

Shahrar Ali case response



9 February 2024

The Chair of the Green Party executive, Jon Nott, said:

“We are pleased that the court has recognised that a democratic political party has the right to select those who speak for it on the basis that they can and will communicate and support party policy publicly.

“We welcome the findings in the judgment that members of political parties have ‘fundamental party rights’ which include the right to disagree, to advocate for and against policies and positions adopted or proposed in the party, and to organise for those who agree with them and against those who do not, and that the Equality Act is not intended to interfere with those rights.

“The party acknowledges that there were procedural shortfalls in how we deselected one of our spokespeople. We apologise for failing in this instance to live up to the standards that both we and the court expect.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

You may wish to refer to this article written by lawyers in the case on the wider issues involved.

<https://bateswells.co.uk/updates/discrimination-belief-and-the-fundamental-party-rights-the-judgment-in-ali-v-green-party-of-england-and-wales/>

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Greens respond to new plans to clampdown further on protests



8 February 2024

Responding to the Home Office's new plans to clampdown further on protests, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"This is another worrying step towards an authoritarian state, which too many in the government seem intent on creating.

"This government is reaching the stage where it views any disagreement with its plans as practically an offence in itself.

"The right to protest is an important freedom that helps protect us from tyranny. Without these rights, the UK risks ending up with even worse governments.

"The sweeping powers of this Bill risk turning legitimate protest into crime.

"We need to see MPs from all parties speak out against these plans."

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Labour ditch £28 billion green investment plan – a massive backward step for climate and economy



7 February 2024

Reacting to news that Labour is ditching its policy of spending £28bn a year on its green investment plan [1], Carla Denyer, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

“This is a massive backward step – for the climate, for the economy and for good quality jobs. Both the security of our planet for future generations and the UK’s future prosperity is dependent on greening our economy and that requires large scale investment.

“Labour have chosen to wear their fiscal rules as a millstone around their neck. A different approach through tax reforms, in particular by introducing a wealth tax on the super-rich, could help pay for the green transition. There is more than enough money in the economy to pay for this. Indeed, the Green Party would go further and faster, investing at least double what Labour originally pledged, so we can turbo charge the transition to a green economy.

“Greens recognise that investing in a green future will provide people with economic, social and environmental security. By decarbonising industry, insulating buildings, and ramping up renewable energy infrastructure, the UK can drastically reduce emissions, cut household bills and create new, good quality, well-paid and secure jobs in every corner of the country.

“Investing in this secure future is a political choice. By ditching its green investment plan, and making a series of other U-turns, Labour has clearly signalled that it is turning its back on a fairer, greener future. It is clear we are going to need a group of Green MPs in parliament after the next election pushing whoever forms the next government to do the right thing.”

Notes

1. [Labour ditches £28bn green investment pledge – BBC News](#)

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Greens dismiss dental recovery plan and call for full costs of dental treatment to be covered



7 February 2024

The co-leader of the Green Party, Adrian Ramsay, has dismissed today's announcement of a 'dental recovery plan' by the government saying it will 'fail to fill the giant hole in NHS dentistry provision.' Greens are calling for dentists to be paid the full costs of NHS dental treatment.

Ramsay is standing as parliamentary candidate in Waveney Valley, the area recognised as the worst 'dental desert' in the country, with one in three people trying to get an NHS appointment not being able to [1]. He said:

"In the Waveney Valley and across England and Wales, the Green Party is fighting back against the decay in NHS dentistry services.

"The scenes of people in Bristol queuing up in desperation to secure an NHS appointment and having to be held back by police are truly shocking [2]. The British Dental Association also reports cases of 3-year-olds with dental sepsis, an epidemic of DIY dentistry and the return of scurvy [3]. This indicates just how broken our society is.

"I speak to people all the time who are furious that successive governments have allowed this to happen. The rot set in with the universally despised dental contract – where independent providers are contracted to the NHS – introduced by the Labour government between 2006 and 2010. Then the Coalition government took power and made savage cuts to the amount spent on NHS dentistry. The budget has fallen by over a third – a real terms cut of £1bn [4]. This is unacceptable and unnecessary in what is one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

“The dental recovery with its paltry £200 million offer will clearly fail to fill the giant hole in NHS dentistry provision. The underlying problem is that dentists are not being paid the full costs of NHS dental treatment. That’s why I am proud to back the Toothless in England campaign – that took root in Suffolk [5] – which aims to get contracts for NHS dentists that cover their costs.

“Being able to see a dentist when you need one is a basic need for good physical and mental health – but sadly, it’s becoming a luxury often only available to those people who can pay to go private. It doesn’t have to be that way.

“The Green Party is calling for a new approach, starting with new contracts for NHS dentists that cover the costs of care. I am pushing hard for this now and will make this an urgent priority as an MP.”

Notes

1. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/2023/07/13/gp-patient-survey-dental-statistics-january-to-march-2023-england/>
2. [Hundreds queue at new NHS dental practice in Bristol hoping for treatment | The Guardian](#)
3. [Dentists tackling Victorian disease in 21st century Britain \(bda.org\)](#)
4. [A billion in cuts \(bda.org\)](#)
5. [Toothless in Suffolk takes campaign nationwide – BBC News](#)

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Reaction to Labour ditching national care service



5 February 2024

Reacting to news that Labour will not seek to legislate on the creation of a new national care service in its first King's Speech [1], Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"Labour are dropping policy commitments like confetti. Next in line it's social care, with the Party planning to ditch a previous pledge to create a new national care service [2]. The Green Party remains committed to putting social care on a level footing with the NHS and ensuring social care is fully publicly funded [3].

"The NHS is based on the principle that need, not wealth, should determine the health care we get. The Green Party backs the same principle for Social Care. Over a million people need help to eat and wash, get residential care when they need it and to lead a full life under their own control. They deserve to have their care paid for in the same way as the NHS."

Notes

1. [Labour ditches radical reforms as it prepares 'bombproof' election manifesto | The Guardian](#)
2. [Labour to aim to launch national care service inspired by creation of NHS | The Guardian](#)
3. [Green Party pledges free social care for all adults | The Green Party](#)

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