



ANNUAL REPORT





A FOND FAREWELL FROM ME

One of the commitments I made at last year's AGM was to bring back our annual report. So here it is!

It's been a curious year, but I'm pleased to say that our work has continued apace. We have seen progress in many policy areas, we've supported 'out' candidates both financially and physically and the General Election, and our membership continues to grow. Overall I think we can call this year

a success, and I am very grateful to the team, our Patrons and to our members who have helped that happen.

This marks the end of 10 years with the organisation for me, and I know I am leaving it healthy and in very good hands.

The organisation will continue, with your support, to provide an LGBT voice with the Conservative Party, and a voice for Conservatives within the LGBT community. Thank you for giving us that opportunity!

Colm

COLM HOWARD-LLOYD
CHAIRMAN

LGBT+ CONSERVATIVES TEAM

April 2019 - July 2020¹

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN - Colm Howard-Lloyd
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN - John Cope
HONORARY SECRETARY - Niall McDougall
HONORARY TREASURER - Cllr. Sean Anstee CBE
VICE-CHAIRMAN CANDIDATES' FUND - Cllr. Scott Seaman-Digby
VICE-CHAIRMAN COMMUNICATIONS - Elena Bunbury (resigned Dec 2019)
VICE-CHAIRMAN EVENTS - Richard Salt
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER - Ben Joce
STUDENT OFFICER - Jason Birt (resigned Sept 2019)

GENERAL COUNCIL

Cllr. Andrew Jarvie
Barry Flux
David Findlay
Dolly Theis
Cllr. Joe Porter
Owen Meredith
Sue Pascoe
Xavier White

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

EAST MIDLANDS - David Findlay
EAST OF ENGLAND - Thomas Smith
LONDON - Charley Jarrett
NORTH EAST - Barry Flux
SCOTLAND - Andrew Jarvie
WALES - Mark Brown
WEST MIDLANDS - John Gardiner
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER - Cllr. Jacob Birch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After a decade with LGBT+ Conservatives, more than half of them in the chair, it's time to hand-on the baton

I'm not disappearing completely. One of my proudest achievements here has been the LGBT+ Conservatives Candidates' Fund, which has supported so many people into parliament and raised tens of thousands of pounds. As the fund matures it is moving into a new governance structure, and I hope to play a role in that future.





I am thrilled to be succeeded by Elena Bunbury. I know that she will bring new energy to the organisation, and I hope it will continue to thrive under her leadership.

I am so grateful to everyone who has supported me on this journey. In particular Emma Warman, Matthew Green and John Cope who have provided wise counsel as Deputy Chairman. To Sean Anstee who has transformed the finances of the organisation. To Niall McDougall and Ben Joce, who have grown our membership and introduced a new system. To Craig Smith and Richard Salt who have transformed our pride programme. And to Matthew Green, Owen Meredith, and Scott Seaman-Digby who have helped me grow The Fund.

To David Cameron and Theresa May who led from the front and changed both our party and country by introducing new rights for LGBT people, and to Boris Johnson who committed to taking the LGBT Action Plan forward at the recent election. To Maria Miller, Nicky Morgan, Justine Greening, Caroline Dinenage, Nick Gibb, Penny Mourdant, Baroness Williams and everyone at the Government Equalities Office who have all been at the forefront of bringing about the change we needed to see.

Most of all I'm grateful to the members and my fellow officers, who have supported the organisation throughout a decade of significant change. We've attended prides, conferences, fundraisers and campaign events across the UK together.

Together we have:

-  Elected more LGBT parliamentarians than any other party, in the world, ever.
-  Thrown the biggest and best parties at Conservative Party Conference.
-  Taken a key role in the elections of Conservative Party Leaders.
-  Formalised our constitution, changed our name, affiliated to the Conservative Party, launched the Candidates' Fund, held our first conference, and generally got serious about being a Conservative voice in the LGBT+ community and an LGBT+ voice in the Conservative Party.
-  Delivered same-sex marriage across the UK, the Turing Pardon, and harsher penalties for hate crimes.

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-  Delivered on tackling homophobia in schools and sport by investing £2 million in schools to help them tackle homophobic bullying and launching a Sports Charter to stamp out homophobia and transphobia in sport. LGBT-inclusive relationship education in schools starts imminently.
 -  Delivered on health improvements and gay and bisexual men and now routinely offered the HPV vaccine and appointed the first National Adviser for LGBT Health.
 -  Taken a role on the international stage to promote our values of equality. The UK has set up a new funding mechanism - UK AID Connect - to promote LGBT inclusion and through this, we are making £12 million available over 4 years for a consortium of diverse organisations - civil society, think tanks and private sector organisations - to work on LGBT inclusion.

