



The Business Services Association
130 Fleet Street,
London.
EC4A 2BH

Liz Truss Policy Overview

BSA summary of the policy commitments set out by the incoming Prime Minister during the 2022 Conservative Party leadership campaign

5th September 2022

Background

Following the election of Liz Truss as leader of the Conservative Party, and ahead of her formal appointment as Prime Minister, this briefing provides an overview her key policies and next steps, as set out over the course of the leadership campaign.

The policies and actions set out below are those areas deemed most relevant to the business services sector.

Contents

1. [Overarching Vision](#)
2. [Taxation](#)
3. [Cost of Living and Energy Prices](#)
4. [Defence and Ukraine](#)
5. [Education](#)
6. [EU Exit](#)
7. [Health and Social Care](#)
8. [Home Affairs](#)
9. [Housing and Construction](#)
10. [Inflation and Monetary Policy](#)
11. [Labour Disputes and Industrial Action](#)
12. [Net Zero](#)
13. [Northern Ireland](#)
14. [Seasonal Workers Scheme](#)
15. [Welfare](#)
16. [Whitehall Reform](#)

E: bsa@bsa-org.com W: www.bsa-org.com @THEBSASSOC

The Business Services Association Limited is registered in England No. 2834529
Registered office as above.



Overarching Vision

The former Foreign Secretary's described her 'vision' as being that of *"a low-tax economy with sound economic stewardship, that puts personal freedom and responsibility at the heart of everything we do, and is on the side of hardworking people"*.¹

On her campaign website [Vision - Liz for Leader](#) she pledged to:

1. Lead a government that delivers change for Britain.
2. Cut taxes - reversing the National Insurance rise and stopping the planned corporation tax hike.
3. Unlock the huge opportunities of Brexit with bold reforms to grow our economy, meaning that we can continue to invest in better public services.
4. Scrap Whitehall-imposed housing targets and instead let local communities choose how many new homes their area needs.
5. Keep Britain safe; securing our borders, increasing defence spending and continuing to recruit 20,000 new police officers - and put more of them out on the beat.

Ms Truss also pledged to hold an immediate fiscal event (with a full budget now planned to take place later in the year) and to hold a spending review to find further efficiencies in government spending.²

Taxation and Public Services

During the campaign Ms Truss pledged an estimated total of £30bn in tax cuts (according to the [IFS](#)) which includes:

- reversing April's National Insurance rise
- suspending the green levy on energy bills
- ensuring that "we keep corporation tax competitive so we can attract business and investment into Britain."³
- reviewing business rates because, in her view, "they do hamper growth."⁴

In an interview with the Sun, she also proposed a review of IR35 rules.⁵

Ms Truss has said that she plans to pay for tax cuts by putting the £311 billion borrowed during the pandemic on a "longer-term footing". That would potentially involve refinancing the borrowed funds so that the debt was paid back over a longer period.⁶

¹ Liz for Leader website (as of 4.8.22), *Vision*: <https://lizforleader.co.uk/my-vision/>

² Daily Mail (20.7.22), *LIZ TRUSS: I'll beat Labour by governing as a true tax-cutting, freedom loving Conservative*: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-11033531/LIZ-TRUSS-ILL-BEAT-Labour-governing-true-tax-cutting-freedom-loving-Conservative.html>

³ Daily Telegraph (10.7.22), *Liz Truss: I would cut taxes from day one as prime minister*: [Liz Truss: I would cut taxes from day one as prime minister \(telegraph.co.uk\)](#)

⁴ Daily Telegraph (16.7.22), *Liz Truss: 'I want the biggest change in economic policy for 30 years'*: [Liz Truss: 'I want the biggest change in economic policy for 30 years' \(telegraph.co.uk\)](#)

⁵ The Sun (20.8.22), *LIZ'LL DO THE BIZ PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills* | [The Sun](#)

⁶ BBC (25.7.22), *Tory leadership debate: Highlights from Our Next Prime Minister*: [Tory leadership debate: Highlights from Our Next Prime Minister - BBC News](#)



Cost of Living and Energy Prices

Throughout the campaign Ms Truss resisted calls for direct support arguing that “what’s wrong is to reach first for the handout before you’ve addressed the root cause of a problem.”⁷

She added that “I’m very, very aware that it’s not just customers, or consumers, that are facing energy price problems, it’s small businesses.”⁸ She also said that she is considering how best to support energy intensive industries.

She dismissed Labour and the Liberal Democrats’ calls for a freeze on the energy price cap describing it as a “sticking plaster that will cost money, but isn’t actually addressing the root cause” of the problem.⁹

Defence and Ukraine

Ms Truss announced in the Daily Telegraph that she would increase spending on the military to three per cent of GDP by the end of this decade and “review” the plan to cut the size of the army to 72,500.¹⁰ She also pledged to update the Integrated Review so that it includes a new chapter focused on “tackling the aggression we’ve seen from the likes of China and Russia.”¹¹

She also wrote in the Telegraph that under her leadership “President Zelensky will have no greater ally at this dark hour than the UK.”¹²

Education

During the campaign, Ms Truss unveiled a six-point strategy “to get Britain’s education system back on track”.¹³ This includes expanding existing academies which are high performing, while replacing failing ones with free schools - newly set up academies.

