

'You can't trust the Tories' – Labour publishes dossier of Tory broken promises ahead of their manifesto launch

Ahead

of the Conservative Party's Manifesto launch, Labour is today publishing a document looking at the Tories' record of broken promises.

The

document – entitled: 'One Tory Manifesto. Two years of Failure. 50 Broken Promises' – lists 50 examples of when the Conservatives broke their word.

From

the NHS to education, from living standards to policing, the Tories have broken

their promises time and again.

.

They promised on the economy, but they have missed every debt and deficit target they set themselves

.

They promised to raise living standards, but working families are set to be on average over £1,400 a year worse off

.

They promised to improve all standards of NHS care, but A&Es are in their worst state on record and hospitals are in financial crisis

.

They promised to protect school spending, but per pupil spending is going down and class sizes are soaring

As

they launch their latest manifesto, it is a reminder that the Tories can't be trusted to keep their word.

Andrew

Gwynne, Labour's National Election Co-ordinator, said:

"When Theresa May launches the Tory manifesto we can expect her to make a raft of promises to the British people. But, as the Conservatives make their latest solemn pledge there's one thing we must bear in mind: we've been here before.

"Theresa May pretends

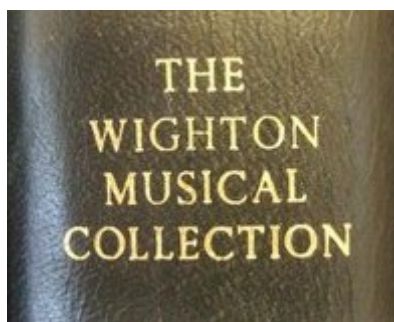
otherwise, but she is a politician with a track record of failure and broken promises. From the economy to the NHS, and policing to schools, Theresa May's Tories have failed again and again to deliver on the pledges they made.

"They made promises, they quickly broke them; they would do so again. The Tories can't be trusted. Britain cannot afford five more years of them and their broken promises."

Friends of Wighton update ...

With thanks to Sheena Wellington, here's the latest update from Friends of Wighton :

Wighton Heritage Centre, Central Library – Saturday 20th May 2017, 11am – noon.



Cappuccino Concert! : David Allison, guitar

One of Scotland's most talented and innovative acoustic guitarists, David's strong, self-penned melodies are backed up by a creative use of real-time sampling and looping, resulting in rich textures of sound live on stage. Improvisation is increasingly becoming a feature of his live shows.

Audiences from Hollywood in California to Rostov-on-Don in Russia and from Andalucia to Berlin have warmed to his unique approach to making music.

Nearer home David has performed at festivals such as Glasgow's Celtic Connections, the Edinburgh Fringe, Kirkcaldy International Guitar Festival, and the International Guitar Festival of Great Britain, as well as frequent appearances on radio and television. He recently featured in a Scottish Television documentary about the acoustic guitar alongside Martin Taylor and Gordon Giltrap.

His second album "Guitar Gi-tar" won warm reviews, and was launched at Sound City in Glasgow, an event sponsored by Radio 1. His debut CD "Reporting" was produced by Scottish singer-songwriter, Dougie MacLean.

"Nashville session musicians are the hardest people in the world to impress – I remember an evening at the Tennessee Performing Arts Centre when they rose as one to give David Allison a standing ovation!" Sheena Wellington .

Admission £5. Tea, coffee & biscuits available for a small donation.

[China collects combustible ice in S. China Sea](#)



File photo of South China Sea. [Photo/Xinhua]

China has succeeded in collecting samples of combustible ice in the South China Sea, a major breakthrough that may lead to a global energy revolution, Minister of Land and Resources Jiang Daming said Thursday.

This is China's first success in mining flammable ice at sea, after nearly two decades of research and exploration, the minister said at a trial mining site in the Shenhu area of the South China Sea Thursday.

China found flammable ice, a kind of natural gas hydrate, in the South China Sea in 2007.

International scientific circles have predicted that natural gas hydrate is the best replacement for oil and natural gas.

Inflation nears its modest peak in the Euro area and the UK

Inflation has risen by similar amounts in Europe, the UK and the US. Yesterday the Euro area figure for April hit 1.9%, compared to minus 0.2% a year earlier. German inflation reached 2%, compared to minus 0.3% a year earlier. UK inflation at 2.7% compared with plus 0.3% a year ago has risen almost identically to German inflation over the last year, implying the UK inflation is not to do with sterling or Brexit as some allege.

The annual UK figure for April inflation at 2.7% reflected higher energy prices over the year. 30% of the price rise came from transport, with a surge in airfares for Easter a particularly strong item for April, and higher Vehicle Excise Duties adding to the pain. 22% of it came from household items, where Council tax rises and dearer electricity were two of the big movers. Motor fuel prices fell a little, after being the dominant cause of inflation for the last year.

There are no signs of a wage/price spiral developing as it used to do in the last century. There is not much evidence of companies pushing through price rises to offset the fall in sterling that has taken place over the last two years, though where they can companies seek a small rise as some compensation for general cost pressures. It is interesting that on both sides of the Atlantic with differing patterns of currency performance, the rise in inflation has been so similar. It mainly reflects energy and commodity prices, with some price pressures from China on her exports. Later this year unless there is another oil and commodity price surge, inflation might fall back a little.

