



# Liberal Democrats: Our manifesto in practice

Liberal Democrats should be immensely proud of what we have achieved in Government, as well as the huge influence the party has on the Coalition and its agenda.

Going into the election the Liberal Democrats made clear that we had four key priorities: fairer taxes; a fair start for children with extra funding for disadvantaged pupils; a comprehensive clean up of our politics, including a fairer voting system; and a green, sustainable economy. Thanks to our involvement, the Government is already delivering on each of these.

There are also a large number of other Liberal Democrat policies and pledges that will now begin to make a real, positive difference to people's lives because of our role in the Coalition Government. These include everything from the rolling back of the surveillance state and giving people back their civil liberties, to prison reforms, fairer pensions, the ending of child detention and the scrapping of the third runway at Heathrow.

This document sets out how we have taken action on each of our manifesto commitments. And remember, this doesn't even include those policies which are in the Coalition Agreement but have not yet been implemented.

After all, according to a study by University College London, 75% of the Liberal Democrat manifesto made it into the Coalition Agreement compared to 60% for the Conservatives.

## Your Money

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.14 - "We will tackle tax avoidance and evasion, with new powers for HMRC"*

- ✔ In September 2010, Danny Alexander announced a £900m crackdown on tax avoidance and evasion, raising billions from those who currently avoid paying their fair share of tax. The measures have already proved successful, with £2bn raised in 2011 towards a target of £7bn by 2015.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.14 - "We will tax capital gains at the same rates as income, so that all the money you make is taxed in the same way."*

- ✔ In the June 2010 emergency budget we increased the rate of Capital Gains Tax to 28% for higher rate taxpayers while keeping it at 18% for basic rate taxpayers. This will raise an extra £1bn and end the disgraceful situation of bankers paying a lower rate of tax than their cleaners.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.16 – "Restricting tax credits"*

- ✔ The Government has reduced tax credit eligibility for families with household income above £40,000.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.16 – "Ending government payments into Child Trust Funds"*

- ✔ Government payments into Child Trust Funds were stopped in January 2011. Junior ISAs were made available for newborns from November 2011.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.16 – "Introducing a Banking Levy so that banks pay for the financial support they have received"*

- ✔ We have introduced a levy on banks' balance sheets, raising £2.6 billion every year.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.16 - "We will scrap ID cards"*

- ✔ We have scrapped the ID card programme. The ID card database was publicly destroyed on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.16 - "Scaling back HomeBuy Schemes"*

- ✔ HomeBuy Direct ended in 2010 and was replaced with a more targeted scheme, FirstBuy Direct, designed to help 10,000 people get on the housing ladder.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.16 – "Cutting back burdensome regulation of local authorities"*

- ✔ We are cutting back on burdensome regulation on Local Authorities in many ways including by scrapping the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, and reviewing the statutory duties placed on local authorities.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.17 – “We will pay down the deficit by saying no to the like-for-like replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system, which could cost £100 billion. We will hold a full defence review to establish the best alternative for Britain’s future security.”*

- ✔ There will be no like-for-like replacement of Trident this Parliament. The point at which the contracts would have to be signed for a new generation of submarines has been delayed until 2016, after the next general election.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.17 - “Reforming public sector pensions to ensure that they are sustainable and affordable for the long term, with an independent review to agree a settlement that is fair for all taxpayers as well as for public servants”*

- ✔ John Hutton chaired the Independent Public Service Pension Commission, which reported in March 2011. We accepted the recommendations in full and began a process of consultation with the trade unions in February 2011. Headline agreements have now been reached and will ensure that all accrued rights are protected in full and low and middle income workers will have an income at retirement at least as good as they do now.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.17 – “Better IT procurement, investigating the potential of different approaches such as cloud computing and open-source software.”*

- ✔ The Government formed an Efficiency and Reform Group in the Cabinet Office to develop this, which saved £300m on government IT projects in the first year of this government alone. So far, existing IT projects have been reviewed with the wasteful ones pruned, and new projects are now watched closely through ICT moratorium. New guidance has been issued to encourage smaller, less costly projects and ensure a level playing field for open source software. There will be a report on ICT procurement in March 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.18 – “We will immediately restore the link between the basic state pension and earnings. We will uprate the state pension annually by whichever is the higher of growth in earnings or 2.5%”*

- ✔ The link between pensions and earnings, scrapped by Margaret Thatcher, was restored in the Coalition’s first budget. The annual increase in the state pension will be protected by a ‘triple lock’ - the rise will be in line with earnings, prices or a 2.5% increase, whichever is the greater. Pensioners will receive, on average, £15,000 more over the course of their retirement.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.18 - “We will increase the income tax threshold to £10,000.”*

- ✔ On April 6<sup>th</sup> 2011, 880,000 low earners were lifted out of income tax completely after the first stage of this policy went from the front page of our manifesto into the pockets of taxpayers. 23 million basic-rate taxpayers are now £200 better off. We will raise the threshold to £8,105 from April 2012 and continue with these increases until we reach £10,000.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.18 - “We will give people control over their pension by scrapping the rule that compels you to buy an annuity when you reach age 75”*

- ✔ The Government ended the effective requirement to purchase an annuity by age 75 in April 2011.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.18 – “Meeting the government’s obligations towards Equitable Life policyholders who have suffered loss. We will set up a swift, simple, transparent and fair payment scheme”*

- ✔ We have agreed a deal on Equitable Life which will see £1.5bn in compensation for 1.5 million policy holders. This deal is fair to policy owners and the taxpayer, finally bringing an end to a terrible saga which Labour wouldn't resolve.

## **Your Job**

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.22 - “We will break up the banks, to ensure taxpayers are never again expected to underwrite high-risk banking.”*

- ✔ We set up the Independent Commission on Banking, led by Sir John Vickers, which reported in September 2011. The Commission recommended that UK banks ring-fence their retail operations to ensure that critical operations such as customer deposits and small-business lending can continue in the event of a banking crisis. The report also recommended a number of proposals to improve competition in high street banks to make things fairer and easier for consumers. The Coalition Government will implement these proposals in full.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.22 – “We will get the banks lending responsibly again.”*

- ✔ In February 2011, Vince Cable announced an agreement with the biggest UK high-street banks which saw them lend more to Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in 2011.
- ✔ The Government also secured the agreement of the major domestic banks with the British Bankers’ Association to set up a £2.5bn Business Growth Fund to supply essential capital to fast-growing businesses.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.22 – “We will ensure that the bonus system can never again encourage banks to behave in a way that puts the financial system at risk or offers rewards for failure.”*

- ✔ The Project Merlin agreement has ensured that we have the most transparent pay disclosure regime in the world, and that pay and bonuses are lower than they would have been without this agreement.
- ✔ Thanks to the Liberal Democrats the FSA will now also have a role in checking bonuses and pay, and lending figures will be independently checked by the Bank of England.
- ✔ Liberal Democrat MEPs are also working alongside the government to introduce EU regulation on curbing bonuses [see ‘Your World’].

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.23 – “Investing up to £400 million in refurbishing shipyards in the North of England and Scotland so that they can manufacture offshore wind turbines and other marine renewable energy equipment.”*

- ✔ The Government has taken the first steps toward this goal, announcing in October 2010 £60m in funding to establish world-class offshore wind manufacturing at ports sites. The investment will help secure our energy supplies, protect our planet and the Carbon Trust says it could create 70,000 jobs.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.24 – “Investing £140 million in a bus scrappage scheme that helps bus companies to replace old polluting buses with new, accessible low-carbon ones and creates jobs.”*

- ✔ Norman Baker announced government funding of over £46 million which will see 542 new low carbon buses on roads across England by March 2012. All English regions will benefit with funds which have been paid to 20 bus operators and 6 local authorities.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.24 – “We will create hundreds of thousands of opportunities for young people affected by the recession”*

- ✔ In November 2011, Nick Clegg announced the new Youth Contract, a £1bn scheme to help get young people into work or training, including 410,000 new work places for 18-24 year-olds over three years.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.24 – “To help the transition to a green economy over the longer-term, we will set up a United Kingdom Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) to attract private finance.”*

- ✔ The Coalition Government is creating the Green Investment Bank, the first of its kind in the world, which is designed to accelerate private sector investment into the UK’s transition to a green economy. The Government is providing the £3 billion initial capitalisation of the Bank and given it borrowing powers from 2015. The Bank will begin its operations in 2012, a year earlier than planned, and is anticipated to leverage an additional £15 billion from private sector investment in green projects.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.24 – “Create a new route to provide capital, guarantees and equity to infrastructure projects, using public money to attract upfront private investment”*