EU Exit

“I will accelerate our regulatory divergence from the EU and create new low-tax opportunity zones to drive growth and investment across the country.”¹⁴

She also pledged to overhaul the EU’s Solvency II rules and “liberate more of our pension funds to be able to invest in high tech startups”.¹⁵

⁷ The Sun (20.8.22), *LIZ’LL DO THE BIZ PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills* [PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills | The Sun](#)

⁸ *Ibid*

⁹ *Ibid*

¹⁰ Daily Telegraph (28.7.22) *I am a freedom fighter who will work tirelessly to defeat Putin: I am a freedom fighter who will work tirelessly to defeat Putin* ([telegraph.co.uk](#))

¹¹ Liz for Leader website (as of 4.8.22), *Vision*: <https://lizforleader.co.uk/my-vision/>

¹² Daily Telegraph (23.8.22) *Liz Truss: Britain will expose Putin’s lies to the world* [Britain will expose Putin’s lies to the world](#) ([telegraph.co.uk](#))

¹³ The Guardian (30.7.22) *Liz Truss pitches herself as the ‘education prime minister’*: [Liz Truss pitches herself as the ‘education prime minister’ | Liz Truss | The Guardian](#)

¹⁴ Daily Mail (20.7.22), *LIZ TRUSS: I’ll beat Labour by governing as a true tax-cutting, freedom loving Conservative*: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-11033531/LIZ-TRUSS-ill-beat-Labour-governing-true-tax-cutting-freedom-loving-Conservative.html>

¹⁵ *Ibid*



Health and Social Care

Ms Truss has said that she would make tackling NHS waiting times a “key priority”. She also vowed to “fix the issues in social care” to ease pressure on hospitals.¹⁶

Home Affairs

Her leadership page included a commitment to “increase frontline border force capacity by 20 percent ... and double the Border Force Maritime staffing levels” and “will pursue more third country processing partnership schemes like Rwanda.”¹⁷

Housing and Construction

Ms Truss confirmed that she wants to abolish Whitehall housing targets arguing that “I think that’s the wrong way to generate economic growth. The best way to generate economic growth is bottom up by creating those incentives for investment through the tax system, simplifying regulations.”¹⁸

Inflation and Monetary Policy

As part of an interview with the Daily Telegraph, Ms Truss said that “I fear that some of the inflation has been caused by increases in the money supply.”

“For me, handling inflation is an issue of monetary policy. And as well as having a very clear plan on how we reform the supply side, how we get public sector spending under control over time, I would also have a very clear direction of travel on monetary policy.”¹⁹

Labour Disputes and Industrial Action

In an interview with the Daily Express, Ms Truss said that “as Prime Minister I’ll crackdown on the debilitating strikes that cripple the vital services that hard-working people rely on.”²⁰

Plans include introducing minimum service levels on critical national infrastructure to keep trains, buses and other services running. A cooling off period would also be introduced so unions can no longer strike as many times as they like in the six-month period after a ballot. Finally, she will raise ballot thresholds to make it harder for strike action to take place across all sectors.

She pledged to introduce new legislation within a month of taking office.

¹⁶ The Sun (20.8.22), *LIZ'LL DO THE BIZ PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills* [PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills | The Sun](#)

¹⁷ Liz for Leader website (as of 4.8.22), *Vision*: <https://lizforleader.co.uk/my-vision/>

¹⁸ The Sun (20.8.22), *LIZ'LL DO THE BIZ PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills* [PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills | The Sun](#)

¹⁹ Daily Telegraph (16.7.22), *Liz Truss: 'I want the biggest change in economic policy for 30 years'*: [Liz Truss: 'I want the biggest change in economic policy for 30 years' \(telegraph.co.uk\)](#)

²⁰ Daily Express, (19.8.22) *'Holding the country to ransom!' Liz Truss plans crackdown on striking MILITANT unions*: ['Holding the country to ransom!' Liz Truss plans crackdown on striking MILITANT unions | Politics | News | Express.co.uk](#)



Net Zero

Ms Truss reaffirmed her support for “the Net Zero objective, but we need to reach Net Zero in a way that doesn’t harm businesses or consumers”.²¹

She confirmed that she is “very supportive of using gas as a transition fuel” and that “on the subject of fracking, I think it depends on the local area, and whether there is support in the local area for it. But I certainly think we need to be doing all we can to lower the cost of energy for consumers.”²²

Northern Ireland

Ms Truss pledged to “continue what I started in the Foreign Office to find a solution to the Northern Ireland protocol that works for the people and businesses there that contribute to our growth, and respects Northern Ireland’s position as a key part of our United Kingdom.”²³

Seasonal Workers Scheme

Ms Truss told ITN that she wants the Scheme’s capacity to be increased by “thousands of people”, the six-month time limit to be extended and for the program to carry on beyond 2024 when it is currently due to end.²⁴

The current scheme allows for about 40,000 foreign workers to come to the UK for up to six months each year to work in horticulture. It is due to end in 2024.

