

UK cost of EU membership

These figures shown below have come from Professor Tim Congdon's latest information on "How much does the European Union cost Britain?" Produced in November 2015.

Direct costs of EU membership

Year Paid	Gross payments by the UK government to the EU £m.	Net contributions by the UK government to the EU Budget £m.	Gross payments by the UK government to the EU as % of GDP.	Net contributions by the UK government to the EU Budget as % of GDP.
2008	12,6553	3,294	0.9	0.2
2009	14,129	4,336	1.1	0.3
2010	15,197	7,382	1.1	0.5
2011	15,357	8,082	1.1	0.6
2012	15,746	8,467	1.1	0.6
2013	18,135	10,465	1.2	0.7
2014	19,234	9,807	1.2	0.6

Below are the forecast figures

2014/15	18,821	9,054	1.2	0.6
2015/16	17,862	8,385	1.1	0.5
2016/17	19,228	10,178	1.1	0.6
2017/18	17,902	8,049	1.0	0.5
2018/19	18,858	8,908	1.0	0.5

Source: H.M. Treasury *European Union Finances 2014*, p.14 and p.18 and ONS.
Office for National Statistics concept of gross national income has been used as the divisor in the ratio calculations.

The EU's economic decline, relative to other high-income societies Table shows % rate of change in constant-price GDP, according to the IMF.

	2012	2013	014	2015	2016	Cumulatively over five years to 2016
USA	2.2	1.5	2.4	2.6	2.8	12.0
Japan	1.7	1.6	-0.1	0.6	1.0	4.9
Canada	1.9	2.0	2.4	1.0	1.7	9.3
Australia	3.6	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.9	14.5
Hong Kong	1.7	3.1	2.5	2.5	2.7	13.1
Singapore	3.4	4.4	2.9	2.2	2.9	16.9
Euro Area	-0.8	-0.3	0.9	1.5	1.6	2.9
European Union	-0.4	0.2	1.5	1.9	1.9	5.2

An Irish perspective

Anthony Coughlan

I have been involved in nine EU-related referendums in the Republic of Ireland, starting with our EEC Accession referendum in 1972. The No-side which I supported won on two of these occasions, Nice One in 2011 and Lisbon One in 2008. I hope the following points may be relevant, although I make no claim for their novelty:-

1. The diversity of EU-critical opinion and the many organisations involved can be a strength, not a weakness, on three conditions: (a) as long as the different elements appeal to their own constituency/support base, (b) as long as they do not attack or criticise one another, at least in public, and (c) as long as they seek to work in parallel in grassroots campaigning as much as possible, continually exchanging campaign information. In Ireland's referendums we never got hard-liners and soft-liners under one umbrella, with a single message. Hardliners and softliners need to realise that each has an essential, if separate, role to play in a referendum. BOTH are absolutely necessary if one wants to win a referendum. Mutual sniping or expressions of hostility are the height of folly and can only delight the Remain-In side.

2. To win a referendum one obviously needs to get the support of over half of those voting. Not just the backing of the "already converted", who are the ones that tend to come to Leave-side public meetings. In Ireland, probably in Britain too, one can be reasonably confident that one-third of voters will vote to Leave and one-third will vote Remain-In. A key struggle therefore - by the organisations that are suited to undertaking it - is to win over soft "middle-ground" opinion that is wavering between these two extremes. The Government and "In" side will be seeking to scare the "middle-ground" into voting to Remain-In ("Project Fear"). The "Out" side needs to give them hope, confidence and pride in their own

country, as well as the assurance that voting "Leave" will make things better. To that end it is essential that "Out" campaigners avoid exaggeration, hysterics and any impoliteness. They need to give a calm, confident, reassuring message at all times, confident that their message is the one that really benefits British voters and the country generally.

3. What of the "Norwegian option" of leaving the EU but joining the EEA. I am inclined to think that this is the most reassuring alternative for "middle-ground" opinion. It means the least radical change from the current situation and therefore can help calm peoples' fears, especially "middle-ground" fears. It substantially restores UK sovereignty in key areas and it can be presented as a staging post towards a more radical Leave course in due time if a future British Government should become unhappy with it. An important practical consideration is that if people vote "Leave" it is the Cameron Government that will be deciding what course to follow then, and it is the Norwegian option that may most appeal to it and its supporters. There is no prospect of any other Government implementing a Vote Leave result. Perhaps this is the territory/message best suited to cover?

