

## Today's productivity figures again confirm the Tories' abject failure on productivity growth – John McDonnell

**John**

**McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor**, commenting on today's ONS productivity figures, said:

"Today's productivity figures again confirm the Tories' abject failure on productivity growth, with growth slowing significantly over the last year and undershooting even the pessimistic forecasts from the Bank of England and others.

"Productivity growth, as an enabler of higher pay, is a crucial component of rising living standards. Today's figures are yet more worrying news for working people who face a slump in their standard of living under this Tory Government.

"The ONS today said there is 'little sign of an end to the UK's 'productivity puzzle' and there is no sign of the UK closing the record productivity gap with other G7 economies.

"Philip Hammond has previously admitted that the UK's productivity gap is 'shocking'. Yet the Tories lack a serious plan to tackle the problem.

"Only Labour has a serious plan to invest in our future to raise our productivity and deliver on jobs, prosperity and rising living standards."

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## Press release: Environment Agency warns landowners in East Anglia about illegal storage of waste

The warning comes from the Environment Agency after a spate of incidents across the country.

Businesses are being targeted by waste criminals looking to dispose of waste

by dumping it in warehouses, industrial units and some open spaces. They can be very convincing in persuading landowners to allow them to use their properties and are able to fill the sites with waste which would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to clear, ultimately leaving the landowner with an expensive clearance bill.

The Environment Agency is urging all landowners to use reputable agents and brokers, carry out suitable checks and due diligence before allowing potential criminals to use buildings or property.

Kevin Rutterford, Environment Manager at the Environment Agency, said:

It's crucial that all businesses understand their duty of care responsibilities for the waste they produce, who they allow to transport it and ultimately where it goes.

Too often, when these responsibilities are misunderstood or ignored, we see the impact of waste crime where waste is deliberately dumped on land illegally. This can cause serious pollution, put communities at risk and undermine legitimate businesses that are doing the right thing.

Even if the landowner has no involvement, legally they may still be responsible for that waste and that could mean a large clear up bill.

Waste stored inappropriately can create issues for neighbours through smells and pests. It can also have a detrimental effect on the environment and impact on rivers and streams. There is a high risk of waste fires due to the waste not being stored correctly.

Recent survey statistics released by the Right Waste Right Place campaign <http://www.rightwasterightplace.com/news/> show that agricultural businesses and rural land owners throughout the UK are bearing the brunt of waste crime. More than a third of those in the East of England (39%) have suffered incidents of fly-tipping on their land in the past 3 years with almost half (48%) of them disposing of the waste themselves at their own cost.

In recent years a man was sentenced to prison for dumping hundreds of thousands of tyres at sites he had leased across the country, including in Essex and Norfolk, which he failed to clear.

Fires involving mixed baled waste can be hard to extinguish and pose a risk to public health and the environment as they often contain hazardous materials. In extreme cases this can lead to the loss of the property in which the material is being stored.

Dumping commercial waste like this is a crime. Individuals involved in such illegal activity can be hostile and the Environment Agency urge members of the public not to put themselves in any danger if they encounter any such activity and to avoid any direct contact with the culprits.

Anyone suspecting any illegal waste activities, who has been approached to store waste or may currently be storing such waste are urged to contact the Environment Agency via a 24 hour incident hotline 0800 807060. Alternatively they can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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## [A solution to prevent Gibraltar being used as a pawn in Brexit talks – give them representation in Westminster](#)

Gibraltar is not a pawn to be used in Brexit talks, and she is not for sale.

UKIP Leader Paul Nuttall presents a solution to the Gibraltar issue. Let them become part of the UK, and give them representation in Westminster if they wish

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## [UKIP's Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spokesman condemns Spanish incursion into Gibraltar waters](#)

James Carver, UKIP's Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spokesman, today condemned the incursion of the Spanish warship the 'Infanta Cristina'.



"I find it incredible that shortly after the Spanish Foreign Minister has called for calm, the Spanish government order their warship to illegally enter British sovereign territory in an attempt to frighten and bully the people of Gibraltar" stated Mr Carver, continuing that "I am not surprised, however this is the 100th incursion since 2014, and follows a pattern of Spanish contempt for the Law of the Sea and more widely, international agreements that do not suit their narrow, self-serving agenda".

Carver agreed with Gibraltar Chief Minister Picardo that Spanish pressure on the European Council to make Gibraltar a pawn in the Brexit negotiations was a 'disgraceful attempt to manipulate the European Council for its own narrow political interests and a clear manifestation of the predictably predatory attitude of Spain towards Gibraltar'.

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## **Farage: We're being given a ransom note!**

Watch Nigel Farage's speech in the European Parliament's debate on Brexit here: