

Liberal Democrat Manifesto 2015

Easy read summary



This document tells you what we will do if we win the general election.



www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto

Published and promoted by Tim Gordon on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, both at
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Stronger economy, fairer society: Opportunity for everyone



We are the **Liberal Democrat Party**.

Our leader is Nick Clegg.



We are a **political party**.

This means we are 1 of the groups who want to be the next **government** and run the country.



This easy read summary of our manifesto tells you about some of the main things that:

- we believe in
- we will do if we become the next government.

Introduction

We believe in everyone. Liberal Democrats do not exclude anyone.



The Liberal Democrats have worked in government since 2010 and we have made Britain's economy better.

Since 2010 we have:



- Increased Britain's growth.



- Made more job opportunities for people.



- Reduce the amount of money the government borrows.

Our top 5 priorities:



1. **Secure economy:** Have a strong economy and reduce the amount of money the government borrows.



2. **Fair taxes:** Let people earn £12,500 tax free.



3. **Quality health care for all:** Spend £8 billion to improve our NHS and guarantee equal care for mental health.



4. **Opportunity for every child:** Guarantee education funding from nursery to 19 and qualified teachers in every class.



5. **Protect the environment:** Protect nature and fight climate change.

The economy



People buy things like food and clothes and sell things like cars and houses.

Businesses buy and sell things. For example, a business that makes washing machines buys the parts for the machines and then sells the finished washing machines.



The banks look after our savings and lend us and businesses money.

How all this works together is called the **economy**.



There are lots of problems in the world with money. The economies of many countries are not working well.



Since we have been in government the economy has got better and is now stronger.

We will:



- Reduce the amount of money the government borrows and make sure they do not borrow money to pay for public services.



- Make new rules so that banks have to pay Tax to help the government reduce the amount of money the government borrows.



- Make sure that Britain spends money on transport and looking after the environment.

Living standards



We want everyone to have enough money to live a good life.



It is about everyone who can work having a job and paying fair Tax.



Since we have been in government people on low to middle incomes pay less tax.

We will:



- Let people earn £12,500 tax free.



- Charge more Tax for houses that cost more than £2 million.



- Make sure people and businesses pay their Tax.

Education



We think children should have good education.

Since we have been in government there have been improvements, for example, there is more money for children who need the most help.



We will:



- Make sure that all teachers are qualified and teach the National Curriculum.



- Spend more money on childcare, schools and education for 16 to 19 year olds.



- Have more free nursery places for children.



- Make sure every child can read by the time they go to secondary school.

Health

We want healthcare to be good and available to people for free when they need it.



Since we have been in government there has been improvements, for example, health and social care has been joined up so people with long term conditions get the right help.

We will:



- Spend £8 billion on the NHS to keep it strong.
- Spend £500 million a year to make mental health care better.



- Provide support to carers and give them a £250 bonus every year.



- Stop bad care happening and support better pay and conditions for care staff.

A green future for Britain

We think we should look after the environment.



Since we have been in government Britain has become the greenest it has ever been.

We will:



- Increase how much renewable energy is made.
- Find out about green energy resources.
- Reduce council tax if you insulate your home.
- Stop landlords from letting out homes that people can not afford to heat.
- Make energy companies offer a better service if people want to change supplier and save money.

Environment



We think we need to look after the natural environment and reduce the rubbish we make.

Since we have been in government 1 million trees have been planted and there is a plan to protect bees and insects.

We will:



- Take care of England's forests. By stopping them being sold and planting a tree for every child who is born.
- Give people easier access to nature.
- Have targets so we all have to protect nature and reduce our waste.

Work



We think everyone should have the chance to get a job, be paid fairly and have a better life.

Since we have been in government more jobs have been created which means there are more opportunities for people.

We will:



- Increase the minimum wage and pay people who work for the government the Living Wage.
- Make sure that working means you will earn more money than you get on benefits.



- Link up with local businesses to help more people into jobs.



- Give fathers the chance to have more paternity leave.



- Look at giving carers the chance to have leave.



Young people

We think every young person should have the opportunity to be the best they can.



We will:

- Double the numbers of businesses who take on apprentices.



- Reduce travel costs so young people can get to school and work.



- Spend more money on mental health services so young people get help closer to their home.

Pensions

We think the way that older people are treated shows how fair society is.



Since we have been in government people have choice about their pensions and 5 million people have joined a workplace pension.

We will:

- Make sure 9 million people join a workplace pensions.
- Make pensions better so more people have one.





- Change laws so pensions go up in value.

Housing



There are not enough houses In Britain.

This means that house prices and rent is expensive and people can not afford to buy their own house.

We will:



- Build 300,000 new energy efficient homes a year and 10 new Garden Cities.



- Help working people buy their first home for the same cost as renting. The rent that people pay will buy a share in the house they live in.



- Help young people rent a house by giving a loan for a deposit.

Equality



We think that people have the right to privacy and to say what they think.



We believe everybody should be treated the same whatever their background or circumstances.

Since we have been in government there have been improvements, for example, same sex marriages are now legal.

We will:



- Update laws about your information on the internet (websites).



- Make sure people can say what they think.



- Stop the police being rough and discrimination in the criminal justice system.
- Give more Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people police officer jobs.



- Stop homophobic bullying.



- Make big companies tell us what they pay men and women.

Immigration



We believe we should know who is coming into the country. And only the right people are allowed in.

Britain needs more students and visitors to help our economy grow.

We will:



- Have good checks so we know who is coming into and leaving the country.



- Encourage migrants to improve their language skills.
- Make sure that migrants learn English if they claim benefits.



- Stop immigrants being locked up – only criminal immigrants who are waiting to be deported will be locked up.

Crime



We think that locking more people up in prison is expensive and will not reduce crime.

We think we need to look at the causes of crime.

Since we have been in government crime has fallen to the lowest it has ever been.

We will:



- Make sure we know how the police are doing their job.
- Have more money to pay for police by stopping Police and Crime Commissioners.



- Stop people going to prison if their only offence is being a drug user. We will create programmes to help drug users.



- Change prisons so they try to stop criminals committing crimes again.

Political reform



Democracy is about how the country is run and how we choose the government.

We believe that change is needed so you can have more say in who runs the country.



Since we have been in government more power has been given to local areas in England and to the Governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to run things for themselves.

We will:



- Give more power to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



- Give everyone more of a say in how things are done in their community and about how their services work.



- Make sure a political party can not have a donation of more than £10000.



- Let people vote in elections when they are 16 years old.
- Make sure that everyone who is in the House of Lords has been elected to be there.

Being part of Europe



Liberal Democrats want Britain to remain a member of the EU because we are fighting for a stronger economy and British jobs.

We will:



- Concentrate on the things that the EU is good at. For example, making jobs, protecting the environment and reducing crime.



- Make sure that migrants from the EU come to work or study and not to claim benefits.

A global future



This is about how Britain works with the rest of the world.

We believe that Britain should be part of making the world a better place for everyone.

We will:



- Look into how the armed forces are working and what help and support they need. The armed forces are the army, navy and royal air force.



- Campaign to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) across the world.



- Reduce the Trident programme. Trident is the name for the British nuclear weapon system.



- Have harder rules when selling weapons and military technology and equipment.



Thanks to Photosymbols for the pictures.

Mencap made this manifesto easy read.

Neither Photosymbols or Mencap support the views of any one political party.

Note: this manifesto sets out Liberal Democrat policies and priorities for the United Kingdom.

The Scottish and Welsh Liberal Democrats set their own policy on devolved matters, and for those policy areas, the proposals here apply to England only.

Our sister party, the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, makes its own policy on devolved issues in Northern Ireland.