

Greens respond to claim the NHS is 'running on fumes'



26 June 2017

***Co-leader Jonathan Bartley: "No other party appears to be engaging with the magnitude of the problem"**

The Green Party has renewed its call for investment in the NHS and the end of privatisation following comments by the British Medical Association that the NHS is 'running on fumes' [1].

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"Jeremy Hunt must listen to staff and patients on the frontline who are experiencing day in and day out the effects of a two pronged attack on our health service in the form of chronic underinvestment and privatisation. Attempts to further privatise our health service in an illusory quest for greater 'efficiency savings' are clearly counterproductive. There is also a clear alternative to starving the NHS of funding it so desperately needs. These are political choices, and there are other options.

"The NHS is indeed running on fumes, and no other party appears to be engaging with the magnitude of the problem. It is time not just to fill up the tank again, but replace the engine with one fit for the modern era.

"The Green Party is also the only party proposing to properly fill the funding gap and would invest more money year on year than any other party. This includes scrapping Trident renewal which alone would give the NHS the kiss of life it desperately needs, providing an extra £3.6bn every year which would pay for 85,000 nurses, midwives and other healthcare professionals. But as well as reversing privatisation and reinstating a publicly run NHS, we should give patients, staff and others at the frontline a greater voice and control in running of our health service."

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-40401311>

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If you can't go Superfast yet – let us know

Over 645,000 premises in Wales can already access superfast broadband thanks to Superfast Cymru, and by the end of the year this figure is expected to reach 690,000.

From 2018 the Welsh Government will be working on how to reach the final few per cent of premises without access to superfast broadband. So that this work is as accurate as possible it needs to hear from those not yet connected.

A list of potential premises has been published and is open for comments until July 13. An interactive map can help residents and businesses check if they are already included on the list. The Welsh Government also wants to hear from communities who have an interest in driving their own solutions.

Minister for Skills and Science Julie James said:

“With over eight out of ten premises in Wales now able to access superfast broadband, the situation has improved greatly. This compares with just over half in 2014. This progress has been largely thanks to Superfast Cymru which is continuing to the end of this year.

“However, we are now at the stage where we are looking at the final few percent of premises not covered by the Superfast Cymru rollout or by the telecommunications companies’ own plans. So that the work we carry out from 2018 onwards is as effective as possible we need those without access to superfast broadband to let us know and take part in the consultation.

“The consultation will help us to further refine the list of unconnected premises. The more response we receive, the more comprehensive the list will be.

“If there are communities that have an interest in driving their own solutions, I want to hear from them.

“This is your chance to influence what happens with the final few per cent of premises in Wales who are not yet able to access superfast broadband.”

The consultation is available on:

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/next-generation-access-broadband>.

A Brexit that puts jobs and living standards first

Jeremy Corbyn writes for the Sunday Herald on Labour's plan for Brexit:

One year on from the EU referendum, Theresa May's minority Tory government has finally started the Brexit negotiations weakened and in disarray.

This week's threadbare Queen's speech underlined that the Conservatives have ran out of ideas and lost their political authority.

They are divided and ill-prepared to carry out some of the most important negotiations our country has ever faced.

Two months ago the Prime Minister called a general election to win a landslide and a mandate for a Tory Brexit that would see a race-to-the-bottom in jobs and living standards. She failed and lost her majority instead.

The Conservative government's approach to Brexit threatens to damage links with our most important trading partners, ditch workers' rights and environmental protections, slash corporate taxes and lead to even deeper cuts to our public services.

A Tory Brexit would put British jobs and living standards at risk, damaging our economy and threaten to take Britain over an economic cliff, worsening the already outrageous levels of poverty and inequality here in Britain.

Labour would do things very differently. We are clear, just as we were during the election, that the issue of Brexit has been settled. We are leaving the EU. The question is what kind of Brexit we will have.

A Labour Government would negotiate a Brexit deal that puts jobs and living standards first, and secures workers' rights and environmental protections.

We would seek a close relationship with the EU – not membership, but a partnership for peace, trade and co-operation – that strengthens trade and security, and underpins the investment in jobs and the industries of the future that will raise living standards for all British people.

Unlike the Tories, who started the negotiations with megaphone diplomacy, Labour would work sensibly with our European neighbours to ensure a flourishing post-Brexit economic relationship that works for both sides.

That is the kind of jobs-first and community-first Brexit that Britain, and Scotland, need.

Labour's Brexit team would seek continued tariff-free access to the single

market, with no new non-tariff burdens for British business.

The precise institutional mechanism for achieving that is less important than ensuring that jobs, the economy and living standards are protected and expanded, not cut or damaged. We need a Brexit that delivers for the many, not the few.

Yet we have a Prime Minister, who having failed to secure the mandate she wanted for a Tory Brexit, appears to be willing to give up on tariff free access to the European single market before negotiations have even begun.

Leaving the EU means Britain will have a different relationship with the single market. The government's focus must be on securing a new partnership with the EU that maintains the benefits of both the EU single market and the customs union.

How that is best achieved, along with the freedom to negotiate new international trade agreements, should be part of the negotiations.

When it comes migration, our reform of the immigration system would put jobs and the needs of the economy first. Leaving the EU will mean that freedom of movement will end.

In its place, we support fair rules and reasonable management of migration, underpinned by tough action to end the undercutting of pay and conditions by unscrupulous employers and stop overseas-only recruitment.

This week, Theresa May has finally put down her first offer on the rights of EU Nationals in Britain, by promising a "settled status" for those who have lived in Britain for 5 years. This is too little, too late and falls far short of the full guarantee Labour would make.

