

## **GOVERNMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM**

'The biggest message I want you to take out there is not about particular policies, it's not about Labour...

...it's about what motivates and drives this government.

When you come into office any party has a choice.

You can tinker around a bit and put a lick of paint on the old problems.

You can commission reports and reviews to shove problems further down the line.

You can blame inaction on the bad times you're in – or in the good times, say you don't need to bother.

Or you can take a different path.

You can close that Number 10 door behind you and say: this is our chance; our precious chance to change our country and we're going to seize it.

You can hear all those whispering voices saying “play it safe if you want to win a majority” and “don't rub too many people up the wrong way”...

...and say: “No – that is not us; that is not our party.”

For years people said “you can't reform and cut welfare – the bills are bound to get higher...

...this is a fact of British life and there's nothing you can do about it.”

We said – hang on – it can't be right that we pay people more to stay at home than go out to work.

It can't be right to pay out £40, £50, £60,000 in housing benefit to families where no one works.

We've been the first government to come in and properly get a grip on this.

The Welfare Act is the most radical, long-term reform this country has seen for a generation.

Making work pay. Getting people trained up and back into work.

And ending the something-for-nothing culture once and for all.

For years governments said we could put off the big decisions on infrastructure...

...that we could make do and mend and somehow it wouldn't matter that we limped behind the rest of the modern world.

We said: not on our watch.

Even at a time of really tight budgets, we're pressing ahead.

With Crossrail. With High Speed Rail.

And here in Wales we're making Cardiff a superfast broadband city...

...we're electrifying the Great Western mainline to Cardiff...

...and we're looking at the business case for electrifying the Welsh Valley commuter lines too.

For years people said you can't reform public sector pensions and make them affordable – but we're doing that.

Yes it's difficult – but today we can look public sector workers in the eye and say: you will have a generous, guaranteed pension...

...and we can look the taxpayer in the eye and say we've cut the long-term cost of public sector pensions and there is now a fair, affordable way to pay for them.

And of course, for years government acted as though debt could be ignored and left to pile up – and tomorrow would pay for today.

We have refused to take this path.

In just the past year, we have cut over £10 billion off the deficit.

We've got interest rates that are among the lowest of any major economy.

Yes, cutting spending is tough.

But in the years ahead people will look back and see that what we're doing today has laid the foundations for a sounder, stronger economy.

We came in as a coalition to make long-term decisions in the national interest – and we're making them.

And the reason we're doing this goes back to our values.

We believe in responsibility...

...and know it's not just irresponsible but immoral to pass on debts to our children.

We believe in fairness – real fairness...

...which is why we're building a welfare system where work really pays.

We believe in enterprise – people rising up on the back of their own graft...

...which is why we're building a sound economy that is rich with opportunity, where anyone who wants to put the effort in can get on and up in life.

So friends, we may take our hits but always remember this:

We are making the hard, long-term decisions that are vital to the future of Britain.

We are doing our duty by our country...

...and that has always been the Conservative way.

## **CONCLUSION**

So those elections are just around the corner now and we've got to take this message – about our values, our achievements, the difference we're making – out to the people of Wales.

Now's is not the time to put our feet up.

It's time to roll our sleeves up.

We don't need a sort-of strategy, or a kind-of campaign.

We need a flat-out, full-throttle fight.

To get out there and say to people: "You know that boost in your pay packet – that's because the Conservatives are in government"

"You live within your means – the government does too."

"You want a better future for your children – that is what the Conservatives are creating."

"You understand what's right for this country – and so do we."

That's what we need to tell people:

That this is a government that's looking at the horizon, not at the headlines...

...that cares about working for the long-term good, not short-term popularity...

...that works in the national interest, not the party interest.

This is us. This is what we believe. It's our job to get this message out over the next four weeks – so let's get to it.'