

## [Carmichael comments on continuing stalemate in NI power-sharing talks](#)

The comments from the Secretary of State regarding the current state of the talks process in Northern Ireland is deeply troubling. There are very real consequences for the people of Northern Ireland with the continuing stalemate – budgetary decisions are waiting to be taken, NHS targets are being missed and waiting lists are getting longer, and there is uncertainty for economic investment. Northern Ireland is also lacking a voice in the crucial Brexit negotiations.

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## [Govt must accept inquiry into abuse at G4S immigration detention centre](#)

Footage covertly filmed by BBC Panorama allegedly showed staff at Brook House, near Gatwick airport, “mocking, abusing and assaulting” detainees held there.

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## [Gauke's premium rate climbdown cold comfort](#)

“I welcome the government’s change of heart, but it is no compensation to the those on the breadline who have already been fleeced. Given the mess of Universal Credit, this is likely to become the hottest hotline in Britain.

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## **Vince Cable responds to UK debt crisis**

Vince Cable said:

“One in six of the population could not cope with even a modest rise in mortgage payments. Consumer credit is running at 10% a year. With the Bank of England predicted to increase interest rates, a recession could lead to repossessions and people defaulting on their debts. The danger is that this becomes a negative spiral.

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## **Retail Consortium right on biz rates**

Lorely Burt said:

“The whole system of business rates is not working and is not fair. The government has tried tinkering but this is no longer enough. We need to look at land tax valuations.

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