Labour would give a clear commitment to all EU nationals who live and work in Britain, and make a huge contribution to our society, that they will retain their existing rights.

From my own discussions with European leaders, it is clear that unilaterally guaranteeing the rights of EU citizens to remain in Britain would be the best way to secure the rights of British nationals living in other parts of the EU.

For Scotland, we are clear that the voice of the Scottish people must be heard – and the same goes for the other devolved administrations.

The EU will only negotiate with the British government. But Scotland needs a clear input into the Brexit negotiating process. The Scottish government must have regular and systematic access to the British negotiating team so that the Scottish perspective, especially in those areas for which the Scottish Parliament is responsible, is fully taken into account.

That is of course a two-way street. The Scottish government also needs regularly to share the content of its dialogue with the Westminster government with the Scottish people through the Scottish parliament and the

other political parties in Scotland.

Of course Brexit is going to be difficult and the negotiations will be challenging. But with the right approach and negotiating plan, I am convinced we can negotiate a new relationship with the EU that works for all our people, not just a privileged few.

We have set our plan for the Brexit negotiations, and we believe that only our plan can protect living standards and our wider economy, and deliver a Brexit for jobs, living standards and investment in our future.

The Tories have no mandate, no authority and no vision for our country's future. Labour is determined to build the fairer Britain that the millions who voted both 'Remain' and 'Leave' last year want to see.

Labour is the only party which can deliver a jobs-first, people-first Brexit that brings our country together. We are now a government in waiting, ready to provide that leadership.

This article first appeared in the Sunday Herald on June 25, 2017

[News story: New design innovations get up to £2 million funding](#)

The funded projects – part of our design foundations competition – will help businesses identify high-value innovation opportunities and generate ideas for new or improved products, services or business models that align with customer demand.

Projects will begin by exploring human motivations and behaviour before identifying specific problems or opportunities to be addressed.

Ideas generated in response to those opportunities should then be quickly tested and refined with a focus on validating the quality of the customer experience, rather than developing the underlying technology.

User-centred design projects

Some of the successful projects from the first round include:

- [Baxi's](#) 'delivering warmth' project will look at how people heat their homes and use water. This will enable Baxi to develop tailored propositions and provide heating comfort for people in the UK
- [Bramble Energy](#) – a start-up manufacturing printed circuit board fuel

cells – will broaden the approach to engineering fuel cells, which typically incorporates multiple design cycles. The company intends to go to users first, to develop new products that better meet customer needs and are quicker to market

- Cambridge Animal Technologies is exploring livestock farming, including monitoring, managing and taking care of the health of the herd. The project will generate a portfolio of conceptual design solutions, based on the principals of user-centric design
- [Comp-A-Tent](#) is leading a project to reduce the impact of abandoned tents at musical festivals, with more than one in 5 tents being left behind. It will leverage existing festival infrastructure to prevent abandonment and reduce environmental and economic costs
- [Hubl Logistics](#) with its 'delivery mate' project will put the recipient in control of their online shopping deliveries, whether they are a homeowner, business or public body. It should enhance the customer experience while reducing pollution and congestion
- [Thames & Hudson](#), a publisher and distributor of books on visual culture, will investigate how mobile technology can enhance and augment the physical experience of discovering, buying and experiencing illustrated books
- [The Future Care UK Ltd](#) will develop a wearable monitoring system for infants of less than 12 months. It will enable more efficient monitoring, to allow sick babies to live at home with their parents, as well as quicker and more accurate diagnosis. The designs will be tested with patients, parents/guardians and hospital staff

Putting people at the centre of the creative process

Ben Griffin, Innovation Lead, Innovate UK, said:

Great design puts people at the centre of the creative process, inspiring solutions that are not only technically feasible but also more desirable and useful. This is important because while technology can make new ideas possible, it is people that ultimately make them successful.

Design has greater impact and value when it's used early to clarify the opportunity, inspire the creative process, support decision making, improve communications and reduce the risk of costly late-stage discoveries and rework.

The UK has world-class design capability, but it's not always used to its best advantage, missing out on potential value and competitive advantage as a result. This competition aims to support businesses seeking to integrate human-centred design into their innovation process.

Welsh Government appoints new Chief Optometric Adviser

Mr O'Sullivan qualified as an optometrist at Glasgow Caledonian University and Leeds General Infirmary.

He has served as Optometric Adviser to Hywel Dda University Health Board for over 14 years, where he has helped lead work to set up schemes and services to improve ophthalmology and optometry across Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. Most recently, he has served as Optometric Adviser to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

As Chief Optometric Adviser, he will provide the Welsh Government with independent professional advice relating to optometric services and eye health matters in Wales. He will also lead the development of Welsh Government policy and legislation relating to the optometry profession and eye health.

Announcing the appointment, Dr Frank Atherton said:

"I'm very pleased to announce the appointment of David O'Sullivan as the new Chief Optometric Adviser to the Welsh Government.

"He will play a key role in helping to improve eye health in Wales, and will provide professional leadership of the optometry profession across the country. I very much look forward to working with him to further improve eye health and reduce inequalities."

David O'Sullivan said:

"I am delighted to take up this post and to continue the excellent work to date. Wales is a very exciting place to practice optometry and the profession has worked tirelessly to improve the eye health of the population of Wales.

"I am privileged to be working with such a dedicated group of professionals who continue to push boundaries across primary and secondary care for the benefit of their patients. I look forward to being able to help facilitate further change and improvement for the good of all citizens across Wales."