- ✔ As part of the Autumn Statement, the Government set out plans for a £30 billion National Infrastructure Plan to coordinate public and private investment in infrastructure. This includes £6.3 billion of capital infrastructure spending, £1 billion of new private sector investment supported by government guarantee and £5 billion of capital projects.
- ✔ The Government has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UK pension funds to support additional investment and is working with the Association of British Insurers to set up an Insurers’ Infrastructure Investment Forum, targeting up to £20 billion of investment from these initiatives.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.25 – “Reduce the burden of unnecessary red tape by properly assessing the cost and effectiveness of regulations before and after they are introduced, using ‘sunset clauses’ to ensure the need for regulation is regularly reviewed, and working towards the principle of ‘one in, one out’ for new rules.”*

- ✔ The Coalition Government has adopted the 'one in, one out' regulatory principle.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.25 - "Put an end to the so called 'gold-plating' of EU rules, so that British businesses are not disadvantaged relative to their European competitors."*

- ✔ The Government, led by Vince Cable's work, has put in place a new system to ensure that the implementation of EU rules does not constitute gold-plating that could damage UK competitiveness in Europe.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.26 - "Support public investment in the roll-out of superfast broadband, targeted first at those areas which are least likely to be provided for by the market."*

- ✔ The Government has published an action plan, *Britain's Superfast Broadband Future*, announcing an £830 million strategy to put a digital hub in every community, making sure the UK has the best broadband in Europe by 2015. BT will match all funding it receives with its own investment.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.26 - "Keep the tax regime and allowances that apply to the oil and gas industry under review to secure the maximum long-term benefit to the UK economy of the remaining North Sea reserves."*

- ✔ The Budget 2011 raised the Supplementary Charge on oil and gas production from 20 per cent to 32 per cent, as part of the new fair fuel stabiliser. This ensures that companies contribute more when prices are high, as oil and gas production is more profitable at such times. In future years, if oil prices fall below a set trigger price on a sustained basis (probably around \$75 per barrel), the Government will reduce the Supplementary Charge back towards 20 per cent on a staged and affordable basis.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.26 - "Use the substantial purchasing power of government to expand the markets for green products and technologies."*

- ✔ Nick Clegg, in February 2011, announced the *Mainstreaming Sustainable Development* package, which will guarantee that Government policies have been 'sustainability-proofed' – by making sure they help deliver sustainable economic growth, improve our quality of life and protect our natural environment now and for future generations. This includes committing the Government to making the procurement of goods and services more sustainable.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.27 - "Give financial regulators a clear objective of maintaining a diversity of providers in the financial services industry."*

- ✔ The Financial Conduct Authority (the replacement for the FSA) will be tasked with increasing and fostering competition in the market.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.28 - "Give both Royal Mail and post offices a long-term future, by separating Post Office Ltd from the Royal Mail and retaining Post Office Ltd in full public ownership."*

- ✔ The Postal Services Act received Royal Assent in June 2011. It allows for the restructuring of Royal Mail, including the introduction of private sector capital and expertise from the sale of part of it, an employee share scheme, and provisions for Post Office Ltd to continue to be owned by the Crown or a mutual ownership structure.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.28 – “Encourage community-owned renewable energy schemes where local people benefit from the power produced.”*

- ✔ In August 2010 Chris Huhne overturned the law banning local councils from selling renewable electricity to the grid. This is a vital step to making community renewable projects commercially viable, to bring in long-term income to benefit local areas, and to secure local acceptance for low carbon energy projects.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.29 – “Safeguard academic freedom and the independence of scientific advisers by amending the Ministerial Code to prevent government from bullying or mistreating advisers and distorting evidence or statistics.”*

- ✔ We reformed the Ministerial Code to ensure Ministers have regard to the *Principles of Scientific Advice to Government*, which were drafted by the science community to clarify the relationship between expert advisers and Ministers

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.30 – “We will extend the right to request flexible working to all employees.”*

- ✔ In 2011, the Government held a consultation with businesses on shared parental leave and extension of flexible working to all employees. The Government will publish a response outlining its proposals in early 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.30 – “We will give disabled job seekers better practical help to get to work. We will also reform Access to Work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already in place for equipment and adaptation that they need.”*

- ✔ Work Choice, which started on 25 October 2010, is a new specialist disability employment programme designed to simplify the previous overlapping set of schemes. It provides support for 23,000 disabled people facing the most complex barriers to getting and keeping a job.
- ✔ We have also ensured that disabled jobseekers can find out immediately if they're eligible for Access to Work support, helping build confidence when applying for jobs.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.30 – “Liberal Democrats want to build a society where everyone has the opportunity to get on in life. Most businesses do a great job of supporting their employees, but there is more to do to tackle discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexuality, age, race, religion or disability. We want to give employees fair opportunities to make the best use of their talents, and greater control over their working lives and conditions.”*

- ✔ The Government and Lib Dem MEPs actively supported the EU's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. This is a landmark victory in the struggle of Europe's 65 million disabled people for equal rights

and is the first time the EU has become a party to an international human rights treaty.

- ✔ The Government and Lib Dem MEPs have also pushed to agree new EU legislation on bus and coach travel which will be of great assistance to disabled people and older people in particular. This will come into force in 2013 and includes a right to accessible travel information before and during a journey, a right to compensation for damaged wheelchairs or other assistive equipment, a right to free assistance for disabled persons for long bus and coach journeys and, where necessary, free transport for an accompanying person.

## Your Life

### **Education and Skills**

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.34 - "We will increase the funding of the most disadvantaged pupils, around one million children. We will invest £2.5bn in this 'Pupil Premium' to boost education opportunities for every child."*

- ✔ The Government has delivered on the key Liberal Democrat pledge of a £2.5bn pupil premium by 2014-15 to bring extra funding to the most vulnerable students. In 2012 schools will receive £600 per child who is or has been on Free School Meals in the past six years, which they can use as they wish to provide further support for the most disadvantaged.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.34 - "We will improve discipline by early intervention to tackle the poor basic education of those children who are otherwise most likely to misbehave and become demotivated"*

- ✔ The Department for Education will introduce simple reading checks at age 6, designed to stop young children falling behind in basic skills which go unnoticed until it is too late and therefore contribute to future bad behaviour.
- ✔ In September 2011, Nick Clegg announced a new £50 million summer school programme for 100,000 pupils making the jump from primary to secondary education, ensuring they don't fall behind.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.34 - "Guarantee Special Education Needs (SEN) diagnostic assessments for all 5-year olds, improve SEN provision and improve SEN training for teachers."*

- ✔ In March 2011, Sarah Teather announced an SEN Green Paper that proposed key reforms to the way Special Education Needs are diagnosed and the support that parents and children receive. Amongst other proposals, the paper includes a new single assessment process and a joined-up approach amongst health, social care and education services.
- ✔ The Green Paper also proposes to give parents more control by offering every family with a single plan the right to a personal budget by 2014, making a wider range of short breaks available in all areas, and ensuring more choice by allowing parents to name in their child's plan a preference for any state-funded school.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.34 – “Support the expansion of Teach First to attract more top graduates into teaching”*

- ✔ The Government has announced plans to expand the Teach First scheme, as well as a new Teach Next programme to encourage more mature entrants into teaching.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.34 – “We will improve teacher training by increasing the size of the school-based Graduate Teacher Programme. We will improve training for existing teachers over the course of their careers to keep them up to date with best practice”*

- ✔ The Government have announced plans to expand the Graduate Teacher Programme.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.35 – “We will confront bullying, including homophobic bullying, and include bullying prevention in teacher training”*

- ✔ The Schools White Paper specifically stated that teachers and head-teachers are expected to take a strong stand on homophobic bullying. It set out plans to rationalise and simplify anti-bullying guidance from a fragmented 500 pages to around 20 pages. It also committed to working with NGOs such as Stonewall and the Anti-Bullying Alliance to promote best practice and make sure that schools know where to go for support.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.35 - “We will replace the bureaucratic Early Years Foundation Stage with a slimmed-down framework which includes a range of educational approaches and enough flexibility for every young child.”*

- ✔ In July 2011, Sarah Teather announced the replacement of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework with a slimmer, less bureaucratic approach, achieved through the acceptance by the Government of the recommendations of Dame Clare Tickell’s Early Years Foundation Stage Review. The new framework will be implemented from September 2012 and includes a slimmed down curriculum for 0-5-year-olds, more focus on getting children ready for school and a more flexible childcare entitlement for parents.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.36 – “Axe the rigid National Curriculum, and replace it with a slimmed-down ‘minimum curriculum entitlement’ to be delivered by every state funded school.”*

- ✔ On January 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 the Department for Education announced a review into the National Curriculum, to replace the current system with a slimmed-down and more competitive version. The Government aims to introduce the new curriculum in 2014.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.36 – “Scale back Key Stage 2 tests at age 11, and use teacher assessment, with external checking, to improve the quality of marking.”*

