

# Greens call for paid training leave for workers



5 October 2018

- \* Green co-leaders Sian Berry and Jonathan Bartley give first speech to Autumn Conference
- \* Berry and Bartley announce support for paid training leave for workers as part of vision to overhaul world of work
- \* Sian Berry: "People need to be supported to thrive and grow while they are at work"
- \* Greens also reaffirm ambition to become England's third party
- \* Jonathan Bartley: "Today we are putting the other parties on notice – it's our ambition to become the third party in Britain"

In their first speech to Green Party Autumn Conference [1] new Green co-leaders Sian Berry and Jonathan Bartley will pledge paid training leave for workers.

The policy would enable workers to learn new skills or pursue personal development within working hours, putting lifelong learning at the heart of employment.

The announcement is part of the party's plans to revolutionise the work of work, and follows Berry and Bartley's call for a Free Time Index to measure how much leisure time people in Britain have [2]

Research has found that investing in training and personal development has the potential to decrease staff turnover and encourage career progression within the company. [3]

In their speech to Autumn Conference Berry and Bartley will also set out their vision for the party including the ambition to replace the Liberal Democrats as England's third party.

Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party, is expected to say (check against delivery):

“People need to be supported to thrive and grow while they are at work. Lifelong learning should be available to everyone. Yet current employment law only allows workers in companies with over 250 employees to ask for unpaid training leave. [4]

“Greens would change all that, so no-one has to feel stuck in one job for life. All workers should be able to grow and learn throughout their careers, get trained in the things they need to know for their next job, improve how they do the one they have, or learn a new skill or trade.

“Today we are promising to fight for paid training leave for every worker. With the right political will we can transform employment into more than just work.”

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, is expected to say (check against delivery):

“Our influence grows when we win – so today we are putting the other parties on notice. It is our ambition to become the third party in Britain.

“Every green vote amplifies our voice and our ideas and makes others sit up and listen. Every green vote sends a message. So we will get out on our streets, knock on every door and fight for every last vote to win the change we need to see.”

ENDS

For more information contact: [press@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:press@greenparty.org.uk) / 0203 691 9401

Notes:

1. The full speech will be available at at 2.15pm:  
<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/>  
Green Party members will soon gather in Bristol for Autumn conference to hear from the party's new co-leaders Jonathan Bartley and Sian Berry, vote on party policy, and debate issues from climate change to Brexit. Green Party Autumn Conference will be held from 5 to 7 October 2018 at Bristol City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR.  
Co-leaders' speech by Jonathan Bartley and Sian Berry: 2pm, Friday 5 October 2018.
2. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2018/10/05/reens-to-call-for-measure-of-nation%E2%80%99s-free-time/>
3. <https://www.go2hr.ca/training-development/employee-training-is-worth-the-investment>
4. <https://www.gov.uk/training-study-work-your-rights>

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## [Greens to call for measure of nation's free time](#)



5 October 2018

- \* **New Green co-leaders to announce commitment to Free Time Index at Autumn Conference in Bristol**
- \* **Sian Berry: "True freedom will only be found when people have more control of their time"**
- \* **Jonathan Bartley: "The Government must aim for a yearly increase in the Free Time Index so time off becomes the real measure of wellbeing"**

The Green Party will call for a new economic indicator which measures people's leisure time.

New co-leaders Sian Berry and Jonathan Bartley are set to announce their

party's commitment to a Free Time Index in their speech to Autumn Conference on Friday 5 October [1].

The new indicator would count the number of hours people spend outside of work and commuting, and be published once a year by the Government as part of the Autumn Budget.

Berry and Bartley will call for this new indicator to replace GDP as a measure of wellbeing. It is their first policy announcement since being elected co-leaders of the party on September 4 this year. [2]

The announcement follows Green Party policy for a four day working week which was announced at Spring Conference in 2017 [3], and will expand work to ensure people are given a better work life balance and adapt to the changing ways of working.

Research has found links between free time and happiness. Studies have shown that focusing on free time rather than money makes people happier [4], while people who choose to spend money on things which free up leisure time are happier than those who spend it on material goods [5].

**Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party, is expected to say (check against delivery):**

"It's time to shift away from the culture which sees us work harder and harder for longer and longer, often without reward or satisfaction. And to recognise that true freedom will only be found when people have more control of their time and how it is spent.

"That is why Greens want the next Budget, and every future Budget, to include a new economic indicator that measures people's leisure time."

**Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, is expected to say (check against delivery):**

"The Free Time Index would count the hours people are not at work – or doing work on a long commute. The time to have a family life, relax, and pursue the things they care about.

"It should be an aim of the Government to see a yearly increase in this Free Time Index, so that the quality of time which is truly our own becomes the real measure of wellbeing."

**Notes:**

1.