4. While the "air-war" in the press and broadcast media is hugely important, and the Leave side needs to do everything it can to ensure that silly, over-emotional, over-excited or fanatical-seeming people do not speak on its behalf, for such people are total turn-offs for the public, the "ground-war" of locally-based campaigning, talking and explaining to "ordinary people" why it is in their interests to vote Leave, and seeking to quell their anxieties and counter the messages of fear from the Remain side, is equally important if not more so. This comes down to organising local canvassing teams that will actually go and explain to people on their own doorsteps why their personal vote is hugely

important and why they need to vote No for their own sakes, as well as for their children, their country and indeed for a better future for Europe as a whole. This "ground war" should be an area where the Leave side has an advantage because of its many different organisations and their diverse appeal.

5. When it comes to the referendum proper there may well be differential voting patterns between the Leave and Remain-In sides. Leave campaigners need to do all they can to ensure that definite "Leave" voters are registered to vote and do turn out on polling day.

6. What messages might particularly appeal to Irish people in Britain. In my opinion there are probably five, of which the first and last are probably the most important:

(a) Voting Leave does not mean any change in the long-established Anglo-Irish free travel area, which goes back to the 1920s and is a matter exclusively for the two Governments and not an EU competence. Irish people will continue to move freely to and fro between the two islands as they have always done. They need continual reassurance on that score.

(b) Free trade will also continue between Ireland and the UK under all realistic Leave scenarios, so there will be no customs posts on the North-South border within Ireland, no passport controls and the like. All that is just scaremongering by the Remain side.

(c) If the Remain side should win and Prime Minister Cameron's proposal is implemented that new immigrants to the UK should have lower social benefits than those already there, it will be impossible under EU law to differentiate between Polish, Latvian or French immigrants on the one hand and Irish ones on the other. So Irish immigrants will face cuts in social benefits too if the vote is to Remain In - which is one good reason why Irish people in Britain in general should vote Leave.

An Irish perspective

(d) As regards Northern Ireland, in so far as that area gets EU subsidies in the form of Regional grants, Structural funds, Farm payments and money for local “peace process” activities, such money is UK taxpayers’ money being recycled through Brussels, to keep the EU bureaucracy in business, for the UK is a major net contributor to the EU budget. Voting Leave would make possible increases, not reductions, in all such funding.

(e) Most Irish voters in Britain are

working-class, oriented to Labour. Do Irish people want to be on the same side as that of the real economic/political “fat cats” of our time? It is clearly not in ordinary working people’s interests to line up alongside Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, the EU’s Big Banks, EU-based transnational capital, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the Brussels bureaucracy, not to speak of Prime Minister Cameron. If the Remain-In side succeeds, it means the job-destroying TTIP (Transatlantic

Trade and Investment Partnership) is inevitable, negotiated by the EU on behalf of 28 States, with its dangerous Investor-State Dispute Settlement tribunals, instead of Britain negotiating its own trade treaties with the wide world independently.

The European Movement sponsors new Irish organisations on “Remain side”.

Anthony Coughlan, The National Platform EU Research and Information Centre, Dublin.

How Brexit will work

Extract of Global Britain press release

If Britain votes to leave. What happens next?

Economics and Politics - On Brexit, the UK unilaterally declares free trade with the whole world, including the remaining EU. From then on, imports enter the UK without customs duties and the bureaucracy needed to collect them.

The costs of inputs (imports) into the UK are thereby lowered; the British economy becomes more attractive.

UK-based manufacturers, British-owned and foreign-owned, reduce the costs of their outputs and/or increase their profit margins. Inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the UK increases.

If, on Brexit, the remaining EU imposes customs duties on UK imports (which seems likely), the economy of

the remaining EU becomes less attractive, since imports from the UK are more expensive. (If the EU wished to abolish customs duties on its imports from the UK, it would have to dismantle its 31-member Customs Union, which includes Turkey. In the short to medium term, this seems unlikely.)