- ✔ The Government asked Lord Bew to review the effectiveness of Key Stage 2 tests. He published his final report in June 2011, recommending that the writing test should be replaced with teacher assessment and that more trust should be placed in teachers, while ensuring external accountability. The Government has

accept these recommendations and is trialling them in 2012, with a view to introducing them in full from 2013.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.36 – “Give 14–19 year-olds the right to take up a course at college, rather than at school, if it suits them better. This will enable all children to choose to study, for example, separate sciences or modern languages at GCSE, or a vocational subject.”*

- ✔ In the Budget 2011, the Government announced its commitment to open 24 specialised University Technical Colleges, which are sponsored by local businesses and universities and offer 14-19-year-olds the opportunity to take full-time, technical courses alongside academic and business studies. There are currently two open, three due to open in 2012 and 2013, and nineteen more approved.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.36 – “Seek to close the unfair funding gap between pupils in school sixth forms and Further Education colleges, as resources allow.”*

- ✔ In October 2011, the Government set out proposals for a simpler, fairer funding system for post-18 education. Schools and colleges will be funded on a per pupil basis, rather than a per qualification basis, closing the unfair gap.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.36 – “Reform league tables to give parents more meaningful information which truly reflects the performance of a school. Schools should be working to get the best from all their pupils but government league tables are forcing them to focus on those who are just above or below the key C-grade borderline.”*

- ✔ Under government proposals, performance tables will include a measure of how well pupils progress as well as attainment. All of the information that underpins government statistical tables will be published for each school, and DfE will publish ‘families of schools’ documents that group similar schools in a region and provide detailed performance information that can be used to identify best practice.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.37 - “Introduce an Education Freedom Act banning politicians from getting involved in the day-to-day running of schools.”*

- ✔ The Education Act removes much of the centralised and stifling bureaucracy imposed by Labour. Every school has more autonomy, with strategic oversight from local authorities.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.38 - “Reform the existing rigid national pay and conditions rules to give schools and colleges more freedom”*

- ✔ The Schools White Paper announced that greater flexibility and freedom for schools to set pay.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.39 – “Reform current bursary schemes to create a National Bursary Scheme for students, so that each university gets a bursary budget suited to the needs of its students. These bursaries would be awarded both on the basis of studying strategic subjects (such as sciences and mathematics) and financial hardship.”*

- ✔ The Government, led by Vince Cable's department, will introduce a new National Scholarship Scheme from Autumn 2012 (worth £150 million by 2014) to support able, low-income students with living costs and fee waivers. In addition, universities now have to do far more to attract students from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as through targeted bursaries.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.39 – "Scrap the arbitrary target of 50 per cent of young people attending university, focussing effort instead on a balance of college education, vocational training and apprenticeships."*

- ✔ The Government has scrapped the 50 per cent target and is focussing on vocational education, creating 163,000 extra apprenticeships in 2011.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.40 – "We will end Train to Gain funding for large companies, restricting the funds to the small and medium-sized firms that need the support."*

- ✔ The Train to Gain service ended on 31 July 2011. The Government has replaced it with an SME-focused programme to help small employers train low-skilled staff.

## **Health**

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.40 – "Cut the size of the Department of Health by half, abolish unnecessary quangos such as Connecting for Health and cut the budgets of the rest, scrap Strategic Health Authorities and seek to limit the pay and bonuses of top NHS managers so that none are paid more than the Prime Minister."*

- ✔ The Health and Social Care Bill will reduce NHS management costs by more than 45% over the next four years, reduce the Department of Health's own functions and abolish quangos that do not need to exist. The Bill will also abolish Strategic Health Authorities and cut the cost of NHS administration cut by a third, which will free up an additional £4.5 billion over this Parliament to invest straight back into frontline patient care.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.41 – "Make the NHS work better by extending best practice on improving hospital discharge, maximising the number of day case operations, reducing delays prior to operations, and where possible moving consultations into the community."*

- ✔ We have introduced a new policy of non-payment for acute hospital readmissions. This means that local commissioners will not pay for any emergency readmissions to hospital within 30 days of discharge from a previous planned hospital stay. The Department of Health has instructed commissioners to extend this policy locally to cover a proportion of those readmissions following a previous emergency hospital stay.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.41 – "Integrate health and social care to create a seamless service, ending bureaucratic barriers and saving money to allow people to stay in their homes for longer rather than going into hospital or long term residential care."*

- ✔ Around 35,000 people will benefit from a £70 million cash boost announced by the Coalition that will enable the NHS to support people back into their homes after a spell in hospital.
- ✔ The Health and Social Care Bill promotes integration and partnership working between the NHS, social care, public health and other local services through the creation of Health and Wellbeing Boards. Established by local councils, these will bring together local democratically-elected councillors with GPs and other health and social care professionals to co-ordinate NHS, social care and public health services.
- ✔ Following a successful efficiency drive, Paul Burstow announced in January 2012 an additional £150 million to be spent on helping people to leave hospital more quickly, get settled back at home with the support they need, and to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital. Including the extra £162 million announced in 2011, this means we have been able to provide a total of £312 million extra to be spent on preventative social care services.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.41 – “Use the money for Labour’s flawed Personal Care At Home Bill to provide guaranteed respite care for the one million carers who work the longest hours. We will establish an independent commission, with cross-party support, to develop proposals for long-term care of the elderly”*

- ✔ The ‘Social Care Vision’, announced by Paul Burstow in November 2010, included a commitment to guarantee respite care to the hundreds of thousands of carers who work over 50 hours a week by making over £400million available in additional funding over the next four years. We will also go further than ever before in ensuring carers decide themselves what they want to do to take a break from caring. The updated NHS Operating Framework now includes requirements for PCTs to publish indicative budgets for carers’ breaks so that the public can hold to account PCTs for spending this money on providing vital respite.
- ✔ The Government established the Dilnot Commission to develop proposals for the long-term care of the elderly. Andrew Dilnot reported his findings in July 2011 and White Paper on social care which will be published in 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.41 – “We will prioritise dementia research within the health research and development budget.”*

- ✔ The Treasury confirmed in October 2010 that this commitment on dementia research will be prioritised within health research and development. Paul Burstow is now personally overseeing this commitment through his role as chair of a Ministerial Advisory Group by ensuring that dementia researchers get a fair share of the £1.7 billion research fund. Plans will be published soon to accelerate the pace in this vital area of research.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.41 – “We will improve access to counselling for people with mental health problems, by continuing the roll-out of cognitive and behavioural therapies.”*

- ✔ Nick Clegg and Paul Burstow announced in February 2011 additional investment of £400 million to improve access to modern, evidence based psychological therapies over the next four years as a part of the Government’s new mental health strategy entitled *No Health Without Mental Health*. This

strategy commits to beginning to expand provision of psychological therapies to children and young people, older people, people with long-term health problems, those with medically unexplained symptoms and those with serious mental illness. The strategy will extend the current programme available to offer personalised support to 3.2 million people across the country.

- ✔ Paul Burstow has also committed up to £20 million to the mental health anti-stigma campaign, *Time to Change*.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.41 – “We support a ban on below-cost selling, and are in favour of the principle of minimum pricing, subject to detailed work to establish how it could be used in tackling problems of irresponsible drinking. We will also review the complex, ill-thought-through system of taxation for alcohol to ensure it tackles binge drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs and important local industries.”*

- ✔ In January 2011 the Government unveiled plans to introduce a minimum price for alcohol. From April 2012, shops and bars will be banned from selling drink for less than the tax paid on them and will mean a base price for alcoholic drinks for the first time.
- ✔ The Government also held an informal consultation looking in to how to tackle binge-drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers and pubs.
- ✔ The Department of Health will publish an Alcohol Strategy in 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.42 – “Sharply reducing centralised targets and bureaucracy, replacing them with entitlements guaranteeing that patients get diagnosis and treatment on time. If they do not, the NHS will pay for the treatment to be provided privately.*

- ✔ We have secured a stronger duty on the NHS Commissioning Board and on clinical commissioning groups to actively promote and raise awareness of the NHS Constitution. This new duty will mean that when exercising all of their functions, the Board and clinical commissioning groups would have to act in a way that promotes the NHS Constitution and promotes awareness of the NHS Constitution among patients, staff and members of the public. Patients will continue to have the right, as set out in the NHS Constitution, to be treated within 18 weeks; and to be seen within 2 weeks where cancer is suspected. It will be the responsibility of commissioners to ensure patients are offered prompt and high quality care in accordance with the NHS Constitution.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.42 – “Putting front-line staff in charge of their ward or unit budgets, and allowing staff to establish employee trusts giving them real involvement and a say over how their service is run.”*

- ✔ The Right to Provide, announced in March 2011, gives NHS and social care staff the freedom to request the opportunity to manage the services or care pathways they currently deliver with the greater freedom and independence that comes from setting up their own organisation. Healthcare professionals in specialised areas, such as eating disorders and drug detox, will have the freedom set up their own organisations with mutual ownership.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.43 – “Giving every patient the right to choose to register with the GP they want, without being restricted by where they live.”*

