

Greens: No deal Brexit will be “catastrophic” for British agriculture



23 August 2018

Reacting to Dominic Raab’s statement that a no-deal Brexit wouldn’t trigger a battle with Brussels [1], Molly Scott Cato MEP, the Green Party’s Spokesperson on Brexit and a member of the European Parliament’s Agriculture Committee said:

“It is deeply worrying that leaving the EU without a deal is being discussed as a plausible outcome. Let’s be absolutely clear, there is no conceivable way that a no-deal Brexit can be acceptable. End of story. It ultimately doesn’t matter if there is a battle with Brussels or not. If we leave with no deal, the damage will have been done.

“The effect it would have on Britain’s agriculture would be catastrophic. If farmers can’t export to the continent, it will still severely threaten their incomes. Even if short term measures are implemented, they will not address the immediate problem of deciding what to plant next spring.

“If there’s even the slightest threat of no deal, the Government must do the responsible thing and put the final deal to a People’s Vote. Nobody voted to crash out of Europe and we can’t risk people’s livelihoods just to appease the extreme fringes of the Conservative Party.”

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/aug/22/dominic-raab-uk-wont-trigger-no-deal-battle-with-brussels>

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Green Party: Government wilfully blind to scale of prisons crisis



20 August 2018

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, has criticised privatisation and Government cuts for contributing to the failure of Birmingham Prison.

Bartley called on ministers to take steps to reduce prison numbers, following news the Government has taken over Birmingham Prison from G4S after inspectors found it to be in a “state of crisis” [1].

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

“The Government is wilfully blind to the scale of crisis facing our prisons. This report lays bare the inadequacy and squalor of a system which is failing everyone. From riots and deaths to take overs, it is clear the privatisation experiment hasn’t worked. Meanwhile cuts have left prisons unable to meet inmates’ basic needs – let alone rehabilitate them.

“The Government should set our prisons on a new path towards a more successful, humane and common sense justice system. Britain has the highest imprisonment rates in Western Europe – but it doesn’t have to be like this. It should start with reducing prison numbers and a programme of prison closures, exploring alternatives to incarceration. It should also overhaul our failing drug laws.”

Notes:

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-45240742>

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[Jenny Jones responds to news fracking company broke waste disposal law](#)



16 August 2018

The Green Party has responded to news fracking company Cuadrilla has been given a warning by the Environment Agency after breaking the law over the storage of waste at its Preston New Road site in Lancashire [1].

Jenny Jones, Green peer in the House of Lords, said:

“Cuadrilla has repeatedly shown contempt for our environment and the local community around its Lancashire site. The irony of a fracking company which criminalises peaceful protest to have itself broken the law is not lost on us.

“The dodgy disposal of waste is just the latest in a long list of corner cutting by frackers in Britain, and it’s time the Government saw sense and dropped its illogical support for a dysfunctional industry. Fracking is dirty, dangerous, expensive and unnecessary. The Government must end its reckless dash for gas and instead invest in cheaper, cleaner renewable energy for the future.”

Notes:

1. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cuadrilla-is-warned-over-storage-of-shale-waste-ld3tjbjfn>

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[Green Party: Grayling shown contempt for rail workers and passengers](#)



15 August 2018

The Green Party has responded to news rail fares will increase by 3.2% next year [1], while the Transport Secretary has announced plans for an effective cap on rail workers’ pay [2] by using a different, lower measure of inflation to set wages.

Amelia Womack, deputy leader of the Green Party, said:

“Chris Grayling has left no doubt about where his loyalties lie – with the private companies running our railways, not those who work on or use them.

“The announcements of plans for an effective cap on rail workers’ pay, and yet more fare increases outstripping wages, lay bare Grayling’s contempt for those who depend on Britain’s railways.

“Instead of making passengers and workers foot the bill for his failings, Grayling should be making the train operators enjoying eye watering profits pay their fair share.

“But with fares rising as services descend in chaos it’s ultimately time Britain’s railways were brought back into public hands.”

Notes:

1.
<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2018/aug/15/uk-rail-fares-to-rise-commuters-call-freeze>

2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-45189369>

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[Green Party: Cleaners 'make history' in fight against exploitation of low-paid workers](#)



7 August 2018

The Green Party has given its support to cleaners striking for their rights today in what has been praised as the first coordinated action by low-paid workers in London.

Workers from the United Voices of the World trade union are on strike at the Ministry of Justice and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea today, demanding the London Living Wage, decent sick pay and the same rights as their colleagues. [1]

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

"Cleaners bravely striking for their rights today have made history in the fight against the exploitation of low-paid workers. It is shameful that the Ministry of Justice doesn't pay its cleaners enough to live on. In this age of insecurity Government departments should be leading by example, not leaving their own cleaners without basic workers' rights. I stand in full solidarity with those striking today as they demand to be paid the London Living Wage, to get proper sick pay and to be given the same rights as their colleagues."

Notes

1. <https://www.uvwunion.org.uk/news/>

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