In the forthcoming In/Out referendum the “Leave” argument will be: “*Vote Leave and the cost of living will drop: prices will fall in the shops and in industry, taxes will fall and wages will rise. Plus, we get to control immigration*”.

Those arguing for continued EU membership will be saying: “*Vote Remain to maintain high prices, high taxes and no material change to the current immigration/asylum status-quo*”.

Multinationals with interests in the UK, and their supporters in the CBI – assuming that they wished to stay “In” – will need to argue that the remaining EU will “*refuse to trade with the UK*”. (Why, when they trade with everyone else?)

Or that multinationals “*would leave the UK*”. (No they wouldn’t. In a 2013 survey, *Ernst & Young UK Attractiveness Survey, 2013*, of over 2000 multinationals, 72% of companies interviewed in North America and 66% of those in Asia thought reduced integration with the EU would make the UK *more* attractive as a destination, against 38% of those interviewed in Western Europe. Ernst & Young’s latest survey, due out end-May 2015, confirms the findings of its 2013 survey.)

Economic splits

The EU is defined by those who have receive financial hand-outs from membership as opposed to those who pay-in.

During economic crisis those who pay-in are adversely affected as they have to support those taking out. This causes dissatisfaction within the EU members.

The EU dream is that the new younger EU citizens will identify themselves as European (assuming EU membership means the same thing) and therefore national identity will cease to be an issue as they receive the so-called benefits of European integration.

Problem, with such high levels of

youth unemployment through out the EU eurozone members especially in Spain and Greece where over 50% of the youth are unemployed will they see the EU as a good thing or a bad?

Clearly, if the youth unemployment is not drastically reduced the future threat for the harmony of the EU could well come from the next generation!

Watery promises

Cameron fobbed off with “watery brew” as key commitments are lost in deal negotiations.

“If this is a victory for Britain, I would hate to see a defeat” says independent Labour Peer”.

Reacting to the announcement of the basis of a proposed deal with the EU regarding Britain’s future membership, the Labour Peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon on the 2nd February 2016, said: “It is quite obvious that in his haste for a rapid public relations victory, the Prime Minister has allowed himself to be fobbed off with vacuous promises that amount to little or no substantial change and abandoned most of the key commitments he has

previously made.”

Lord Stoddart continued: “So many things are missing from this ‘deal’ that I hardly know where to start. We were promised that we would regain control over social and employment policy, we were promised an opt out of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, we were promised an end to the EU overriding our common law, we were promised an end to the rulings of the European Court of Justice taking precedence over our criminal law, we were promised treaty changes before the referendum, and reform of the CAP and of EU structural funding. None of these things appear in this so-called deal.

“Mr Cameron has not even been able to put an end to child benefit being

sent abroad to support children who will never live in this country, something about which he was particularly passionate. The best he has been able to achieve is for the payments to reflect local living standards rather than those prevalent here but the point is that large amounts of money will still be siphoned out of our economy and sent as well as spent abroad.

“It is particularly humiliating to see the Prime Minister begging for our freedom in so many areas and being treated with such contempt by the EU. If he expects the British people to vote to stay in the EU based on this watery brew, then he is taking the electorate for fools. If this deal is a victory for Britain, I would hate to see a defeat.”

Cameron and the euro question

Lord Stoddart of Swindon has taken the Prime Minister to task for claiming that ‘Britain will never join the euro’, pointing out that Mr Cameron is ‘in no position give such an undertaking because it is not supported by our constitution, which makes it perfectly clear that no Parliament may bind its successor.’

In a written question to the Government, Lord Stoddart had been asking whether Parliamentary approval would be required for any decision to join the eurozone and why the Prime Minister has stated that the UK will never join.

Replying for the Government, Lord

O’Neill of Gatley said: *‘As set out in Protocol 15, the United Kingdom is under no legal obligation to adopt the euro as its currency. Under the EU Act 2011, a decision by the UK under Protocol (No 15) leading to a decision by the Council under article 140 (3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union would require an Act of Parliament and a referendum result in favour before a Minister of the Crown could support it.*

‘The Prime Minister has been clear that Britain will never join the euro.’