We can't yet consider this "job done" just yet though




We know that health inequality is still a major concern for many LGBT+ people and in particular, the access lesbian and bisexual women have to vital services, health provision for trans people, and the provision of PrEP - the Secretary of State Matt Hancock has made bold commitments for routine commissioning of PrEP. This has been delayed by COVID-19, but we are confident that progress will be made very soon.

We must continue to deliver on our work to create LGBT-inclusive schools by supporting teachers to deliver the new RSE programme and continue our work on bullying.



We must deliver on our commitment to end "conversion therapy", respond to the Gender Recognition Act consultation, and properly tackle the issues of LGBT people who face homelessness. We must continue to work with commissioners and providers to ensure that support services for LGBT victims of violence against women and girls comply with the Equality Act 2010.

THIS YEAR IN DETAIL





May 2019

-  Many LGBT+ Conservatives members stood, many successfully, in the local elections.
-  We hosted a stand at Scottish Conservative Conference. Our Patron Lord Duncan came to lend his support.
-  As Brunei re-criminalised homosexuality we joined others in pressing the government to use its power and influence, as Chair-In-Office of the Commonwealth to push for the decriminalisation of homosexuality globally.
-  We had a good turn-out for our first presence at Exeter Pride.
-  The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia was marked with a series of reflections from our MPs, Assembly Members, members and supporters.
-  Our breakfast and parade entry for Birmingham Pride was our biggest yet.
-  Prime Minister Theresa May resigned, and we thank her for her personal commitments to same-sex marriage, the GRA, and LGBT-inclusive SRE.
-  This year's chosen pride t-shirt slogan was - Pride, Freedom, Opportunity. You can still buy yours from our shop².

June 2019

-  We launched a new range of materials to help Conservative associations celebrate pride in their local area³.
-  As part of the leadership elections we asked candidates to talk about their record, and what they intend to be their focus if they become the next Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister⁴.

July 2019


-  The government produced its first report detailing progress made on the LGBT Action Plan.
-  We had a huge turnout at London Pride, and were joined by many MPs and the Conservative candidate to be Mayor of London, Shaun Bailey.
-  We joined our Patrons, Nick Herbert and Justine Greening, in calling for same-sex marriage to be legalised in Northern Ireland.
-  We had great support from local associations, who hosted groups at pride events in Worthing, Newcastle, Brighton, Glasgow, and Hull.
-  Boris Johnson was elected leader of the Conservative Party. In our congratulations we welcomed the commitments he had made, including to the LGBT Action Plan, during the election.
-  New Prime Minister Boris Johnson made his first speech on the steps of Downing Street and told the world: "for the equalities on which we insist - whether race or gender or LGBT or the right of every girl in the world to 12 years of quality

education and for the values we stand for around the world. Everyone knows the values that flag represents It stands for freedom and free speech and habeas corpus and the rule of law and above all it stands for democracy”⁵.




August 2019

-  Our Patron Lord Hayward was presented with the Belfast Pride Highlight of the Year Award for his contribution to ‘Winning Marriage Equality at Westminster’.
-  Leeds and Manchester prides welcomed LGBT+ Conservatives members from across the UK, and we had a strong first presence at Wakefield Pride.
-  Our Patron Daniel Kawczyński told House Magazine “by teaching LGBT acceptance in schools, we show our children that the UK is a free and tolerant country where they can be who they are – this must be defended”⁶.
-  With the kind help of Rebecca Hossack Gallery, we held a fundraiser for the Candidates’ Fund.




September 2019

-  We had our largest series of events at Conservative Party Conference to date. Starting with the traditional curry, we held a series of receptions and events to discuss policy, and kept members busy with some Connect Calling sessions speaking to voters across the UK. This was topped-off with the celebration of 10 years of Conference Pride - few can remember all of the event, but the photos show everyone had a spectacular night!


October 2019


-  Same-sex marriage became legal in Northern Ireland.
-  With new funding promised by Chancellor Sajid Javid, the government committed to a new sexual health strategy⁷.
-  We held well-attended social events in London and in Leeds.


