

# Funding the Future

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We (apparently) have a new government. Staggeringly, after seven years of malicious and incompetent Tory led governments it still seems like we are going to have another.

But there is a difference. This is a minority government supported by one of the most obnoxious groups of MPs elected in recent years to the House of Commons whose views are wildly out of line with the sentiments of most Conservatives, let alone most people, in the rest of the UK. This means that this is a fragile and unstable government, open to challenge and likelky to fall at any time.

What that requires are some pretty hard red lines to be agreed by as many as possible of the combined opposition that will guarantee to work together on such issues to make sure a lame-duck administration will not seek to impose change where it does not have support.

So what are the opposition red lines? I would suggest:

1. No hard Brexit.
2. No boundary changes.
3. No changes to election law unless it is to relax onerous obligations.
4. No changes to media rules.
5. No cuts to NHS and education budgets.
6. No benefit cuts.
7. No cuts in police funding.
8. No changes to LGBTQI rights.
9. No changes in abortion law.
10. No changes to marriage law.

11. Respect for the Good Friday Agreement.
12. No weakening of commitment to climate change measures.
13. No Brexit behind closed doors.
14. No corporation tax cuts.
15. No to a return of fox hunting.

I am sure I will have missed some issues of significance. But the point is clear, I hope. There have to be some very clear lines in the sand now. The above list suggests those that immediately occurred to me.