Diary note: Green Party Autumn Conference 2018

Green Party members will soon gather in Bristol for Autumn conference to hear from the party's new co-leaders Jonathan Bartley and Sian Berry, vote on party policy, and debate issues from climate change to Brexit.

Green Party Autumn Conference will be held from 5 to 7 October 2018 at Bristol City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR.

Co-leaders' speech by Jonathan Bartley and Sian Berry: 2pm, Friday 5 October 2018.

Press

registration:<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/conference/press-conference.html>

2.<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2018/09/04/green-party-announces-jonathan-bartley-and-sian-berry-as-new-leaders/>

3.<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2017/04/03/green-party-to-investigate-the-free-day-weekends/>

4.<http://uk.businessinsider.com/is-it-more-important-to-have-more-time-or-more-money-2016-6?r=US&IR=T>

5.<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-40703519>

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## [Greens respond to decision to jail anti-fracking protesters](#)



26 September 2018

Responding to the news that four environmental campaigners have been jailed for peacefully resisting fracking in Lancashire [1], Keith Taylor, Green Party MEP and a vocal critic of the policing of fracking protests, said:

"The frack free four are heroes. These people put their lives on hold to defend our environment and climate from the destruction imposed on it by a

government blindly committed to fracking at any costs. The latest cost being the liberty of three peaceful protesters whose only crime is resorting to peaceful direct action to resist an industry after every democratic route of opposition was ignored and overturned by the government. The people of Lancashire and their democratically elected representatives repeatedly said no to fracking.”

“It has been almost a hundred years since Britain jailed its last environmental campaigners. Since then, the theory goes, we have developed into a mature liberal democracy that can accommodate dissent. Today’s decision blows that myth wide-open; authoritarianism has become a favourite tool of a minority government that lacks the public’s support to force through its environmentally destructive agenda by any other means. Any government that conspires with the dirty fossil fuel industry against its own people is rotten to the core.”

“Dissent is not a crime in any country with a political system fit to be called a democracy. Consequently, the sentences handed to the frack-free four are chilling.”

#### **Notes to the editor**

1. <https://twitter.com/ruthhayhurst/status/1044900650998517760>
2. Keith has been calling for a review of the policing of fracking and drilling operations across the UK <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jul/10/police-tactics-at-fracking-protests-need-urgent-review-says-mep>

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## [Green Party: Government oceans pledge a victory for campaigners](#)



25 September 2018

The Green Party has welcomed news the Environment Secretary has called for 30% of the world’s oceans to be protected by 2030 [1], and praised campaigners who have been pressing the Government to take action to safeguard seas.

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, called on Michael Gove to

create marine conservation zones to protect marine life in British seas as a next step.

Bartley said:

“This is a victory for campaigners. It’s good to see the Government willing to take a lead in looking after the world’s oceans. The plastic crisis, climate change and over-fishing are putting our oceans in jeopardy and we need strong protections like this if we are to stand any chance of safeguarding them for the future. The Environment Secretary has shown he is willing to listen to scientists and activists, and now he must create marine conservation zones to protect marine life in British seas.”

Notes:

1. <https://news.sky.com/story/uk-to-call-for-third-of-worlds-oceans-to-be-protected-by-2030-11507876>

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## [Green Party responds to news police plan to use drones to monitor badger cull protesters](#)



24 September 2018

**Green Party animal rights spokesperson Keith Taylor MEP has responded to the news police in the South West are considering using drones to monitor anti-badger cull protesters [1] by suggesting the plans are symptomatic of a wider crackdown on the civil liberties of environmental protesters.**

The senior Green politician, and Vice Chair of the European Parliament’s Animal Welfare Intergroup, said:

*“It is truly astonishing that the authorities have managed to tie the government’s war on wildlife in with the continued war on our civil liberties. It is a malevolent act of authoritarian, anti-wildlife and anti-environment decision making. Not content with making badgers public enemy number one, the state is now wasting yet more taxpayers’ money targetting those who have the temerity to disagree with the Tories’ cruel, expensive and anti-science cull.”*

*"It is gobsmacking that this news comes in the wake of 10,000 people joining the weekend's Walk for Wildlife [2], all of them urging the government to do more to protect our precious wildlife in the face of a terminal decline in Britain's non-human animal inhabitants."*

The Green MEP for the South East previously condemned the government's plans to extend the badger cull earlier this month and called for an end to the 'scientifically illiterate and spectacularly expensive' programme [3].

**Notes:**

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/sep/24/police-consider-drones-to-monitor-badger-cull-protesters>
2. <https://theecologist.org/2018/sep/24/live-never-seen-hedgehog-warning-after-peoples-walk-wildlife>

<https://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/news/greens-call-immediate-end-scientifically-illiterate-ps30m-badger-cull-new-licences-issued>

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