

It is disappointing news that Rebecca Steinfeld and Charles Keidan have lost their Court of Appeal battle to enter into a Civil Partnership – Champion

Sarah

Champion, Labour's Shadow

Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, commenting on the Court of Appeal judgement on Civil Partnerships, said:

"It is disappointing news that Rebecca Steinfeld and Charles Keidan have lost their Court of Appeal battle to enter into a Civil Partnership.

"Labour are proud to have introduced Civil Partnerships in 2004 as a key step in achieving true marriage equality for LGBT people.

"But, now that same sex marriage has been legalised, it is an anomaly that Civil Partnerships are not available to all couples regardless of their gender and sexuality.

"Civil Partnerships should be extended to heterosexual couples who wish to have a legal union in accordance with their individual beliefs and values.

"Labour will continue to push the government to look again at this important issue."

Night flight restrictions at Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted

The Government is currently consulting on proposals for night flight restrictions at Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted. The Government's proposals relate to:

- Environmental objectives
- The length of the restrictions
- The structure of the restrictions

- Movement limits at each airport
- Noise quota limits at each airport

The consultation can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2j4uhwI>. It closes on 28 February 2017.

[Sarah Champion commenting on the Government's failure to act on cross-party recommendations to reduce the gender pay gap](#)

Sarah

Champion MP,

Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, commenting on the Government's failure to act on cross-party recommendations to reduce the gender pay gap, said:

"The cross party Women and Equalities Committee's recommendations aim to improve working conditions for women of all ages and sectors right across the country.

"But, sadly, it seems that their recommendations are again falling on deaf ears.

"The Government has systematically ignored the evidence the Committee, charities, experts and individuals have worked so hard to produce.

"This Government continues to ignore the voices and lived experiences of thousands of women in chronically low paid, under-valued sectors of the economy such as care, hospitality and retail. Industries where zero hour contracts and bad practice have been allowed to run rife.

"The structural causes of the gender pay gap must be addressed, otherwise women will simply continue to be left behind.

"The lack of meaningful response to the Women and Equalities Committee shows that when it comes to tackling the serious, underlying causes of gender inequality in our country, this Tory Government isn't willing to take the bold action needed."

Misuse of sanctions is further evidence of the Tory Government letting vulnerable groups down – Debbie Abrahams

Debbie Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow

Work and Pensions Secretary, commenting

on the findings of the Public Accounts Committee report on sanctions, said:

"Two years after the Work and Pensions Select Committee inquiry the Government has failed to implement even their limited actions to address sanctions failings.

"This report makes it clear that sanctions have been used inconsistently to punish those struggling to get by with seven wasted years of austerity.

"This deplorable misuse of sanctions is further evidence of the Tory Government letting vulnerable groups down.

"Labour has committed to scrapping the Tories' punitive sanctions regime, under our plans to transform the social security system to ensure that, like the NHS, it is there for us all in our time of need."

Former work safety chief sentenced to 15 years in prison

Yang Dongliang, former head of the State Administration of Work Safety, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for accepting bribes and embezzlement on Tuesday by a court in Beijing.

Yang accepted the verdict and will not to appeal.

According to the verdict by the Second Intermediate People's Court of Beijing, from 2002 to 2015 when Yang was vice mayor of Tianjin and a member of the standing committee of the Communist Party of China Tianjin municipal committee, head of the State Administration of Work Safety and other posts, he help others in running businesses, promotions, tenders and other issues,

illegally accepting assets worth 28.5 million yuan (US\$4.1 million).

In 1999, as head of Tianjin's economic commission, Yang bought an apartment with public funds of 270,800 yuan.

Yang was shown leniency as he pleaded guilty, expressed remorse and returned his illegal gains.