

Responses from UUP leader Mike Nesbitt

**Will your party fully support the concept and practice of power sharing as envisaged and outlined in the Good Friday Agreement?**

As one of the main architects of the Belfast Agreement, the Ulster Unionist Party fully supports the practice of power-sharing as envisaged and outlined in it.

**Should the UK leaving the EU as proposed by the UK government, will your party in the Assembly support the transposition of progressive EU Directives concerning matters within the competency of the Executive/devolved Assembly, such as employment rights?**

The Ulster Unionist Party supports the decision of the UK Government to use a Great Repeal Bill to convert EU requirements into domestic primary legislation as soon as we leave the EU.

**Will your party support the mitigations around welfare 'reform', in particular on matters such as the Bedroom Tax, and do you agree that given the particular circumstances that arise in Northern Ireland, any such welfare 'reform' must be implemented differently?**

The Assembly has already endorsed mitigations around welfare reform including the bedroom tax and we continue to sport the recommendations of the Evason report, with the one exception of additional points in PIP assessments for those who were injured as a result of their own terrorist actions during the Troubles.

**Will you support the creation of decent and quality jobs through the development and implementation of an industrial strategy for Northern Ireland taking into account the interests and concerns of the trade union movement and many employers and placing the creation of decent and quality jobs with the skills agenda at the heart of such a strategy?**

The Ulster Unionist party has consistently supported the establishment of an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland. Our Manifesto also calls for – amongst other things - a manufacturing strategy a refocus on Research and Development to broaden our skills base and empower the next generation with the know how to succeed in a rapidly changing employment market.

**Will your party support the work of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and promote the building of more social housing using the criteria of objective need?**

We continue to support the work and role of the NIHE. Our 2017 Assembly Manifesto has a section titled, "*Ensuring adequate housing for all*" in which we recognise that as a society we simply do not build enough houses to satisfy demand. We have committed to building a minimum of 10,000 new social and affordable homes by 2021. We also believe the Social Housing Development Programme needs to be more regularly updated.

**Will your party support the full expression of a shared society by supporting the implementation of a Bill of Rights in Northern Ireland?**

The Ulster Unionist Party has consistently said that it does not believe a separate Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland is necessary and believes that a UK Bill of Rights with the possibility of supplementary rights for Northern Ireland is a preferable solution.