

Comment on terrorist attacks in London

Commenting on the terrorist attacks in London, **Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale said:**

"My thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families after the horrific terrorist attacks in London last night.

"Once again our nation finds itself under attack from those who hate our way of life and seek to change us. But we will not allow that to happen, because the values that they hate – democracy, the rule of law and tolerance – are what make our country so special. It's why Britain is a beacon for other nations around the world. We will not let the terrorists win.

"We must also thank those in our emergency services who yet again put themselves in danger to protect others. Their bravery and commitment to our safety never fails to inspire.

"London is one of the greatest cities in the world, a place where people from every continent have made their home. One of the most multi-cultural cities on earth will continue to welcome people from different faiths, cultures, races and backgrounds. It will not be cowed. We all stand with the people of London today."

News story: Avian flu confirmed at a farm near Diss, South Norfolk

H5N8 avian flu has been confirmed in a small flock of chickens and geese at a premises near Diss, South Norfolk.

The UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu in a small flock of chickens and geese at a premises near Diss, South Norfolk. A 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

The flock is estimated to contain approximately 35 birds. A number have died and the remaining live birds at the premises are being humanely culled. A full investigation is under way to determine the source of the infection.

Public Health England advises that the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency is clear that bird flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers.

Keepers are urged to continue to be vigilant and look out for the signs of

avian flu in their flocks, informing the Animal and Plant Health Agency should they suspect infection.

[Read the latest advice and information on avian flu in the UK](#), including actions to reduce the risk of the disease spreading, advice for anyone who keeps poultry or captive birds and details of previous cases. Journalists with queries should contact [Defra press office](#).

A school holiday grant would help thousands of families

4 June 2017

The summer holidays are just around the corner, and with that can mean a real squeeze on household budgets, especially for the poorest families.

Earlier this week the Evening Times reported that parents were skipping meals during the holidays [to feed their own children](#).

That's why Labour has a plan for a school holiday grant which would help nearly a quarter of a million Scottish children.

The grant would be a £100 payment, per child, to the poorest families at the beginning of the summer holidays and over Christmas, and would be available from the birth of the child till they were sixteen.

School Holiday Grant: the numbers

- £100 paid twice a year at the start of the summer and Christmas holidays**
- 150,000 families would benefit**
- 237,000 kids would be better off**

Scottish Labour would give a twice-yearly £100 seasonal grant to families who qualify for free school meals extended to include pre-schoolers in low income families, to help them out at these expensive times of the year.

You can read our plans to tackle child poverty in full [here](#).

Here's what Kez has to say about the grant:

"Labour's plans for school holiday grants could have a transformational effect for the poorest families. The school holidays are just around the corner and they can hit family finances hard.

"That's why Labour would put more money into the pockets of working class families.

"That's the kind of change Labour can deliver. That's why on June 8 people should elect Labour MPs fighting for working class families, not SNP MPs who will only fight for another referendum."

Like our plan? Then help [spread our message](#).

Labour launches manifesto with and for disabled people

Labour has launched its manifesto with and for disabled people.

The manifesto was produced following Labour's Disability Equality Roadshow, involving extensive consultation with disabled people and their carers across the country.

Over the last seven years, disabled people – including people with physical or mental impairments and long-term health conditions – have borne the brunt of the Conservatives cuts, which has seen the number of disabled people living in poverty rise to 4.2 million.

Labour will reverse the cuts to disability support, transform our social security system from one that demonises disabled people to one that is supportive and enabling, scrap the punitive sanctions regime and replace ineffective, degrading assessments. The manifesto sets out Labour's plan to tackle the barriers facing disabled people and to build a society in which everyone has the same opportunities and choices.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, said:

"Last night at the BBC Question Time Leaders' Special, an audience member gave a harrowing account of her traumatic and degrading experience undergoing the Work Capability Assessment. Like many others, I was incredibly moved by the film *I, Daniel Blake*, which tells the story of those who have been demonised and dehumanised by the Conservative's devastating cuts and a social security

system
which punishes, rather than supports, disabled people.

“Labour
will ensure that disabled people and people with mental health conditions
have
access to the support they need and will work with disabled people to build
an
inclusive society, where no one is held back from fulfilling their potential
and realising their aspirations.”

**Launching
the manifesto in Manchester today, Debbie Abrahams, Labour’s Shadow Work and
Pensions Secretary, said:**

“We
are proud of the manifesto that we have developed with, and for, disabled
people. For seven long years, disabled people have borne the brunt of the
Conservatives’ austerity cuts and been pushed further into poverty. Our
comprehensive and costed policies
set out in this manifesto, will ensure that disabled people are properly
supported to live full and independent lives.

“Enough
is enough, only a Labour government, offering a real alternative, will work
in
partnership with disabled people to ensure no one in our society is held
back.”

Notes to editors:

Please find a link to our disability manifesto here:
<http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/manifesto-for-disabled-people.PDF>

Conservatives’ campaign chaos as extent of millionaire donations revealed

The Conservatives election campaign
is in chaos as the extent of their millionaire-backing is revealed, Labour
Leader Jeremy Corbyn says today.

In the latest in a string of errors
and about-turns, Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon’s pledge that people would
pay no more tax under the Tories was immediately contradicted by Theresa May,

who refused to rule out a tax hike on working people, through rises in income tax or higher National Insurance contributions.

The Tories were already reeling from the chaos and confusion over their plans for social care and where they would set the cap they originally said they had rejected, and were forced to withdraw their school breakfasts policy after it was exposed they had only set aside 6.8p per meal.

The threat of further Tory tax rises on working people comes as it was revealed just 49 individuals have donated more than a third of all Tory party funding since Theresa May became Prime Minister.

In contrast, Labour's manifesto clearly commits to no income tax, National Insurance or VAT rises for 95 per cent of taxpayers, with big businesses and those paid more than £80,000 a year asked to pay a bit more to reverse years of underinvestment in our NHS, schools and other public services.

Jeremy Corbyn, Labour Leader, said:

"First social care and school breakfasts, now the Tories are in chaos over their tax plans for the super-rich, as it is revealed they are entirely dependent on them for their funding. While Michael Fallon claims there will be no tax rises, Theresa May refuses to rule them out. You can't trust a word the Tories say.

"Labour is the low tax party for the many while the Conservatives are the low tax party for the few. We won't raise taxes for 95 per cent of taxpayers but will ask high earners and big businesses to pay a little more so we can give nurses and other public servants a pay rise, and invest in the public services we all rely on."

Andrew Gwynne, Labour's Joint National Campaign Co-ordinator, said:

"The Tories are bankrolled by millionaire bankers, tycoons and hedge fund bosses – the very people they've given tax breaks to while everyone else pays more. In contrast, Labour is funded by thousands and thousands of people making small donations because they want a better society for everyone.

"Labour's plans are fully costed and

fully set out in our manifesto for everyone to see. The only numbers in the Tory manifesto are the page numbers. The wheels are coming off the Conservatives' election campaign, with Theresa May hiding from the public, refusing to debate Jeremy Corbyn, and backsliding on social care, NHS and schools funding, and now their tax plans."