around the world for why that success is underpinned by our historic British values of freedom and democracy. We are renewing our links with freedom-loving democracies around the world. We will take bilateral action quickly when needed to defend our interests and protect our values. And we will establish security and defence partnerships with key allies around the world to stand up for our interests and support stability.

We will work with a global set of partners to escape the EU regulatory alignment that held back our leadership and to protect and promote strategic advantage in existing and novel technologies. We will create a new, distinctive bilateral approach to how we use our global reach across investment, trade and development to bring more countries into the orbit of free economies and to challenge those who wish to burden countries with debt.

### **How we will achieve our vision**

**Support open societies and defend human rights**, as a force for good in the world. We will support open societies—characterised by effective governance and resilience at home and cooperation with other countries on the basis of transparency, good governance and open markets.

**Shape an open, resilient global economy**, restoring trust in free and fair trade as we build back better from Covid pandemic. We will look to address the drivers of

fragmentation and build the global economy of the future—one that is digital and sustainable.

**Shape the international order as it develops in future frontiers.** We will shape the international order in the domains of cyberspace and space, where the possibilities for economic, social and military activity are expanding rapidly and existing rules and norms are struggling to keep pace. We will be active in ensuring effective accountability and oversight that protects democratic values, while opposing the overreach of state control.

**Standing for freedom, democracy and free enterprise.** A new “Best of Britain” campaign will make the case around the world for British values, demonstrating how freedom, democracy and free enterprise have underpinned Britain’s success and showcasing the unique assets we hold in diverse areas such as technology, science, security and culture.

**Leveraging our strengths on investment, trade and development.** We are offering a new, ambitious and distinctive UK offer of investment, trade and development partnership which we will deliver with our allies. This includes British International Investment in partnership with Japan, Australia and others, leveraging investment in infrastructure and clean technology around the world. We will continue to further our bilateral trade agreements and speak as an independent, progressive voice within the World Trade Organization.

**Redefining our place in the world with global allies and new partnerships.** We are better able to use our heft as the world’s fifth largest economy and as a leader in technology, development and defence to build new, bespoke alliances, deepening our ties with our traditional friends and with newer allies around the world. In this way, we will build a “network of liberty” to advance the frontiers of freedom and democracy at a time when those values are under real threat from authoritarian influence.

**Defence and deterrence through collective security.** We will continue to build and work within the alliances we need to promote and protect our interests in security and defence. Since Brexit we are more agile, ambitious and focused in tackling threats and building international stability. We will help build our partners’ cyber resilience and capability and a broader international alliance that is willing and able to impose more meaningful consequences on UK’s adversaries who undertake malign activities in cyberspace.

## Conclusion

Two years ago, we started a whole new chapter for our country, our economy and our people. Whilst the Covid pandemic has necessarily occupied the work of government over much of this time, our work on seizing the opportunities of Brexit has progressed at pace.

Some of these opportunities have already materialised—in this document, we have set out a range of our achievements so far across a number of key policy areas, with a real impact on businesses and citizens. Looking ahead, we are setting out a clear agenda for changing how we regulate and drive our economy forward—including how we will reform our regulatory framework, rethink how some of our regulators operate and review retained EU law. This will give us the best platform to capitalise on our regulatory freedoms for the long term. We now have the freedom to be the best regulated economy in the world and to make policy choices that are designed for the UK, bringing growth and opportunity across the nation, in all sectors of the economy, and enhancing our security and global partnerships. Reforms in science, data and technology; business and industry; infrastructure and levelling up; climate, the environment and agriculture; and a Global Britain are testament to the significance and momentum of our post-Brexit reform agenda.

This is a hugely exciting time for our country, one filled with potential and opportunity. We will seize the incredible opportunities that our freedom presents and use them to build back better than ever before—making our businesses more competitive and our people more prosperous and more secure. The bolder we are, the greater the gains will be for us all. And—as this document demonstrates —this is a government that possesses the ambition and determination the UK needs to succeed now and for many years to come.

We will go further, faster and forward to achieve our vision for the UK in these areas, building on what we have already achieved.

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