

Green Party reaction to Labour response to Darzi review of NHS

Responding to [Keir Starmer's speech on Lord Darzi's review of the state of the NHS](#), co-leader of the Green Party, Adrian Ramsay MP, said:

"The Darzi review pulls no punches: the NHS has been harmed by austerity, capital starvation, the disastrous 2012 Health and Social Care Act and the dire state of social care.

"It is therefore hugely disappointing to see Labour, like a string of previous Conservative and Labour governments, hooked on reform rather than investment.

"Starmer says there can be no money without reform. We say there can be no improvement to waiting times, cancer death rates, treatment for mental health – and many other struggling areas – without more money.

"We agree that we cannot ask working people to foot the bill through higher taxes. But it is fair to ask the super-rich to pay a little more through wealth taxes. This could generate billions towards the investment the NHS is crying out for.

"‘Reform’ has in the past been used as a stalking-horse for privatisation. The Green Party completely rejects privatisation and fragmentation of the NHS. Private companies are focused on creaming off profits which can result in degraded services and more people not getting the treatment they need from the NHS.

"We must avoid a two-tier health service where those who can afford to go private to get treated do, while those who can't don't. The NHS was designed to serve all free at the point of use and this must remain its core mission."

"We welcome a focus on helping our nation back to health. This can help heal our NHS. But again, improving public health will require investment in those things which lead to improved physical and mental health such as quality housing, good jobs, infrastructure for active travel and healthy food. Greens have always supported working to improve health rather than just treating sickness."

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Greens blast Labour on steel, calling for public ownership to secure green steel, jobs, and communities

Reacting to the announcement by the UK government that it will [grant Tata Steel £500m towards the cost of building a greener electric furnace in Port Talbot](#), but that around 2,800 workers are set to be made redundant, Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter said:

“This is the first test of the new Labour government’s commitment to a just green transition that protects jobs and the environment – and it has been found wanting.

“I’ve spoken with countless families around Port Talbot who have shared with me their distress and fears for the future, not just those directly employed but in the wider supply chain.

“Labour promised a new approach during the General Election. It raised hopes across the steel industry – here in South Wales and in the North East of England – that the necessary and urgent move to cleaner production methods could be achieved without devastating communities.

“We know only too well how mining communities suffered when successive Tory governments shut pits without plans in place for new jobs. Labour should have learnt those lessons.

“The private companies are to get huge taxpayer subsidies without any guarantees that they will protect and create skilled, well-paid, secure jobs for the future.

“The Green Party knows that can be achieved. Our steel communities need the long-term commitment and political will that this Labour government lacks.

“By 2030, the European Union is expected to be home to nearly 50 green and low-carbon steel projects, facilitated by governments working together to deliver a planned strategy to move away from fossil fuels.

“Yet, this new government shuns joining with partners across the EU in a green industrial revolution.

“Transitioning to a green economy could create up to a million jobs. To achieve that, we need a government in Westminster and the Senedd that is willing to use its full powers – including bringing vital industries like steel into public ownership.

“Today was Labour’s chance to show that it is prepared to lead. Sadly, it has fallen short.”

Greens become first political party in England and Wales to recognise Israeli government conduct as 'Apartheid' and 'Genocide'

The Green Party has voted at its Manchester conference to recognise the Israeli government as an "apartheid" state, as defined by international treaties such as the International Convention on Apartheid (1973) and Rome Statute (1998).

The conference also voted to recognise Israeli military operations in Gaza as a "genocide" as defined under the UN Genocide Convention (1948).

Ellie Chowns, Green Party MP for North Herefordshire, said: "We don't use terms like genocide or apartheid lightly, but they are a sad reflection of the atrocities being carried out by the Israeli State.

"This motion reflects International Humanitarian Law, including the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, and it is essential that British political parties unequivocally uphold these basic minimum standards of international law."

The conference also reaffirmed support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Ellie Chowns said: "We will only see an end to the escalating violence in the Middle East when there are clear incentives for all involved in the war in Gaza to agree to a ceasefire, the release of all hostages and an end to the occupation.

"We will press the UK government to step up its actions, including suspending all arms export licenses to Israel, and full co-operation with the actions of the international courts.

