

Foreign policy, defence and immigration

The EU is imperfect but it is better than the alternative. We will ensure the UK continues to share sovereignty with other member states and other countries under international treaties. The U Party avoids hysterical responses to immigration; it's mostly been a good thing for the UK. We will strengthen our defences. *Foreign and defence policy will be pragmatic.*

Local issues

Being an MP is a national job, not a local job. There will be no constituency surgeries; solving local problems is the job of local councillors, who can if they wish approach an MP to help resolve a problem. In any event, U Party MPs will be unpaid, so will be too busy earning a living like the rest of us, and too busy to make legislative mischief. *MPs will keep out of local politics.*

Anything else?

Taxation will be simple and flat-rate; 1100 reliefs will be abolished, saving £100B pa. Administration of hospitals and health, roads, railways, courts, education, energy supplies, immigration and the rest is a matter for government, but not for politicians. The system suffers from short-termism. Our government will set long-term strategies and budgets for all these matters, and then the civil service will be left to get on with it. That will minimise pork-barrel politics. *Politicians will stop meddling in administration, making policy on the hoof, and should avoid reading the Daily Mail.*

Finally. . . the small print . . .

If we have time, the U Party might seek peaceful recovery of our former French possessions under Henry II (if they vote to return, but excluding Calais). And we will form a coalition with anyone and everyone if we can. *The U Party will break any and all of its manifesto promises if it is sensible to do so.*

And that's it.

About your candidate



Here is a picture of your U Party candidate. There is no guff about his family or his connection to Hampstead or what he will do for the area. If you want, you can check him out on Google.

He won't come and see you, waste your time at the doorstep or flood you with paper once every five years. Nor, if elected, will he play political games or jeer during Prime Minister's Questions or at any other time. And he won't question the honesty or integrity of other candidates or parties, who are doing their best as they see it. The U Party will do its best to be dignified and courteous – and in particular not invent soundbite policies by the day.

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The U Party

It's all about U



Election communication from

Robin Ellison

Your U Party candidate for Hampstead & Kilburn

Manifesto 2015

What is the U Party?

The U Party is a centralist, libertarian, party. Membership is based on the nudge principle of default, like auto-enrolled pensions, so that everyone has free automatic membership of the U Party. If you want to resign from membership of the party, just send us an email; and you can still be a member even if you are a member of another party.

We have one issue on which we concentrate, pensions, and a number of other policies, mostly constitutional.

Pensions

The pension system of this country is dysfunctional. The state pension system has been simplified (following almost word-for-word the U Party proposals at the last election) and made sensible; the private pension system is in meltdown and the rules seem to change by the month. We need:

- A simple taxation system for pensions
- A simple regulatory system for private pensions
- A standstill on change for ten years while the system recovers.

The population is ageing – and an absurd and complicated private pension system is not a sensible response. *The U party has a detailed plan for the recovery of pensions in Britain.*

Common sense in rule making

The last election was fought largely around MPs' expenses. The solution found to control the excess £2.5M of payments to MPs paid over the previous five years involved the establishment of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. Which costs £6.3M a year to run. It would have cost practically nothing to have changed the rules so that MP's could have their own cheque book and credit card and paid themselves whatever they liked – provided it was disclosed on their website. It would have been self-policing. *We need to change the mindset in rule-making.*

Less law

And we need fewer rules. Sir Brian Leveson in a recent report on criminal justice said:

...the [criminal law] landscape is subject to frequent change. Between 1989 and 2009, parliament approved over 100 Criminal Justice Bills and more than 4,000 criminal offences were added to the statute book. . . From an historical context, the figure is more startling: Halsbury's Statutes of England and Wales has five volumes devoted to criminal laws that (however old they may be) are still currently in force. Volume One covers the law created in the 637 years between 1351 and 1988, and is 1,249 pages long. Volumes Two to Five cover the laws created in the 24 years between 1989 and 2013 and are no less than 4,921

pages long. The 2013 Supplement adds a further 200 pages. So more than four times as many pages were needed in Halsbury's Statutes to cover laws created in the 24 years between 1989 and 2013 than were needed to cover the laws created in the 637 years prior to that . . .

The U Party will impose an annual ration of no more than 150 pages of new laws.

Practical law on drugs

Every evidence-based report on the misuse of drugs has concluded that decriminalisation of all drugs is the right way to reduce both drug use and drug harm. The U Party will decriminalise the use of all drugs, provide proper quality control, and impose a surcharge on their sale to help pay for people who want to be dried out. That will cut crime, drug-harm and the number of people in prison (which has doubled in 20 years). *The U Party will decriminalise ALL drugs.*

Prison reform

The number of people in prison is a national disgrace. Around a third are there because of drug-related crime, and around another third should be in psychiatric hospitals. Those who really should serve prison terms should be properly educated and trained in line with the Norwegian system, which reduces recidivism to 20% (the UK rate is 80%). Reoffending in the UK costs £30B a year, that's around a third of the budget deficit. *Prison reform will save money, lives and property.*

Training and codes for councillors, MPs and civil servants

There should be proper professional training for legislators and regulators. It is absurd that if you want to cut someone up to fix their brains, or do their accounts, or represent them in court, you need some kind of qualification. But if you want to vote on some law that could cost billions, or declare war on some foreigners, or affect the human rights of the citizen, or impose absurd parking restrictions you can do that with no experience or training whatever.

All legislators and regulators before they can actually do anything after they have been appointed or elected must pass a diploma which includes principles of the law of unintended consequences and what are the alternatives to rules, such as behavioural change. And all MPs should swear a Hippocratic-like oath to do no harm, read all laws before they vote on them, and decline to vote for laws they do not understand. And people on select committees will promise to avoid grandstanding.

MPs and councillors should also have a proper job as well. Being a legislator is not a full-time job. The Swiss Parliament meets for 6 weeks a year and the trains run on time. The Texas Parliament meets three months every two years, and pays its legislators \$20,000 a year. It works just fine. *MPs should work, be trained and be part-time.*