November 2019

-  Members were out across the country campaigning for the snap election. We were particular pleased to host campaign days for our Patron Stuart Andrew MP in Pudsey, and to help Mark Fletcher win Bolsover, and Elliot Colborn win Carshalton and Warrington. Both have joined us as Patrons⁸.
-  We marked Trans Day of Remembrance with a joint statement with other political LGBT groups in Scotland, and the trans flag flew on buildings across Whitehall.
-  Patron Ruth Davidson MSP joined us at a Connect Calling session to speak to voters ahead of the election.


December 2019

-  Prime Minister Boris Johnson marked World AIDS Day with the message: “you are not alone. We stand with you. Let's rock the Red Ribbon together”.


 The Prime Minister also reaffirmed his commitment to the LGBT Action Plan, and to ending conversion therapy: “We will support marginalised communities in the developing world, hosting the UK government’s first ever international LGBT+ conference. We remain committed to the LGBT+ Action Plan, including ending the practice of gay conversion therapy.”.


 The Conservative Party won the General Election by a significant majority, and elected a record number of ‘out’ MPs securing our record as having elected more LGBT politicians than any other party in the world, ever.

January 2020


 Our Patron Mike Freer MP succeeded in his campaign to make the HPV vaccine available to all MSMs.

February 2020


 The first same-sex marriages took place in Northern Ireland took place, and were celebrated by a reception in parliament where our Patron Crispin Blunt MP paid tribute to those who had campaign so effectively for it.


 Our Patron Lord Black, highlighted what he described as a "crisis in sexual health" - with infections and antimicrobial resistance on the rise and clinics closing because of cutbacks⁹.


March 2020

 Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced plans for the roll-out of universal access to PreP¹⁰.

May 2020


 LGBT+ Conservatives Patron and Chair of the APPG on Global LGBT Rights Crispin Blunt MP, tabled an Early Day Motion to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia and Interphobia and to reaffirm the importance of the UK’s support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex people globally¹¹.


 The Conservative Party commissioned an independent investigation to tackle any concerns about prejudice and discrimination head-on. Party Chairman Amanda Milling made a clear commitment to fighting all forms of prejudice wherever it is found¹².


 We again marked International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia with a series of messages from members, supporters and MPs.

June 2020

 To celebrate the start of Pride Month, the Government Equalities Office produced a video highlighting some amazing milestones in LGBT history¹³.

 Patron Andrew Boff AM hosted a Q&A session online for us, highlighting the highs and lows of standing for election as an LGBT+ candidate, and we were pleased to hear the experiences of Elliot Colborn MP, and Cllr. Emma Best.

 “Conversion therapy is a vile and abhorrent practice that we want to stop.” Lizz Truss MP tells the House of Commons during Equalities Questions. We are continuing to press the government to eradicate it as soon as possible.

 After a leak of supposed plans for the reform of the Gender Recognition Act, we joined with other political groups and called for the government to urgently clarify what action it intends to take¹⁴.



DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

John Cope

🌈 Support of Trans members of LGBT+ Conservatives, as pledged at our last AGM, this has been one of several priorities for the organisation. From briefing journalists, maintaining relationships with charities across the LGBT+ rights sector, and regular meetings with politicians, I'm proud we have honoured that pledge despite strong resistance across all political parties and the media. This culminated in a comment piece in The i ' "Instead of pandering to a culture war, the Government needs to empathise with trans people"¹⁵. The campaign goes on, however, with a government announcement on next steps imminent. We should be braced for some disappointment that reforms will not go as far as many hoped.

🌈 Chaired a packed Manifesto Workshop at Conservative Party Conference, with representatives from Stonewall, THT, UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group, LGBT Foundation and Albert Kennedy Trust. The issues discussed were fed into CCHQ ahead of the manifesto at the 2019 general election.

🌈 Successful refresh of our Patrons, for the first time in many years. Of the 36 eligible out LGBT+ elected representatives (MPs, Peers, elected Mayors, AMs, MSP, London AMs, and MLAS), 23 have agreed to be a Patron.