- ✔ The Health and Social Care Bill will give patients will have to right to register with a GP regardless of where they live from 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.43 – “Ensuring that local GPs are directly involved in providing out-of hours care.”*

- ✔ The Health and Social Care Bill includes proposals for GPs through Clinical Commissioning Groups to take responsibility for out of hours care.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.43 – “Reforming payments to GPs so that those who accept patients from areas with the worst health and deprivation scores receive an extra payment for each one they take.”*

- ✔ The Public Health White Paper includes a proposal for a new, and simple, health premium that will reward progress on specific public health outcomes. Driven by a formula to be developed together with key partners, the premium will represent a new approach to fighting health inequalities. The intention is for the formula to recognise that disadvantaged areas face the greatest challenges, and will therefore receive a greater premium for progress made.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.43 – “Giving Local Health Boards the freedom to commission services for local people from a range of different types of provider, including for example staff co-operatives, on the basis of a level playing field in any competitive tendering – ending any current bias in favour of private providers.”*

- ✔ Every area across England will be expected to offer more choice in a minimum of three areas by September 2012 – either from a recommended list of 8 services chosen following advice from patient groups, clinicians and voluntary organisations, or for another community or mental health service that is a high local priority. These providers could be NHS providers, independent sector providers, or voluntary or third sector organisations. Each provider will be paid the NHS tariff price, which will end the previous Government’s policy of paying a premium to the private sector to encourage their involvement.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.43 – “We all need to be assured that, if we become unwell, the care we get will be of good quality. Most of all, we need to be confident that our safety comes first, and that the treatment we get doesn’t put us in more danger. We will introduce a series of reforms to improve patient safety.”*

- ✔ The Government actively supported the recently agreed Directive on Cross Border Healthcare. This sets out a coherent and clear legislative framework for UK patients seeking treatment in another EU Member State. Crucially, patients will receive important information of the quality and standard of care as well as the kind of treatment they are likely to receive in another EU Member State.
- ✔ The NHS Safety Thermometer is now the recommended tool for measuring pressure ulcers as part of the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation payment programme. As well as recording pressure ulcers, it also records falls, catheter infections and VTE information.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.44 – “Require hospitals to be open about mistakes, and always tell patients if something has gone wrong.”*

- ✔ The Government accepted recommendations from the NHS Future Forum to strengthen transparency of organisations and increase patient confidence by introducing a 'duty of candour': a new contractual requirement on providers to be open and transparent in admitting mistakes.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.44 – “Make it illegal for a doctor to work in the UK without passing robust language and competence tests.”*

- ✔ The Government has announced our intention to ensure doctors with a poor grasp of English are prevented from working for the NHS.

## **Culture and Sport**

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.45 - “We will maintain free entry to national museums and galleries and open up the Government Art Collection for greater public use.”*

- ✔ We have maintained free entry to national museums and galleries, and Government Art Collection works have been shown in a public gallery for the first time.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.45 – “Set up a ‘Creative Enterprise Fund’ offering training, mentoring and small grants of loans to help creative businesses get off the ground.”*

- ✔ The Creative Industries Council was set up in early 2011 as part of the Plan for Growth. Chaired by Business Secretary Vince Cable and consisting of leading figures from across the sector, the Council is looking in detail at a select number of issues including skills and training, access to finance and intellectual property. It is expected to present its findings and recommendations in 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.46 – “Cut red tape for putting on live music.”*

- ✔ In March 2011, the Government announced that it would be fully supporting Liberal Democrat Peer Lord Clement-Jones’s Live Music Bill. This Bill will benefit hundreds of small pubs, restaurants and church and community halls who want live music at their venue by generally removing the need to apply for a complicated licence.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.46 - “Use cash in dormant betting accounts to set up a capital fund for improving local sports facilities and supporting sports clubs”*

- ✔ Don Foster has written a report on unclaimed gambling winnings for the Department of Media, Culture and Sport. The Government is reviewing this and will announce its plans shortly.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.46 – “Ensure that the BBC remains strong, free from interference and securely funded.”*

- ✔ Due to Liberal Democrat influence, the Government has guaranteed the BBC a set license fee over the next six years, giving it security of funding for the first time in a long time.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.46 – “Support a diverse regional and local media. We will help to maintain independent local sources of news and information by enabling partnerships between TV, radio and newspaper companies to reduce costs, and by limiting publicly-subsidised competition for paid advertising from local council free-sheets.”*

- ✔ In February 2011 the Government announced a new ‘publicity code’ for English councils that tightens up the rules to protect the use of taxpayers’-money being spent inappropriately. Following consultation it sets out specific rules to stop municipal newspapers being published more often than four times a year.
- ✔ In January 2011 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport launched its Local Media Action plan. The aim is to offer communities a ‘new voice’ and provide local perspectives directly relevant to them. Licenses will be awarded by the end of 2012 with local stations up and running soon after.
- ✔ On February 14<sup>th</sup> 2011 the Government laid before the House new rules to allow local TV, radio and newspapers operating in one area to be brought under the same owner. This will make it easier for local media to survive in a tough environment.

## **Your Family**

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.49 – “We will allow parents to share the allocation of maternity and paternity leave between them.”*

- ✔ In January 2011, Nick Clegg outlined plans to allow couples to share maternity leave, with the Government consulting on a proper system of shared parental leave to be introduced in 2015.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.49 - “We will protect existing childcare support arrangements until the nation’s finances can support a longer term solution: a move to 20 hours free childcare for every child, from the age of 18 months.”*

- ✔ We have taken the first steps to achieve this by extending 15 hours free early education to all disadvantaged two year-olds, while keeping the free offer of 15 hours early education for every three and four-year-old. We will be spending £300 million more on this by the end of the Parliament.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.50 - “Support efforts by childcare providers to encourage more men to work in this hugely important and undervalued profession.”*

- ✔ The Coalition Government has set out a commitment to tackling this in the paper, *Supporting Families in the Foundation Years*, which was published in July 2011. The paper commits the Government to working with employers and sector bodies to encourage men and other under-represented groups to enter the profession, for example through apprenticeships, making early education and childcare a viable career choice for all.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.50 - “Extend the right to request flexible working to all employees, making it easier for grandparents, for example, to take a caring role.”*

- ✔ The Coalition Government will publish its response to the Modern Workplaces Consultation, laying out its proposals on flexible working, in early 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.50 - "Maintain the commitment to end child poverty in the UK by 2020."*

- ✔ In April 2011 the Government launched its Child Poverty Strategy which re-committed to ending child poverty by 2020.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.50 – "Incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into UK law, ending the detention of children for immigration purposes."*

- ✔ This practice, which gave rise to the detention of over 7,000 innocent children during the last 5 years of the Labour Government, was completely ended in May 2011.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.50 - "Enhance child protection. We will enforce the publication of an anonymised version of Serious Case Reviews to ensure that lessons are learned."*

- ✔ Serious Case Reviews, including that of Baby Peter, have now been published.
- ✔ The Government commissioned the Munro Review into child protection in June 2010, with the findings published in May 2011. The Government agreed with the report's fundamental argument that the child protection system has lost its focus on the thing that matters most: the views and experience of children themselves; and will now move towards a child protection system with less central prescription and interference, where we place greater trust and responsibility in skilled professionals at the front line. Professor Munro will continue to advise the Government and will undertake an interim assessment of progress in Spring 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.50 – "We will immediately restore the link between the basic state pension and earnings. We will uprate the state pension annually by whichever is the higher of growth in earnings or 2.5%" [See 'Your Money']*

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.50 - "We will increase the income tax threshold to £10,000, saving most pensioners around £100 a year."*

- ✔ On April 6<sup>th</sup> 2011, the income tax threshold for pensions was increased to £9,940 as part of the first stage of this policy. Millions of pensioners received a £100 tax cut. From April 2012 the threshold will be raised further to £10,500, exceeding our target.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.52 – "We will offer a week's respite for the one million carers who spend 50 hours every week looking after a sick relative."*

- ✔ Paul Burstow has made over £400 million available in additional funding over the next four years to provide a week's respite care to the almost one million carers who work over 50 hours a week.
- ✔ Sarah Teather also announced an £800 million investment in short break provision for disabled children and their families.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.52 – “Scrap compulsory retirement ages, allowing those who wish to continue in work to do so.”*

- ☑ The compulsory retirement age has been scrapped.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.52 - “We will give people control over their pension by scrapping the rule that compels you to buy an annuity when you reach age 75” [See ‘Your Money’]*

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.52 – “In the long term, aim to bring in a Citizen’s Pension that will be paid to all UK citizens who are long-term residents, set at the level of the Pension Credit, though this can only be done when resources allow.*

