

Andrew Gwynne response to Ruth Davidson's comments on the removal of the Winter Fuel Allowance

Andrew Gwynne, Labour's National Elections Coordinator, responding to Ruth Davidson's criticism of Tory plans to remove the Winter Fuel Allowance from some pensioners, said:

"When the Scottish Tory Leader comes out against her own Party's attack on pensioner incomes I think it's fair to say the policy is starting to unravel.

"The Tory attack on pensioners' Winter Fuel Allowance is unfair and outrageous, and lays bare the threat they pose to pensioners' security and living standards.

"The Tories should admit they've got it wrong, apologise and drop it immediately."

Ends

Notes to editors

"We've made a different choice in Scotland in our Scottish manifesto today. We believe there shouldn't be means testing for the winter fuel payment."
Ruth Davidson, Leader of the Scottish Conservatives, Sky News, 19 May 2017

GENDER PAY GAP REVEALED: WOMEN £60,000 WORSE OFF THAN MEN

20 May 2017

Women will earn more than £60,000 less over their lifetime than men because of the gender pay gap, new analysis from Labour has revealed.

Fresh analysis by Labour shows that in every age group women earn less than men on average.

Over the course of a woman's working life this amounts to £60,000 less on average, as the table below shows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Pay gap over age bracket (£)</u>
------------	-------------------------------------

Scotland, Age 18-21 -2,188
Scotland, Age 22-29 -29,912
Scotland, Age 30-39 -35,860
Scotland, Age 40-49 -56,690
Scotland, Age 50-59 -60,800

Labour's manifesto contains measures to close the gender pay gap, including:

- Introducing a civil enforcement system to ensure compliance with gender pay auditing – so that all workers have fair access to employment and promotion opportunities and are treated fairly at work
- Introducing a £10 real Living Wage
- Forcing businesses to publish pay ratios
- Introducing gender audits of all policy and legislation for its impact on women before implementation.

Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale said:

"It is shameful that under the SNP and the Tories women in Scotland could earn £60,000 less than men on average well into their careers.

Closing the gender pay gap isn't just a question of fairness – it is essential for our economy.

There is so much more to do to shatter the glass ceiling for women. Only Labour will take the radical steps to close the gap for good, like a real living wage and forcing companies to publish pay ratios.

If a company thinks a woman is worth a lower wage than a man then under Labour we'll force them to admit it. This election is a choice between Scottish Labour MPs who will fight to close the gender pay gap, or SNP MPs who will fight for a second independence referendum that Scotland doesn't need or want."

News story: UEFA Europa League Final in Stockholm, Sweden – Travel Advice

- Date: Wednesday 24 May 2017
- Venue: Friends Arena
- Kick off time: 20:45 local time

As well as this advice, check out our travel advice for [Sweden](#)

Passports and visas

You don't need a visa to travel to Sweden on a British passport but your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. Remember your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) but also take out travel insurance; even if you're only going for one night it could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties.

Manchester United Fan Zone

The Manchester United Fan Zone will be located at Rörstrandsgatan. The zone will be open from Wednesday lunchtime until the match starts. The best way to get to Friends Arena from the Fan Zone is by commuter train from Karlberg station. You should be aware that drinking alcohol in public places is forbidden in Sweden at all times. You will be allowed to drink alcohol inside the Fan Zone, but not outside.

Getting to the stadium

Commuter train

The best way to get to the arena is by commuter train to Solna station, which is just 7 minutes by train from Stockholm Central Station. Take the north entrance from the train station and the arena is a 10-15 minute walk from there (800 metres). Bus Get off at Solna Station or Arenan bus stop. Detailed map available [here](#)

At the match

You will need to have your ID card or passport with you on the day of the final so that your identity can be checked against the details provided with your application.

If you're a ticket holder and not in possession of valid ID card or a passport, you will not be allowed in to the stadium.

If you lose your passport while in Stockholm, you'll need to apply for an Emergency Travel Document from the British Embassy in Stockholm.

Manchester United fans should use entrance A, Y, K and Hx at the south east corner of the arena

Please note that entry to the stadium can be slow – there will be ticket checks and body searches at the entrance to the turnstiles; get to the stadium early – doors will open 3 hours before kickoff.

[Here](#) you will find information on restrictions at the arena.

Tips

As in any other city beware of pickpockets and bag snatchers at airports, railway stations, around the town centre and when using public transport –

only carry what you need and leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposits.

Contact the British Embassy in Stockholm

If your passport is lost or stolen, or if you urgently need our help, please get in touch with the British Embassy in Stockholm as soon as possible.

British Embassy Stockholm Skarpögatan 6-8 115 93 Stockholm Sweden

Telephone +46 (0)8 671 3000 (also for out of hours emergencies)

The embassy is opened by appointment only. You can book an appointment by clicking on this link or by calling the Embassy directly. For more information please visit British Embassy Stockholm website

Emergency services numbers

- 112 – for emergencies
- 114 14- the police in non emergencies
- 1177- Health care advice

Welcome to Sweden!

