

## [Revealed: The highly embarrassing air pollution report that the Government doesn't want you to see](#)

The Liberal Democrats have demanded the government publish a highly embarrassing report on air pollution before the election.

Ed Davey, Lib Dem former cabinet minister for Energy and Climate Change, has said the government is reportedly blocking release of its report into air pollution because it is worried the “shaming” findings would become a major election issue.

Ed Davey said: “Air pollution is one of the biggest health challenges in Britain today. The Conservatives have hidden the truth about their toxic policies. Increasingly air pollution is linked to a rise in asthma, COPD, heart conditions, and even recently to dementia. A vote for the Tories is a vote for more air pollution.

“It is a disgrace that the government wants to block a report which is expected to say that pollution is at dangerous levels in many of our cities and towns.

“Ministers are hugely embarrassed because it is EU air quality standards the government is flouting. No wonder Theresa May wants a hard Brexit, so she can change the rules to leave polluters free to damage the nation’s health.

“You can’t have clean air and a hard Brexit.

“The government is refusing to spend the money on measures that would improve air quality, such as investment in public transport, but this is a false economy because it burdens the NHS and destroys lives.”

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## [Humiliation for Scottish Labour after UK party backs Trident](#)

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24 Apr 2017



Scottish Labour have been humiliated by their colleagues in England over the issue of Trident renewal.

The party here wants to see the facility at Faslane scrapped and, with the exception of one MSP, voted as such in the Scottish Parliament 18 months ago.

However, today Labour's shadow defence secretary Nia Griffith stated: "Our policy is very clear – that we are committed to the renewal of the nuclear deterrent."

She went on to say she'd be instructing leader Jeremy Corbyn that the commitment would be in the manifesto for the upcoming vote.

The statement is a blow to Scottish leader Kezia Dugdale, who wants to see Trident shut down, despite the thousands of jobs it supports in the west of Scotland, and its importance to UK defence policy.

**Scottish Conservative chief whip John Lamont said:**

"This is an embarrassing blow for Kezia Dugdale, who now has to clarify to voters what Labour's position on this actually is.

"It seems the party in the rest of the UK is passionate about renewing and maintaining Trident, yet here they want to see it scrapped.

"It's a chaotic approach which tells you Labour don't care for the thousands of people whose jobs depend on it, and don't have a clue on the issue of defence.

"The party in Scotland is going to be left in a situation where it will be standing on a manifesto pledge of huge importance which it doesn't remotely agree with.

"It's no wonder voters are set to turn away from them in their droves."

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Labour's shadow defence secretary Nia Griffith told the BBC's Daily Politics: "Our policy is very clear – that we are committed to the renewal of the nuclear deterrent."

**Every Labour MSP, except Jackie Baillie, voted for the scrapping of Trident in Holyrood:**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34709750>

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# Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams explains the National Reading and Numeracy Tests in Wales

Kirsty Williams said:

“Schools through the ages have always used tests to check how well children are doing. In the coming weeks, across Wales, all pupils in years two to nine will take the national reading and numeracy tests.

I want to be clear about why we have our national reading and numeracy tests – to assist our schools to plan next steps for learners to develop these core skills. The tests are not about ‘grading’ the pupil or for that matter the school.

Our national tests have been developed especially for use in Wales so that teachers in all schools have the same information on the reading and numeracy skills of their pupils. The tests take place in schools every year at the end of April, beginning of May.

There are two numeracy tests: a 30 minute test on procedural numeracy and a 30 minute test on numerical reasoning. The procedural test measures skills in things like numbers, measuring and data. The numerical reasoning test looks at how children can solve everyday problems.

There is also a one hour reading test, split into sections and with breaks for younger learners. The reading tests are made up of short questions based on two or more texts. Some of the questions check how well the text has been understood, others aim to find out if children are able to make judgements about what they are reading. Before the start of the test, children can try out some practice questions so that they will know what the different types of questions are like and what they may be asked.

The key to our approach in Wales is how we use what the tests tell us. They provide useful information to add to what a child’s teacher knows about their reading and numeracy from their work every day in the classroom. Teachers can use the results to identify strengths and also areas where a pupil may need more help and support. By the end of the summer term, a child’s school will give parents test results for each test that their child has taken. These reports show schools and parents how each learner has done in the tests, compared to all other learners in Wales of the same age. Of course, any test can only provide one piece of evidence of a learner’s work, and this needs to be considered alongside a

teacher's assessment of their work throughout the year.

The approach we have taken with tests is very different to England. Our numeracy and reading tests are designed to look at a pupils' annual progress and see what support they may need. The test results are not used to judge a school's performance and do not go towards 'ranking' the school, unlike in England where school league tables are informed by SATs results.

I am undertaking an ambitious programme of education reforms, which I describe as our national mission, to raise standards of literacy and numeracy and tackle the link between poverty and educational attainment. Our numeracy and reading tests will remain a key part of the way we help pupils achieve their full potential."

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## Caroline Lucas: UKIP agenda is full-throttled Islamophobia



24 April 2017

Caroline Lucas, the Green Party co-leader, has responded to UKIP's 'integration agenda' [1]. She accused the far-right party of 'full throttled islamophobia' and pledged to 'stand up to the politics of hate'.

Caroline Lucas, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

"UKIP's 'integration agenda' is an assault on multiculturalism and an attack on Muslims. It's full throttled Islamophobia.

"Now that the referendum has passed Nutall's party is desperately scrabbling around for relevance and seem to have settled upon attacks on Muslims and fringe far right politics as their new home. In this election the Green Party will be standing up to the politics of hate spewing from UKIP and putting forward a vision for a multicultural, welcoming Britain which we can all be proud of."

### **Notes:**

[1] <https://twitter.com/jessicaelgot/status/856457234875899905>

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## **Our bold new integration agenda aims to bring communities together**

UKIP's Integration Agenda was launched in London today. The policy document addresses a wide range of cultural issues that have worked against communities coming together. You can read it here: