

Green Party responds to inquest of death at Colnbrook detention centre



26 March 2019

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, has responded to the inquest into the death of Tarek Chowdhury at Colnbrook detention centre.

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

“It is devastating to see deep failures in the UK’s barbaric detention system are costing people’s lives. It is a stain on our national conscience that the UK is the only country in Europe to lock people up in detention centres without a time limit. It is time for root and branch reform of our broken immigration system – starting with these brutal detention centres. The Government must commit to a 28 day time limit for detention as a first step towards ending detention for good and building a more humane, community based system.”

Notes:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/25/catalogue-of-failings-led-to-death-of-gentle-man-at-detention-centre>

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Air pollution: Green Party stands with concerned teachers



25 March 2019

Reacting to the survey that found that two-thirds of teachers would support banning cars near schools [1], Green Party of England and Wales peer Jenny Jones said:

“Teachers know what they’re talking about when it comes to their students. We know that air pollution stunts lung growth in children and teenagers, at a similar level to exposure to maternal smoking. [2] It’s time to take action.

“Closing the streets in front of schools at the start and end of the school day would help deliver a safer, cleaner school environment that every child deserves. We’ve seen it work in Camden [3] and Hackney [4], now it’s time to spread the idea across the country.”

ENDS

Notes

Last year Jenny Jones introduced the Clean Air Bill into the House of Lords to tackle the shocking and often illegal levels of air pollution in our towns and cities. [4]

[1] <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/air-pollution-school-car-ban>

-roads-gates-drop-off-pick-up-teachers-survey-sustrans-a8837836.html

[2] <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa040610>

[3] <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/stories/school-road-closure-in-camden>

[4] <http://www.eastlondonlines.co.uk/2018/02/school-streets-scheme-spreads-two-hackney-schools/>

[5] <https://cleanair.london/legal/clean-air-is-a-human-right/>

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[Greens demand ExxonMobil lobbyists be removed from European parliament](#)



21 March 2019

Greens in the European Parliament have demanded that access badges of ExxonMobil lobbyists be removed. The call comes as representatives of the oil giant refuse to attend a public [hearing in the European Parliament](#) today which will, for the first time, address [climate denial in the EU](#), and focus on the prominent role Exxon Mobil has played. When [representatives of Monsanto refused to attend a similar hearing](#) they had their access badges revoked and Greens are demanding the same action be taken against ExxonMobile.

Currently around 220 lobbyists linked to ExxonMobil have direct access to the European Parliament through their EU badge together with many more unregistered lobbyists. This is despite the fact the corporation stands accused of funding public misinformation campaigns and slowing down political attempts to move towards progressive policies on energy. Internal company documents have also revealed that the corporation has [known about the realities of climate change for decades](#). The company helped to found and lead the [Global Climate Coalition](#) of businesses opposed to the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and funded organizations critical of the Kyoto Protocol.

Green MEP, Molly Scott Cato, who is attending today's hearing and will host the press conference after the event, said:

"The only seats that should be offered to representatives of ExxonMobil are the ones at the hearing which will examine this corporation's climate wrecking activities. This is the company that has denied the science, despite knowing the damage their oil exploitation was causing; who has funded campaigns to block action on climate and now refuse to face up to their environmental crimes by attending today's hearing."

"We cannot allow the lobbyists from such corporations free access to the corridors of the European Parliament. We must remove their badges immediately."

"The growing momentum across the globe for youth strikes shows young people understand we are in a climate emergency. To safeguard their future, they will need to live the majority of their adult lives almost entirely free of fossil fuels. That's bad news for corporations like ExxonMobil but good news for those of us wanting to save the planet from climate breakdown."

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[Trade Bill – Green win protects current standards](#)



20 March 2019

The government are due to amend the Trade Bill today to protect existing standards for animal welfare, workers rights and the environment in future trade agreements. They have submitted a slightly tweaked version of the [amendment](#) put forward by Green Party Baroness Jones.

Jenny Jones' amendment on the Trade Bill was debated two weeks ago and she received a lot of cross party support from Labour. She has also [met](#) the Minister to discuss it. It contains the current protections for the standards we have. But the Government had seemed reluctant to accept it, even though the Prime Minister had committed herself to not weakening existing standards in future trade agreements. At the moment it would be possible for Ministers to use statutory instruments to change the rules on this, but this amendment would guarantee these minimum standards were kept for rolling over all the trade deals that we currently have as a result of EU membership.

It's a crucial political decision as the right wing freemarket types in the conservative party didn't want their hands tied.

[Amendment](#) by Government Minister of State, Baroness Fairhead:

Page 2, line 22, leave out "(4)" and insert "(4A)"

Page 2, line 43, at end insert—

"(4A) If regulations under subsection (1) include provision in any of the areas listed

in subsection (4B), the provision must be consistent with maintaining UK levels of statutory protection in that area.

(4B) The areas referred to in subsection (4A) are—

- (a) the protection of human, animal or plant life or health;
- (b) animal welfare;
- (c) environmental protection;
- (d) employment and labour.

(4C) "UK levels of statutory protection" means levels of protection provided for by

or under any—

- (a) primary legislation,
- (b) subordinate legislation, or

(c) retained direct EU legislation, which has effect in the United Kingdom, or the part of the United Kingdom in which the regulations have effect, on the date on which a draft of the regulations is laid.”

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[Green Party supports Youth Strike for Climate](#)



15 March 2019

Green Party leaders and politicians will join children striking from school to demand the Government takes real action on climate change.

Hundreds of school children are set to gather in Parliament Square on Friday 15 March [1] as part of the global Youth Strike for the Climate movement, which will see children walk out of school across the world.

Green co-leader Jonathan Bartley and London Assembly member Caroline Russell will join the strike.

The movement was inspired by Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish activist who went on school strike last August. Tens of thousands of children have since walked out of school in similar protests across the world.

The Green Party has called on the Government to listen to the young people on strike and act on their demands – and has urged parents and teachers to support and celebrate children and young people who want to take civic action

as part of the strike.

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

“The young people striking for the planet are a source of hope for us all. They recognise that we are facing a climate emergency and that only gold standard climate action is good enough. It’s time for those in power to start listening.

“This week the Chancellor tried to fob off our young people with token policies that don’t go far enough. If Ministers are serious about securing the planet for the next generation they will launch a Green New Deal with money for thousands of green jobs and transformed local transport and energy networks.

“It’s a privilege for the Green Party to stand in solidarity with young people across the country striking for their futures. I urge those in power to listen to their demands – and for parents and teachers everywhere to support and celebrate the next generation as they take civic action for the climate.”

Notes:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/live/2019/mar/15/climate-strikes-2019-live-latest-climate-change-global-warming>

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