Published and promoted by Fraser Mc Farland on behalf of John Redwood, both at 30 Rose Street Wokingham RG40 1XU

Doorstop with the Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services, the Hon. Jane Prentice MP

HON JANE PRENTICE MP – ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND DISABILITY SERVICES:

I am very excited today because this is the first visit I've had from the Prime Minister to my electorate and of course where else would I choose to bring the Prime Minister but Glenleighden School. This is one of the most

special facilities we have in Ryan and I am delighted that Principal Debra Creed could be here today to show the Prime Minister the wonderful work you do.

Debra – would you like to say a few words about Glenleighden?

MS DEBRA CREED – GLENLEIGHDEN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Yes, I would but first I would like to thank the Prime Minister on behalf of the school, the parents and the students because we've been incredibly excited – this is the biggest thing to happen to Glenleighden in the 40 years it has been open.

We're so excited about the new changes for educational funding because we are in fact the only school in the whole southern hemisphere that caters for students with language disorder and we have been chronically underfunded for various reasons and the new changes to the education funding is going to change so many children's lives. We're going to reach so many more families. I can't thank the Prime Minister enough. So thank you.

PRIME MINISTER:

That's wonderful, being embraced, kissed even by a headmistress! (Laughter) It's a wonderful thing. Thank you so much.

And, look, really, Jane and Debra – what we have done with our schools funding policy and I know Simon Birmingham is in Adelaide today with the state and territory education ministers and I hope that they will come to see that what we have done, as Debra has said, is deliver a fair school funding model that implements to the letter the recommendations that David Gonski made all those years ago.

It is fair, it is needs-based, so schools and students with the greatest needs get the greatest funding. It is consistent. It is national and it is thoroughly transparent.

You can look on the app on your smartphone and you can see exactly what a school is going to be estimated to receive from the Commonwealth this year and every year right through until 2027.

As you know, as Debra has seen, the substantial increase in funding for this school, because of course these are kids who have special needs and they require more attention. But look at the results – you are changing lives here every day. You really are. The parents, the passion of the parents and their love for their children and for what you are doing is so inspiring. Well done. We are glad to support you.

We are also, and Jane of course is the Assistant Minister for Disabilities and is part of our determination to fully fund the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This again is a great national endeavour, a great national responsibility but it needs to be paid for.

The Labor Party implemented it with the support of the Coalition, I have to

say, so it had total bipartisan support but it has not been fully funded. There is a \$55 billion gap actually in the funding. What we are asking all Australians to do is to pay an extra 0.5 per cent on the Medicare levy from 2019 when the scheme comes into full operation and that will then also assure these parents and parents of kids with disabilities of all kinds around Australia, permanent and severe disabilities, that the funding for the NDIS will be there.

We won't be in a position where a future Government may have to say: "sorry, there is not enough money, there is no money in the till, we can't afford to fund the NDIS". It benefits everybody and so everyone should pay for it. It is a fair proposal.

Our budget is all about fairness. Schools funding, fair, needs-based consistent national transparency. Funding the NDIS. We owe it to our children, our grandchildren to fully fund these commitments and that is what we are doing.

Debra, the most important thing is the great work you are doing with these children.

MS DEBRA CREED – GLENLEIGHDEN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Thank you. You can have a job with us any time because you read a great story.

(Laughter)

PRIME MINISTER:

I am an experienced grandfather – you know that? But they were great – they listened very well. And very interactive too – paid lots of attention.

As the parents were saying when we were having a cup of tea with them earlier, the progress you have made here in this school with the kids' language skills is extraordinary. They have come from all over the state, all over Australia, indeed some from other parts of the world to be able to come to this school. It is great work.

Thank you.

MS DEBRA CREED – GLENLEIGHDEN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Thank you. It is an honour and privilege.

PRIME MINISTER:

Thanks Debra.

MS DEBRA CREED – GLENLEIGHDEN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Thank you to Jane too.

PRIME MINISTER:

Jane is a great advocate.

Well, have we got any questions?

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, why is the Treasurer making banks sign a confidentiality agreement before they can see the draft bank levy legislation? What are you worried about them doing?

PRIME MINISTER:

That is very conventional practice. This is a process of consultation and it is done at this stage confidentially. But obviously the legislation, when it will be published as an exposure draft and then of course presented into the parliament. There is no issues of confidentiality there.

JOURNALIST:

How often has this happened in the past? Is it always done?

PRIME MINISTER:

It is a conventional procedure. That is what the Treasurer has said and that is my understanding.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister is there any scope for a personal tax cut before the next election now that Labor has showed their hand and want to get it down to 49.5 per cent? Is there any scope amongst the Coalition to cut personal tax?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well obviously, we would always rather taxes were lower. We have, as you know, we have made substantial savings to bring the budget back into balance but the Senate has not agreed with enough of them to enable us to bring the budget back into balance without raising additional revenue.