Welfare

Ms Truss told the Spectator that the Government needs to “reform welfare” and told party members at a hustings in Eastbourne that she would consider “a combination of incentives within the benefit system as well as actively providing people with the skills and training they need to do those jobs”.²⁵

She also confirmed her support for the National Disability Strategy at the Leadership Hustings in Cheltenham.²⁶

²¹ Daily Telegraph (16.7.22), *Liz Truss: ‘I want the biggest change in economic policy for 30 years’*: [Liz Truss: ‘I want the biggest change in economic policy for 30 years’](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/liz-truss/) (telegraph.co.uk)

²² *Ibid*

²³ Liz for Leader website (as of 4.8.22), *Vision*: <https://lizforleader.co.uk/my-vision/>

²⁴ ITN Interview (31.7.22) *I’ll let more migrants in to pick fruit on farms, says Liz Truss*: [Liz Truss would allow more seasonal migrant farm workers - Yahoo TV](https://www.yahoo.com/news/liz-truss-would-allow-more-seasonal-migrant-farm-workers-120000000.html)

²⁵ The Spectator (16.7.22) *Liz Truss on taking on Rishi and what she’ll do in No. 10*: [Liz Truss on taking on Rishi and what she’ll do in No. 10 | The Spectator](https://www.the-spectator.com/2022/07/16/liz-truss-on-taking-on-rishi-and-what-she-ll-do-in-no-10/); The Independent Youtube Channel (5.8.22) *Live: Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss face off in Tory hustings in Eastbourne*: [Live: Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss face off in Tory hustings in Eastbourne - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

²⁶ Daily Telegraph Youtube (23.8.22) *Tory hustings in full: Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak face The Telegraph’s Camilla Tominey in Cheltenham*: [Tory hustings in full: Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak face The Telegraph’s Camilla Tominey in Cheltenham - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



Whitehall Reform

Ms Truss has confirmed that she intends to stick with proposals to cut 91,000 civil service jobs. She has said that “we certainly need to reduce the size of Whitehall and we also need to reduce the number of quangos.”²⁷

She also confirmed that she will set out a 10-year plan for public service reform.²⁸

²⁷ The Sun (20.8.22), *LIZ'LL DO THE BIZ PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills* [PM favourite Liz Truss could cut taxes for tradesmen & hints families will get more help with soaring energy bills | The Sun](#)

²⁸ Conservative Home (29.7.22), *Interview: Truss. “The number one problem in this country, which everyone is feeling in their pockets, is a lack of economic growth.”* [Interview: Truss. “The number one problem in this country, which everyone is feeling in their pockets, is a lack of economic growth.” | Conservative Home](#)



List of BSA Members, September 2022

3C3 Ltd	Ingeus
3SC	ISS UK Ltd
AECOM	Jobs22
Alvarez and Marsal	KBR
Amey Plc	Kier Group Plc
Aramark	KPMG
Atkins	Mace
Atos	Maple Strategy
Baachu	Maximus UK Ltd
Balfour Beatty Plc	Medallia
Barclays Corporate	Mitie
Bellrock	MTC
Bevan Brittan LLP	NatWest
Bouygues E&S UK	NCG
Browne Jacobson LLP	OCS Group UK Ltd
BT Group Plc	P3
Business 2 Business	Pinsent Masons LLP
Capita Plc	Polar Insight
Catch 22	Reed in Partnership
CBRE Ltd	Robertson FM
CGI	Salisbury Group
CH & Co Group	Seetec Group Ltd
City FM	Serco Group Plc
Clyde & Co LLP	Sharpe Pritchard LLP
CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP	Sodexo Ltd
Community Models	Sopra Steria Ltd
Compass Group Plc	Space Solutions
Corndel Ltd	Spend Network
Costain	Strictly Education
Deloitte	The Grichan Whitestone Partnership
DWF LLP	The Growth Company
DXC Technology	The Palladium Group
Elior UK Ltd	The Shaw Trust
Eric Wright FM	The Sustainability Group
Fujitsu UK	Trowers & Hamblins LLP
G3 Systems Ltd	Turley
G4S Plc	Veolia
Glaston Consulting	Vercity
GoodPeople	VINCI Facilities
Grant Thornton	VPS Group
Hinduja Global Solutions	Wand Consulting
HP	Wates Group
IBM	Willmott Dixon
Incentive FM	