

# Jeremy Corbyn first speech of the 2017 General Election campaign

\*\*\*CHECK  
AGAINST DELIVERY\*\*\*

**Jeremy**

**Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party**, will today deliver his first speech of the 2017 General Election campaign at Church House, saying:

The dividing lines in this election could not be clearer from the outset. It is the Conservatives, the party of privilege and the richest, versus the Labour Party, the party that is standing up for working people to improve the lives of all.

It is the establishment versus the people and it is our historic duty to make sure that the people prevail. A duty for all of us here today, the duty of every Labour MP, a duty for our half a million members – including the 2,500 who have joined in the last 24 hours.

Much of the media and establishment are saying that this election is a foregone conclusion.

They think there are rules in politics, which if you don't follow by doffing your cap to powerful people, accepting that things can't really change, then you can't win.

But of course, they do not want us to win. Because when we win it is the people, not the powerful, who win.

The nurse, the teacher, the small trader, the carer, the builder, the office worker, the student, the carer win.  
We all win.

It is the establishment that complains I don't play the rules: by which they mean their rules. We can't win, they say, because we don't play their game.

We don't fit in their cosy club.  
We 're not obsessed with the tittle-tattle of Westminster or Brussels. We don't accept that it is natural for Britain to be governed by a ruling elite, the

City and the tax-dodgers, and we don't accept that the British people just have to take what they're given, that they don't deserve better.

And in a sense, the establishment and their followers in the media are quite right. I don't play by their rules.

And if a Labour Government is elected on 8 June, then we won't play by their rules either.

They are yesterday's rules, set by failed political and corporate elites we should be consigning to the past.

It is these rules that have allowed a cosy cartel to rig the system in favour of a few powerful and wealthy individuals and corporations.

It is a rigged system set up by the wealth extractors, for the wealth extractors.

But things can, and they will, change.

Britain needs a Labour government that is prepared to fight for people in every part of the country, our towns, villages, as well as big cities.

A Labour government that isn't scared to take on the cosy cartels that are hoarding this country's wealth for themselves. It needs a government that will use that wealth to invest in people's lives in every community to build a better future for every person who lives here.

Because the Conservatives, drunk on a failed ideology, are hell bent on cutting every public service they get their hands on, and they will use all of the divide-and-rule tricks of the Lynton Crosby trade to keep their rigged system intact.

Don't be angry at the privatisers profiting from our public services, they whisper, be angry instead at the migrant worker just trying to make a better life.

Don't be angry at the government ministers running down our schools and hospitals, they tell us, be angry instead at the disabled woman or the unemployed man.

It is the rigged economy the Tories are protecting that Labour is committed to challenging. We will not

let  
the elite extract wealth from the pockets of ordinary working people any  
longer.

So many people in modern Britain  
do what seems like the right thing to do. They get jobs, they spend all day  
working hard, they save to buy their own home, they raise children, they look  
after elderly or sick relatives. And yet, at the end of it, they get almost  
nothing left over as a reward.

Compare their lives with the  
multinational corporations and the gilded elite who hide their money in the  
Cayman Islands because the Conservatives are too morally bankrupt to take  
them  
on.

Labour in power will end this  
racket and make sure that everybody pays their taxes which fund our public  
services.

We will overturn this rigged system.  
For all Theresa May's warm words on the steps of Downing Street the  
Conservatives will never do any such thing.

Seven  
years of broken promises show us that on pay, the deficit, the NHS, our  
schools, our environment.

It was their wealthy friends in  
the City who crashed our economy. How dare they ruin the economy with their  
recklessness and greed and then punish those who had nothing to do with it?  
It  
was not pensioners, nurses, the low or averaged paid workers or carers who  
crashed the economy.

The Conservatives boast of record  
numbers of jobs. But what good is that if people in work are getting poorer  
and  
don't share in the profits of that economy while the Conservatives look after  
the wealthy few?

Our  
offer is to tackle elderly poverty and loneliness, invest in our economy, NHS  
and schools, to improve rights at work and the ten pound living wage.

Britain is the sixth richest  
economy in the world. The people of Britain must share in that wealth.

If I were Southern Rail or Philip  
Green, I'd be worried about a Labour Government.

