



the  
**Paragon**  
initiative



# TIME FOR CHANGE

**Our newspapers tell the story on a daily basis.**

**Poor outcomes** in public services. **Irksome and intrusive regulation** on our lifestyles.

**Gross mismanagement** by government departments.

This is all part of a **disturbing long term trend** in which **politicians and bureaucrats** have **more control** over our economy, our society and our lives **than ever before**.

Yet **disillusionment with our politicians** is widespread and growing. In a recent ComRes poll, **over 70%** of people said they **didn't trust government**.



The **message is clear**. It's **time for change**. It's time for a **fundamental reassessment** of what Government does. It's time to **create a better Britain**.

**It's time for THE PARAGON INITIATIVE.**

**Mark Littlewood** Director General **IEA**



# BRITAIN'S DEBT BURDEN

**Government debt in the UK is multiplying at a terrifying rate.**

- The official **public debt** now stands at **£1.5 TRILLION**
- That debt equates to **£80,000 per family**
- The UK has run a **deficit in 52 of the past 60 years**
- **State spending** accounts for nearly **50% of our national income**





**Emergency  
Department**

# THE NHS IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION

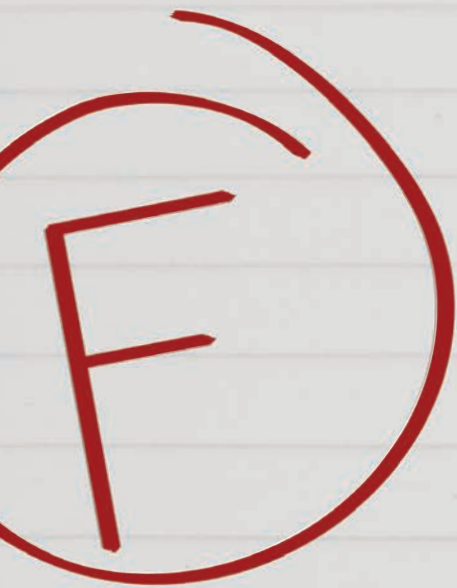
- The NHS is revered – yet you're **much more likely to die of cancer or a heart attack** in the UK than in other developed Western countries
- The **UK ranks 20th out of 24** OECD countries on **cancer survival rates**
- There have been **thousands of needless deaths** in England's worst health trusts
- **Privatisation** is regularly blamed for a decline in standards, yet it accounts for **only 6% of NHS activity** – much lower than in other countries that produce much better outcomes





## OUR WELFARE'S IN A STATE

- The past 60 years has seen an **explosion in welfare spending**
- **Six million people** are living in **workless households**
- Nearly **30% of children** live in households with **nobody in full-time work**
- **No money** has been put aside **to fund** the government's **promises on health care and pensions**
- This will leave **future generations to pick up the bill**



NEARLY 20% OF  
**TEENAGERS** LEAVING  
STATE SCHOOLS  
ARE **FUNCTIONALLY**  
**ILLITERATE**

# OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM GETS LOW MARKS

- **Nearly 20% of teenagers** leaving state schools are **functionally illiterate**
- **40% of pupils fail to reach accepted standards** in English and Maths by the age of 16
- **90%** of those who don't reach these standards **fail to reach them by the time they're 19**
- **Pupils from poor socio-economic backgrounds perform badly** by international standards – **even though our spending is much higher than average**



**DOWNING  
STREET SW1**  
CITY OF WESTMINSTER

**WHITEHALL  
SW1**  
CITY OF WESTMINSTER

# BIG GOVERNMENT'S CREATING BIG PROBLEMS

The UK Government has become just too unwieldy.

- It's **too diverse and too complex** to manage
- It holds a **virtual monopoly** on some public services
- It **erodes personal independence** and family responsibility
- It **lacks accountability** and **kills innovation**





# CHOKED BY RED TAPE

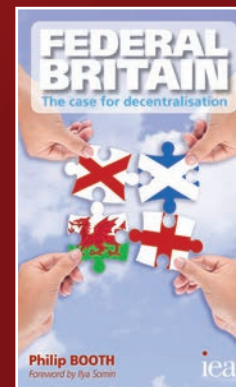
- Regulations on land use are **suffocating development** – and **driving up housing costs** by up to 40%
- Excessive legislation and regulation is **raising business costs, reducing wages** and **stifling innovation**
- Estimates suggest additional **employment regulations** imposed by the 2010-2015 Coalition Government **cost businesses £23bn**
- The **UK tax code** is **62 times longer than in Hong Kong**

