

Countering the Tories 101

Weak and Wobbly U-Turns -

- Manifesto u-turn on social care is the first time a political party has u-turned on its own manifesto **and now there is a second U-turn over schools funding**
- U-turned over raising National Insurance for the self-employed in the 2017 budget.
- May has stated that the case for remaining in the EU is 'a strong one', May's government is now pursuing a hard-Brexit and pledging a bargain basement tax haven economy.
- Theresa May has advocated leaving the European Convention of Human Rights, yet her 2017 manifesto pledges otherwise, stating Britain will remain a member of the ECHR 'for the duration of the next parliament'.
- May on a trip to America did not use the opportunity to criticise newly elected president Donald Trump and instead ended up holding hands with him and smiling with him in various pictures (**as the world was reacting in shock to his refugee ban.**)

Broken Promises

- In speeches, official statements and interviews with the [BBC](#) and [Sunday Times](#), Theresa May repeatedly insisted she would not call an election before 2020. When she decided her own interests were more important than the country's she U-turned and called a snap election.
- £350 million a week for the NHS was promised by Boris Johnson and Michael Gove during the Leave campaign. Since then, this promise has been dropped.
- The Tories pledged to balance the books by 2015 but have pushed this goal back every year and are now saying they will do it in 2022.
- The Conservative's have repeatedly failed to bring immigration below 100,000 despite repeatedly promising to do so.

Prioritising their rich friends and propping up the rigged system

- Under the Tories Britain has become one of the least equal countries in the developed world (according to Oxfam) coupled with extremely low social mobility.
- The longest sustained fall in wages since records began, joint worst fall in wages with Greece and the lowest levels of housebuilding since the 1920s.
- During a period of austerity, the Tories have chosen to raise the threshold for higher rate of tax and cut capital gains tax.
- Massive in-work poverty forcing nurses and people in other well respected professions are forced to use food banks.
- The Tories have pledged to cut Corporation Tax to 17%, the lowest rate in the G20. Labour would raise the Corporation Tax rate to 26%, still one of the lowest rates in the G20, but this rise would raise around £19bn. This alone could pay for the investment in schools and scrapping of university tuition fees.
- The former Conservative chancellor George Osborne brokered a deal that allowed Google to avoid 17% of their corporation tax. This also set a precedent for other multi-nationals to allow them to avoid massive levels of corporation Tax.

- The Conservative manifesto say that the Leveson inquiry has provided conclusive evidence and part two of the investigation looking into illegal practices in the media will not take place. This has been met with outrage by media reform organisations and many journalists.
- The draconian measures implemented in the Conservative government's Trade Union Bill limit workers rights more than ever before.
- The Tories have pledged to increase the Minimum Wage, but under Tory plans the Minimum Wage will consistently be below the real living wage and will not apply to under 25s.
- The Conservative cabinet have made secret deals with Conservative run councils like Surrey giving them preferential treatment.
- The Tories want to bring back fox-hunting, overturning the ban put in place by the last Labour government.

Damaging public services and attacking those in need

NHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The longest sustained drop in NHS funding as a proportion of GDP. • Privatisation costs the NHS billions per year, money which goes to shareholders rather than on healthcare 	Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal aid cuts meaning that the poorest in society are unable to receive good legal representation. • The Tories have failed the prison system with several prison riots in the past year due to understaffing. • Brought in the Snoopers Charter, undermining everybody's right to privacy.
Pensioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservative's have abandoned pensioners by promising to scrap the 'triple lock' and make fewer people eligible for winter fuel allowance 	Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presided over a crisis in British railways, failed to improve Southern, privatisation of East Coast Mainline despite its success in public ownership.
Immigration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa May had a very unpleasant record as Home Secretary with vans telling migrants to go home, deportation of students, demanding migrants earn £35,000 to settle - excluding nurses, police, many teachers etc. • May's government had not implemented the Dubs amendment in which the government would take children from the 'Jungle' refugee camp in Calais and provide them with shelter in Britain. 	Welfare and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservatives are continuing to unfairly punish people on housing benefit with the Bedroom Tax and a very large proportion of those hit by the tax are disabled. • The Conservatives cut Working Tax Credits for 800,000 people last year and have no intention to reverse this. • The Tories have scrapped housing benefit for under 21s, hitting young people on lower incomes while rents soar.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts to ESA, PIP, Child Tax Credits, cuts for support to people who've recently been bereaved. • Hinkley Point C Scandal - handing over our energy sector to the Chinese government.
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservative manifesto is pledging to get rid of free school meals for 4-7 year olds, whereas Labour will introduce free school meals for all primary school children funded by introducing VAT on private school fees. • They Conservatives have tripled tuition fees, with fees due to rise again this Autumn to £9250 and interest on student loans retroactively increased. • The Tories scrapped student Education Maintenance Allowance, saddling poorer students with extra debt and cutting their incomes. • The Conservatives have prioritised free schools while other schools are having to ask parents to pay for supplies. • Biggest education cuts in decades which have seen standards of education fall, and class sizes rise. 	Social care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Conservatives funding for social care has fallen by £4.6 billion. • After years of underfunding social care the Conservatives are now pledging to introduce a 'Dementia Tax' where those who need social care could have their assets, including the value of their home, whittled down to £100,000 after the costs of their care. This could mean that the children of people who require many years in social care, for example people with dementia, could end up losing their inherited home. • Labour on the other hand will invest £8 billion of new funds into social care to end the funding crisis • By pledging to end rough sleeping by 2027 the Conservative Party are suggesting that they would not be taking any immediate action on this, on the contrary one of Labour's headline policies is to take immediate action on this.
Emergency services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut 30% of the fire service budget between 2010 and 2015. • Theresa May as both Home Secretary and Prime minister has overseen massive Police cuts which have put the public in danger of being victims of both petty and serious crime May has personally seen police numbers fall to their lowest levels since 1974. 	The environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservatives have pledged to support the expansion of Heathrow airport leading to higher levels of pollution across London. • The Tories have encouraged fracking, putting communities in Lancashire at risk and want to expand the shale gas industry further.