



AN OPEN LETTER TO CONSERVATIVE MPs

11th June 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Our new leader will shape our country, define our narrative and determine our electoral fortune.

The Tory Reform Group is the largest paid-for membership group within the Party and has existed over forty years as the grassroots home of One Nation Conservatives. Over the coming weeks, we look forward to playing a meaningful role in the leadership election.

In shortlisting candidates, we call on our parliamentary party to look beyond Brexit and to put forward finalists who will translate Conservative values into a compassionate, innovative vision for modern Britain.

For the Conservatives to win again we need a leader who can heal the divisions of the past, whilst looking to the future. Delivering on the 2016 referendum result is a key task facing our next Prime Minister, it must not be the defining one. It is our duty to offer our country more.

Our Values

While many candidates have sought to claim the One Nation mantle, the finalists must commit to delivering a truly One Nation Government. To do so, our next Prime Minister must be able to build the team, tell the story, and deliver the policies which demonstrate our values.

The Tory Reform Group is calling for leadership which will deliver realistic economic policy, generous social policy and internationalist foreign policy. We must build a society where we break down barriers and champion equality and opportunity for all; confronting economic and social injustices through progressive, reforming domestic agenda.

These are true One Nation, Conservative values.

Our Vision

Our new leader needs to renew our party; reimagine the policy agenda; and re-engage the electorate.

In selecting that person, we must not confuse votes in the European elections, Peterborough, or opinion polls, with a shift in public attitudes on the domestic agenda. Brexit is not a division along the left/right political axis and to shift our party from the centre ground in response would be to choose electoral oblivion.

It is a sad reality that today millions of voters who share our values do not hear our message. Our party needs a new narrative, not least to reach younger, BAME, and metropolitan voters. We have stopped talking about the issues that matter - housing, education, jobs, the NHS and climate change - and in return, many voters have stopped listening.

To be relevant, to win, we must apply our values to those challenges.



Our Team

For voters to be open to our message, we need a comprehensive refresh. Under a new leader, the team around the Cabinet table needs to change; our party infrastructure needs to improve; and our associations need revitalising. Root and branch, we must change our party to better reflect and represent the society we seek to govern.

Our green benches are full of talent. We need a leader who recognises the need for a generational shift to truly renew; one who inspires the discipline to promote a new team. A leader who recognises that despite our proud record over the past nine years, challenges remain.

As you select the final candidates, we urge parliamentary colleagues to put aside the divisions of the past and reflect on the values that have united our party for generations. To select candidates who can bridge divides and reach beyond our core vote. Leaders who can unite our country and deliver election victory across our four nations.

The entire country is watching the Conservative Party, we must deliver.

Yours faithfully,

Tory Reform Group

Signed on behalf of the National Chairman, Board and Members of the Tory Reform Group