

Statement from Caroline Lucas on the Westminster attack



22 March 2017

Caroline Lucas, the co-leader of the Green Party, has responded to Wednesday's attack in Westminster.

She said:

"Our thoughts go out to all those affected by today's attacks and we send deep thanks to the public servants who responded so quickly, bravely, and with care to treat the injured and minimise the number of casualties. We pay tribute to the lives that were so sadly lost and in particular to the police officer who died in the line of duty – we are truly in his debt.

"The response to such a heinous attack must be to strengthen our democracy, and refuse to give in to those who would harm it."

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Latest figures from Bus Passenger Survey show Government plans will not

put passengers first – Daniel Zeichner

Daniel

Zeichner MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Minister, commenting on the publication of the Transport Focus Bus Passenger Survey figures for Autumn 2016, said:

"These results show once again that compared to national operators, municipal bus companies provide some of the best bus services in the country. The Government's plans to ban local authorities from forming their own bus companies in the future clearly flies in the face of all the evidence.

"This year's survey also suggests that congestion is becoming an increasing problem for bus users. With traffic projected to grow, this problem is only going to become worse. We really need to see local authorities and bus companies using the tools available in the Bus Services Bill to address congestion, and clean up our air."

Police staff confidence hits new low

22 Mar 2017



Police officer confidence throughout Scotland has hit a new low, an internal survey conducted by Police Scotland has revealed.

The shocking statistics show that just one in 10 police officers believe that Police Scotland has a "positive future."

It was reported this morning that the questionnaire asked all staff their thoughts on the statement: "I feel positive about the future within Police Scotland."

Results revealed that only 10 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement – while 71 per cent suggested they either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The severe confidence crisis looks set to continue over the next few years with the force facing huge budget pressures on the SNP's watch.

Scottish Conservative shadow justice secretary Douglas Ross said:

"This survey puts a spotlight on just how little confidence there is within the police for the single force.

"Officers and staff need to have full confidence in Police Scotland if they are to work to the best of their abilities and keep Scotland's communities safe.

"It's extremely worrying that almost four years on from the SNP centralising our police forces, morale within the organisation remains at rock bottom."

For a copy of The Sun's exclusive article regarding the survey click here:
<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/756737/shock-stats-reveal-police-morale-has-hit-new-low-as-just-one-in-10-cops-back-the-forces-future/>

David Hodge's resignation makes the need for full disclosure from the Government more pressing – Teresa Pearce

Teresa

Pearce, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, commenting on the news that Surrey

County Council Leader David Hodge is standing down as the Local Government Association's Conservative group leader, said:

"It

appears that the row around the Tory sweetheart deal for Surrey Council has claimed a victim with the resignation of David Hodge as the man responsible for

standing up for all Tory councils. Perhaps that's unsurprising given the accusations he colluded with the Government over a favourable deal not available to other councils.

"This

doesn't put the matter to bed however. Theresa May has failed to come clean about the terms of the deal offered to Surrey, failed to apologise for her Government's misleading suggestion that there had been no such deal and would not give the assurance that other local councils will get the same treatment.

"David

Hodge's resignation makes the need for full disclosure from the Government more

pressing. What we need from the Tories is a long term sustainable plan for funding social care, rather than cosy deals for Tories councils.”

Jonathan Ashworth responds to news that three more trusts have been put into financial special measures

Jonathan

Ashworth MP, Labour’s Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on news that three more trusts have been put into financial special measures by NHS Improvement, said:

“The Government’s inept mismanagement of the NHS is pushing hospital finances to the brink. NHS Providers have already warned this week that delivering services within the current financial settlement is “mission impossible”. The news today that another three hospital trusts have been forced into financial special measures just illustrates the deepening financial challenge facing the health service.

“Theresa

May can’t keep on forcing hospitals to choose between balancing the books and providing safe patient care. By underfunding the NHS for so long, the Prime Minister is putting patients at risk. The Government needs to set out a long-term, sustainable financial settlement for the NHS which allows hospitals to provide the top quality health services which Britain’s patients expect.”