

Trade Bill just a job creation scheme for Liam Fox

The Trade Bill announced in the Queen's speech is simply a job creation scheme for Liam Fox, the Liberal Democrats have said.

Tom Brake, Liberal Democrat Brexit spokesperson, said: "In reality this is an Anti-Trade Bill, as it means leaving the single market and customs union, despite clear opposition from the Chancellor and the Bank of England.

"It might give Liam Fox a job with plenty of air miles, but many workers will be worried that this bill will give them nothing but P45s.

"Leaving the single market and customs union would be catastrophic for the British economy, wrenching us out of the world's biggest marketplace of over 500 million consumers. Our integrated European supply chains and international companies based here rely on free trade with Europe. Britain pushed to create this system to avoid exactly the regulatory nightmare we will now face.

"Every port will be clogged up with lorries arguing over export dockets, with companies less keen to include British goods in their supply chains, and a border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland will further destabilise our union.

"Theresa May has no mandate to pursue this extreme Brexit, yet she is charging on with a package which will harm jobs, the economy and our country."

Government's social care funding plans in crisis – Norman Lamb

Ministers are to consult on reforming the system of social care funding in England after Conservative plans were slammed as a Dementia Tax during the election.

Commenting, Shadow Health Secretary Norman Lamb said: "Social care is in a state of total crisis. A million older people are missing out on care they need and services face a funding black hole of billions in this year alone.

"In Coalition we commissioned the Dilnot report – an independent, expert led review of social care funding -yet the Conservatives have chosen to ignore the recommendations.

“Now they are simply kicking the issue into the long grass again with more consultation, after their deeply unfair Dementia Tax was clearly rejected by voters”.

Repeal Bill must not be a bonfire of health and safety and environmental standards

The Liberal Democrats have vowed to oppose any attempts to weaken workplace rights, health and safety standards and environmental protections as part of the government’s Repeal Bill.

The party is also calling for proper oversight and transparency over the Repeal Bill, after the government’s White Paper hinted at a power grab by ministers through the use of so-called Henry VIII powers.

Liberal Democrat Brexit Spokesperson Tom Brake commented:

“Many Conservatives have made it clear they want to use Brexit to scrap our hard-won workplace rights and environmental standards.

“But protections for workers and our environment are not just red tape to be tossed on a bonfire.

“Nobody voted to diminish their rights, make themselves poorer or to make our country less safe.

“The Liberal Democrats will strongly oppose any weakening of existing standards and fight to ensure proper oversight and transparency.

“We cannot allow this minority Conservative government to use Henry VIII powers to steamroller the democratic process.”

Trump visit postponed in humiliating climbdown for a lame duck PM

Donald Trump’s state visit to the UK appears to have been shelved for at least two years after it was not included in the Queen’s speech.

Liberal Democrat Chief Whip Alistair Carmichael commented: "It took Theresa May just seven days to offer Donald Trump a state visit, it's taken her 145 days to officially postpone it.

"This is yet another humiliating climbdown for a lame-duck Prime Minister.

"The government shouldn't be rolling out the red carpet for a man who has damaged the fight against climate change and insulted the Mayor of London.

"It's time for Trump's State Visit to be called off once and for all."

It took just 7 days for the government to invite Donald Trump for a state visit, compared to 758 days for Barack Obama to be invited.

Theresa May announced Donald Trump was being invited for a state visit on 27th January 2017, 145 days ago.

Letting agents fees to be banned after pressure from Liberal Democrats

Letting agents fees look set to be banned in this year Queen's Speech following pressure from the Liberal Democrats.

The fees cost on average £223 per tenancy but under the new plans they will be banned and tenants will be given the opportunity to recover illegal fees imposed upon them.

Lib Dem peer Olly Greener, who has led a campaign against the fees, said: "I am absolutely delighted that the ban on letting fees set out in my Private Members' Bill is now being proposed as law.

"We know from the tragedy of Grenfell Tower that tenants' rights have been ignored for far too long.

"It's time we made them a much greater priority, including by introducing a public register of rogue landlords."