

How should the UK change its foreign policy once out of the EU?

Once we are out of the EU the UK regains its vote and voice in world bodies. The UK is ready to take a global perspective and will be able to pursue our national interests and our global values more successfully once we no longer have to broker an agreed line with 27 other EU states.

Some fear the UK will be isolated or is in some way too small to survive in the turbulent waters of world diplomacy once independent. This is an absurd notion. The UK will proceed with shifting coalitions of interests issue by issue, based on long term alliances and community of interests with various friendly countries. The US/Canada/New Zealand/UK/Australia Intelligence group will remain important to our intelligence and security. NATO will continue to be our central defence alliance. In the WTO we will emerge as one of the leaders of the free trade group pushing for fewer barriers and lower tariffs worldwide. We can form our own view on environmental issues and form alliances as needed. There will be times when we do wish to make a common front with France and Germany as we do today.

One of the dangers of being in the EU is the way the UK is drawn into rows and conflicts in Eastern Europe where EU intervention may not be helpful and where UK interests may diverge from apparent EU interests. The UK increasingly has split loyalties with the divergence in approach to the Middle East and elsewhere between the USA and the EU. Where these two fall out the UK needs to be able to make its own judgement about which side to belong to, or to offer a third way which could reconstruct a wider alliance between the democracies on the two sides of the Atlantic. The EU has not been helpful to the UK over Gibraltar, and has also been negative over aspects of the Channel islands independence.

The pull of the world is towards the east with the rise of China and India. The UK will need to look increasingly to Asia for growth in trade. Japan is keen to encourage stronger links with the UK, two island nations that value their independence, both offshore from large power blocs. The USA is increasingly pulled towards China as it seeks to manage a complex relationship with an emerging super power. The UK needs its independence and flexibility to handle its own interests as this development advances. The UK is rightly seen as a crucial financial marketplace and services innovator. China wishes to develop more joint working in these areas, where EU regulation and approaches might impede progress.

A more prosperous UK outside the EU

Over the next few days I will publish pieces setting out how we can use our new found freedoms and spend our own money after 31 October when we are scheduled to leave the EU.

One of the important wins will be to resume our full voting membership of the World Trade Organisation. Once out we will decide our own tariffs for imports into the UK. We can exercise this freedom to take all tariffs off products we do not make or grow for ourselves, providing cheaper food and clothes for UK consumers.

The EU imposes average tariffs of 5%, with an average 11.8% tariff on food. Dairy products are charged at a high 38.1%, fruit and vegetables at 11.5% and sugar and confectionery at 23%. Why shouldn't we enjoy cheaper oranges and lemons from countries like South Africa, and cheaper wines from Australia and New Zealand?

The UK government has already set out a provisional tariff schedule, and has decided to abolish all tariffs on imported components, providing a welcome boost to UK manufacturing.

The EU will decide whether the UK must pay the external tariffs it charges the USA, China and others on their exports to the EU, or whether to negotiate a free trade agreement to avoid tariffs both ways.

Either way there are plenty of UK trade opportunities. EU tariffs in certain areas are too high. They are an unwelcome tax on the consumer, designed to protect continental farmers and producers at the expense of growers and makers elsewhere in the world. We should bring those down as we leave.

Wokingham Borough Council response to the recent Environment Lobby

Following a recent Environment Lobby in Parliament, I wrote on behalf of constituents to Wokingham Borough Council to ask what they are doing to improve waste management locally. I have now received the enclosed response from them:

Date: 22 July 2019



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Rt Hon Sir John Redwood MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Customer & Localities
Place Based Services
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Dear Mr Redwood,

LETTER FROM THE RT HON SIR JOHN REDWOOD MP RE. ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY

Thank you for your letter dated 28th June to the Chief Executive who has asked me to respond as the appropriate Officer. We are very mindful of the impact that badly managed waste has on the wider environment, and especially in relation to plastics, and are committed to address this. We have been working with our Waste re3 partners; Bracknell Forest and Reading Councils and our Contractor FCC to ensure that we reduce waste and increase recycling with the following as some of our more recent projects:

2010 – Within the re3 partnership we started to send approx. 25,000 tonnes per annum to energy from waste – This has seen us reduce landfill from 48% of our waste with a potential of 1% – 2% in 2019/20.

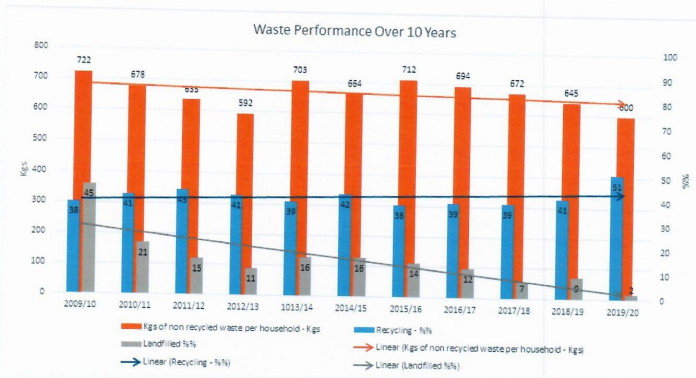
2012 – Waste containment (blue bags) introduced delivering a 20% reduction in collected residual waste

2017 – The addition of pots, tubs, trays, foil and tetrapak from the kerbside taking more single use plastics from the waste stream.

2019 – The introduction of food waste recycling started in April which is expected to raise our overall recycling rate by 7% and with other initiatives like wood recycling from the household waste recycling centres, we increased our overall recycling rate to 54% on the first two months of the year.

On top of this, the Council has declared a "Climate Change" emergency and are now planning a strategy to be carbon neutral by 2030.

See below our recycling performance over the past 10 years:



I hope that the above addresses your concerns and we are proud to announce that this year to date, our waste to landfill has been even lower than last year at around 0% of total waste.

Yours sincerely,

CLARE LAWRENCE
Assistant Director Place Based Services

The composition of the new Cabinet



<https://johnredwoodsdiary.com/>

There has been much misleading comment masquerading as analysis about the nature of the new Cabinet.

There are just two members who voted against the Withdrawal Agreement on all three occasions it came forward, and three who voted against it on two of the three occasions.

There are fourteen who voted Remain plus the Chief Whip.

The big majority of the Cabinet supported Mrs May's Withdrawal Agreement, and some were particularly vocal in urging others to do so.

Congratulations to Boris

Boris Johnson yesterday became Prime Minister, following his good election win in the Conservative leadership contest.

He campaigned consistently and strongly to get us out of the EU by 31 October, with or without a deal. He made clear he sees the draft EU Withdrawal Treaty as dead. He and the government he leads must now see this through. I wish him every success with the task.