"Without an agreement, the intolerable death toll in Gaza will continue to rise, the hostages will be at greater risk and there will be an increased chance of sleepwalking into a larger regional war."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

The motion passed by Green Party conference reads:

Insert the following into our Record of Policy Statements

Recognise Israeli Regime as an “Apartheid” and Amend Policies for a Sustainable Society in the International Section following IP634:

The Green Party recognises and condemns Israel’s policies as apartheid, based on international treaty and customary law, including, most notably, but not limited to:

- International Convention on Apartheid (1973) and Rome Statute (1998): Israel’s practices, including extrajudicial killings, severe movement restrictions, discriminatory laws, and economic exploitation, align with apartheid definitions.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965): Israel’s racial segregation and discrimination violate this treaty, which Israel ratified in 1979.

We call for an end to all forms of apartheid and equal rights for all. The term “apartheid” accurately describes the institutionalised regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over another, as identified by international human rights bodies and legal experts.

- Recognise Israel’s Genocide and Use the term “Genocide”:

The Green Party condemns genocide per the UN Genocide Convention (1948):

- Acts qualifying as genocide: Israeli military operations causing civilian deaths, severe mental and physical harm, life conditions threatening Palestinian survival, and policies disrupting Palestinian family life and heritage.

As of 2024, the systematic violence and restrictions on Palestinians meet the criteria for genocide. This motion ensures our positions comply with international law and our commitment to justice and human rights.

- Affirm Green Party’s Support for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement:

The Green Party should have included its explicit support for the BDS Palestine Movement in the 2024 manifesto. We affirm our commitment to explicitly supporting BDS in our internal and external communications going forward. Supporting the BDS movement is essential to holding Israel accountable, to supporting Palestinians’ rights to equality and self-determination, and to demonstrating that our support, as a nation, is not performative. Israel should not be able to profit from its apartheid regime or its unlawful occupation of Palestinian land. If the UK Government has learned anything from its failure to support BDS during South African Apartheid, it must be that the impact of applying political pressure is nothing without an economic response. Anti-apartheid promises are hollow if nothing is done to reform the institutions that fund apartheid regimes. The UK Government must not make the same mistakes again.

ENDS

[The north must benefit from HS2 say Greens](#)

Delegates at Green Party conference in Manchester have voted for HS2 to be funded and completed in full, including the entire Eastern leg and an underground through station at Manchester Piccadilly. The policy development comes as phase one of HS2 between London and Birmingham is well under construction.

Commenting on the revised Green Party policy, co-leader Carla Denyer MP, said:

“The Green Party has long supported the principle of a new north-south high-speed rail line but had serious concerns about the specific route of HS2 and the environmental impacts of this route.

“However, this first phase of HS2 between London and Birmingham is well under way and most of the environmental impacts of construction are already baked in. So this is a pragmatic decision by the Green Party. It moves us on.

“Crucially, we have also acknowledged that the northern leg of HS2 was always the most important in terms of tackling capacity issues on our railways as well as addressing regional inequalities. So the line must be completed in full.

“We also say loud and clear that our railways have to be built right – for habitats and wildlife, for local transport users, for affected neighbours and for government coffers. Greens will not support blank cheques or offer uncritical endorsement.

“We need to move at great speed to shift travel away from cars and flights to public transport. HS2, in full, can play an important role in achieving this shift.”

Green Party spokesperson on transport Councillor Matt Edwards, who is leader of the Green Group on Bradford Council, added:

“I am delighted that the Green Party conference has also backed Northern Powerhouse Rail, a high-speed rail line from Liverpool to Manchester and onwards to Bradford and Leeds and then the east coast. Successive governments have failed to invest in the rail network in the North of England and the Green Party have long advocated for the investment communities in the North deserve.

“Pollution and carbon emissions from transport remains stubbornly high. If we want to do something to address this, we need to invest in high-speed rail – but it has to be done right. Putting passengers and our planet at the heart of the project.”

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[Greens vote to oppose introduction of Freeports in the UK](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

The Green Party has voted to oppose the introduction of Freeports and Special Economic Zones across the United Kingdom at it's annual party conference in Manchester.

Commenting Green Party Co-Leader Adrian Ramsay said: “There is no place for Freeports or Special Economic Zones in the United Kingdom. Their introduction will only serve to displace economic activity from elsewhere whilst reducing tax revenue that is so desperately needed for our broken public services. The lack of transparency in decision making and reductions in environmental, planning and employment legislation are all factors that should alarm every UK citizen.”

8 September 2024 / 8 September 2024 by [Green Party](#)

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