Lord Stoddart said: ‘I am not sure whether the Government either

understands or respects the constitution. The constitutional position is clear - no Parliament may bind its successor. It is perfectly possible for a future government, of whatever colour, to repeal the EU Act 2011 and take Britain into the euro, without even bothering to hold a referendum.’

‘For the Prime Minister to categorically state that ‘Britain will never join the euro’ is palpably untrue and grossly overstates his powers. Therefore, despite what Mr Cameron says, there is no question that remaining in the EU is a serious threat to the future of the pound.’

Unintended consequences

The Treaty of Rome 1957, stated as its first principal the determination “to lay the foundations of an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe”. The means to implement this has been economic, and these economic ideas have become symbolic in that economic institutions and policies are framed in cultural and political terms, creating a drive for political cooperation. The EU is

constantly incorrectly linking cultural values to economic policies.

The euro as the European Commission said in 2010 is “a symbol of European identity ... one of the strongest tangible symbols of European integration and the shared values of Europe, the European nations and Europeans themselves”.

In other words integration both political and cultural will follow

economic integration. However, this assumes a mutual dependency between economic and cultural integration which is not actually true and creates unintended consequences of this illusion.

This has created the conflict between economic and social unrest through the EU as the problems of the economic policy of the eurozone have been exposed.

BOOK REVIEWS

Derek Stirling

How to leave the EU

In this publication Richard North the well known investigator of all things related to the EU explains his FLEXCIT plan that will allow the UK to exit the EU without any serious upheaval.

He offers six simple stages in order to make withdrawal easier:

Stage 1) The “Norway Option” in which we rejoin the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and trade with the EU through the European Economic Area (EEA).

Once the right exit option has been chosen the areas of post-exit co-operation will be defined.

Stage 2) Deals with immigration and asylum. Since as he explains, we have to keep freedom of movement for the time being, a plan to work out how better to manage the flow of people into the UK before a long-term solution is reached.

The Market Solution
FLEXCIT - Flexible Exit and
Continuous Development
by Dr Richard E. North

Bruges Group
Pamphlet 48 pp 2016

Available from
The June Press
Price £5.00 + 10% p&p)
(see back cover)

Stage 3) To replace Brussels administration with the Geneva-based United Nations Economic Commission Europe (UNECE) along the lines proposed by Winston Churchill in 1948 and 1950.

Stage 4) Rebuilding an independent policy on foreign and defence, agriculture and fisheries, while also

exploring environmental, climate change and energy. Followed by financial services and the so-called “digital market”.

Stage 5) He explains an eight-point programme which opens the way for us to break out of the EU cul-de-sac and rejoin the global trading system.

Stage 6) Ways to restore democracy, bringing both central and local government back under the control of the people are explained.

Conclusion) Leaving the EU is not a single event but a multi-stage process, resulting in doing many of the same things in a different way, all to our mutual advantage.

Many people have said, and many more have assumed that there is no future outside EU membership. This pamphlet shows a clear simple way to survive outside the EU.

In or out of the EU

This book details the arguments on both sides of the EU referendum debate with up-to-date facts. In the author’s opinion this is a 60 minute read but I suggest you give yourself more like 120 minutes.

It starts by showing how the EU was formed and the key events leading up to the current position. Later it shows how the EU Parliament actually works and is organised with photographs of the key buildings employed.

In a clearly laid out slightly humorous format at the start, it succeeds in explaining the key issues facing the UK electorate.

The major issues regarding jobs, employment, the controversy about sovereignty, the purpose of the Single Market, the sensitive issue about immigration and open borders and the reforms that David Cameron claims to

In or Out?
The 60 minute Plain-Speaking Guide
to the EU Referendum
by C. James Bacon

Amazon
Paperback 279pp 2016

Available from
Amazon

ISBN 978-1-523973774

have won for the UK are all covered.

To this is added the economic issues including the problems of the influence of the euro on the eurozone members - as they make-up the greater part of the EU - Foreign Direct Investment and the threats whether real or imaginary of companies making statements about

moving out of the UK should it leave the EU are also covered.

