

[Green Party makes formal complaint to BBC over local elections coverage](#)



8 May 2017

***Letter accuses BBC of breaching its fair coverage guidelines**

***Greens won 40 seats while UKIP won just 1**

***Co-leader Jonathan Bartley: "It's time the BBC recognised the widespread support for our positive vision for Britain"**

The Green Party has today (May 7) sent the BBC a letter of complaint over the broadcaster's coverage of the May 4 local elections results.

The BBC's guidelines [1] state the Green Party should receive coverage "proportionate to the larger parties" and "more than those parties with less evidence of past or current electoral support or fewer candidates".

The Greens fielded a record number of candidates in this round of local elections, overtaking UKIP, [2] and 40 Green councillors were elected, compared to UKIP's one. However, with the exception of a few items, most of the BBC's coverage failed to report the Green Party's results, while giving disproportionate coverage to UKIP.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"It's time the BBC recognised the strength of the Green movement and the widespread support for our positive vision for Britain as a confident and caring country. When people see what we stand for, they vote Green.

"While UKIP makes cheap attempts to win headlines with blatantly Islamophobic policies [3], Greens are out making a difference to their local communities and this contrast was made clear in Friday's election results. The Green Party is making gains across the country – from the Orkney Islands to the Isle of Wight – and it's only fair we're given proportionate coverage by our national broadcaster."

Notes:

1. <http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/guidelines/editorialguidelines/pdfs/2017local-electionguidelines.pdf>
2. http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/ukip-overtaken-by-greens-in-english-council-seats-contested-big-drop_uk_58e68cb2e4b0773c0d3f1e26
3. http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/ukip-muslim-face-veil_uk_58fdfd2ae4b018a9ce5cdd3b

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[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

[Labour to end NHS car park charges](#)

The next Labour government will make parking at NHS England hospitals free for patients, visitors and NHS staff. Labour created the NHS to be free at the point of use, so the next Labour government will eradicate the hidden charges of car parking fees.

Labour will increase the rate of Insurance Premium Tax to 20% for private healthcare insurance products to fund the policy, replacing the £162 million England's underfunded hospitals currently raise from car parking charges by scrapping the subsidy for people that can afford it, rather than charging people who can't.

Last month, a Freedom of Information request by Unison revealed some hospitals are charging staff, including nurses struggling with low wages, nearly £100 a month to park, resulting in reports of nurses having to rush out in between appointments to move their cars and avoid fines.

All of Labour's new spending commitments are fully costed and transparent. This policy will be paid for by a new charge on private healthcare insurance.

Announcing the policy, Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

"Labour will end hospital parking charges, which place an unfair and unnecessary burden on families, patients and NHS staff. Hospital parking charges are a tax on serious illnesses.

"Our hospitals are struggling from under-funding at the hands of Theresa May's Conservative government, but the gap should not be filled by charging sick patients, anxious relatives and already hard-pressed NHS staff for an essential

service.

“Our NHS
needs a Labour government that will stand up for the many, not the few.”

[Vote SNP on 8 June to stand against Tory cuts](#)

It's hard to believe that it's now ten years since the SNP first won a national election – how time flies.

[Police Community Surgery today](#)

The latest police community surgery for the West End is at Blackness Library later today :

Community Surgeries to be held 2nd Monday of every month from 1-4pm in the Blackness Library Blackness Avenue, Dundee

Come and discuss issues that
matter to you in your community
with your local police officers.



2017 Dates: 13th Feb, 13th March, 10th April, 8th May, 12th June,
10th July, 14th Aug, 11th Sept, 9th Oct, 13th Nov, 11th Dec.

Have a chat over a cup of tea



Advice, information, provide an opportunity for
members of the public to come along and speak
to police officers in relation to issues that affect
them in their community



[Labour's new manifesto ambition to
make Britain's children the healthiest](#)

in the world

Labour are today (Monday) announcing that a Labour government will mount a major programme to improve health and wellbeing of every child in the country. Our ambition is to make the next generation the healthiest the world has ever seen.

Jonathan Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, will set out the party's plans to combat health inequalities and end the scandalous link between deprivation and child health.

Labour will:

- Introduce a new Index of Child Health to measure progress against international standards and report annually against four key indicators: obesity, dental health, under 5s, and mental health.

- Legally require all Government departments to have a child health strategy to set out how they will support the UK's ambition to have the healthiest children in the world.

- Support school nurses and health visitors to make sure that all children have access to the healthcare they are entitled to.

- Set up a £250m annual child health fund to support the strategy, by clamping down on management consultancy costs in the NHS.

- Ensure extra funding for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and support for counselling in every school.

- Ring-fence the public health budget over the course of the Parliament to allow councils to invest in leisure activities and health awareness campaigns

Today (Monday) Labour is outlining the

first stage of its plan focusing specifically on obesity which is costing the NHS £6bn a year.

Labour pledge to ban adverts promoting unhealthy food from being broadcast during primetime television, such as the X Factor, Hollyoaks and Britain's Got Talent. A ban on pre-watershed junk food advertising would reduce children's viewing of junk food adverts by 82%.

Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, Jonathan Ashworth, will pledge that a Labour Government elected after the General Election would:

.
Halve childhood obesity within ten years and make Britain "the healthiest country in the world to grow up in."

.
Introduce legislation banning junk food advertising from being broadcast before 9pm

.
Publish a new childhood obesity strategy within the first 100 days outlining a roadmap to halving childhood obesity rates within ten years

Jonathan Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, will say:

"The scandal of child ill-health is a long-standing, growing and urgent challenge. It should be matter of shame that a child's health is so closely linked to poverty and that where and in what circumstances you grow up can dramatically affect your life chances.

"Evidence shows the link between deprivation and poor health in childhood, so with child poverty on the rise, the need for action becomes more acute.

"The UK has one of the worst childhood obesity rates in Western Europe. Tooth decay is the single most common reason why children aged five to nine require admission to hospital. Around 13% of boys and 10% of girls aged 11-15 have mental health problems.

"When it comes to our children we should be ambitious. It's time we invested properly in the health of the next generation. That means the sort of bold action we are outlining today to tackle obesity and invest in mental health provision.

Labour will put children at the heart of our health strategy and put measures in place to make Britain's children the healthiest in the world."