

[Comprehensive, independent coverage of the UK Conservative Party](#)



[The best way to protect the freedom of the press would be to repeal Section 40 for good](#)

Watson et al lost today, but they will inevitably return. The Government should honour its pledge to delete the preferred weapon against free expression.

[ToryDiary](#) | By [Mark Wallace](#) | 9 May 2018 at 4:45 pm | [4 comments](#)



[Andrew Gimson's PMQs sketch: May keeps playing and missing against Corbyn](#)

The Labour leader showed up the Prime Minister's unsustainable indecisiveness.

[ToryDiary](#) | By [Andrew Gimson](#) | 9 May 2018 at 2:58 pm | [49 comments](#)



[WATCH: "Typical Labour, letting people down" – Corbyn and May cross swords over the Customs Union](#)

"The Labour manifesto said they wanted to strike trade deals, now they've

gone back on that policy.”

[Video](#) | 9 May 2018 at 2:55 pm | [6 comments](#)



[Ben Roback: On Iran, Trump again displays the art of breaking deals](#)

The President is often taken literally but not seriously, whereas he should be taken seriously but not literally.

[International, Tracking Trump](#) | By [Ben Roback](#) | 9 May 2018 at 11:00 am | [34 comments](#)



[Robert Halfon: Last week's elections blazed a trail for fusing workers' and metropolitan conservatism](#)

The Conservative Government is also going to have to get back to its DNA – cutting taxes. Reductions for those on incomes below £45,000 would send a powerful signal.

[Comment, Highlights](#) | By [Robert Halfon MP](#) | 9 May 2018 at 6:30 am | [19 comments](#)



[Daniel Kawczynski: We must back Trump's withdrawal of support](#)

[from the Iran deal](#)

Obama and his partners ignored the loudly-voiced concerns of our key Gulf strategic partners and Israel that the deal ignored potential Iranian interference in the region.

[Comment, Highlights](#) | By [Daniel Kawczynski MP](#) | 9 May 2018 at 6:20 am | [105 comments](#)



[How Barnet was won](#)

It wasn't just about antisemitism. The Conservatives pledged to maintain weekly bin collections. Labour did not.

[Local Government](#) | By [Harry Phibbs](#) | 9 May 2018 at 6:10 am | [28 comments](#)



[WATCH: Trump announces that America will withdraw from the Iran deal](#)

"In just a short period of time, the world's leading state sponsor of terror will be on the cusp of acquiring the world's most dangerous weapon."

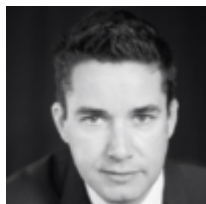
[Video](#) | 8 May 2018 at 8:28 pm | [61 comments](#)



[Handouts to 25-year-olds won't solve the housing crisis, still less the wider issue of generational unfairness](#)

The Resolution Foundation's new report is a serious piece of work, but its proposals to improve social care funding also bring political problems.

[ToryDiary](#) | By [Mark Wallace](#) | 8 May 2018 at 3:53 pm | [99 comments](#)



[J.P.Floru: In defence of tax havens. May's threat to the British Overseas Territories is un-Conservative.](#)

Do we really want them either to declare independence, or else become benefit claimants, funded by British taxpayers?

[Comment](#) | By [JP Floru](#) | 8 May 2018 at 3:00 pm | [65 comments](#)

Wednesday 9th May 2018

Brexit 1) May's Customs Partnership will 'please no-one', Cabinet Minister tells ConservativeHome





'Theresa May's proposal for a customs partnership is a "broken compromise" that risks "pleasing no one", a Cabinet source has warned as they claimed that Downing Street may have got its numbers wrong on support for remaining in the customs union. An unnamed Cabinet minister has claimed that the Government's fears over support for a customs union has forced Mrs May and her team to draft proposals that they believe MPs can be persuaded to vote for. However, the source argues that support for a customs union has been overstated, and that Mrs May should instead focus her efforts on a light touch arrangement, such as the maximum-facilitation (max-fac) proposal...Mrs May has now been forced to return to the drawing board, and is currently developing the options to make them more palatable to her ministers. However, speaking to the website Conservative Home, a Cabinet source has claimed that Mrs May should abandon the customs partnership altogether.' – [Daily Telegraph](#)