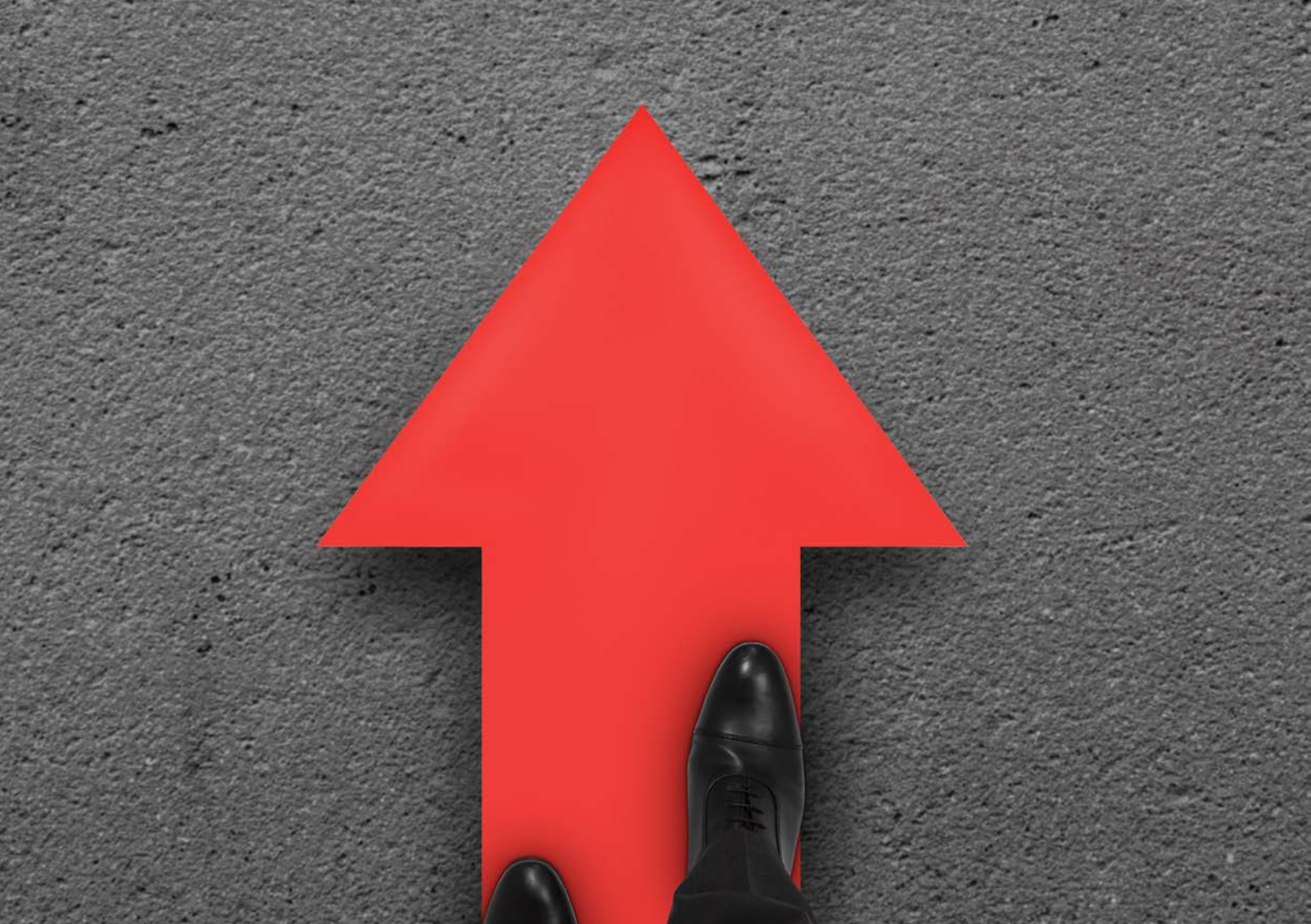


## FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

**THE PARAGON INITIATIVE** is the IEA's biggest-ever research programme. Across the next five years, we'll:

- **Analyse the failure** of current policies through a far-reaching series of nearly **50 books and papers** scrutinising **every area of government activity**
- In late 2015, we'll publish peer reviewed works on **devolution**, the **structural flaws in the NHS**, **privatising the railways** and **labour market regulation**
- They'll be quickly followed by works on the **future of the BBC**, a **free market alternative to the NHS** and the **damaging effects of migration controls**
- Later in 2016, we'll **investigate child care**, the state of **social housing**, **government funding of the arts** and more
- All backed by a **co-ordinated** and **comprehensive programme** of stimulating **events**, compelling **ieaTV films** and **targeted communications** reaching **policymakers, practitioners** and **opinion-formers**
- Initial events will feature **Culture Secretary John Whittingdale**, **SNP MP Tommy Sheppard**, *The Welfare of Nations* author **James Bartholomew** and *The Spectator's* **Isabel Hardman**







# THE WAY AHEAD

Ultimately, the THE PARAGON INITIATIVE will:

- Draw on **best practice** from around the world
- Identify **what Government should – and shouldn't – be doing**
- Put forward **clear** and **considered solutions** to the UK's problems
- Outline the areas of Government activity that can be **put back in the hands** of individuals, families, civil society, local government, charities and the markets
- Provide a **clear vision** of a **new relationship** between the **state and society**
- Create a **blueprint** for a **better, freer Britain**



**donate**

A close-up, angled view of a computer keyboard. The central focus is a large, rectangular red key. On this red key, the word "donate" is printed in a bold, white, lowercase sans-serif font, slanted upwards from left to right. To the left of the text, a white arrow points horizontally to the left. The red key is surrounded by several dark grey or black keys. Directly below the red key is a key with a white question mark. To the bottom left, a portion of a key with a white exclamation mark is visible. To the bottom right, a portion of a key with a white double-slash symbol is visible. The lighting creates soft shadows and highlights on the keys, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

