

2030 EU target for phasing out single-use plastics demonstrates lack of ambition in Government's 25 Year Environment Plan – Hayman

Sue Hayman MP, Labour's Shadow Environment Secretary, commenting on the launch of the EU's plastics strategy, said:

"Labour welcomes the EU plastics strategy published today. The fact that the EU is bringing forward a target of 2030 for member states to phase out single-use plastics demonstrates the lack of ambition and vision in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

"Labour calls on the Government to confirm whether they will amend the approach outlined in their 25 Year Environment Plan in light of the EU strategy published today to ensure that the UK does not fall beneath EU standards on the environment and that action on single-use plastics is not kicked into the long grass."

Labour reports Boris Johnson to statistics watchdog over misleading comments

Keir Starmer MP, Labour's Shadow Brexit Secretary, has today written to Sir David Norgrove, Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, following comments made by Boris Johnson that Vote Leave's claim the UK sends £350m a week to the EU was 'grossly underestimated'.

- A copy of Keir Starmer's letter is below.

Dear Sir David,

Foreign Secretary's comments about the UK's financial contribution to the EU

I am writing to seek clarification on comments made by the Foreign Secretary yesterday [15 January] about the UK's financial contribution to the European Union (EU).

In an interview with The Guardian the Foreign Secretary said: "There was an error on the side of the [Vote Leave] bus. We grossly underestimated the sum

over which we would be able to take back control.”

The newspaper reports that “Johnson argued that the UK’s EU contribution was already up to £362m per week for 2017-18 and would rise annually to £410m, £431m, and then to £438m by 2020-21 – ‘theoretically the last year of the transition period.’”

The £350m a week claim made by the Vote Leave campaign has been widely condemned as inaccurate and misleading. For example, in September of last year the Statistics Authority wrote to the Foreign Secretary saying, “it is a clear misuse of official statistics.” And yet, Mr Johnson has chosen to repeat this statement and expand on the claim even further. I do not believe this to be acceptable.

I would therefore be grateful if you could make a statement on the accuracy of the Foreign Secretary’s most recent comments.

Yours sincerely

Keir Starmer

Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

[Today’s inflation figures are further bad news for working households – Peter Dowd](#)

Peter Dowd MP,
Labour’s Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, responding to today’s inflation figures by the ONS, said:

“Today’s inflation figures are further bad news for working households. Inflation remains around a five year high, while real earnings are still lower than in 2010, following seven years of Tory economic failure.

“The next Labour government will introduce a £10 per hour Real Living Wage to tackle the wages squeeze, and build a high wage, high skill economy for the many, not the few.”

The government should step in and take over Carillion's rail contracts – Andy McDonald

Andy McDonald MP, Shadow Transport Secretary, commenting on the implications of Carillion's collapse, said:

"Following the disastrous East Coast franchise decision, giving a contract to Carillion is yet another example of the negligent and carefree approach towards awarding contracts from Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling.

"The government should step in and take over Carillion's rail contracts to ensure rail renewal and enhancement work is brought in-house within Network Rail along with maintenance work."

British public expects Government to ensure Armed Forces get funding they deserve – Griffith

Nia Griffith MP, Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to the Urgent Question on the National Security Capability Review in the House of Commons, said:

"It is completely unacceptable that the Defence Secretary cannot answer the most basic questions about the Government's defence review, which many fear is just a thinly veiled attempt to force more cuts on Britain's Armed Forces.

"Under this Government, we have seen a dramatic fall in the size of the Army and there is a gaping black hole of £20bn in the defence equipment plan.

"The simple fact is that you cannot do security on the cheap and the British public expects the Government to ensure that defence and the Armed Forces get the funding that they deserve."