- ☑ The Pensions Green Paper lays out proposals for a flat rate single-tier pension, currently estimated at £140 a week from 2016, redistributing money from the wealthiest pensioners to the 7 million poorest pensioners.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.53 – “Begin a national programme to insulate many more homes paid for by the savings from lower energy bills”*

- ☑ Chris Huhne announced the Green Deal in November 2010. From October 2012, through the Green Deal, households and businesses will be able to invest in home and buildings insulation at no up-front costs, paying back the investment through the lower bills that will result. Extra help will be available through the new Energy Company Obligation for those living in hard-to-treat buildings, such as those with solid rather than cavity walls, and for low income households.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.53 – “We’ll ensure that effective energy efficiency measures are introduced to keep bills low and that ‘social tariffs’ are available to guarantee the best price for those in most need. We will seek to extend protection and support to off-gas-grid consumers”*

- ☑ Chris Huhne announced the Green Deal in November 2010, which is discussed in the point above. The Warm Home Discount will help around 2 million vulnerable households per year by reducing their electricity bills by £120 each. This replaces the previous government’s voluntary social tariff scheme, increasing the value of the help provided by two-thirds.
- ☑ The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) was announced by Nick Clegg and Chris Huhne in March 2011 and will provide assistance for off-gas-grid customers to install renewable energy generators, such as biomass boilers or solar panels.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.53 – “Address unfairness in water charges by consulting on the implementation of the Walker Review which recommended action to deal with regional unfairness in water charges.”*

- ☑ After a consultation on the Walker Review, the Government published the Water White Paper in December 2011. The plans outlined in the Paper include increasing the help available for vulnerable households across England, with special help for people faced with unfair high charges for water in the South West. This could mean a reduction of up to £140 in the water bills of the region’s most vulnerable people. The Government will publish a draft Water Bill in 2012.

- ✔ In the Autumn Statement, the Government announced a £50 annual rebate for South West Water Customers.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.54 – “Require airlines to be honest and upfront about pricing, ending the practice of adding hidden charges.”*

- ✔ In December 2011, the Government announced action to tackle excessive card surcharges, including those used by airline companies. The Government will publish a consultation in 2012, with a view to implementing the EU Consumer Rights Directive to ban excessive hidden charges, while allowing businesses to add a small charge to cover their actual costs, before the end of 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.54 – “We will stop private sector wheel-clamping.”*

- ✔ Lynne Featherstone has announced that wheel-clamping on private land will be banned.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.55 – “End testing of household products on animals.”*

- ✔ In July 2011 the Government announced that it intended ban the testing of household products on animals through its licensing powers.

## **Your World**

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.58 - “Begin a ten-year programme of home insulation, offering a home energy improvement package of up to £10,000 per home, paid for by the savings from lower energy bills, and make sure every new home is fully energy-efficient by improving building regulations.”*

- ✔ The Green Deal in November will allow households and businesses to invest in home and buildings insulation at no up-front costs. [See ‘Your Family’]
- ✔ Under the new Energy Company Obligation, worth £1.3bn a year, the government will require energy companies to help poorer customers with their Green Deal packages. And since the Green Deal will take time to cover everyone’s homes, as of November 2011 the Warm Home Discount is helping around 2 million vulnerable households per year by reducing their electricity bills by £120 each. This replaces the previous government’s voluntary social tariff scheme, increasing the value of the help provided by two-thirds.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.58 – “We will set out a clear renewable route map to 2050, covering grid access and investment in electricity networks, and develop new incentives to promote renewable heat.”*

- ✔ Our comprehensive reform of the electricity market, on which we published a white paper in July 2011, and on which we will legislate in 2012-13, will establish clear long-term incentives for low-carbon power, particularly from renewables.
- ✔ In July 2011 we also published the Renewables Roadmap, setting out our plan of action to meet the EU 2020 target and to remove barriers to renewable

energy deployment. In October 2011 we confirmed the levels of support renewable will receive through the Renewables Obligation.

- ✔ The Green Investment Bank will be key to channelling additional flows of private investment into the major programme of low-carbon electricity infrastructure investment we will need over the next decade.
- ✔ The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), the equivalent of the feed-in tariff scheme for renewable heat installations such as solar thermal, heat pumps and biomass boilers, was announced by Nick Clegg and Chris Huhne in March 2011; £860m will be allocated to the RHI in 2011–15. The RHI became available for the non-domestic sector (including businesses, schools and community groups) in November 2011 and will be introduced for households alongside the Green Deal.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.58 – “We will transform the electricity networks into a dynamic electricity grid that can better connect and integrate new, clean energy technologies particularly through the better use of sub-sea connections, leading to the development of a European Supergrid.”*

- ✔ Our proposals on energy market reform will incentivise a dynamic electricity grid and demand reduction through a capacity mechanism. We have worked with our European partners to accelerate plans for a North Sea Offshore Grid initiative.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.58 – “Invest up to £400 million in refurbishing shipyards in the North of England and Scotland so that they can manufacture offshore wind turbines and other marine renewable energy equipment.” [See ‘Your Job’]*

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.59 - “Block any new coal-fired power stations – the most polluting form of power generation – unless they are accompanied by the highest level of carbon capture and storage facilities.”*

- ✔ Chris Huhne has stated that the coalition would not allow any new coal power station to be built without being equipped with carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. We have allocated £1 billion for the world’s first commercial-scale CCS demonstration projects, and aim to be allocating the funding during 2012. The White Paper on electricity market reform includes a proposal for an emissions performance standard that will set an upper limit on the carbon emissions allowable from any fossil fuel station.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.59 - “Improve energy efficiency in the commercial and public sectors, by strengthening the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme and requiring companies and government departments to report on their energy use and set targets for reducing it. We will set a 30 per cent energy efficiency improvement target for 2020, and will commit the government to the goals of the 10:10 campaign as a first step.”*

- ✔ In the first week in government we announced that all central government departments would reduce carbon emissions by 10% within the first year, covering 300,000 civil servants in 3,000 buildings. In July 2011 we announced that emissions had in fact been cut by 13.8%, saving £13 million on energy bills. At the same time we set a longer-term target of a 25% reduction by 2015; the scope of the commitment will be widened, including, for example, business-

related transport. We have also announced a review of the Carbon Reduction Commitment to ensure it is adequately driving energy efficiency in companies and the public sector.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.60 – “Engage with major emitters and deepen diplomatic co-operation between the EU and emerging economies and developing countries, provide enhanced financial support for low-carbon solutions and lead international efforts to promote the transfer of technologies that will help to tackle climate change.”*

- ✔ Chris Huhne played a leading role in the UN climate conferences in Cancun in 2010 and Durban in 2011, working through the EU to help get the process back on the road after the disappointment of the Copenhagen conference in 2009 and agreeing for the first time a roadmap towards a new global climate agreement
- ✔ We are currently distributing the £2.9 billion we have set aside for international climate finance over the 2011-15 period, providing financial support for low-carbon technologies in developing countries. In Durban we agreed the establishment of the Technology Executive Committee under the Climate Change Convention, to accelerate low-carbon technology transfer.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.61 – “Protect the world’s forests, not only to reduce carbon emissions but also to preserve this crucial reservoir of biodiversity. We will argue for an international target of zero net deforestation by 2020; support a new system of payments to developing countries to enable them to reduce deforestation; and adopt at EU – or, if necessary, at UK – level a new making it illegal to import or possess timber produced illegally in foreign countries.”*

- ✔ The Cancun and Durban climate conferences made good progress with establishing a system for REDD (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) through which developing countries will be paid to protect their forests. Of the £2.9 billion we are spending on climate finance over the spending review period, about £600 million will be devoted to forests.
- ✔ In summer 2010, following a six year campaign by Chris Davies MEP, and with the strong support of the Coalition Government, the EU passed a new law banning the import of illegally-sourced timber and products derived from such timber into the EU.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.62 – “Work with other countries to develop an international labelling system for the environmental impact of products, helping consumers choose those with the least impact on resource use and pollution.”*

- ✔ The Government and Lib Dem MPs were highly influential in securing new EU legislation extending energy labelling for a variety of new energy consuming products.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.62 – “We will increase the UK’s aid budget to reach the UN target of 0.7% of GNI by 2013”*

- ✔ The overseas aid budget has been protected and will reach £10.77bn by 2013-14. This will ensure UK reaches the United Nations goal of giving 0.7% of GNI in aid by 2013.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.62 – “Work with other countries to establish a cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions from aviation”.*

- ✔ As of 1 January 2012, the scope of the EU’s Emissions Trading System was extended to include aviation.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.62 – “Support reform of the global financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF.”*

- ✔ The Group of 20 leading economies recently reached a landmark agreement on reform of the International Monetary Fund to give a bigger voice to developing countries. Over 6 per cent of IMF voting power will be transferred to underrepresented countries at the fund.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.62 – “Ensure that the developing world is prepared to deal with the consequences of a changing climate. We will ensure that adaptation and mitigation measures are financed by industrialised nations on top of existing aid commitments.”*

- ✔ We are currently distributing the £2.9 billion we have set aside for international climate finance over the 2011-15 period, including fully meeting the UK’s ‘fast start’ commitment for funding in 2012–12. The UK is one of the few countries to have pledged resources beyond the fast-start period.
- ✔ At the UN climate conferences in Cancun and Durban, the UK and EU played a full part in establishing the Green Climate Fund to assist developing countries with mitigating and adapting to climate change. Chris Huhne also served as a member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing in 2010, helping to identify possible options for long-term funding for climate activities in developing countries. .

