

Green pressure sees Government finally publish shelved employment status law review



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*** Greens condemn Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for not publishing employment status law review for more than a year**

*** Jonathan Bartley, Green co-leader: "As Tory ministers sat on the review's findings workers everywhere have been left to fend for themselves"**

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has finally published a review into employment status law [1] which was launched and then shelved under the Coalition Government.

The publication, more than two years after the review's launch in October 2014, and more than 13 months after the report was seemingly ready for publication in December 2015, came after repeated calls from Green co-leader Jonathan Bartley for the Government to stop "sitting on the findings" [2].

The report's belated publication coincides with a court ruling today (February 10) which found a plumber working on a self-employed contract is in fact entitled to the rights of a worker [3].

Bartley wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister in October last year [2] calling for the review to be published after a similar ruling found two Uber drivers were not self-employed but entitled to workers' rights.

Bartley said:

"It is shameful that Tory ministers have sat on the findings of the Coalition's review into employment status. As they did so workers everywhere have been living in increasing insecurity and left to fend for themselves.

"Without legislation which adequately safeguards their rights these workers have been badly let down and it is clear this review should have been published at the earliest opportunity – in 2015.

"More and more court rulings are showing what can be achieved when people take control and stand up against exploitation and demonstrating how woefully insufficient our employment status law it is for dealing with modern employment practices.

"It is welcome that these issues are now being addressed by the ongoing review led by Matthew Taylor of the RSA, but the substantial and important findings of the report just published should have been put in the public domain long before now, so as to inform debate and help formulate ideas for

law reform.”

Notes:

1. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/585383/employment-status-review-2015.pdf
2. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2016/10/28/green-party-open-letter-to-theresa-may-landmark-uber-ruling-means-government-must-reveal-findings-of-shelved-employment-status-law-review/>
3. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-38931211>

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