

# These statistics demonstrate the total failure of Tories' punitive social security regime – Debbie Abrahams

**Debbie**

**Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary**, commenting on the Social Security and Child Support tribunal statistics, said:

"These statistics show that two thirds of contested PIP and ESA assessment decisions are being overturned by the courts, demonstrating the total failure of the Tories' punitive social security regime.

"This follows the news last week that the Government is ignoring a court ruling and denying 160,000 disabled people the support they need.

"We cannot allow disabled people to bear the brunt of failing Tory austerity. Labour will transform the social security system to ensure that, like the NHS, it is there for us all in our time of need."

---

# Women hit six times harder this Budget by government cuts

House of Commons analysis commissioned by Labour has revealed that as of the Chancellor's budget yesterday, women continue to be hit six times harder than men by government policies.

Sarah Champion MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, said:

"Yesterday the Prime Minister and Chancellor talked up the significance of International Women's Day yet their warm words have amounted to nothing.

"Calls for a budget that works for women have been ignored.

"Women are still bearing the brunt of this Tory Government's failed austerity agenda – with the 86 per cent impact figure on women remaining unchanged since last year. Things are just as bad as ever for women under this Tory Government.

“Labour calls on the Government to urgently publish analysis of the true impact of their budgets and spending announcements on women and to explain how they intend to reverse this disproportionate impact.

Under a Labour Government, all economic policies will be gender audited to ensure that we have an economy that works for all.”

---

## [More evidence of the Tories secret deal with the leadership of Surrey County Council – Teresa Pearce MP](#)

Teresa Pearce, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in response to the release of FOI letters by Surrey County Council, said:

“Despite Theresa May’s claims to the contrary, this is more evidence of the Tories secret deal with the leadership of Surrey County Council.

“There is a huge crisis in social care which today’s budget won’t fix. What we need from the Tories is a long term sustainable plan, rather than sweetheart deals for Tories councils.

“Theresa May needs to come clean. We need full disclosure of the terms of the deal and reassurance that all councils will be treated the same way not just the lucky few the Tories favour.”

---

## [John McDonnell responding to the Budget](#)

**John McDonnell MP, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor**, responding to the Budget, said:

“Philip Hammond has used his first Budget to claw £2 billion in tax on those self-employed who are on low and middle incomes. But he continued to boast about the £70 billion worth of tax giveaways at the top announced by his predecessor.

“Labour will oppose this unfair £2 billion sole traders tax on the

self-employed low and middle earners.

“Rather than provide the funding that would end a social care crisis in which 1 million vulnerable people go without adequate care, or calling an end to the state of emergency in our NHS, the Tories are doing next to nothing and don’t seem to recognise the scale of the crisis they have created.

“The Tory rigged economy continues for households in our country, who face being £1,800 worse off by the end of the forecast period, and if you are on the National Living Wage by the end of this parliament you face a 25p per hour cut.

“This Budget does not address the problems created by seven years of Tory failure, and it has failed the fairness test for women who will be hit by a cuts in public services, and the national living wage.

“Instead of equipping our country for Brexit, he is building our economy on sand, and the little he has announced today will mean we are less prepared for the challenges we face outside of the EU.”

Ends

---

## [It's time to right a wrong – message to WASPI Lobby – Jeremy Corbyn](#)

**Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party**, delivering a message of support to people lobbying for Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI), said:

My best wishes and International Women’s Day greetings to everyone supporting today’s WASPI lobby.

You are highlighting a grave injustice. The Coalition Government’s decision to move the goalposts, by bringing the equalisation of the state pension age forward by a further two years to 2018, was plain wrong.

It was a betrayal of tens of thousands of women who had planned for their retirement based on the 1995 legislation.

It was justified by claims Britain needed a dose of austerity – yet at the same time tax cuts worth billions have

been given to big companies and the very wealthy.

Today, we can expect the Chancellor to boast that the economy is doing better than expected. But will he do anything to right this wrong? I very much doubt it.

Labour is already committed to extending Pension Credit to help those worst hit by this callous change.

We are also developing solutions for those affected who would not be entitled to Pension Credit. And we will continue to consult with WASPI and others on this as part of our planning for government.

I am sorry I cannot join you today. I will be in the Chamber of the House of Commons for the Budget statement, ready to respond.

My speech will challenge the Government's policy of endless austerity for the many, alongside generous tax giveaways for their wealthy and privileged friends.

My thoughts are with you today. I congratulate you on your stand and look forward to working with you to achieve justice.

Best wishes

Jeremy Corbyn

Leader of the Labour Party