

Jonathan Reynolds comment on RBS results

Jonathan

Reynolds MP, Labour's Shadow City Minister, commenting on RBS's reported £7bn annual loss today, said:

"Today's results show RBS still has much to do to overcome the legacy of the financial crisis.

"Whilst the core banking business of RBS is improving, the financial burden caused by the errors of the past has generated a significant loss.

"British taxpayers have had to stump up huge support for RBS – they need to know that there has been a significant change in the regulation and culture of banking to prevent this happening again.

"The scale of the taxpayers' support also means there needs to be a conversation about what the long-term future of RBS should look like, to best protect the public's money."

To win power to rebuild and transform Britain, Labour will go further to reconnect with voters, and break with the failed political consensus – Corbyn

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, commenting on the Stoke-on-Trent Central and Copeland by-elections, said:

"Labour's victory in Stoke is a decisive rejection of UKIP's politics of division and dishonesty. But our message was not enough to win through in Copeland.

"In both campaigns, Labour listened to thousands of voters on the doorstep. Both constituencies, like so many in Britain, have been let down by the political establishment.

"To win power to rebuild and transform Britain, Labour will go further to reconnect with voters, and break with the failed political consensus."

Gareth Snell speech at Stoke-on-Trent Central by-election

"I'd like to begin by saying thank you to the returning officer and their staff for all their work in making sure this election runs smoothly.

"I also must thank my wife, Sophia, and our beautiful daughter, Hannah. Both are a constant source of strength, love and inspiration to me. Without their support, this campaign would not have been possible.

"Can I also thank the police for all that they have done today and throughout the campaign.

"For democracy to work it needs the support of dedicated public servants and here in Stoke-on-Trent we can be proud to have some of the most dedicated in the country.

"I'd also like to thank my agent George Sinnott, and the incredible team of Labour Party workers and volunteers who have sustained this campaign throughout. To see the energy and commitment that all of you have shown these last few weeks is a reminder of the incredible strength and passion of our movement.

"I feel profoundly humble to have been chosen by the people of Stoke-on-Trent Central to represent them in Parliament.

"My wife Sophia and I chose to make our life here and it was the

best decision we ever made. I'm proud to call the Potteries my home, and I'm prouder still to have been given the opportunity to represent our city as your next MP.

"In recent weeks Stoke-on-Trent has found itself in the national spotlight. Our city has been the focus of a media which all too often prefers to dwell on our problems instead of highlighting our achievements.

"But over these last few weeks a city lazily dubbed by some as the capital of Brexit has once again proven to the world that we are so much more than that.

"We are a city of innovators and educators, artists and entrepreneurs. We pioneered the first industrial revolution and I believe that we have the potential to lead the next one.

"This city will not allow ourselves to be defined by last year's referendum. And we will not allow ourselves to be divided by the result.

"Nor will we be divided by race, or faith, or creed. We will move forward together to tackle the problems that we face and secure a brighter, more prosperous future for one another.

"So for those who have come to Stoke-on-Trent to sow hatred and division, and to try to turn us away from our friends and neighbours, I have one message – you have failed.

"Tonight the people of Stoke-on-Trent have chosen the politics of hope over the politics of fear. We have said with one voice that hatred and bigotry are not welcome here. This is a proud city and we stand together.

"This election is a victory for British values of tolerance and respect. But it is also a victory for the proud Labour values that are the hallmark of our city and its people.

"It is a message that the people of Stoke-on-Trent won't just sit back while this Tory government cuts our National Health Service to the bone and puts the future of our public services at risk.

"It is a warning that we will not stand idly by while politicians in Westminster pour ever-money into London and the South East while the rest of the country is simply left to fend for itself.

"And it is a demand that the contribution our people have made to this country is respected and rewarded with the support and investment we deserve.

"Politics can be passionate – and there have been moments in this campaign that have polarised people.

“My
job – and it is the job of all of us here – will be to put this campaign
behind
us – and work together.

“For those who voted for me in this election, thank you very much.
But for those who did not, or who did not vote at all, I want you to know
that
I will be your representative as well.

“I will work every day to repay the trust that the people of
Stoke-on-Trent have placed in me.

“I will be a strong, local voice that our city needs and I
will always put the people of Stoke-on-Trent first. I have a plan for the
Potteries, and that plan begins today.”

Reports that the Government is considering a concession on parliamentary engagement and a vote on the negotiations are welcome – Smith

**Baroness
(Angela) Smith of Basildon, Labour’s Leader in the House of Lords, in
response
to reports of potential government concessions on the Article 50 Bill, said:**

“Reports
that the Government is considering a serious concession on parliamentary
engagement and a vote on the negotiations are welcome.

“What
happens next is a pivotal moment and will determine the tone and trust in the
weeks, months and years to come on this issue.

“Ministers
have rightly conceded the need for a vote before the deal is concluded and we
welcome that.

“Our
amendment on a vote on the outcome of negotiations has been drafted by taking
note of what happened in the Commons, including ministerial comments, as well
as expert advice from peers in the Lords debates. The Government will have
heard the senior cross bench peer and former Supreme Court judge Lord Hope’s

speech about the need for further
legislation should this Bill not be amended.

“We
believe we would win that vote. The Government of course could try to
overturn
it in the Commons.

“But
rather than Ministers just holding to the line that they won’t amend the bill
but will make a statement on the record, it would be a positive and mature
signal for future progress of legislation if having accepted the principle
they
write this into the bill.”

Ends

**This is a damp squib from a Tory Party
who have no solutions to the problems
they have created in the justice
system – Burgon**

Richard

Burgon MP, Labour’s Shadow Justice Secretary, responding to the Government’s
Prison and Courts Bill, said:

“While
there are some welcome proposals, overall this is a damp squib from a Tory
Party who have no solutions to the problems they have created in the justice
system

“We
were promised the ‘biggest overhaul of prisons in a generation’ but there is
no
plan to deal with understaffing and overcrowding – the two biggest challenges
facing the prison system.

“A
duty on prisons to reform is of course welcome. But without a plan to back it
up, this is simply a symbolic gesture.

“Labour
is open to Governors having greater autonomy, but this must not become a way
for Ministers to simply shift responsibility for their policy failures

elsewhere.

“And
the Chief Inspector of Prisons has already queried whether league tables
could
be meaningful.

“Preventing
cross examination of victims of domestic violence by the perpetrator is
welcome. However, the Tories’ reckless cuts to legal aid have greatly
contributed to this unacceptable situation.”