- Downing Street still won't take the partnership idea off the table – [Daily Mail](#)
- Grieve suggests the Foreign Secretary should resign – [City AM](#)
- The Prime Minister decline to rebuke him for his latest outburst – [The Times](#)
- She must lead – and that means facing down the Europhiles – [The Sun Says](#)
- The clock is ticking – [Daily Telegraph Leader](#)
- Some fear she might try to bypass the Brexit sub-committee – [Daily Telegraph](#)
- Cabinet Brexiteers worry Williamson may 'rat' on them – [The Sun](#)
- Fox to reveal Dubai deal – [The Sun](#)
- Hammond grants DIT £10 million extra funding – [FT](#)

Opinion

>Today: ToryDiary: [The consequences of Customs Union indecision. How Britain could end up with EEA-lite – formally or informally.](#)

>Yesterday:

Brexit 2) Lords defy May and Corbyn to vote to stay in the Single Market

'The House of Lords voted to keep Britain in the single market last night, causing headaches for both Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn. The government was defeated on an amendment that would have forced Britain to remain a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) by 247 votes to 218, with rebels from both parties. Mr Corbyn had ordered his peers to abstain but 83 ignored him and 17 Tories abstained to deliver one of four defeats last night on the government's Brexit legislation, amid signs of growing discord in the Lords. Ministers must now decide whether to undo 14 amendments to the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill when the legislation returns to the Commons.' – [The Times](#)

Brexit 3) Trimble: Stop this baseless scaremongering about peace in Northern Ireland



'In recent months senior politicians – some of whom were partners in the peace process – have sought to spread fear about a return to violence. They have warned about a breakdown in community relations and talked-up threats to the Good Friday agreement. Yet, as a new paper published today by Policy Exchange shows, those seeking to alter the position of the democratically elected UK government in delivering the result of the Brexit referendum with such scare tactics cannot appreciate the strength of peace – nor the facts of how a modern border can operate. The reality is that even Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and the moderate nationalist SDLP have said that Brexit will not result in a return to violence. What is more, fears over a hard border are only as strong as the refusal of those who do not engage with a workable technological solution. As highlighted by Policy Exchange, studies have shown how technology, pre-customs clearing and mutual standards recognition can be deployed to avoid physical barriers at the border. It is sad then that some have sought to disregard the facts for the sake of temporary political advantage...' – [David Trimble, The Times](#)

- Policy Exchange report finds that light-touch border solutions can work

- [City AM](#)
- The Government explores further responses to Brussels' hardline on Galileo - [The Times](#)
- The EU splashes millions on propaganda campaign targeting the young - [The Sun](#)

May, Macron and Merkel 'regret' Trump's decision to pull out of the Iran deal

'Prime Minister Theresa May said in a statement issued on behalf of the three nations 'it is with regret and concern that we ... take note of President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States of America from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.' But EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini potentially put Europe on a collision course with the US by suggesting the European Union is determined to save the agreement, declaring 'together with the rest of the international community, we will preserve this nuclear deal.' Mogherini said the accord 'is delivering on its goal which is guaranteeing that Iran doesn't develop nuclear weapons,' before making a direct appeal to the Iranian leader to stick to the 2015 agreement. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani meanwhile said his country will remain in the deal, and will instead trade with the other countries which signed it. Although, crucially, it remains unclear whether the US would choose to impose sanctions on countries, or foreign companies who take up Rouhani's offer.' - [Daily Mail](#)

>Today: Daniel Kawczynski on Comment: [We must back Trump's withdrawal of support from the Iran deal](#)

>Yesterday: WATCH: [Trump announces that America will withdraw from the Iran deal Continue to all today's Newslinks](#)

[Theresa May: Why we need a general election](#)

Theresa May: I have just chaired a meeting of Cabinet where we agreed that the Government should call a general election to be held on the 8th June. I want to explain the reasons for that decision, what will happen next and the choice facing the British people when you come to vote in this election. Last summer after the country voted to leave the European Union, Britain needed certainty, stability and strong leadership and since I became Prime Minister the Government has delivered precisely that. Despite predictions of immediate financial and economic danger since the referendum we have seen consumer confidence remain high, record numbers of jobs and economic growth that has exceeded all expectations.