The effects of the Common Agricultural Policy, bureaucracy, legal matters including the European Court of Justice (ECJ), plus the legislation and regulations emanating from the EU are all taken into consideration, as are the debates about influence and future possibilities whether in or out.

This is one of the very few books that tries to show both sides of the debate regarding EU membership, and by giving the information allows you to make up your own mind about the future that you wish to live in.

Having read this I think the only answer is ‘out’ but it is up to you to make your own decision!

A video clip is also available on the web site:

<http://tinyurl.com/inoroutyoutube>

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: eurofacts@junepress.com

Vienna Convention

Dear Sir,
Michael Shrimpton's fascinating article ("Cameron's misleading statement", *eurofacts* 18th March 2016) refers to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, of which the UK is a signatory.

He implies that the European Union is a signatory of the Vienna Convention - is that so?

Article 50 of the TFEU sets out a remarkably elastic process of withdrawal from the EU, but given the EU's excessively byzantine structure, might the Vienna Convention route to Brexit be preferable for the UK when the time comes?

IAN MILNE
East Sussex

[The Vienna Convention is a treaty between states and a core document of public international law. As an international treaty between sovereign states international organisations are *not* party to it, save for certain specialised agencies of the UN, including the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The European Union, which both under community and international law is *not* a state, is not therefore a signatory, nor, indeed, having regard to provisions of Vienna Article 81, could it be. The overwhelming majority of Member States of the EU are however state signatories or parties to the Vienna Convention, including Germany.

The UK was an original signatory, our instrument of ratification having been deposited on 25th June 1971. The only major EU Member State which is not a signatory or party is France (a signatory state refers to the original states which agreed the convention – parties are states which subsequently signed instruments of accession).

The European Court of Justice has however consistently held, and rightly so with respect, that the provisions of

the Vienna Convention apply to the Treaty of Rome and the Treaty on European Union. That must be right, since Vienna applies to *all* international treaties.

Unilateral withdrawal on notice is not expressly covered by Vienna, but it is necessarily implicit that a state cannot continue to be bound by a treaty against its will. - **Michael Shrimpton**]

Trust or road to dictatorship

Dear Sir,
Having been lied to by politicians of all parties for the last forty years, many people have only a vague idea on how and why the EU acts as it does.

Some little snippets from EU history:

Article 191 of the Nice Treaty gave powers to the EU to withdraw or prevent funding of any sort to political parties deemed "unsuitable". Their definition!

Under the EU constitution, presented afresh as the Lisbon Treaty after several countries rejected it in referendums, the European Commission took new interesting powers. These powers were to amend, that is alter at will, any existing arrangements or treaties.

This is exactly the same as the "enabling act" Hitler used to give him the powers of a legally appointed dictatorship.

A final thought to ponder on. The Advocate General of the European Court of Justice, in ECJ case C274/99P, issued a chilling formal opinion.

"Criticism of the EU", he declared, "is akin to blasphemy and could be restricted without violating freedom of speech."

Perhaps we are not yet members of a dictatorship, but we may be on the slippery slope?

DAVID BROWN
Essex

Why voting matters

Dear Sir,
At a meeting with a political journalist recently, I explained why the UK should leave the European Union. He told me that he wanted to believe everything I said but he felt that if someone who wanted to stay in the EU told him about why we should remain in the EU, he wouldn't know who or what to believe.

I remembered the early 1970s when I felt the same about what I read and heard, except I felt a gut feeling that there was something very dodgy about the so called Common Market. It was those suspicions, together with a worry about my children's future that caused me to vote NO in the 1975 referendum.

With a short time to go before we vote in the 23rd June referendum everyone is being bombarded with information from both sides, much of it speculation and not hard facts. Some people will want every scrap of information available to them, others will be far too busy or bored to want to pay much attention to what they hear, read or see on television.

Many of those who study the benefits of leaving the EU or remaining in could still finish up uncertain which way to vote. Other people who are very busy all hours every day, might have switched off already or have little interest in politics. They are likely to want to decide how to vote well before Referendum Day 23rd June, so that they can free up their minds to concentrate on their everyday life.

