

# What do you want from the next prime minister?

With the general election today, we asked our readers what they would say to our future leader.

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## IAN WILLIAMS

CEO, Charteris, London

'Dear Theresa, or is it Jeremy, congratulations!

'Brexit offers the UK a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of the new economic world order that is evolving. This is the emergence of China as the global number one and the establishment of an Asian free trade area of five billion people that covers all of Asia and Russia etc. The establishment of this free trade area will be accelerated by Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from TPP, which then allows China to slip effortlessly into the gap as the economic leader of the bloc. The UK is now unconstrained to negotiate a free trade deal with these countries, unlike the European Union (EU), which will require the agreement of all 27 EU countries.

'Just as Asia emerges as the global economic powerhouse, the US starts to see the end of its global hegemony, and it will now enter a period of relative decline. However, relative decline is still a lot better than the EU, which (Germany apart) is in terminal decline. We are leaving the sinking ship just in time and prime minister, it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure the opportunity is not wasted.' ●



## SIMON HARVEY

Director, Cave & Sons, Northampton

'Dear prime minister,

'Over-regulation – an accident waiting to happen. I am sure you are aware that the number of warning signs placed on the roadside as a matter of course is very limited.

Most warning signs are "event driven". If you see a sign warning of cattle crossing, it is because

there has been an accident between cattle and a vehicle.

'The benefits of this approach are significant; it avoids information overload – drivers only see important information and it saves millions of pounds in signage.

'The risk of information overload and spiralling "regulation induced" costs for retail financial services consumers is something I hope is at the forefront of any change to financial services regulation.

'The current trend towards regulating areas where "cattle and cars have never collided" risks excluding many consumers from quality financial advice on both affordability and complexity grounds, just as longevity and reduced state retirement funding make it more vital.' ●



## TIM RICKETTS

Executive chairman, Margetts Fund Management, Birmingham

'Dear prime minister,

'You were badly advised with regard to care in the community and harshly treated by the media in the subsequent furore. Care in the community will be important, both to the elderly and the ability of the nation to ensure we have the resources to avoid a potential crisis within healthcare.

'Also, the EU are endeavouring to stipulate unreasonable debt terms to include commitments undertaken up to 2020. By calling the election you have been able to refuse revisions to the EU current seven year budget plan citing "purdah", which prevents a sign off on politically sensitive matters.

'This has caused outrage from the commissioners who are now proposing substantial costs for education, research, investment, business and free Wifi and are threatening to take the money from the agricultural budget. They are clearly worried the UK could block further budgetary proposals, which is unreasonable if it is added to the divorce bill. You should make it clear there are still 22 months when budgetary proposals have to be agreed. It is time that negotiations are conducted in good faith, with trade terms being important to any payment the UK should consider.' ●



## DEREK GAWNE

Branch manager, Redmayne

Bentley, Liverpool

'I am very proud to be a product of Toxteth in Liverpool, from a relatively poor working class family that worked in the docks over many generations and were staunch trades unionists, whose jobs became as derelict as the terraced house we lived in.

'Equally, I am also very proud to be a university-educated chartered wealth manager, offering investments to relatively wealthy, HNW individuals, trusts and charities – creating both capital and income profits.

'These statements, taken separately, would equally be vilified/trolled or lauded/applauded by extreme hard-line political activists. However, they are about the same person. Our country is similarly complex and should not be polarised by political extremism.

'My challenge to you, prime minister, is to ignore political extremism and look to the strengths of our people. You are leading a diverse, innovative, hardworking, entrepreneurial, compassionate, inclusive nation that can be global leaders in business, philanthropy, diversity and creation of wealth.

'My hope is that you will be remembered as the leader of the "Brexit government" that brought unity, success and prosperity for all.' ●