We have also delivered on the mandate we were handed by the referendum result. Britain is leaving the European Union and there can be no turning

back. And as we look to the future the Government has the right plan for negotiating our new relationship with Europe. We want a deep and special partnership between a strong and successful European Union and a UK that is free to chart its own way in the world. That means we will regain control of our own money, our own laws and our own borders and we will be free to strike trade deals with old friends and new partners all around the world.

This is the right approach and it is in the national interest, but the other political parties oppose it. At this moment of enormous national significance there should be unity here in Westminster, but instead there is division. The country is coming together but Westminster is not. In recent weeks Labour have threatened to vote against the final agreement we reach with the European Union, the Liberal Democrats have said they want to grind the business of government to a standstill, the SNP say they will vote against the legislation that formally repeals Britain's membership of the European Union and unelected members of the House of Lords have vowed to fight us every step of the way. Our opponents believe because the Government's majority is so small that our resolve will weaken and that they can force us to change course.

They are wrong, they underestimate our determination to get the job done and I am not prepared to let them endanger the security of millions of working people across the country because what they are doing jeopardises the work we must do to prepare for Brexit at home and it weakens the Government's negotiating position in Europe. If we do not hold a General Election now their political gameplaying will continue and the negotiations with the European Union will reach their most difficult stage in the run-up to the next scheduled election. Division in Westminster will risk our ability to make a success of Brexit and it will cause damaging uncertainty and instability to the country.

So we need a general election and we need one now because we have at this moment a one-off chance to get this done while the European Union agrees its negotiating position and before the detailed talks begin. I have only recently and reluctantly come to this conclusion. Since I became Prime Minister I have said there should be no election until 2020 but now I have concluded that the only way to guarantee certainty and stability for the years ahead is to hold this election and seek your support for the decisions I must take.

And so tomorrow I will move a motion in the House of Commons calling for a general election to be held on the 8th June. That motion, as set out by the Fixed Term Parliament Act, will require a two thirds majority of the House of Commons. So I have a simple challenge to the opposition parties. You have criticised the Government's vision for Brexit, you have challenged our objectives, you have threatened to block the legislation we put before Parliament. This is your moment to show you mean it, to show you are not opposing the Government for the sake of it, to show that you do not treat politics as a game.

Let us tomorrow vote for an election, let us put forward our plans for Brexit and our alternative programmes for government and then let the people decide. And the decision facing the country will be all about leadership. It will be

a choice between strong and stable leadership in the national interest, with me as your Prime Minister, or weak and unstable coalition government led by Jeremy Corbyn, propped up by the Liberal Democrats, who want to re-open the divisions of the referendum, and Nicola Sturgeon and the SNP.

Every vote for the Conservatives will make it harder for opposition politicians who want to stop me from getting the job done. Every vote for the Conservatives will make me stronger when I negotiate for Britain with the prime ministers, presidents and chancellors of the European Union. Every vote for the Conservatives will mean we can stick to our plan for a stronger Britain and take the right long-term decisions for a more secure future.

It was with reluctance that I decided the country needs this election but it is with strong conviction that I say it is necessary to secure the strong and stable leadership the country needs to see us through Brexit and beyond. So tomorrow, let the House of Commons vote for an election, let everybody put forward their proposals for Brexit and their programmes for government and let us remove the risk of uncertainty and instability and continue to give the country the strong and stable leadership it demands.

[WATCH: Picardo – “It is only fair, proper and right that any trade deal should apply to Gibraltar.”](#)

Published: April 2, 2017

[Brexit](#) [EU](#) [Europe](#) [Fabian Picardo](#) [Gibraltar](#)

3 comments for: WATCH: Picardo – “It is only fair, proper and right that any trade deal should apply to Gibraltar.”

