Commitments to integrity and transparency in government

In your campaigns, you have placed welcome emphasis on integrity and rebuilding trust with the public. However, we have reached this late stage with no firm commitments to action and I write to ask you to make some.

The pandemic showed that many sectors needed more clarity on government’s evidence and reasons for decisions. People from all walks of life have been frustrated at being given slogans instead of transparent, accountable rationale, and at government’s reluctance on occasion to talk openly about uncertainty. This is not a new problem. People are not able to follow the workings of government on many policies.

Transparency of evidence is emphasised in the Treasury Green Book for good reason, but in practice government has fallen short. Integrity and public trust will not be achieved without greater transparency and accountability in the decisions government takes. Would you agree, on becoming the leader of the Conservative Party and next Prime Minister, to:

1. **Introduce a transparency standard across government, for sharing the evidence and assumptions behind policy?**
   Work on this was started at the Cabinet Office but it has stalled.

2. **Ensure that government modelling meets the requirement of transparency about inputs, assumptions and uncertainty that applies to other policy statistics?**
   This has been recommended by the Office for Statistics Regulation, ourselves and others, and needs urgent attention in light of the major scenario modelling being undertaken for climate change, energy supply and future pandemics.

Yours sincerely

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