For everyone however, the task of making a decision which way to vote boils down to one very simple question to ask oneself. That core question is; who do you want to govern our country for years to come, either our own Parliament with our elected Members of Parliament or the European Union with their unelected Commissioners?

GEORGE WEST
CIB - President

MEETINGS

Grassroots Out

www.grassrootsout.co.uk

(Or GO for short! The national, cross-party, grassroots campaign to leave the EU.)

"Have a number of taskforce launches in the next few weeks, in their opinion this referendum will be won or lost, vote by vote, door by door."

They are organising a number of meetings up and down the country at local level in towns and cities.

Further details contact grassroots directly.

Gresham College

020 7831 0575

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"Leaving the European Monetary System in 1992"

Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, *Gresham Professor of Law*

PUBLIC MEETING
Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2

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Andrew Lillico, *Executive Director of Europe Economic*

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Tuesday **17th May**, 6.00 pm

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Why the Iraq war led many to feel that the UK government was insufficiently accountable to Parliament, and has led to increased popular distrust of political leaders, which remains today.

Vernon Bogdanor CBE FBA, *Visiting Gresham Professor of Political History*

PUBLIC MEETING

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DIARY OF EVENTS

UK's EU Referendum **23rd June**

Slovakia takes over EU Council Presidency **1st July**

2017

Malta takes over EU Council Presidency **1st January**

UK takes over EU Council Presidency **1st July**

2018

Estonia takes over EU Council Presidency **1st January**

Bulgaria takes over EU Council Presidency **1st July**

USEFUL WEB SITES

British Constitution Group

www.britishconstitutiongroup.com

British Weights & Measures Assoc.

www.bwmaonline.com

Bruges Group

www.brugesgroup.com

Campaign Against Euro-Federalism

www.caef.org.uk

Campaign for an Independent Britain

www.campaignforanindependentbritain.org.uk

Conservatives for Britain

www.conservativesforbritain.org

Democracy Movement

www.democracymovement.org.uk

English Constitution Group

www.englishconstitutiongroup.org

EU Observer

www.euobserver.com

EU Truth

www.eutruth.org.uk

European Commission (London)

www.cec.org.uk

European Foundation

www.europeanfoundation.org

EU Referendum Campaign

www.eureferendumcampaign.com

Freedom Association

www.tfa.net

Futurus

www.futurus-thinktank.com

Global Britain

www.globalbritain.org

Global Vision

www.global-vision.net

GrassRootsOut

www.grassrootsout.co.uk

June Press (Publications)

www.juneypress.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign

www.lesc.org.uk

Labour for a Referendum

www.labourforareferendum.com

Leave.eu

www.Leave.eu

New Alliance

www.newalliance.org.uk

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www.openeurope.org.uk

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www.sovereignty.org.uk

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www.statawatch.org

Team

www.teameurope.info

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www.taxpayersalliance.com

United Kingdom Independence Party

www.ukip.org

Vote Leave

www.voteleavetakecontrol.org

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Business for Britain	0207 3406070
CIB	0116 2874 622

Conservativesforbritain
www.conservativesforbritain.org

Democracy Movement	020 7603 7796
Freedom Association	0845 833 9626
Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign	020 7691 3800

Leave-the-EU	www.Leave.eu
New Alliance	020 7385 9757
Fishing Association	01224 313473

CROSS PARTY THINK TANKS

Bruges Group	020 7287 4414
Global Britain	Email: globalbritain-1@globalbritain.org
Global Vision	www.global-vision.net
Open Europe	0207 197 2333

POLITICAL PARTIES

Conservative	020 7222 9000
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English Democrats	01277 896000
Robin Tilbrook (Chairman)	
Green Party	020 7272 4474
Natalie Bennett	
Labour	020 7783 1000
Jeremy Corbyn MP	
Liberal	01562 68361
Mr Rob Wheway	
Liberal Democrats	020 7222 7999
Tim Farron MP	
New Britain	020 7247 2524
Mr Dennis Delderfield	
UK Independence Party	01626 831290
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