

Yet more division at the top of government- McDonnell

John

McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, responding to the Chancellor's comments on public sector pay, said:

"This represents yet more division at the top of government. The Chancellor's remarks show that he is more interested in fighting with his fellow Tory cabinet colleagues, than for better incomes for working families in our country.

"The firefighters, police officers, nurses, and ambulance drivers who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe have been abandoned by a Tory government intent on holding down their pay, while ploughing ahead with tax giveaways to a wealthy few.

"It is now time for this out-of-touch Chancellor and shambolic Government to stand aside. Only a Labour Government will give our public sector workers the pay rise they deserve and end austerity in the national interest."

Ends

The shocking findings of this report should serve as a wake-up call to this Government- Lewell-Buck

Emma

Lewell-Buck MP, Shadow Minister for Children and Families, commenting on the Children's Commissioner's report on measuring the number of vulnerable children, said:

"The shocking findings of this report should serve as a wake-up call to this Government who have so far refused to even measure the scale of the problem let alone come up with effective policy solutions.

“From the 800,000 children suffering from mental health difficulties, the 46,000 thought to be in gangs, or the 119,000 homeless or in unstable housing, these figures lay out the startling facts about the lives of vulnerable children who have largely been ignored by this Government.

“The Government should be taking action now to support every child and ensure that they are safe, secure, and have a roof over their head.

“Labour will enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into law, as we tackle the root causes of vulnerability, such as housing, crime, and poverty, deliver universal infant free school meals to address food poverty and school based counselling in secondary schools to support vulnerable children, as we ensure every child gets the best possible start in life.”

Ends

Report reveals harsh and unfair reality of Tory pay freeze on hard working public sector workers – McDonnell

John McDonnell MP, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor, commenting on the Report to the Office of Manpower Economics, which shows that growth in public sector pay since 2005 was eradicated by 2015 as a direct result of the Tories’ pay freeze, said:

“This a damning report that reveals the harsh and unfair reality of the Tories’ pay freeze on hard working public sector workers. The fact that some of the pillars of our community and the public sector such as teachers, doctors and police officers are seeing their pay cut exposes the double standards of a government that likes to praise their work but will not actually truly reward it.

“It further highlights why it is so vital that we need action immediately from the Government. We cannot continue with more empty words or infighting from members of the Cabinet while those in our public sector, such as nurses, are

being forced to rely on food banks to make ends meet.

"Only Labour has a costed plan that would end the public sector pay freeze, and introduce a £10 per hour real living wage, so that we build the high wage, high skill economy of the future. And if the Tories are not prepared to meet this basic test of fairness, then they should step aside and let us lead in the national interest."

Ends

Jeremy Corbyn appoints 20 MPs to Labour's front bench

Following

Labour's advances in the general election and increased number of MPs, Jeremy Corbyn is today announcing 20 appointments to the shadow front bench. These include new and returning MPs.

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

"I'm delighted to be filling Labour's shadow front bench with a wealth of talent. Our new shadow ministers will bolster the excellent work of Labour's shadow cabinet and departmental teams.

"These appointments are further evidence that Labour is not just the opposition – we are the government in waiting."

The new appointments are:

DEFRA

David Drew

Holly Lynch

Home Affairs

Nick

Thomas Symonds

Chris
Williamson

Afzal
Khan

Louise
Haigh

Scotland

Paul
Sweeney

Justice

Gloria
de Piero

Imran
Hussain

International Development

Roberta
Blackman Woods

Transport

Rachael
Maskell

Karl
Turner

Treasury

Anneliese
Dodds

Housing

Tony
Lloyd

Melanie
Onn

Women and equalities

Carolyn
Harris

Defence

Gerald
Jones

**Local
Government**

Yvonne
Fovargue

Education

Tracey
Brabin

Wales

Chris
Ruane

Further
appointments are expected in due course.

Ofgem's watered down proposals go nowhere near the promise made by the Prime Minister- Long- Bailey

Rebecca

Long-Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, responding to Ofgem's announcement on an energy price cap, said:

“Ofgem's watered down proposals go nowhere near the promise made by the Prime Minister to adopt Labour's principle of a price cap. In the general election, she pledged unequivocally to knock £100 off the bills of 17 million customers but then didn't include the promise in the Queen's Speech.

“After reports that the Prime Minister has been lobbied by senior cabinet members and the big six energy companies to drop the price cap commitment, ministers must tell the British people why they treat fair pricing for energy consumers as such a low priority and if they are going to make yet another u-turn. “

Ends

Editors Notes

1. Theresa May made a strong declaration to an energy price cap for 17 million customers, saving £100 in The Sun – link below:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3512895/theresa-may-energy-cap-promise/>

2. Ofgem's press release

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/ofgem-announces-plans-deliver-fairer-more-competitive-market-all-consumers>