**Factual briefing: CIAB moderated Q&A**

**The UK has become Ukraine’s foremost European political partner, and YOUR administration has committed billions of dollars in assistance to President Zelensky and his people. With escalating threats from Russia and with the Central Bank forecasting a potential recession, do YOU expect the same level of support in the future as the conflict continues?**

* **The UK has committed £2.3 billion in military assistance to Ukraine thus far and has made a pledge to match that assistance in 2023.** The UK is also hosting a training programme, supported by a number of allies, with the aim of training 10,000 new and existing Ukrainian personnel within 120 days (*House of Commons Library*, 7 October 2022, [link](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9477/)).
* **Support so far includes more than 5,000 NLAW anti-tank missiles made in Northern Ireland, long-range multiple launch rocket systems, artillery systems, including 155mm self propelled guns, and rapid design and production of short to medium range persistent loitering munitions by a UK start-up company** (GOV.UK, 30 June 2022, [link](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-further-1-billion-in-military-support-to-ukraine#:~:text=The%20UK's%20military%20support%20for,to%20the%20country%20since%20February.)).
* **Thank you to the United States for its military support.** The US is the largest provider of military assistance to Ukraine, having committed $17.5 billion since the start of the Biden administration. $16.8 billion of that assistance has been provided since February 2022 (*House of Commons Library*, 7 October 2022, [link](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9477/)).

**The UK has a net zero target by 2050. At the same time, the current energy crisis has forced countries like Germany to turn back to coal consumption ahead of winter. How do YOU see the energy crisis impacting climate change policy across the world if this shortage continues?**

* **As Prime Minister I set out a Net Zero Strategy which sets out how the UK will deliver on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050.** It shows how businesses and consumers will move to clean power, supporting hundreds of thousands of well-paid jobs and leveraging up to £90 billion of private investment by 2030 (GOV.UK, 19 October 2021, [link](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-path-to-net-zero-set-out-in-landmark-strategy)).
* **It is only by reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels that we will protect consumers from global price spikes by boosting clean energy.**

**Ironically, while YOU’VE drawn criticism for Brexit, it ultimately made it possible for Britons to get vaccinated before the rest of the EU. How did YOU manage such a fast and successful vaccine rollout while other EU leaders were dismissing the efficacy of the AstraZeneca vaccine?**

* **One of the most important factors in the success of the vaccine roll-out was the private sector.** It was private sector investment that led to the AstraZeneca vaccine and the Pfizer vaccine.
* **There’s no dispute that Labour wanted to stay in the European Medicines Agency. That was the position that Sir Keir Starmer set out in a speech to the House of Commons on January 31, 2017** (*Channel 4 FactCheck*, 3 February 2021, [link](https://www.channel4.com/news/factcheck/factcheck-keir-starmer-did-want-to-stay-in-the-european-medicines-agency-but-it-wouldnt-have-affected-the-vaccine-rollout)).
* **Development of new vaccines, including broadly protective multivariant vaccines and universal coronavirus vaccines, could support vaccination strategies in the long term** (Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, *The Future of Covid-19 Vaccines*, 31 March 2022, [link](https://post.parliament.uk/the-future-of-covid-19-vaccines/)).
* **Stakeholders agree that the UK needs to sustain its current infrastructure to monitor vaccine effectiveness using real world data** (Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, *The Future of Covid-19 Vaccines*, 31 March 2022, [link](https://post.parliament.uk/the-future-of-covid-19-vaccines/)).

**YOU had a big agenda when YOU became prime minister that got hijacked by Covid. Do YOU have any regrets that got sidelined from that agenda?**

* We achieved a huge amount in government:   
  + **We left office with unemployment rates close to a 50-year low** and more employees on payrolls than ever before.
  + **We got Brexit done –** bringing in a points-based immigration system, opening two of eight Freeports, and striking over £800 billion in trade deals with over 70 countries.
  + We **tackled the greatest public health emergency in a generation** – delivering the fastest vaccine roll-out in Europe, procuring the most antivirals in Europe.
  + We delivered a **historic funding boost for the NHS** – with record numbers of doctors and nurses, funding to bust the backlogs, and 40 new hospitals on the way.
  + We **ended the** **cruel lottery of social care costs** with our £39 billion investment in Health and Social Care – bringing long-awaited confidence and certainty to millions.
  + We **led the world in the fight against climate change** – with our COP26 presidency securing net zero agreements covering 90% of the global economy.
  + We **left no child behind** – taking core school funding to £56.8 billion by 2024-25, and making up for lost learning with 100 million hours of tuition over the coming years.
  + We **tackled crime** - closing over 1,500 county lines, recruiting over 13,500 more police officers, and launching our Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan.
  + We **delivered for the whole United Kingdom** – securing vaccines for all four nations and agreeing the largest funding settlements since devolution.

**The years leading up to YOUR historic election in 2019 were challenging times in the UK. Theresa May – also a conservative – had failed three times to push through her version of Brexit, and people were fed up with the logjam and lack of progress. After years of paralysis, how were YOU able to instil so much confidence that YOU could get Brexit done?**

* *Answer tbc.*

**YOU were part of the G7 at a time when there were shifts in leadership (from Prime Minister Teresa May to YOU, from President Obama to President Trump), can YOU give us some insights on how those deliberations went?**

* *Answer tbc.*

**When YOU look out at the next 5 years, what’s next for YOU? YOU were a journalist for many years – will YOU return to writing?**

* *Answer tbc.*

**The passing of Queen Elizabeth – Britain’s longest-reigning monarch – has had a profound emotional impact on all Britons. Can YOU comment on the Queen’s reign, her impact on YOU personally and how YOU see the future of the Monarchy?**

I hope the House will not mind if I begin with a personal confession. A few months ago, the BBC came to see me to talk about Her Majesty the Queen. We sat down and the cameras started rolling, and they requested that I should talk about her in the past tense. I am afraid that I simply choked up and could not go on. I am really not easily moved to tears, but I was so overcome with sadness that I had to ask them to go away.