🌈 Our new Patrons include:

- Daniel Kawczynski MP
- Elliot Colburn MP
- Gary Sambrook MP
- Lee Rowley MP
- Mark Fletcher MP
- Mark Menzies MP
- Michael Fabricant MP
- Nigel Evans MP
- Peter Gibson MP
- William Wragg MP
- Jamie Green MSP
- Annie Wells MSP
- Mayor Andy Street
- Andrew Boff AM
- Lord Duncan



Existing Patrons that have agreed to continue their role:

- **Conor Burns MP**
- **Crispin Blunt MP**
- **David Mundell MP**
- **Iain Stewart MP**
- **Mike Freer MP**
- **Stuart Andrew MP**
- **Ruth Davidson MSP**
- **Lord Black**



HONORARY SECRETARY

Niall McDougall

I have throughout the year managed and maintained the records and meetings and minutes for our General Council and Full council meetings, some of which have been held virtually ensuring our officers across the country could engage and input into our operations effectively. This function provides a robust backbone to our activities and ensures compliance as an affiliated association to the Party.

I have helped advise the Terrence Higgins Trust, alongside the Chairman, on the joint statement alongside other political parties on the Public Health approach to Sexual health services, PrEP commissioning and the Public Health Grant.

I provided Public Health input for the Chairman's statement to the Rt Hon. Lizz Truss MP, the Equalities minister, on the GRA reform, and I am currently working on a briefing pack for our members on the future of PrEP commissioning to run alongside a virtual Q&A session in the coming weeks.

I am looking forward to taking over as Vice Chair Membership for the coming year, developing an updated offer for our members, and as the Regional Representative for London I shall be putting together some regular social activities for members to get to know each other and discuss local politics in the Capital.

I look forward to working with the new Council, and welcoming new and returning members to the organisation.



HONORARY TREASURER

Sean Anstee

- 🏳️‍🌈 Membership Income remains consistent with a small increase on the previous year.
- 🏳️‍🌈 Fourth consecutive year that we have increased net assets of the organisation from £14,931 to £15,441 despite one off costs incurred through distribution of the Candidates Fund.
- 🏳️‍🌈 Costs have remained consistent at £5090 and includes those incurred to support events, Pride and general administration.
- 🏳️‍🌈 Conference activity included a payment to CCHQ to cover Room Hire for our Fringe Event.
- 🏳️‍🌈 The accounts include first receipts from the Candidates Fund Patron's Membership although note this was paused at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A full copy of the Profit & Loss, and Balance Sheet will be made available to Members.



VICE-CHAIRMAN CANDIDATES' FUND

Scott Seaman-Digby

We have had a mainly positive year on the fundraising front for the fund with support of £6k paid out to candidates in the December GE.

The fund remains healthy at £8k with £3k of this coming through the new Donors Club. We have 6 active donors providing £100 pcm for the fund, centred around exclusive dinners and events hosted by patrons and other supporters. During the Covid crisis and in light of elections being pushed out to 2021 we suspended the direct debits for the fund and plan to restart these later this year.

The aim of the Donors Club is to provide an injection of significant funds to allow us to support candidates at regional and national levels to ensure the LBGT+ voice is both heard within the Party and represented in our democratic bodies. Depending on the rules around events we hope to relaunch the club before Christmas and encourage our current donors to 'introduce a friend'. Our first Donor Club event is likely to be early 2021 and due to the current demographic be in London.





Overall the Candidates' Fund remains a critical part of our work and I have contributed to a further extension by assisting with the mentoring project aimed at helping prepare and mentor Council candidates as well as those for Westminster and Assembly. I have secured the support of Pushfar.com who will provide a free platform for us to undertake the new project; to be sponsored by Elena and led by Ross.

It would be ideal if all fundraising efforts were done in support, at least partially, of the fund to allow us to build a war chest ready for the 2024 election and other regional elections in the years ahead.



VICE-CHAIRMAN COMMUNICATIONS

Elena Bunbury

-  Developed media strategy
-  Designed and wrote conference literature
-  Ran and organised conference stand
-  Various social media posts/campaigns
-  Started a women's group
-  Assisted with the running of all events at conference
-  Developed relations with stakeholders
-  Written speeches and articles for various patrons and MPs for our events and publicity



VICE-CHAIRMAN EVENTS

Richard Salt

- 🌈 23 Pride Events
- 🌈 New Pride Packs
- 🌈 Three Social Events in London
- 🌈 Yorkshire & Humber Social
- 🌈 Record Attendance of London and Leeds Pride
- 🌈 Supporting New Regional Coordinators
- 🌈 LGBT+ Conservatives Conference Pride supported by Lizz Truss MP and Rishi Sunak MP
- 🌈 Conference Stonewall Reception Speakers Matt Hancock MP and Stuart Andrew MP





