

Andrew Gwynne response to Theresa May's speech this afternoon in South Wales

Andrew Gwynne MP, Labour's Campaigns and Elections Chair, in response to Theresa May's speech this afternoon in South Wales, said:

"It is clearer than ever that a vote for the Tories is a vote for the few, not the many. Rather than uniting the country and tackling the challenges we face, their policies are divisive and are taking us backwards.

"Only Labour will invest to create shared prosperity. Only Labour will protect our public services."

News story: Videos and webinars about tax credits

Get help and support from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) with your tax credits.

Video

A YouTube video will be available on Wednesday 26 April 2017.

It will explain:

- how HMRC will contact you to check your tax credits
- why your details are being checked
- what you need to do and when by
- what will happen if HMRC don't get the information they've asked for
- what will happen after your details are checked

Webinars

Webinars can last up to an hour. You can ask questions during the presentation and get answers from your HMRC host.

Register and log in at least 5 minutes before a live webinar is due to start.

You can watch recorded webinars at any time but you'll need to register first.

Tax credits – how to tell HMRC you have started paid work

Find out how to tell us you have started paid work as an employee or self-employed and what information you will need.

Tax credits – how to tell HMRC your paid work has ended

Find out how to tell us you have ended paid work that's currently on your tax credits claim.

Help and advice

Check to make sure you have a [compatible computer or mobile device](#) to watch webinars.

[Search for help](#) if you have technical problems with webinars.

It is clear the Tories want the rest of us to pay for their mistakes – McDonnell

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, responding to the ONS Public Sector Finances figures which show that the national debt has gone up by £123.5 billion since March 2016 under the Tories, said:

"After seven wasted years of Tory economic failure, supported by both Philip Hammond and Theresa May, the deficit has not been cleared as they promised, and the national debt continues to rise.

"The Tories promised when they were first elected that they would have balanced the books by 2015, but now they cannot promise to do it by 2020, and instead the past year has seen both borrowing and debt has increased.

"Today's figures reveal that the national debt has gone up by £123 billion since March last year, and with a Tory Chancellor who won't rule out raising taxes on low and middle earners, and has no plan to deal with inflation rising ahead of earnings, it is clear the Tories want the rest of us to pay for their mistakes.

"Yet despite their broken promises on the public finances they continue to hand out tens of billions in tax giveaways to the super-rich and big corporations, while enforcing spending cuts on everyone else; underfunding our NHS and leaving our care system in crisis for the most vulnerable.

"Only a Labour government will have a serious plan for the public finances

with strategic investment underpinned by our Fiscal Credibility Rule, so that we stand up for the many, not the few.”

Overnight visitor figures show a strong picture for Welsh tourism

The Economy Secretary was responding to the latest Wales Tourism Accommodation Occupancy statistics, which show that room occupancy for guest houses and bed and breakfasts in Wales between March 2016 and February 2017 stood at 40%, a 2 percentage point increase on the previous 12 months.

Meanwhile occupancy rates for self catering units increased by 4 percentage points in the same period to 55%, while hostel bed space increased by 3 percentage points to 51%.

At 67% the occupancy rate for hotel rooms was the highest of all but down slightly on the figures for the previous 12 months.

Ken Skates said:

“These latest occupancy statistics show a strong picture for tourism in Wales, and continue to reflect the success we have experienced over the last two years.

“Figures for the first 9 months of 2016 show a substantial increase of 12% in the number of overseas visitors coming to Wales and a 9% increase in the amount they spend while they are here. We have also seen a significant increase in the number of day visitors coming to Wales.

“In what is an extremely competitive market place, tourism in Wales is in a strong position. We’ve had two record breaking years and our aim is to sustain growth – being aware that global events and competition will mean that not every year will be a record breaking one. The overall picture – taking into account tourism day visits, international visitors as well GB overnights visits – indicates that Wales saw an increase of almost 16% in overall tourism volumes during the three quarters of 2016, which includes the important summer peak.”

“We are working hard to sustain these levels of success in 2017 through continued investment in marketing and product development. Our Year of Legends 2017 has also got off to a great start with

Wales being named as one of the top must-visit destinations globally from the likes of Lonely Planet Trip Advisor, Wanderlust and Rough Guides.”

News story: South Eastern franchise public consultation events cancelled

Events planned as part of the public consultation for the South Eastern franchise have been cancelled following the announcement of a general election on 8 June.

The following events will now not take place:

Date and time	Location
Tuesday 25 April 2017 4pm to 7pm	London St Pancras, Station concourse
Monday 8 May 2017 4pm to 7pm	London Bridge, Station concourse
Tuesday 9 May 2017 4pm to 7pm	Gravesend, Civic Centre, DA12 1AU
Wednesday 10 May 2017 4pm to 7pm	Canterbury, Westgate Hall, CT1 2BT

The planned stakeholder event at Woolwich Town Hall on Thursday 27 April will also now not take place.

The consultation remains open until 23 May 2017. Please visit the [Future of South Eastern rail services consultation page](#) for details of how to respond.

Rail media enquiries

Press enquiries 020 7944 3021

Out of hours 020 7944 4292

Switchboard 0300 330 3000