



THE CONSERVATIVES FOR BRITAIN BREXIT MANIFESTO

**SECTION ONE: BY VOTING TO LEAVE, WE CAN TAKE CONTROL OF OUR
FARMING, FISHING AND ENVIRONMENT**

25 February 2016

WE CAN TAKE CONTROL OF OUR OWN FARMING, FISHING AND ENVIRONMENT

FARMING

When the UK leaves the EU it will carry on paying all the current grants to farmers.

We will have our own money to spend, and will have all the money we had to send to the EU to pay for our farm subsidies back under our own control.

A Conservative government¹ will guarantee existing subsidy levels and will discuss with farmers if they need more or if they want the money paid in some different way.

DEFRA staff will gain vital flexibility by escaping from Brussels committees, and be more free to engage in swift action on the ground. That meant a level of responsiveness tragically lost at the outbreak of the Foot and Mouth catastrophe.

Outside the EU the UK will be free to buy more of our own food in the UK without the problems of EU procurement laws.

We will be free to adopt modern technologies and innovations we think will help farmers and their customers.

The UK will regain her seat on The International Plant Protection Convention, and will have a stronger voice in combating plant disease worldwide.

Our opponents will claim we will lose subsidies and influence. They are wrong on both counts.

We will have more of our own money to spend, and will guarantee current subsidy levels.

We will have much more influence when we can say what we want and make our own decisions, instead of having to live with compromises with 27 other countries as our official view.

FISHING

Out of the EU the UK will regain control of our fishing grounds.

The Common Fisheries Policy has done huge damage to our fish stocks and has allowed factory ships from the continent to come and take so much of our fish. A UK domestic policy could be more successful at husbanding our fishing grounds and give priority to UK vessels. Norway, Iceland and Canada show how this is possible.

¹ The Conservatives for Britain Brexit Manifesto contains contributions from Conservative MPs outlining how a Conservative government could take advantage of the new freedoms granted to it by being outside the EU. Conservatives for Britain is proud to support the Vote Leave campaign. Vote Leave does not have any position on the policy issues discussed in the Manifesto.

The Common Fisheries Policy ranks alongside the Euro and the common energy policy as one of the great disasters of the EU, costing us jobs and environmental damage on a large scale. Coastal communities have been damaged.

Our opponents are unlikely to dwell on the Fisheries Policy.

ENVIRONMENT

Outside the EU the UK will be able to set her own environmental standards, and reward farmers and landowners for looking after our precious landscape and allowing others to enjoy it.

The UK will also be free to modify the water and planning laws which have assisted flooding and got in the way of good water management.

The Water Directives have worsened flood problems.

The UK can have a rural policy that looks after rural areas and is sensitive to UK needs.

Our opponents claim the UK out of the EU will introduce lower environmental standards. That is not the intention of the current Conservative Government. Parliament will be free to set higher or more effective standards if it wishes.

Existing environmental laws would be carried across for inclusive debate and balanced review. Our beaches will remain clean, our hillsides safe from toxins.