



### NEW PUBLICATION RELEASE

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#### **New Intake Conservative MPs Call for Small Government and Individual Responsibility**

If the UK is to recover and flourish, then the state must do less and individuals must have the freedom and responsibility to do more. That's the message from a group of ten new MPs who explain how this can be done for Politeia in [Freedom, Responsibility and the State: Curbing Over-Mighty Government](#).

From the very system of government to whether the UK will have enough energy to keep the lights on, this country suffers from too much of the wrong government. Its failings have led to malaise which inspires contempt for those who govern; damages our justice system, leaves young people unemployed and untrained to pay their way through life, and hinders our businesses. The authors\* show how by trusting people more and government less, by allowing greater freedom under law, change for the better can occur.

Politeia's Director, Sheila Lawlor, welcomes the essays. If the UK is to prosper economically, it must prosper socially. Not only should the state reduce its exorbitant tax and public spending levels, but it should abandon its monopoly of the services on which people and the social capital of this country depend. Dr Lawlor adds:

Too many people suffer from the problems highlighted here – businesses have been squeezed by penal tax and employment costs; school-age children are denied the education or training needed for a better life; lawlessness is treated as a matter of 'cautioning' rather than dealt with by the magistrates courts, many of which have been closed. Meanwhile the creeping power of unelected officials has made central and local government seem impervious to the people. Here, by contrast, Jacob Rees-Mogg and his co-authors suggest that the solution to many of the problems with which we contend today will be found by individuals taking the initiative and government playing its part in setting them free to do so.

\*The individual contributions include:

##### **Jacob Rees-Mogg**

*Freedom for the Many or Power for the Few?*

Trusting the people to make their own decisions unleashes talent and enterprise from which the whole of society benefits. The opposite approach leads to mediocrity and lack of accountability.

##### **Martin Vickers** *Electing, Not Selecting*

Only radical constitutional reform will cure the current public disillusionment and disengagement from politics. An elected House of Lords, more directly elected local leaders and mayors, primary elections to select parliamentary candidate and overhauled party structures should all be the priority.

##### **Zac Goldsmith** *The People v The Planners: Localism with Democracy*

Despite the fashion for greater localism, people are finding they have no say when it comes to damaging planning proposals. Localism without democracy has become the order of the day. Real power for local electorates through binding referenda is needed to allow people to influence the decisions that affect them.

##### **James Morris** *From Councils to Communities*

More power must now be devolved to a local level so that community groups and individuals can take the decisions on local services and exercise their right to challenge the local authority.

##### **Jason McCartney** *Freedom to Volunteer*

Encouraging young people to volunteer in an extended National Citizen Service programme will bring lasting benefits to them and to society.

##### **John Stevenson** *Small Business, Bigger Society*

Removing the burdens on small business, which accounts for 25 per cent of all employees, must be a priority: simplifying the tax system, reducing tax on business and exempting start up firms from regulation are all changes that are needed.

**Craig Whittaker** *A Working Future: Vocational and Business Education* That 16 per cent of 16-24 yr olds dropout of education, training and employment makes clear this country needs a different approach to schooling. Rigorous education must go hand in hand with designated schools, courses and qualifications and companies helping train and advise on vocational options.

##### **Fiona Bruce** *Bringing Entrepreneurship to the Classroom*

Entrepreneurship may not begin in the cradle, but it can be inspired at school – helped by local businesses. Teachers and employers can play their part: so too can the Chancellor, by offering tax incentives to encourage investments in new ventures.

##### **Simon Reeve** *Courts Not Cautions*

To cut crime, Offenders must know that they will face the courts. The regime of police cautioning must be phased out, magistrates' courts closures stopped and judges given greater discretion in sentencing.

##### **David Mowat** *Cutting Carbon, Cutting Costs*

If Britain is to keep the lights on, business to flourish and the UK's carbon reduction goals be met, the EU Renewables directive must go along with the industry of tariffs and subsidies for the renewables industry. A price for carbon should be set and the market left free to get on with it.

Freedom, Responsibility and the State was launched **on 22nd May at the Carlton Club, London.**

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