Hence, we are raising the Medicare levy to fully fund the NDIS. We have sought to do that through savings. We weren't able to achieve enough of them through the Senate and also of course there is the bank levy that the gentleman mentioned a moment ago.

If we are able to lower tax over the next few years, personal income tax, we would do so but clearly, our primary obligation in this area is to make sure that we don't throw a burden, a mountain of debt in fact onto the shoulders of our children and grandchildren and that is why we have got to bring the budget back into balance and that is what the budget does. And in 2020/21 there will be a \$7.4 billion surplus.

JOURNALIST:

Mr Turnbull, is the federal government any closer to funding Cross River

Rail?

PRIME MINISTER:

I had a very constructive discussion with the Premier this morning, a very cordial discussion on a range of issues and as far as Cross River Rail is concerned, it is currently being assessed by Infrastructure Australia.

JOURNALIST:

What are the issues?

PRIME MINISTER:

Yes, I will come to that.

The submission or the proposal is inadequate in a number of respects – this is Infrastructure Australia's view and they want to know more about its integration with other transport systems and networks in South East Queensland, about land use opportunities, generally the development aspects of it.

It needs more work. And look, I am not making a criticism of it, I am just stating a fact.

I spoke to the head of Infrastructure Australia shortly before I met with the Premier. She brought her Director-General, Dave Stewart along, and he will be meeting with Infrastructure Australia shortly.

We certainly want to bring the assessment process to a conclusion but at this stage it is still ongoing.

JOURNALIST:

The ATO Deputy Commissioner is facing charges over an alleged fraud involving his son. Is the Government going to be considering further monitoring of government staff and senior officials in the wake of that?

PRIME MINISTER:

I want to congratulate the Australian Federal Police for identifying this fraud and taking the action that they have. We have the best law enforcement and security agencies in the world. People who break our laws, whether it is endeavouring to defraud the Commonwealth and the tax system, whether it is planning terror plots, whether it is trafficking in drugs, our police, our agencies will catch them – catch them, prosecute them and bring the full weight of the law down to bear on them. We have zero tolerance for this type of conspiracy, this type of fraud, this type of abuse of public office.

JOURNALIST:

Is it a failing of the Government that such a fraud had been going on for so long?

PRIME MINISTER:

It is a credit to the police that the matter has been identified and charges have been laid. We are ever vigilant. You cannot be, ever complacent about any aspect of integrity in public life or in government. We have a relentless pursuit of corruption, malpractice, abuse of office, the AFP have a very keen focus on it, I can assure you, as has been demonstrated. Zero tolerance for this.

JOURNALIST:

A special council has been appointed to examine the question of collusion between Trump and Russia. Are you concerned that this is going to distract the US Administration and it could affect important areas, such as trade and military activity?

PRIME MINISTER:

I am not going to buy into political controversies in the United States. I can assure you that our alliance, our relationship is rock solid.

There will always be political controversies in Washington and even from time to time in Canberra. But the important thing is that the relationship and the Alliance is built on the most, on the strongest foundations and it will continue and our cooperation, our close intimate cooperation on security matters in particular will continue as strongly as ever.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister are you urging teenagers to avoid having children if they can't afford it under the expanded welfare program?

PRIME MINISTER:

I am sorry, I am not sure about the context of the question you are raising.

JOURNALIST:

If we can go back to the ATO, what will the Government be doing in future to stop incidents like this from taking place? Greater monitoring-

PRIME MINISTER:

Every agency, every Government agency has to impose the tightest or the toughest most stringent monitoring of its processes. And of course, look, this is very, very much to be regretted. I am not suggesting that this alleged conspiracy is anything other than a very regrettable, criminal activity. The fact that there has been a person in the ATO that has been associated or involved is obviously-

JOURNALIST:

But it's not just a person. It's the-

PRIME MINISTER:

No, I understand that, I understand that – but the important point is that the system has worked, the conspiracy has been uncovered and the people who have been involved in it or alleged to have been involved in it are being brought to justice.

As I want to repeat, anyone, nobody should imagine that they can escape our law enforcement agencies, no matter how high they may be in a government department, no matter how high they may be, they are being watched, we have strong systems and we will always – we strengthen them all the time.

We have invested more money and more resources into the anticorruption activities of the Australian Federal Police. They have a whole centre that focuses on it and you can see that the system is working. We have zero tolerance for people who seek to defraud the Commonwealth of its revenue and as I have said many times, we talked about it earlier, ideally we prefer taxes to be lower, but taxes must be paid – they are compulsory and no matter how people seek to avoid them, we will ensure they are paid.

JOURNALIST:

The ParentsNext programme which I think was being referred to – you'll probably have more to say about that later on – but what has been so encouraging about the trial stage that has prompted you to expand it and what do you do about those young parents who are targeting this programme and just simply don't want to work?

PRIME MINISTER:

The ParentsNext programme has been successful and I will have more to say about that later today. But it is a good example of the way in which our Social Services programmes target areas of greatest need and greatest vulnerability and greatest opportunity to get people, young people, in this case young parents into work. The best form of welfare is a job. The objective of all of these programmes for working age people is to get them job ready and into a job. That is our commitment.

Thank you all very much indeed.

[ENDS]