[WATCH: Fallon – “Gibraltar is going to be protected all the way”](#)

Last updated: April 2, 2017 at 5:01 pm

[Brexit](#) [EU](#) [Europe](#) [Gibraltar](#) [Spain](#)

[Newslinks for Sunday 2nd April 2017](#)

Brexit 1) What Easter Ministerial holiday? May team's trade tour.



“Mrs May has instructed her top team to spend the Easter break selling Britain abroad as a mecca for inward investment. Chancellor Philip Hammond is being posted to India with a “heavyweight delegation” which includes Bank of England governor Mark Carney. Mr Hammond said he’ll be “banging the drum for British business” and promoting the best of what we have to offer. International Trade Secretary Liam Fox will tour Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Dubai and Oman. He said: “It’s nine months since we voted to leave the EU, and the signs are all positive. The economy is strong, as is inward investment, employment and consumer spending.” – [Sun on Sunday](#)

Brexit 2) Gibraltar “lobbied to be named in May’s letter, Foreign Office wanted it in, Downing Street and Dexu wanted it out”

A minister said: “Gibraltar lobbied very hard to have them specifically mentioned in our letter and it was rejected by Dexu, to the annoyance of the Foreign Office. The Gibraltarian government is feeling very let down. The Spanish have gone behind our backs and got their side of the argument in the EU [draft negotiating guidelines]. They’ve put the issue up in lights and

Gibraltar might be pivotal when it wasn't before. This is an illustration of how one issue can jeopardise the entire unanimous agreement we need to get any deal." – [Sunday Times \(£\)](#)

Brexit 3) Ministers pondered security negotiation gambit



"Leaked minutes of a Brexit cabinet committee meeting on March 7 show ministers identified the UK's "very strong hand" on defence as a key advantage in negotiations. Those present said security would be a "defining" issue for the EU and that Britain should not "underplay" its hand as it seeks to secure a favourable free trade deal. Michael Fallon, David Davis, Philip Hammond and Boris Johnson are all understood to have spoken up about the importance of British security to the EU ahead of talks." – [Sunday Telegraph](#)

- Robertson says military mustn't be used as a bargaining tool – [Observer](#)

Brexit 4) Labour, LibDems, Tory Remainers plan ways of shafting Great Repeal Bill

"Staff working for MPs from both parties have drawn up a battle plan as Lib Dem leader Tim Farron threatened to wage legislative warfare against the Government's Great Repeal Bill, described by critics as a "power grab". The meeting last Friday came just days after Remainers hinted they could form a "centrist" party as Jeremy Corbyn dooms Labour to history. Tory MP Anna Soubry, Mr Farron and former Lib Dem chief Nick Clegg are among those said to be considering trying to create a viable force." – [Sunday Express](#)

- Tory Leavers and Remainers will unite to oppose the Great Repeal Bill – Dan Hodges, [Daily Mail](#)

> Yesterday: ToryDiary – [If Britain needs a new party, we'll only find out after Brexit](#)

Brexit 5) Paterson backs an end to subsidies for British farming post-Brexit



“The shock forced a radical shake-up in the country, with sheep farms replaced by deer parks and vineyards. But critics claim it led to widespread economic distress and a sharp rise in suicides...Mr Paterson argued that there were ‘clear lessons to be learnt from the policy adopted by New Zealand... which demonstrated that food production can increase when farmers are given the freedom to react to the market’...A source close to Ms Leadsom said yesterday that Ministers were unlikely to follow the New Zealand precedent directly because ‘the rug had been pulled away too abruptly’, although the way in which subsidies are applied would be looked at closely.” – [Mail on Sunday](#)