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.63 – “We will prioritise health and education programmes in the developing world which aim to promote gender equality and reduce maternal and infant mortality.”*

- ✔ In September 2010, Nick Clegg announced that the Government is putting women and children at the heart of its development policies, including doubling support for women and children’s health to £4.4 billion over the course of this Parliament. This money will be used to save the lives of 50,000 mothers and 250,000 babies, enable 10 million more women to use modern methods of family planning and ensure long lasting improvements to maternity services.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.63 – “Support a global fund for social protection to help developing countries build viable welfare systems.”*

- ✔ The Global Poverty Action Fund (GPAF), launched on 27 October 2010, is a demand-led fund supporting projects focused on service delivery in support of poverty reduction and the most off-track Millennium Development Goals in poor countries. Projects are selected on the basis of demonstrable impact on poverty, clarity of outputs and outcomes, and value for money. Three Innovation Rounds of grant applications were held in 2011, and six grants have already been allocated to groups working in Africa, India and Tajikistan.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.63 – “Take measures against ‘vulture funds’ and lobby for similar action at international level.”*

- ✔ In May 2011, the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act was passed, which stops creditors, including ‘vulture funds’, from using the UK courts to force poor countries making harsh payments for debts that the companies have bought for a fraction of the cost. This will save poor countries an estimated £145m over six years.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.64 – “Hold an immediate Strategic Security and Defence Review (SSDR) to ensure that Britain deploys its resources to face the most serious threats to its citizens’ security and well-being, including non-military challenges such as climate change.”*

- ✔ This Government completed the first Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) for 13 years, based on a thorough and realistic assessment of the threats we face now and in the future – from asymmetrical warfare to the effects of climate change. It ensures we can continue to conduct operations today while preparing our future force. The SDSR was completed alongside a new National Security Strategy.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.65 – “With strong Treasury involvement, review all major defence procurement projects through the SSDR to ensure money is being spent effectively. We will not purchase tranche 3B of the Eurofighter.”*

- ✔ The Ministry of Defence Major Projects Review Board (MPRB), which examines the top 50 equipment projects with a total value of more than £100bn, was launched on 13 June 2011. Any project that the MPRB decides is failing will be publicly ‘named and shamed’ in order to promote transparency and accountability.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.65 – “Rule out the like-for-like replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. At a cost of £100 billion over a lifetime it is unaffordable, and Britain’s security would be better served by alternatives. We support multilateral nuclear disarmament and will ensure that the UK plays a proactive role in the arms reduction talks starting later this year.”*

- ✔ There will be no like-for-like replacement of Trident in this Parliament. We insisted that the Trident programme was scrutinised for value for money and this resulted in the following.
- ✔ A decision to delay ‘Main Gate’, the point at which the contracts have to be signed, to 2016;
- ✔ Substantial savings and deferrals of £3.2bn over 10 years. Of this, £750m of savings have been made during the lifetime of this Parliament.
- ✔ A 25% reduction in the number of nuclear warheads and a reduction in the number of warheads carried on each submarine.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.65 – “Reinvigorate Franco-British and wider European defence co-operation to ensure procurement costs are kept low.”*

- ✔ In November 2010, a new programme of defence co-operation between the UK and France was announced by the Government, to be delivered by an overarching Defence Co-operation Treaty.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.66 - "Work with Britain's European neighbours to create thousands of new jobs by breaking down trade barriers and boosting support for green jobs".*

- ✔ The Government, led by Vince Cable's department, and with the support of Lib Dem MEPs, is a leading proponent of the package of measures under the EU Single Market Act and other flagship initiatives, such as the Innovation Union, Digital Agenda and Resource Efficient Europe, to dramatically deepen and widen the EU single market.
- ✔ In particular, economic growth and thousands of new British jobs are expected to be created from the completion of the single market for services, and the development of a functioning EU digital and energy single market, with a particular focus on low carbon sectors.
- ✔ The Government is also a leading supporter of completing new major EU Free Trade Agreements, including with South Korea, India and Canada. This will create huge new trading opportunities for British businesses and generate tens of thousands of new jobs.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.66 - "Work through the EU for stricter international regulation of financial services and banking."*

- ✔ The Government has been working with Liberal Democrat MEP, Sharon Bowles, in negotiations over a huge array of new EU level financial regulations. This includes establishing a completely new EU financial regulatory architecture, beefing up the capital buffers held by banks, tackling systemic weakness in financial regulations across the Union and establishing a new and tougher EU-wide regime for bankers' bonuses.
- ✔ New EU legislation from 2010 has ensured that at least 50% of bankers' bonuses must be in 'contingent capital' and shares which locks in the value of bonuses to the long-term performance of the bank; that banks have to disclose bonuses over €1 million; and that lump sum bonus-like pension benefits (e.g. Fred Goodwin who walked away from RBS with a multi-million pound pension deal despite the bank having to be bailed out by the taxpayers as a result of his decisions) will be paid in contingent capital and shares and held for at least 5 years after the employee has retired or left the company.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.66 - "Keep Britain part of international crime-fighting measures such as the European Arrest Warrant, European Police Office (Europol), Eurojust, and the European Criminal Records Information System, while ensuring high standards of justice."*

- ✔ The UK remains an active member of all of these measures.
- ✔ In addition, the Government has opted in to new EU Justice & Home Affairs measures including the new European Investigation Order, which will make it simpler for police forces from across the EU to request help from each other; new measures to combat cybercrime and the sexual exploitation of children; and new measures to provide guaranteed rights for EU citizens arrested in the Union but outside their own member state.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.66 – “Keep the pressure on for reform of agricultural subsidies so that farmers, consumers and taxpayers get a fair deal, and the environment is protected.”*

- ✔ The Government is firmly committed to real reform of the Common Agricultural Policy so that it is fairer, more efficient, greener and sustainable. We made this case in the EU negotiations over CAP reform and will continue to do so during the 2014-20 Budget negotiations. The European Commission’s CAP Regulatory Proposals were published in October 2011 and DEFRA is now seeking stakeholder views.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.66 – “Fight to stop MEPs having to travel to the Strasbourg Parliament every month, wasting 200 million Euros a year.”*

- ✔ Following a campaign headed up Lib Dem MEP deputy Edward McMillan-Scott, MEPs have voted overwhelmingly to cut one of the European parliament’s unpopular October Strasbourg sessions.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.67 – “Campaign for continuing reform of the EU budget so that money is spent only on the things the EU really needs to do.”*

- ✔ The Government is pushing for greater transparency and efficiency in the way EU money is spent so that the EU focuses its financial resources where it adds maximum value, notably towards innovation, R&D, infrastructure, security and development. We will be making this case in the forthcoming EU 2014-20 Budget negotiations.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.67 – “Make the EU use its collective weight effectively in other areas of foreign policy. Britain can have a far stronger voice on relations with Russia, China, Iran and the Middle East peace process when it joins with the rest of Europe”*

- ✔ The new European External Action Service (EEAS) became up and running in January 2011 and has the full support of the Government as a means to strengthen Britain’s voice in the world through Europe.
- ✔ The Government has secured provisional agreement among EU member states for a package of trade concessions to Pakistan to help alleviate the humanitarian stress there following the huge floods in 2010.
- ✔ The Coalition Government is actively supporting efforts to strengthen the EU’s role in its relations with Russia and other emerging powers and markets, in particular through the agreement of new Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) such as with India, South Korea, the Mercosur countries, Canada, Ukraine and Singapore.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.68 – “We will hold a full judicial inquiry into allegations of British complicity in torture and state kidnapping as part of a process to restore Britain’s reputation for decency and fairness.”*

- ✔ The Coalition Government set up the Detainee Inquiry into Britain’s role in torture and rendition since the al-Qaeda attacks of September 2001. The panel of three judges is chaired by Sir Peter Gibson, a former appeal court judge.

