

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 Grender, 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.”

[Jo Swinson is new Lib Dem Deputy Leader](#)

Jo Swinson has been elected unanimously as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

The result was announced on Tuesday evening at the Liberal Democrat parliamentary party meeting.

Jo will continue in her role as Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary.

Jo said: “I am very proud to have been elected by a newly energised and

strengthened parliamentary party.

“The government has no majority and no mandate for its extreme version of Brexit, which would do such damage to the health of our economy and the fabric of our society.

“In this balanced parliament the Liberal Democrats will be a powerful influence and a strong voice for people who want to see an open, welcoming and tolerant United Kingdom.”

Leader of the Liberal Democrats Tim Farron said: “Jo Swinson is a brilliant campaigner and someone I am proud to call a friend. I am in no doubt she will be a fantastic Deputy Leader of our party.

“Jo is the future of the Liberal Democrats and will make a massive difference laying out a liberal alternative to this divisive Brexit government. Her hard work as a local MP and impressive record as a minister leave us in no doubt that she will be a powerful voice for our party.”

[Theresa May drops plans to snatch free school meals after Lib Dem pressure](#)

Theresa May is reported to have dropped plans to scrap free school lunches for infant pupils from tomorrow’s Queen’s Speech.

It comes after the Liberal Democrats strongly criticised the Conservatives during the election campaign over their manifesto plans which would have deprived 1.7 million children of free school lunches, including 700,000 living in poverty.

Liberal Democrat Shadow Education Secretary Layla Moran said:

“I’m glad Theresa May has bowed to pressure from schools and parents to keep free school lunches. I am proud that the Lib Dems introduced this when we were part of the government.

“We have seen it both help families who are just getting by as well as raise attainment.

“I hope Theresa May will now rein back on her plans to extend grammars and reduce schools funding.”