

Tory migration policy is a shambles – Abbott

Diane

Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, commenting on today's migration statistics, said:

"Tory migration policy is a shambles. Against all advice, Theresa May continues to insist in maintaining an arbitrary net migration target of under 100,000, which has never once been met.

"Now it seems that her long-running campaign to malign international students is based on fantasy, with no evidence of a major issue with students overstaying.

"Some in government appear to be waking up to the idea that overseas students make a valuable contribution to our country and have belatedly asked the Migration Advisory Committee to gather evidence.

"Labour will offer fair rules and reasonable management of migration; prioritising jobs, growth and prosperity, not bogus net migration targets."

This error will no doubt cause a lot of anxiety for EU nationals – Abbott

Diane Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, responding to reports that EU nationals living in the UK were sent deportation letters in error, said:

"EU nationals have already been made to feel like a bargaining chip in Brexit negotiations, so this error will no doubt cause a lot of anxiety.

"As this government is prone to U-turns the only assurance worth anything to those affected is official documentation of their settled status. If it is true that Theresa May intends to grant those EU citizens currently living in

the UK the right to remain, they should simply be issued this now. Apparently official documents from the Home Office are easy enough to send!”

[A heartfelt congratulations to everyone receiving their GCSE results today – Rayner](#)

Angela Rayner MP, Labour’s Shadow Education Secretary, responding to the publication of GCSE results today, said:

“A heartfelt congratulations to everyone receiving their GCSE results today. We pay tribute to pupils, parents and teachers for the crucial role they have played in achieving these fantastic results.

“As young people enter a new period in their lives, whether in further study or work, it’s incredibly important that they receive as much support as possible.

“Unfortunately the Government’s unnecessary tinkering with grades have meant that there are many parents and employers who are still struggling to understand what the results in maths and English actually mean.

“Tory failure to properly explain the changes has created confusion that has casted a shadow on a day that should be reserved for celebration and young people considering the next step they will take in their education.

“A Labour Government would restore the Education Maintenance Allowance for young people entering Further Education, as well as providing fit for purpose careers advice and bolstering apprenticeships.”

[Grayling’s decision to wash his hands](#)

of the North's transport problems is a huge insult to commuters and businesses – Andy McDonald

Andy McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary,

responding to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling's Yorkshire Post article on transport in the North, said:

"Grayling's decision to wash his hands of the North's transport problems is a huge insult to commuters and businesses.

"It's true that the North can play a larger role in determining and delivering its own transport priorities, but only if it's backed with funding from central government – an unlikely prospect while Chris Grayling holds the purse strings.

"The Tories have a track record of underinvestment and broken promises. London receives £1500 per person more in transport spending than the North, but far from addressing this disparity the Tories are making it worse by scrapping upgrades to the TransPennine route.

"Many people will be furious at being told they should 'take control' whilst the government pulls the plug on hundreds of millions of pounds worth of improvements to the region's rail links and presides over huge inequalities in transport spending between the North and South.

"The North needs its fair share of investment, not words of encouragement from Chris Grayling.

"That is why Labour has pledged to help transform the economies of the North, underpinned by a £10bn commitment for Crossrail for the North."

Ends

Revealed: A million households face unaffordable mortgage costs – Healey

New

analysis by Labour has revealed that almost a million (972,000) households in England are paying more than a third of their incomes in mortgage costs – an internationally recognised standard of housing affordability – despite record low interest rates.

In

response, Labour has pledged to provide 100,000 new affordable FirstBuy homes for first-time buyers over its first five years in government – a new class of housing sold at prices set so that mortgage costs are affordable to households on local average incomes.

Labour's

new analysis drawn from the official English Housing Survey comes after official figures earlier in the year revealed that the number of households headed by someone aged under 45 who owns their own home has fallen by an astonishing 900,000 since 2010 to just 44 per cent.

Current

Conservative policies to help first-time buyers are failing, with no fresh ideas and Ministers stalling on plans they've previously announced:

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Almost

three years after announcing the Government's flagship new 'starter homes' not a single one has been built

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Help

to Buy has been heavily criticised for not focusing on first-time buyers on ordinary incomes, with the majority of recipients saying they could have bought a property anyway

Statistics

released earlier this year revealed that the level of homeownership in Britain has now fallen to a 30-year low.

Labour's

Shadow Secretary of State for Housing John Healey MP said:

"The cost

of the housing crisis means that young people looking to buy a home of their

own are being locked out of the housing market.

“After seven years of failure, the Conservatives have no plan to fix the housing crisis. Homeownership has hit a 30-year low and the number of under-45s who own their own home has fallen by over 900,000.

“Labour would bring in a big New Deal for first time buyers including ‘first dibs’ on new homes built in the local area and 100,000 new discount FirstBuy Homes which are priced at a level linked to local average incomes. Labour offers help to the many aspiring first-time buyers on ordinary incomes and hope that things can change.”