The Tory threat to living standards – Labour demands Tories drop plans to remove Winter Fuel Allowances from pensioners

Labour

has today demanded that the Tories immediately abandon plans to remove the Winter Fuel Allowances from pensioners.

Speaking

at a press conference this morning, John McDonnell, Labour's Shadow Chancellor,

said: "This is a savage attack on vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who

are just about managing. We will not stand by and allow so many of them to be back in a situation where they have to choose whether they heat or eat."

This

comes as Labour today warns that the Tory manifesto represents a threat to living standards and increased insecurity for pensioners and working people.

Commenting

on the “extraordinary” lack of any mention of living standards in the Tories’ manifesto, McDonnell said: “Living standards are falling under the Tories, yet

Theresa May couldn’t promise that she would seek to address this. There is a clear and unambiguous threat to living standards; an attack on pensioners and on working people.”

Rebecca

Long-Bailey, Labour’s Shadow Business Secretary, outlined the threat the Tories pose to pensioners, including:

.

The

Tories’ new ‘Double Lock’, which would have left pensioners at least £330 worse off had it been in place in recent years.

.

How

five in every six pensioners are set to lose Winter Fuel payments, worth up to £300.

.

That

34 million people face the prospect of working longer if Theresa May raises the State Pension age.

And

it is a similar tale for working people:

.

Since

2010, the average household is paying more in both direct and indirect taxation: nearly £2,000, with the threat of further tax rises

.

Under

the Tories the UK is set to experience the worst decade for real household disposable incomes since 1949.

Alongside

the press conference, Labour has published a new document titled: ‘The Tory Threat To Living Standards’. This analysis reveals the scope of the Tory attack

on living standards, setting out how working people and pensioners will pay the price of the Tories’ betrayal.

*****CHECK
AGAINST DELIVERY*****

John

McDonnell, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, speaking at a press conference outlining the Tory threat to working people, said:

**On
the Tory manifesto:**

"This was a manifesto that offers working people and pensioners' insecurity with a huge question mark over their living standards.

"Gone was the commitment to raise working people's living standards. Gone was the commitment not to raise taxes on working people. And gone was the commitment to protect pensioners' incomes through the triple lock.

"This signals a clear threat to working people and to pensioners. So that's the choice at this election; a threat to working people's and pensioners' living standards if the Tories are re-elected on the 8th of June, or a Labour plan to support working people. A Labour plan that will introduce a Real Living Wage of £10 an hour by 2020. A Labour plan that will commit to no income tax, VAT or NICs rises for 95 per cent of tax payers. And a Labour plan that will invest in our vital public services.

"That's the choice at this election. A clear threat to working people's living standards or a Labour Party that will stand up for the many, and not the few.

**On
wages:**

"We are currently witnessing the worst decade for pay in 200 years.

"Real wages are still lower today than they were when the Tories came to power in 2010.

"According to the OECD, the UK is the only advanced major economy where growth has returned since the crash but wages have fallen.

"And it is unlikely to stop there. Experts have warned that with the cost of living increasing, household incomes are set to be squeezed even further."

**On
taxation:**

“Under the Tories working families are paying more in tax and there are further tax rises in the pipeline.

“Since 2010, the average household is paying more in both direct and indirect taxation- a total of nearly £2,000.

“Labour is promising no increase in taxation on low and middle income earners. The Tories in contrast have form on tax rises.

“They have increased taxes on working people before and they will do it again.”

**Rebecca
Long-Bailey, Labour’s Shadow Business Secretary, said:**

**On
pensioners:**

“The Tories have launched an all-out attack on pensioner incomes, by abandoning the Triple Lock, cutting Winter Fuel Payments, raising the State Pension age, and breaking promises on social care and GP access.

“They’ve laid bare the threat they pose to pensioners’ security and living standards. They have shown beyond doubt they’re turning their backs on older people and to future generations of pensioners.

“Theresa May’s message to millions of workers is now this: work for years longer only to receive far less generous support in old age.

Notes to editors:

- Link to ‘The Tory threat to living standards’ document: http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/party-documents/9684_17%20Tory%20threat%20to%20Living%20Standards.pdf

News story: Gyms merger has chance to avoid in-depth investigation

David Lloyd must resolve concerns in Brighton and Brentwood to avoid further

investigation of its purchase of 16 Virgin Active gyms.

Following an [initial investigation into the merger](#), the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has found that the 2 Virgin Active gyms in these areas compete closely with the nearby David Lloyd gyms, and would face limited competition from other operators after the merger.

The CMA is concerned that this loss of competition could result in higher prices or worse deals being offered to gym users in these areas.

It is therefore going to refer the merger for an in-depth phase 2 investigation by an independent group of CMA panel members unless David Lloyd is able to offer proposals that resolve the competition concerns by 26 May 2017.

In the other areas affected, the CMA has found no competition concerns from the merger.