## OUR £1,000,000 CHALLENGE

**THE PARAGON INITIATIVE** is an ambitious, extensive and expensive project.

We're delighted that an **IEA supporter** has already **pledged £1,000,000** to the project over the **next five years**.

But our benefactor has also **issued us with a challenge**.

**We need to raise a matching £1,000,000** to **unlock his money** – and to ensure the project is fully funded.

So, for **every £1** you're able to give us, our **benefactor will give a matching amount**.

That means that for **every £1 you give** to **THE PARAGON INITIATIVE** we can **spend £2**. **Even more** if you're registered for **Gift Aid**.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Declan Pang, **DPang@iea.org.uk** or call **020 7799 8900**.

If you'd like to give, please go to: **[www.iea.org.uk/donate](http://www.iea.org.uk/donate)**

# paragon

/ˈparag(a)n/

*noun*

noun: **paragon**: plural noun: **paragons**

- a perfect diamond of 100 carats or more.
- a person or thing viewed as a model of excellence.  
“your cook is a paragon”
- a person or thing regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality.  
“it would have taken a paragon of virtue not to feel viciously jealous”

*synonyms*: perfect example, shining example, good example, **model**, **epitome**, **archetype**, **ideal**, **exemplar**, **nonpareil**, **paradigm**, **embodiment**, **personification**, **quintessence**, **standard**, **prototype**, **apotheosis**, the crème de la crème, the beau idéal, acme; More

## WHY 'THE PARAGON INITIATIVE'?

The **IEA** has been **spreading the free market message** loud and clear for the past **60 years**. And – in our **diamond anniversary year** – it seemed entirely fitting to use the term '**paragon**'.

**Paragon** describes 'a **flawless diamond** of 100 carats or more'. And, just like a diamond, our **acclaimed research** bears the qualities of **clarity, transparency** and **toughness**.

**Paragon** also describes something regarded as '**a model of excellence**'.

And that's what **The Paragon Initiative** will provide – through a comprehensive and compelling programme of **peer reviewed** books and papers, **stimulating** films, **engaging** events and more.

**Paragon** gives us a lot to live up to. But in our 60 year history, we've never been afraid to **think the unthinkable** - and we won't stop now.

**The Paragon Initiative** will create a **blueprint for a better Britain**, a **practical and workable vision** for a **freer, healthier** and **wealthier Britain** than ever before.

**Please help us get there.**





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