

## [IMF reminds the Chancellor that Tory economic failure is undermining our economy – McDonnell](#)

**John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor**, commenting on the IMF's report out today, said:

"The IMF has today played the role of the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future to remind the Chancellor that the last seven years of Tory economic failure is undermining our economy.

"They confirmed the downbeat assessment last month by the OBR, highlighting low growth, the Government's productivity failure and neglect of the regions. The report also confirmed what we all know, that Conservative governments are good at cutting public services to give tax cuts to a wealthy few, but hopeless at investing in the skills and infrastructure our country needs to develop an economy for the many.

"As the IMF rightly points out, despite strong global growth, UK economic growth is revised down, and business growth is down despite Tory tax giveaways to big business; while working households this Christmas are struggling with rising prices and lagging wages.

"In addition, this report can be seen as further proof that the Tories have completely lost the economic argument. Austerity has failed and will only continue to undermine our economy during the Brexit negotiations.

"The next Labour government will end austerity and provide the proper investment our country needs, underpinned by our Fiscal Credibility Rule, to build a high wage, high skill economy for the many not the few."

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## [Tracy Brabin comments on inclusion of](#)

## foster children in 30 hours childcare policy

Today,  
Minister for Children and Families, Robert Goodwill bowed to campaigning pressure and committed to including foster children in the 30 hours offer from September 2018.

Labour  
MP Tracy Brabin has been campaigning against the unfair exclusion of foster children from the flagship government policy.

**Tracy  
Brabin, Shadow Early Years Minister,**  
commenting on the policy concession, said:

"The  
exclusion of foster children from the 30 hours policy was clearly cruel and wrong to everyone apart from Conservative Ministers.

"I'm  
glad those Ministers have adopted Labour's position and committed to include foster children from next year. It's clear they wouldn't have taken this step if it wasn't for the pressure they faced from us, from foster parents, and from  
all others who cared about righting this wrong.

"Foster  
children are some of the most vulnerable in our society and it'll be welcome news to foster carers that they'll now have the same right to access funded childcare  
as their peers."

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## Government favours tax dodgers over tax payers – Peter Dowd

**Peter Dowd MP, Labour's Shadow Chief  
Secretary to the Treasury responding to the Government voting down Labour's  
amendments to the Finance Bill:**

"This Conservative Government has  
once again demonstrated that it favours tax dodgers over tax payers, bankers

over single mothers and large multinationals over public sector workers.

"This evening's votes saw the Government block Labour's amendments which would have required the Minister to publish an equalities impact assessment on all economic policies and forced ministers to review the tax gap.

"The next Labour Government is committed to ensuring that all our policies have equality impact assessments, and we will implement thorough measures to crack down on tax dodging under our Tax Transparency and Enforcement Programme. Unlike the Conservatives, we will create a country and an economy that works for the many and not just a privileged few."

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## Government has decided not to give our schools the resources they need – Angela Rayner

**Angela Rayner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education**, commenting on the Government's School Revenue Funding Settlement published today, said:

"Today's announcement simply confirms that the Conservatives will do nothing to reverse per-pupil funding cuts since 2015 or compensate schools for £2.7 billion in cuts to school funding.

"It is a source of national shame that the Government has decided not to give our schools the resources they need despite soaring class sizes, with teachers leaving the profession in record numbers and recruitment targets being missed.

"The next Labour government will reverse the cuts to school budgets and protect per-pupil funding in real terms, as we build a National Education Service that will create a country for the many, and not just the few."

Ends

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# **This Tory Government cannot spin its way out of a police funding crisis – Abbott**

**Diane Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary**, speaking in response to the announcement of the police funding grant, said:

"This Tory Government cannot spin its way out of a police funding crisis.

"The truth is that today's announcement means a real terms cut to the police grant. Since 2010 the Tories have made huge cuts to the police, 20,000 police officers have been lost and an increasing number of overstretched forces say they cannot respond to certain crimes.

"Ministers have chosen to hammer the local taxpayer but the Communities Secretary admitted this will raise little under half of the real-terms cuts facing local forces. Further cuts in police officer numbers are now inevitable.

"Labour will protect police funding to keep communities safe."