

**1. Ladies and gentlemen. Good evening. Assalamalaykum.**

**2. I would like to welcome you all to the Carlton Club.**

**3. I have written a book on Maharaja Ranjit Singh and his son, Maharaja Duleep Singh was a member of the Carlton Club. In my book I have included a chapter on Maharaja Duleep Singh.**

**4. In fact, I presented a portrait of Maharaja Duleep Singh to the Carlton Club and this is displayed downstairs.**

**5. I would like to say that I was the first Muslim to be appointed a Peer by the Conservative Party.**

**6. I joined the Party over 15 years ago as I believed that the Conservative Party reflected my own views and it was the right Party for me.**

**7. I also feel that the Conservative Party is the right Party for Muslims. I would ask anyone here today who is not a member of the Conservative Party to consider becoming a member of the Party. The best way to effect a change is to do so from within and the Conservative Party is indeed a one Nation Party and everyone is welcome to join.**

**8. As we are now citizens of Great Britain, we need to consider getting involved in political activities both at local and national levels. The best way to do this is to become a member of the governing party.**

**9. This is the reason why I set up the Conservative Muslim Forum about 14 years ago.**

**10. The CMF was established before I was a member of the House of Lords.**

**11. I was funding the Forum and was the Chairman for over 10 years.**

**12. I gave up the chairmanship as I wanted to go into writing and undertake more community work.**

**13. I have been elected the President of the Forum and I have been closely connected with its activities.**

**14. We held our Annual General Meeting last Friday.**

**15. Faruk Miah MBE has been elected Chairman of Conservative Muslim Forum with a very large majority. Faruk was preciously the Secretary and has been a member of the Party and the Forum for over nine years.**

**16. Faruk will be speaking later and he is indeed a man of vision and has a great deal of enthusiasm.**

**17. He is also a man of ideas and has very good interpersonal skills. I am sure he will make a very good Chairman.**

**18. All the other office bearers and members of the Executive committee have been duly elected.**

**19. The CMF is a robust body and we have members and supporters from all over the country.**

**20. The membership of CMF is open to anybody, irrespective of race, religion or colour.**

**21. The Executive Committee meets regularly, and the Forum does often hold meetings and events.**

**22. We do have a constitution and have several objectives, but I would just like to refer to four objectives which are as follows:**

- a. Engage with Muslims and all other communities and encourage them to support and vote for the Conservative Party.**

**b. Undertake campaigning for the Conservative Party at elections and other times.**

**c. Encourage Muslims to make effective and positive contributions to the development of an inclusive and cohesive society in the UK.**

**d. Work to maintain and build bridges with all communities and religions within the UK.**

**23. CMF members play an active role across the country to support the Conservative Party whenever and wherever we can.**

**24. Members of CMF were actively canvassing for the Party in different parts of the country at the general election.**

**25. Conservative Muslim Forum has a branch in Peterborough.**

**26. Since 2017, Conservative Muslim Forum Peterborough has undertaken a range of activities including providing campaign support to Paul Bristow MP in the recent general election who won with 46.7 percent of the vote.**

**27. I recently attended an event hosted by CMF Peterborough for Paul to congratulate him on his victory and to promote the Party in Peterborough.**

**28. Paul Bristow was going to attend this event but unfortunately, he is not well and we have received a text from him that he is unable to travel to London.**

**29. We are in the process of establishing other branches of the CMF in Birmingham, Manchester and Scotland.**

**30. We aim to continue achieving our objectives and support the Conservative Party at all times and undertake campaigning at general and local elections.**

**31. As we are all aware, the Conservative Party performed very well in December's general election.**

**32. The Party now holds 365 seats in the House of Commons out of a total of 650, giving the Conservatives an overall majority of 80 seats.**

**33. This is a strong majority and will certainly help with pursuing the Party's agenda.**

**34. As we have now left the European Union, we need to promote trade between the UK and the rest of the world.**

**35. I may add that I am actively involved in promoting more trade between the UK and overseas countries and have helped organise trade conferences in London.**

**36. I just want to briefly mention the Budget which the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, delivered on Wednesday.**

**37. The Chancellor has certainly found his stride in his new role and has delivered a budget with promises level up**

**the country and spend money in areas including: the NHS, further education, housing, research and development.**

**38. I also note that there is a serious commitment to responding to Coronavirus with a £30 billion package.**

**39. We need to do all we can to keep the country running as we are facing a pandemic. We need to ensure the well-being and health of the people.**

**40. We need to keep the economy steady and provide help as well as support for people and also businesses.**

**41. I am confident that the leadership of our Party will do so and as from today, there will be daily briefings held from Number 10.**

**42. I just want to briefly mention what the Conservative Party's objectives are in the course of this Parliament.**

**a) Increase the number of nurses by 50,000**

**b) Establish 40 new hospitals**

**c) There will be 20 thousand more police officers keeping people safe with more powers to tackle crime.**

**d) Education funding will be levelled across the country to ensure opportunity is spread equally.**

**e) Taxes will be cut for all working people and the National Living Wage will rise to £10.50.**

**f) Better infrastructure including investment in roads and railways in the North and technology will transform the country.**

**g) The Prime Minister has given the go ahead for HS2 to be built and the first phase will connect London to Birmingham.**

**43. I would like to conclude by saying that the country will be safe and stable and will become more prosperous under the premiership of Boris Johnson.**

44. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for attending

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today's event under some difficult circumstances. Thank

you.