## Your Community

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.72 – “Reduce time-wasting bureaucracy at police stations with better technology that can be deployed on the streets.”*

- ✔ By significantly reducing police bureaucracy, we have reduced costs and saved hundreds of thousands of man-hours, protecting the numbers of front-line police that are visible and on the streets.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.72 – “Reform the police, with a full review of the very restrictive terms and conditions for police officer employment.”*

- ✔ In October 2010 the Home Office launched a full review into the pay and conditions of the police in England and Wales. The Windsor Review reported in April 2011 and the Government is currently considering these proposals while working together with Police Negotiating Bodies.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.72 – “Turn the National Policing Improvement Agency into a National Crime Reduction Agency with a wider remit to test what policing techniques and sentences work and spread best practice across police services and the criminal justice system.”*

- ✔ The National Policy Improvement Agency is being phased out and its services integrated into, among other bodies, the new National Crime Agency. From 2013 this organisation will tackle serious and complex crime using specialist operational capabilities such as working on cyber, economic and environmental crime, human, wildlife and drug trafficking and child exploitation. The NCA will include a border police unit, the child exploitation and online protection centre and elements of the NPIA.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.73 – “Make hospitals share non-confidential information with the police so they know where gun and knife crime is happening and can target stop-and-search in gun and knife crime hotspots.”*

- ✔ Currently, over half of the 198 hospitals with an Emergency Department are collecting and sharing information, and the Department of Health has distributed £750,000 to ensure that the other hospitals will do so too. The Home Office will hold regional workshops to share good practice, releasing good practice guidelines for frontline practitioners and carrying out more robust audits of the number of hospitals collecting and sharing information. Effective from April 2011, the Government has also included a commitment in the national contract for acute services, which gives PCTs powerful tools to promote information sharing.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.73 – “Require better recording of hate crime against disabled, homosexual and transgender people.”*

- ✔ In December 2010 Lynne Featherstone launched the government’s new equalities strategy, which included a commitment to promote better recording of, and response to, hate crimes. As of April 2011 the police began to record hate crimes and they will now be included in the National Crime Statistics.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.74 - "We will make prisoners work and contribute from their prison wages to a compensation fund for victims"*

- ✔ The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders' Bill includes proposals to get prisoners used to working regular hours, and to contribute toward financial reparations for victims.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.74 – "Move offenders who are drug addicts or mentally ill into more appropriate secure accommodation."*

- ✔ In June 2011 the Government began pilot drug recovery wings in prisons, and will review this in June 2012 with a view to working with the Department of Health to roll it out more widely.
- ✔ The Ministry of Justice will pilot and roll out liaison and diversion services nationally by 2014 for mentally ill offenders, and increase the treatment capacity for offenders who present a high risk of harm where this is linked to a severe personality disorder.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.74 – "As a consequence of these changes, be able to cancel the Government's billion-pound prison building programme."*

- ✔ The Government is scaling back the prison building programme and instead focusing on rehabilitating criminals to ensure that they do not reoffend.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.75 – "We will give people a direct say in how petty criminals and those who engage in anti-social behaviour are punished by setting up Neighbourhood Justice Panels"*

- ✔ The Sentencing Green Paper included proposals for increasing the opportunities for communities to become involved in local justice through Neighbourhood Justice Panels.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.75 – "Champion restorative justice programmes which make offenders confront their behaviour and are more successful at reducing crime"*

- ✔ The Sentencing Green Paper also included proposals to make more use of restorative justice as a more effective punishment

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.75 – "Reintroduce exit checks at all ports and airports."*

- ✔ Exit checks will be reintroduced in 2014.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.75 – "Secure Britain's borders by giving a National Border Force police powers."*

- ✔ The new National Crime Agency, which will include a Border Police Command, will be fully operational from 2013.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.76 – "We will end the detention of children in immigration detention centres" [See 'Your Family']*

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.77 - "In a fair society, everyone should have the right to a decent home, but this is not the reality of Britain today. There should be quality social and private rented housing available for those who need or choose it."*

- ✔ We have announced plans for 150,000 new affordable homes over the next four years, the first net increase in the social housing stock by any government in 30 years.
- ✔ The New Homes Bonus began in April 2011 and match funds the additional council tax raised for new homes and empty properties bought back into use.
- ✔ In November 2011, the Government published its Housing Strategy, which will make it easier to secure mortgages on new homes, improve fairness in social housing and bring more empty homes back into use.
- ✔ The Local Government Finance Bill removes the mandatory council tax discount for second homes and empty homes, and will allow local authorities to charge up to 50% extra in council tax for any property empty for two years or more.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.77 – "Begin a national programme to insulate more homes paid for by the savings from lower energy bills."*

- ✔ From October 2012, through the Green Deal, households and businesses will be able to invest in home and buildings insulation at no up-front costs, paying back the investment through the lower bills that will result.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.77 – "We will make sure every new home is fully energy efficient by improving building regulations."*

- ✔ We have required a 25% improvement in energy efficiency standards for new buildings and have committed to taking the necessary steps to achieve Zero Carbon Homes by 2016.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.78 – "We will scrap burdensome Home Information Packs, retaining the requirement for homes to have an energy performance certificate."*

- ✔ We have scrapped Home Information Packs, and retained the requirement for homes to have an energy performance certificate.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.79 – "Include promotion of safer cycling and pedestrian routes in all local transport plans."*

- ✔ In July 2011, Norman Baker announced the first round of decisions for the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund, which supports local transport authorities outside London in developing measures that support economic growth and reduce carbon emissions in their communities, as well as delivering cleaner environments, improved safety and increased levels of physical activity.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.80 – "We will cancel plans for the third runway at Heathrow."*

- ✔ In May 2010, as one of the first actions of the new Government, the proposed third runway was scrapped.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.80 – “Work through the EU for a zero emissions target for all new cars by 2040 and extend targets to other vehicles.”*

- ✔ The Government argued strongly within the EU for an ambitious set of carbon emission reduction targets for all light commercial vehicles. The new EU regulation was agreed in May 2011.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.80 – “Introduce a rural fuel discount scheme which would allow a reduced rate of fuel duty to be paid in remote rural areas, as is allowed under EU law.”*

- ✔ From March 2012, a motor fuel duty discount pilot scheme will be applied in remote island communities, including the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles, the islands in the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.81 – “Abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission and return decision making, including housing targets, to local people.”*

- ✔ The Localism Act contains the provision to abolish Infrastructure Planning Commission and replace it with a rapid and accountable system where Ministers, not unelected commissions, will take decisions on new infrastructure projects critical to economic growth. The Act also removes ineffective top-down targets and gives communities the ability to make decisions on housing and planning themselves.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.81 – “A huge increase in anaerobic digestion to generate energy from food and farm waste.”*

- ✔ In June 2011 the Government published its Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan, setting out how more energy could be generated from waste through this route.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.81 – “Introduce a new strategy to bring the UK back on target to halt the loss of habitats and species and as far as possible restore biodiversity by 2020”*

- ✔ On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010 the UK pledged £2 million in financial support to the newly created Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) which has been created by the UN. IPBES will provide independent advice and scientific evidence on our biodiversity with which to tackle the growing threats to our environment.
- ✔ The Big Tree Plant launched on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010. The £4 million scheme will see over a million trees planted across England by 2015. So far, 30 projects from a wide range of community groups have been granted £1.6 million to plant 300,000 trees.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.82 – “Make National Parks more democratically accountable, allowing a proportion of the Park Boards to be elected.”*

- ✔ In September 2011 the Government announced that pilots will take place in The New Forest and Peak District National Parks for people to vote for members of their Park Authority, through democratic local elections. A proportion of all members will be appointed through this new system.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.82 – “Create a new designation – Similar to Site of Special Scientific Interest status – to protect green areas of particular importance of value to the community. We will aim to double the UK’s woodland cover by 2050. We will stop ‘garden grabbing’ by defining gardens as Greenfield sites in planning law so that they cannot so easily be built over.”*

- ✔ Through the National Planning Policy Framework we are bringing forward the Local Green Space designation that will allow local communities to be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.
- ✔ We have ended ‘garden grabbing’, saving considerable amounts of greenbelt land from being built over.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.82 – “Stop major new housing developments in major flood risk areas.”*

- ✔ Proposals to achieve this are contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.83 – “Through our policy on Capital Gains Tax, ensure that those who use second homes as speculative investments will pay tax on enhanced capital value at the same rate as on earned income, not at 18% as at present”*

- ✔ We increased the rate of Capital Gains Tax to 28% for higher rate taxpayers while keeping it at 18% for basic rate taxpayers. [See ‘Your Money’]

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.83 – “End the post office closure programme to keep post offices open in rural areas where they’re the lynchpin of community life”*

- ✔ In September 2011, Ed Davey announced that there would be no post office closure programme under this Government. The Post Office Network will be turned into a mutual cooperative organisation, giving employees and local communities an ownership stake in the post office network.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.83 – “We will promote schemes for affordable homes like equity mortgages and ‘Home on the Farm’ which encourage farmers to convert existing buildings into affordable housing.”*