If I were Mike Ashley or the CEO  
of a tax avoiding multinational corporation, I'd want to see a Tory victory.

Why? Because those are the people who are monopolising the wealth that should be shared by each and every one of us in this country.

Everyone, and I mean everyone, has a contribution to make and a life to lead. Poverty and homelessness are a disaster for the individual and a loss to all of us.

It is wealth that should belong to the majority and not a tiny minority.

Labour is the party that will put the interests of the majority first, while the Tories only really care about those who already have so much.

That is why we will prove the establishment experts wrong and change the direction of this election.

Because the British people know that they are the true wealth creators, held back by a system rigged for the wealth extractors.

Theresa May will insist that this is an election about Brexit. She will try to downplay the issues that affect people's lives every day and instead turn the election into an ego trip about her own failing leadership and the machinations of the coming negotiations in Brussels.

It is only Labour that will focus on what kind of country we want to have after Brexit.

In the coming weeks Labour will lay out our policies to unlock opportunities for every single person in this country.

We will focus on giving people real control over their own lives and make sure that everybody reaps a just reward for the work that they do.

We will no longer allow those at the top to leach off of those who bust their guts on zero hours contracts or those forced to make sacrifices to pay their mortgage or their rent.

Instead of the country's wealth being hidden in tax havens we will put it in the hands of the people of Britain as they are the ones who earned it.

In this election Labour will lead the movement to make that change.

We will build a new economy, worthy of the 21st century and we will build a country for the many not the few.

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## [News story: Civil news: use 0300 200 2020 to call Online Support](#)

Change to contact details for technical support enquiries.

Remember to dial 0300 200 2020 when you need help from our Online Support team.

We are making preparations to shut down the old telephone number of 0203 334 6664 for technical support enquiries. LAA Portal users will have seen a 'pop up' notice advising them of our plans.

Further notice will be given before we shut the number down permanently. At present you can still call the number and be redirected to 0300 200 2020. But this will not be possible indefinitely.

When calling the customer service team on 0300 200 2020 remember to ask for option 2 if you need help with technical or system issues.

### **Further information**

[Legal aid agency](#) – see the contact section for a breakdown of useful numbers.

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## [Nicola Sturgeon: “We’ll stand up for Scotland”](#)

This week it has become clear beyond doubt that, for Theresa May, party comes before country.

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## [Press release: UK Market Supports Half A Million Scottish Jobs](#)

More than half a million Scottish jobs – around one in four – depend on Scotland’s trade with the rest of the UK, new research published today

reveals. That is more than four times as many jobs supported by EU trade.

The figures from the Fraser of Allander Institute show:

- around 530,000 jobs in Scotland (nearly one in four of all jobs) are supported by demand for Scottish goods and services from the rest of the UK;
- more than 175,000 jobs in Scotland are supported by export demand from the rest of the world; and
- around 125,000 jobs in Scotland supported by export demand from the rest of the EU.

Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell said:

More than half a million Scottish jobs depend on being able to trade freely within the UK. These figures demonstrate clearly the value of the UK market to Scottish businesses – which is worth four times that of the EU market. As we leave the EU, it is vital we maintain the integrity of the UK market and prevent any new barriers to doing business across the UK.

We have seen recent worrying figures showing the Scottish economy contracting, compared to the UK economy growing overall. So, at this time, it is more important than ever that Scotland's two governments work together for the benefit of people in Scotland. That is what people in Scotland expect, and to what I am committed.

The UK Government is working closely with the Scottish Government to help boost the Scottish economy. That includes our new industrial strategy, UK City Deals and a £1.2 billion funding boost for Scotland.

Around two thirds of Scottish jobs supported by exports to the rest of the UK are in the services sector (more than 328,000 jobs), and just under one third are in manufacturing and construction (more than 150,000 jobs).

The new research confirms the importance of Scotland's trade with the rest of the UK, the value of which is worth four times that of the country's exports to the EU. Scotland sells goods and services worth £49.8 billion to the rest of the UK, and £12.3 billion to the EU. Today's figures show that more than four times as many Scottish jobs are supported by UK trade compared to EU trade.