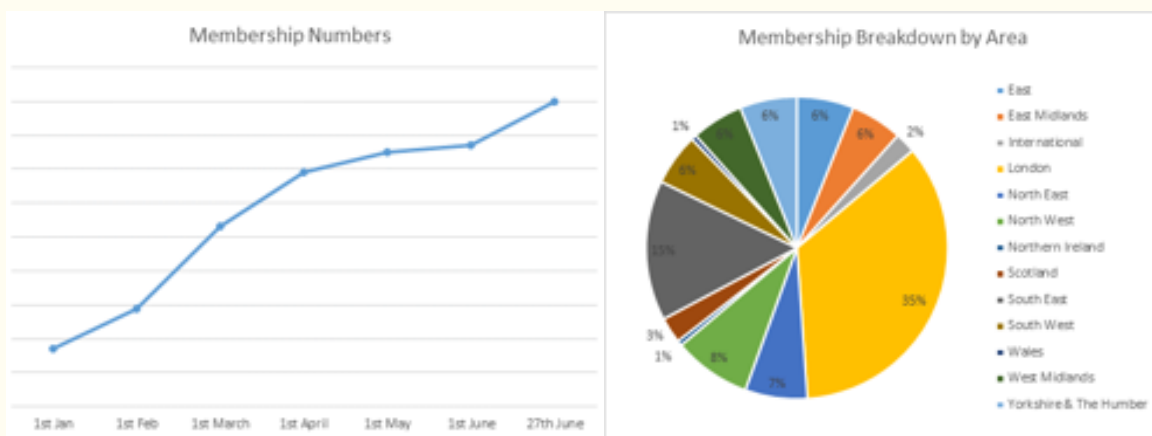
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Ben Joce

The past year has been a busy one with multiple events, Pride's and the Conservative Party Conference attended on behalf of LGBT+ Conservatives. This year also saw the introduction of a new and improved membership system on top of the day to day membership administration of welcoming and processing new members.

New Membership System

A lot of work has gone into some of the administration and back office functions of LGBT+ Conservatives by implementing a new membership system. This system will allow for a much more efficient process of managing, reporting on and renewing the membership of our organisation, as well as moving us towards compliance around GDPR, and gives the potential for additional functionality around events (watch this space). We also took the opportunity, in conjunction with the implementation of the new system, to clean up the membership data. On the face of it the membership numbers dropped as part of the switch to an automated system however since the switch, as you can see from the graphs below, the numbers have been steadily increasing, with London and the South East remaining the largest geographical areas where members are located. The new system will also allow us to retain a higher number of members as we pass from one year to the next by utilising a much slicker renewals system. We have also seen a very positive increase in young members with the under 25's now making up nearly a quarter of our overall membership.



Pride's & Socials

As usual the pride parades, parties, and social events that were held and supported by the LGBT+ Conservatives were a great success. From the extremely wet and windy Newcastle (solidarity to my fellow soggy marchers) to the sun-burnt shenanigans of Croydon. I was able to get out and about, representing both our party and organisation by speaking with many people across the political spectrum. Highlighting the fantastic work the Conservative party has done in recent years to support LGBT+ rights. These kind of

activities are particularly important in places like Newcastle or Croydon where locally we are not the party in power.

Conservative Party Conference

The Conservative party conference was a fantastic event this year and a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered on the stand with me and the rest LGBT+ cons team. We had the chance to speak with huge numbers of people from across the party and demonstrated to the other organisations and visitors there that we are an inclusive and welcoming party for LGBT+ individuals. I can't say the many hours every day over the course of the event were not tiring but it was worth it to speak with so many people and to hear some incredible and moving stories of what people had been up to across the country. We have plans next year to make the stand bigger and better and to top it all off we managed to sign up around 20 new members, so make sure you get involved.

The policy events with Stonewall were also a huge success, and I make no apologies for semi-abducting Matt Hancock from the corridor to give a speech last minute as our previous speaker had cancelled! Finally the subsequent annual LGBT+ Conservative After Party finished things off nicely (from what I can remember). Bring on next year...!

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Reports received:



LONDON

Charley Jarrett

This year, I greeted members and supporters at our Winter Social in London - a majority of those who came were new members, which is great news. The committee is currently working on a lockdown offering, in lieu of London Pride (and other Prides) and our usual social and policy event offerings.

WALES

Mark Brown

I'm sure, the same as for everyone, 2019 was a challenging year to say the least. It was also my first in this role as co-ordinator for Wales.