- ✔ Andrew Stunell has promoted ‘Home on the Farm’ schemes that encourage farmers to convert existing buildings into affordable housing.
- ✔ The Government also announced in the Autumn Statement that it will consult on proposals to allow agricultural buildings to be used for other purposes, such as offices, leisure and retail space, to make it easier to rural business to find the premises they need to expand.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.83 – “Refund VAT to mountain rescue services.”*

- ✔ In February 2011, Danny Alexander announced that the Government would refund VAT to mountain rescue services through an annual grant. This means 75 mountain rescue teams are now receiving £200,000 from the Government each year.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.83 – “Create a legal Supermarket Code and a powerful independent regulator of Britain’s food market”*

- ✔ In May 2011, Ed Davey published the draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill which will monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice and will be able to act as arbitrator in disputes between retailers and their direct suppliers and start investigations about potential breaches of the Code based on complaints from suppliers and/or information in the public domain.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.84 – “Introduce a minimum level for the Single Farm Payment and concentrate future reductions on the highest claims so that big landowners get less, and the money goes to working farmers who need it, not people who farm one field as a hobby.”*

And:

*“Work within Europe for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, while continuing direct support for farmers, especially in upland and less favoured areas. We believe that a greater proportion of that support should be targeted at conservation, the environment and tackling climate change, as well as at providing food security for a rapidly growing world population. Organic and reduced-input foodstuffs should be encouraged”*

- ✔ The Government is committed to real reform of the CAP [See ‘Your World’]

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.84 – “Help consumers choose foods with the least environmental impact, through clear labelling, and work with the EU to make sure country-of-origin labels identify the source of the produce, not where they are packaged.”*

- ✔ In February 2011 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published *Green Claims*, guidance that will help consumers make more informed decisions about what products they buy, and put a stop to inaccurate claims of ‘green’ products, allowing genuinely sustainable products more market share.
- ✔ The principles of Country of Origin Labelling Code, published in November 2010, formalises the information provided by companies on the origin of their meat and dairy products and eliminates confusion over sourcing, allowing consumers to make informed decisions about sustainability and environmental impact.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.85 – “Reform the process of criminal record checking so that volunteers need only one record that is portable, rather than multiple checks for each activity”*

- ✔ As part of the Freedom Bill, Lynne Featherstone, announced that the process of Vetting and Barring would be reduced to common sense levels, and that volunteers would now need only one CRB check that would be portable, no longer requiring them to have multiple checks.

## **Your Say**

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.87 – “We will give people a real say in who governs the country by introducing fair votes.”*

- ✔ The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act received Royal Assent in February 2011, allowing for a referendum on introducing the Alternative Vote which took place on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2011.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.88 – “We will introduce fixed-term parliaments to ensure that the Prime Minister of the day cannot change the date of an election to suit them.”*

- ✔ The Fixed Term Parliaments Act, which legislates for fixed term Parliaments, received Royal Assent in September 2011. The Act fixes the date of the next General Election at May 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 and provides for five year fixed terms.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.88 – “Get better politics for less. Liberal Democrats would save this country nearly £2 billion by reforms that cut back waste in central government and the Houses of Parliament.”*

- ✔ The Government formed the Efficiency and Reform Group in the Cabinet Office to cut back waste in central government. It saved £3.75 billion across departments in 2010-11.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.88 – “Strengthen the Data Protection Act and the Office of the Information Commissioner.”*

- ✔ The Protection of Freedoms Bill increases the independence and transparency of the Information Commissioner’s Office. The Commissioner will no longer need to seek the consent of the Justice Secretary on issues relating to staff appointments, charging for certain services, or before issuing certain statutory codes of practice under the Data Protection Act.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.89 – “Give you the right to sack MPs who have broken the rules. We would introduce a recall system so that constituents could force a by-election for any MP found responsible for serious wrongdoing. We are campaigning for this right of recall to be introduced to the European Parliament too.”*

- ✔ In December 2011, the Government published the Recall of MPs Draft Bill, which will allow voters to force a by-election where an MP is found to have engaged in serious wrongdoing and has had a petition calling for a by-election signed by 10% of his or her constituents. A petition can be called where an MP is convicted in the UK of an offence and receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or less, or where the House of Commons votes for a recall petition to be opened.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.90 – “Return business rates to councils and base them on site values, as a first step towards the radical decentralisation of taxation and spending powers to local people.”*

- ✔ The Local Government Finance Bill will return business rates to councils, allowing them to benefit from the proceeds of local growth.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.92 – “Implement the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill, which gives local communities the right to propose actions in their area to improve sustainability.*

- ✔ The Sustainable Communities Amendment Bill has received Royal Assent, giving communities a greater say over how to improve their local area economically, socially or environmentally.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.92 – “We will scrap the Government Offices for the Regions and regional ministers.”*

- ✔ We have scrapped the Government Offices for the Regions and regional ministers, devolving some of their powers and resources to local government.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.92 - “We will implement the recommendations of the Calman Commission to give significant new powers and responsibilities to the Scottish Parliament.”*

- ✔ The Scotland Bill implements the recommendations of the Calman Commission, devolving landfill tax and stamp duty, and introducing a Scottish Income Tax and new borrowing powers.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.92 – “Give the National Assembly primary legislative powers so that it becomes a true Welsh Parliament. We also support passing on a greater number of responsibilities to the National Assembly.”*

- ✔ A referendum on extending the law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2011. The people of Wales voted ‘yes’ and new legislative powers for the Assembly came into force in summer 2011.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.93 – “We will introduce a Freedom Bill. We will regulate CCTV, stop councils from spying on people, stop unfair extradition to the US, defend trial by jury and stop children being fingerprinted at school without their parents’ permission.”*

- ✔ The Freedom Bill was published on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011. It includes the measures listed below.
- ✔ A new statutory code of practice for local authorities and police on the use of CCTV and ANPR to improve effectiveness and ensure proportionately.
- ✔ New safeguards in the use of surveillance powers (RIPA) to protect law-abiding citizens from town hall snoopers.
- ✔ Schools will no longer be able to fingerprint children under 18 without their parents’ permission.
- ✔ It also replaces the powers to stop and search persons and vehicles without reasonable suspicion with a power that is exercisable in significantly more restricted circumstances.
- ✔ It reverses measures put in place in 2003 which removed the right to trial by jury in complex fraud cases.
- ✔ The Government also set up a review of extradition in September 2010. Among other things this review will look at whether the US-UK extradition treaty is balanced.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.93 – “Restore the right to protest by reforming the Public Order Act to safeguard non-violent protest even if it offends; and restrict the scope of injunctions issued by vested interests.”*

- ✔ The Home Office launched a consultation on the removal of the word 'insulting' in section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986. The consultation closed in January 2012.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.93 – “Protect free speech, investigative journalism and academic peer-reviewed publishing through reform of the English and Welsh libel laws – including by requiring corporations to show damage and prove malice or recklessness, and by providing a robust responsible journalism defence.”*

- ✔ In March 2011, Tom McNally announced a consultation on a Defamation Bill, which would ensure that the threat of libel proceedings is not used to frustrate robust scientific and academic debate, or to impede responsible investigative journalism and the valuable work undertaken by non-governmental organisations. It will also reduce the potential for trivial or unfounded claims and address the perception that our courts are an attractive forum for libel claimants with little connection to this country, so that our law is respected internationally.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.94 – “Scrap plans for expensive unnecessary new passports with additional biometric data.”*

- ✔ Plans for the next generation of biometric fingerprint passports were scrapped in May 2010, saving £134m.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.94 – “Halt the increase in unnecessary new offences with the creation of a ‘stop unit’ in the Cabinet Office. Every department in Whitehall would have to convince this unit of the need for a new offence.”*

- ✔ The Government has created a unit in the Ministry of Justice to scrutinise any new offences, by any department, before they can be created.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.94 – “We will remove innocent people from the police DNA database”*

- ✔ The Freedom Bill includes a measure to ensure that the DNA of innocent people will no longer be kept on the database, only those convicted of a crime.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.94 – “Ensure that everyone has the same protections under the law by protecting the Human Rights Act.”*

- ✔ At the Lib Dem Autumn Conference 2011, Nick Clegg vowed that the Human Rights Act will be protected.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.94 - “We will scrap the intrusive ContactPoint database which is intended to hold the details of every child in England.”*

- ✔ The ContactPoint database was switched off on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.94 – “Scrap control orders, which can use secret evidence to place people under house arrest.”*

- ✔ Control orders have been scrapped and the Government’s new system ends forced relocation; ends lengthy curfews; increases the threshold of evidence required; and time limits their length.

*Lib Dem Manifesto p.95 – “Reduce the maximum period of pre-detention charge to 14 days.”*

- ✔ The Freedom Bill also reduces the maximum period of pre-detention charge to 14 days.