I know that, today, there are countless people in this country and around the world who have experienced the same sudden access of unexpected emotion, and I think millions of us are trying to understand why we are feeling this deep, personal and almost familial sense of loss. Perhaps it is partly that she has always been there: a changeless human reference point in British life; the person who—all the surveys say—appears most often in our dreams; so unvarying in her pole-star radiance that we have perhaps been lulled into thinking that she might be in some way eternal.

But I think our shock is keener today because we are coming to understand, in her death, the full magnitude of what she did for us all. Think what we asked of that 25-year-old woman all those years ago: to be the person so globally trusted that her image should be on every unit of our currency, every postage stamp; the person in whose name all justice is dispensed in this country, every law passed, to whom every Minister of the Crown swears allegiance; and for whom every member of our armed services is pledged, if necessary, to lay down their lives.

Think what we asked of her in that moment: not just to be the living embodiment, in her DNA, of the history, continuity and unity of this country, but to be the figurehead of our entire system—the keystone in the vast arch of the British state, a role that only she could fulfil because, in the brilliant and durable bargain of the constitutional monarchy, only she could be trusted to be above any party political or commercial interest and to incarnate, impartially, the very concept and essence of the nation.

Think what we asked of her, and think what she gave. She showed the world not just how to reign over a people; she showed the world how to give, how to love and how to serve. As we look back at that vast arc of service, its sheer duration is almost impossible to take in. She was the last living person in British public life to have served in uniform in the second world war. She was the first female member of the royal family in a thousand years to serve full time in the armed forces.

That impulse to do her duty carried her right through into her 10th decade to the very moment in Balmoral—as my right hon. Friend said—only three days ago, when she saw off her 14th Prime Minister and welcomed her 15th. I can tell you, in that audience she was as radiant and as knowledgeable and as fascinated by politics as ever I can remember, and as wise in her advice as anyone I know, if not wiser. Over that extraordinary span of public service, with her naturally retentive and inquiring mind, I think—and doubtless many of the 15 would agree—that she became the greatest statesman and diplomat of all.

She knew instinctively how to cheer up the nation, how to lead a celebration. I remember her innocent joy more than 10 years ago, after the opening ceremony of the London Olympics, when I told her that the leader of a friendly middle eastern country seemed actually to believe that she had jumped out of a helicopter in a pink dress and parachuted into the stadium. [Laughter.] I remember her equal pleasure on being told, just a few weeks ago, that she had been a smash hit in her performance with Paddington Bear.

Perhaps more importantly, she knew how to keep us going when times were toughest. In 1940, when this country and this democracy faced the real possibility of extinction, she gave a broadcast, aged only 14, that was intended to reassure the children of Britain. She said then: “We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well”.

She was right. And she was right again in the darkest days of the covid pandemic when she came on our screens and told us that we would meet again—and we did.

I know I speak for other ex-Prime Ministers when I say that she helped to comfort and guide us as well as the nation. She had the patience and the sense of history to see that troubles come and go, and that disasters are seldom as bad as they seem. It was that indomitability, that humour, that work ethic and that sense of history that, together, made her Elizabeth the Great.

When I call her that, I should add one final quality, of course: her humility—her single-bar-electric-fire, Tupperware-using refusal to be grand. I can tell the House, as a direct eyewitness, that unlike us politicians, with our outriders and our armour-plated convoys, she drove herself in her own car, with no detectives and no bodyguard, bouncing at alarming speed over the Scottish landscape, to the total amazement of the ramblers and tourists we encountered.

It is that indomitable spirit with which she created the modern constitutional monarchy—an institution so strong, so happy and so well understood, not just in this country but in the Commonwealth and around the world, that the succession has already seamlessly taken place. I believe she would regard it as her own highest achievement that her son, Charles III, will clearly and amply follow her own extraordinary standards of duty and service. The fact that today we can say with such confidence, “God save the King” is a tribute to him but, above all, to Elizabeth the Great, who worked so hard for the good of her country not just now but for generations to come. That is why we mourn her so deeply, and it is in the depths of our grief that we understand why we loved her so much.

(Tributes to Her Late Majesty the Queen, *Hansard*, Vol.719, Friday 9 September 2022, [link](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-09-09/debates/7E1BA553-600D-41B4-BAB9-849A02B254C3/TributesToHerLateMajestyTheQueen)).

**Okay one last one before we have to go, The Denver Broncos are playing Jacksonville at Wembley later this month. Who are YOU rooting for?**

* **The Jacksonville Jaguars will take on the Denver Broncos at Wembley Stadium on 30 October 2022.** Kick-off is set for 13:30 GMT (*Wembley Stadium*, [link](https://www.wembleystadium.com/events/2022/Broncos-vs-Jaguars)).

* **This game marks the Jaguars 10th year in London, and their 9th game at Wembley Stadium.** It’s been more than 10 years since the Broncos travelled across the pond (*Wembley Stadium*, [link](https://www.wembleystadium.com/events/2022/Broncos-vs-Jaguars)).
* **In July 2015, while Boris Johnson was Mayor of London, the NFL announced a 10-year deal to play a "minimum of two games per year" at Spurs' new stadium** (*Bleacher Report*, 23 September 2015, [link](https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2571139-boris-johnson-london-mayor-has-high-hopes-for-potential-nfl-franchise)).