Wales, particularly outside of the Cardiff 'bubble, can be a challenging place for the LGBT+ community, more so than many people can appreciate. I have personal experience of numerous incidents of homophobia. It is against this background that events here take place. We aren't at the same point as the South East of England, let alone Brighton. That said there are many great supporters of the community and I have had a great experience as coordinator.

Events

Events-wise we had a schedule over the summer and were heading to a pre-festive season get-together when the GE was announced.

Back in early summer I organised a stand at the Monmouthshire Youth Pride/Festival of Diversity. This was initially billed as a 'pride' event, however due to a lack of support from paying stall-holders was rebranded to be a Family and Pride event. Sadly, they decided to have the pride stalls on Saturday and the larger family event on Sunday. We proudly represented, alongside LGBT+ Labour and local charities. We invited all Monmouthshire County Councillors and a few did drop by and we had a large number of people stopping by. This was the first time Conservatives had been represented and so drew interest, from supporters and detractors alike...I spent ages getting to know the different charities dedicated to domestic violence, homelessness, HIV/AIDS/sexual health treatment and prevention and they all appreciated the effort. I always stressed

that while we may not agree on all the other political issues, LGBT+ activism unites us all.

We followed this with the highlight of the Welsh LGBT+ calendar, Pride Cymru in Cardiff. This is a large one-day event. We had a stall and were supported by CCHQ Cardiff staff members. We invited all Welsh MP/MS's (Members of the Senedd/Welsh Parliament) and our invitation was accepted by the late Mohammad Asghar MS. Oscar, the first BAME AM/MS was an excellent supporter as always. We went to every stall and he made sure to introduce us and make our presence felt. We will miss him and his support.

Our final summer Pride was Barry Pride. A new, small and local event in the town of Barry. This was great fun and just the sort of event I would suggest we are represented at in 2021. We had huge support and were very lucky that the then Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt. Hon. Alun Cairns MP joined us on the stall. Initially Alun was going to be with us for 10 minutes, that he was still around and chatting away to people hours later, which said a lot about him, and how we can break down barriers and perceptions by meeting face-to-face. This was his first LGBT+ event and a first for any senior Welsh MP AFIK.

I also worked with Monmouthshire County Council on a hate crimes project, where we were looking to launch a 'hate crime awareness week'. We are also working with the Council to set up a project with Gwent Police to help new recruits to understand the particular issues LGBT+ people face and the issues of reporting hate crimes. This should now progress through 2021.

Conclusions

A strong start for my first year and the first year of a Wales Co-Ordinator. There is much to build on, LGBT+ Conservatives are out there with our own page and Instagram. By us being out there we can bring more out of the political closet and the Party and its reputation will be greatly enhanced by doing so. Going forward, we need to represent at North Wales Pride. Large parts of North Wales is a socially, physically and economically distinct and more connected to Merseyside and surrounds, so there is potential for cross-over.

NOTES

¹ This year's AGM should have been held in May, but was delayed slightly by COVID-19

² lgbtconservatives.org.uk/shop

³ toolkit.conservatives.com/all-products/lgbt-campaigns.html

⁴ lgbtconservatives.org.uk/news/leadership

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/boris-johnsons-first-speech-as-prime-minister-24-july-2019>

⁶ politicshome.com/news/uk/social-affairs/house/house-magazine/106172/daniel-kawczynski-no-young-person-should-have

⁷ parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/Health/Correspondence/2019-20/Government-response-to-the-committee-fourteenth-report-of-Session-2017-19-on-sexual-health.pdf

⁸ lgbtconservatives.org.uk/people/type/Patrons

⁹ hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2020-02-24/debates/C68CC8E3-4CD1-489B-AA33-B923973100FA/HealthSexuallyTransmittedInfections#contribution-EB7054EC-6D91-41C9-98DF-B80635DDD4D4

¹⁰ buzzfeed.com/patrickstrudwick/prep-hiv-drug-nhs-full-rollout

¹¹ edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/56969/international-day-against-homophobia-biphobia-transphobia-and-interphobia-2020

¹² conservatives.com/news/amanda-milling-terms-of-reference

¹³ youtu.be/e-rPGk8uGmc

¹⁴ lgbtconservatives.org.uk/news/cross-party-lgbt-group-statement-trans-equality

¹⁵ inews.co.uk/opinion/trans-rights-culture-war-government-gender-recognition-act-455241