Brexit news in brief

- Write-up of the Brexit week – Tim Shipman, [Sunday Times \(£\)](#)
- Swedish MEP says his country will be the next to leave – [Sun on Sunday](#)
- Mervyn King pro-Leave interview – Bryan Appleyard, [Sunday Times \(£\)](#)
- Cabinet member briefs that aim of cutting immigration to tens of thousands is dead – [Sunday Express](#)
- Post-Brexit passport redesign – [Sun on Sunday](#)
- Britain won’t pay £60 billion, says Iain Duncan Smith – [Sunday Express](#)
- We are not obliged to pay a penny – John Redwood, [Sunday Express](#)
- Poulter wants NHS staff to have special Brexit passports – [Sun on Sunday](#)
- Martin Selymayr, the Eurocrat determined to punish Britain – [Mail on Sunday](#)
- Joseph Muscat, the Maltese leader determined to punish Britain – [Mail on Sunday](#)
- Two thirds of students want a second referendum – [Independent](#)
- New Trade Department Permanent Secretary “bungled Probation Service privatisation” – [Mail on Sunday](#)

Brexit 6) Charlie Elphicke: May must call an election if necessary



“And it’s not just the EU the Prime Minister must face down. She will be

assailed by Labour, Lib Dem and SNP MPs who long for things to go wrong. They will always put party before country. For them, nothing her Government does will ever be good enough. Yet the British people know this is a Government that wants Britain and her people to succeed and prosper. A Government that believes Britain's best days are yet to come. That's why if MPs fail to back her she shouldn't hesitate to take it to the country – and win.” – [Sun on Sunday](#)

Brexit comment in brief:

> Today: ToryDiary – [The Brexit negotiation. Don't believe everything you read in the media. \(Not that you would anyway.\)](#)

Leadsom to unveil toxins tax

“Leadsom's plan is expected to extend pollution payments to several more cities, including Birmingham, Leeds, Southampton, Nottingham and Derby, which are already planning to impose toxin taxes on older lorries, coaches and taxis from 2019. Under the new proposals this could be extended to diesel cars too. Under the plans, a network of “clean air zones” will be set up, with councils mandated to impose bans or charges on polluting vehicles that enter them. They will be enforced with camera networks similar to those used in London. Punitive taxes on new diesel vehicles are expected to follow in the chancellor's autumn budget. This will fit with longer-term plans to make all new cars and vans “zero emission” – that is, electric – by 2040 – [Sunday Times \(f\)](#)

Adam Bolton: Forget UKIP – and Labour as a potential Government. The Liberal Democrats will become the third force in Britain and the real opposition at Westminster



“The latest analysis of council voting patterns by Professor Michael Thrasher ahead of this year's local elections finds the Lib Dems well up. National equivalent vote share compared with four years ago is Conservatives 31% (+5), Labour 29% (no change), Lib Dems 22% (+9) and Ukip 10% (-12). If the votes are cast that way on May 4 the Lib Dem party will reclaim its place as the third force in English politics from Ukip while Labour will have another poor set of results. The next crucial vote on Britain in the EU will come if and when the May government and Michel Barnier's EU team agree a Brexit deal. That gives the Lib Dems two years to harry the government on an issue that matters to them profoundly” – [Sunday Times \(f\)](#)

> Today: Andrew Mitchell on Comment – [Lippy, serious, funny – and right about women. Meet my Labour neighbour, Jess Phillips.](#)

News in Brief

- Airports and nuclear power stations on terror alert as government officials warn of 'credible' cyber threat – [Sunday Telegraph](#)
- Terror taskforce set up to tackle prisoner extremism – [Sunday Express](#)
- The Prince of Wales donates to Aid to the Church in Need – [Mail on Sunday](#)
- Harvey Proctor sues “Nick” – [Sunday Times \(£\)](#)
- Tax and benefit changes could hit hard-working families the hardest – [Sun on Sunday](#)
- Study reveals Scotland's sectarian equality gap – [Scotland on Sunday](#)
- Academics claim online campaigning in general elections is out of control – [Observer](#)
- Karl McCartney says IPSA boss must stand down following leak – [Sun on Sunday](#)
- Amnesty criticises Johnson over mother held in Iran – [Sunday Telegraph](#)
- Bob Dylan finally accepts Nobel Prize – [Independent](#)

[Newslinks April 2017](#)