The research, 'Employment supported by Scottish Export Demand', commissioned by the UK Government, is available from the [Fraser of Allander Institute](#).

The Scottish Government paper, [Export Statistics Scotland](#), published earlier this year shows the value of Scottish exports.

The latest [Scottish GDP figures](#), published by the Scottish Government earlier this month, showed that the output of the Scottish economy contracted by 0.2

per cent during the latest quarter.

The UK Government's [Industrial Strategy](#) was published earlier this year and sets out how we are building an industrial strategy to deliver a high-skilled, competitive economy that benefits people throughout the UK.

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## **Statement to Parliament: Sale of Green Investment Bank**

The government is announcing today the sale of the UK Green Investment Bank plc (GIB) to Macquarie Group Limited (Macquarie), with a £2.3 billion deal which secures a profit on the government's investment in the bank, provides value for taxpayers and ensures GIB continues its green mission, in the private sector.

GIB has been a real success story since it was created in 2012 – the world's first dedicated green investment bank, established to accelerate private sector investment into the UK green economy. It has fulfilled that mission, supporting almost 100 green infrastructure projects in the UK so far, and attracting £3 of third party funding for every £1 it invests. It has shown, as it set out to do, that green investment can be both green and profitable. Having demonstrated its success, the government decided to move GIB into the private sector where it can continue its success on an even greater scale.

The deal, secured through a competitive process as set out in a report to Parliament on 3 March 2016, will meet the objectives outlined by government of securing value for money for the taxpayer while ensuring GIB continues its green mission, free from the constraints of public sector ownership. It has the backing of GIB's independent board.

Under the ownership of Macquarie, one of the largest infrastructure investors in the world, GIB will invest more into the green economy than ever before, with £3 billion of new investment targeted over the next 3 years, exceeding GIB's track record of committing £3.4 billion of investment over the 4 and a half years since it was founded. GIB will become the primary vehicle for Macquarie's renewable energy investment in the UK and Europe, allowing GIB to expand internationally.

Macquarie has today published a series of commitments over the future of GIB under their ownership, including that GIB's green purpose and green objectives will be maintained. This is in line with the 'special share' in GIB to safeguard GIB's green purposes, which will be held by 5 independent trustees who will have the power to approve or reject any proposed change to GIB's green mission.

Macquarie has also committed to continue GIB's investment approach, targeting

investments across all areas of the green economy and across all stages of the project lifecycle, including the critical phases of development and construction. This will ensure GIB remains a specialist green investor supporting renewable energy investment and emissions reduction in the UK.

Macquarie is committed to maintain the GIB platform and brand, and to utilise the skills and experience of GIB employees in Edinburgh and London. GIB's Edinburgh office will be home to a new revenue generating project delivery business providing services to the green energy portfolios of GIB and Macquarie in the UK.

The transaction value of around £2.3 billion ensures that on completion, all taxpayer funding invested in GIB has been returned with a substantial profit. This comprises proceeds from the sale of around £1.7 billion, with a further £0.6 billion of GIB's current outstanding commitments which will be met by Macquarie and its partners, rather than by taxpayers.

As part of the transaction, a number of GIB's offshore wind assets will be moved into a new offshore wind investment vehicle, which GIB will manage and hold a 25% stake. Investors in this investment vehicle will be long-term institutional investors Macquarie European Infrastructure Fund 5 (MEIF5) and the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). This type of transaction structure matches GIB's existing approach to asset ownership, providing a mechanism for long-term institutional investors to invest in low carbon projects while ensuring GIB can recycle its capital into new green investments.

The government will continue to hold a £130 million portfolio of a small number of GIB's existing investments. This portfolio will continue to be managed by GIB until these investments can be sold on in a way which returns best value for taxpayers' money.

The government would like to put on record its gratitude to GIB management and staff, who have all played a key role in GIB's success, and who have worked tirelessly and professionally to support the sale process while continuing to source and finance green projects across the UK.

The sale proceeds will be received on completion of the transaction, which is expected to take around 2 months. The transaction is conditional on certain regulatory approvals including EU merger clearance. Under the Enterprise Act 2016, government is required to provide a full report to Parliament on completion of the transaction.