

Green MP responds to record sentences

2. [Press Releases](#)

Responding to record sentences for environmental protests, Green MP Sian Berry said:

“These sentences feel like a hangover from the last government’s obsession with punishing disruptive but non-violent, peaceful protests. They should be appealed as wholly out of line with the disruption caused.

“There is, however, a wider challenge for the Labour government. It should review the guidelines given to judges that have led to such extreme, disproportionate sentences for peaceful protest.”

19 July 2024 by [Paul Corry](#)

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Green MP Ellie Chowns responds to Covid inquiry

2. [Press Releases](#)

Ellie Chowns, MP for North Herefordshire said: “Our thoughts today are with the families of the over 230,000 people who have died from Covid-19, the key workers who risked their lives to keep the country going and countless others who had to make terrible sacrifices when Covid-19 first struck.

“As this report lays bare the awful truth is that many of those deaths, and the subsequent lengthy lockdowns we had to endure to bring cases down, would have been avoided if better preparation had been in place. We simply can never allow these failures to be repeated.

“The grim truth is that the UK is in an even worse position to deal with a pandemic today than it was at the start of 2020. With our NHS overstretched, lengthy waiting lists and a demoralised workforce.

“The Government should commit to adopting the recommendations made by the Covid Inquiry, but just as importantly they must match our pledge to invest £30bn a year in the NHS by 2030, to ensure we have infrastructure, workforce

and equipment in place that we need. The cost is miniscule compared to what will be required if another pandemic strikes whilst our health service is in its current state.”

18 July 2024 by [Paul Corry](#)

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[Adrian Ramsay reacts to King’s Speech](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

Reacting to the King’s Speech today, Adrian Ramsay MP said:

“Labour promised change but today it has fallen short of the urgent transformative programme we need, and which the Government has the power to deliver.

“Our four Green MPs, and the nearly two million people who voted Green in the election, want to see a bolder Labour Government that will invest in ambitious change, including to restore our essential public services and tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

“We welcome the Prime Minister resetting the tone of politics as being about public service and there were some welcome announcements in the King’s Speech, but Labour’s ambition will sadly be hampered for as long as they handcuff themselves with the Conservatives’ fiscal rules.

“Greens want action to clean up our rivers and seas by ending the failed experiment of water privatisation, the immediate scrapping of the cruel two-child benefit cap, no climate-wrecking oil and gas extraction from Rosebank, and local authorities to be given the powers to introduce controls on private rent levels. This is what a genuinely ambitious programme would look like, rather than a fixation on growth for growth’s sake which fails to recognise the big challenges.”

18 July 2024 by [Paul Corry](#)

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Greens call for disability to be placed at the heart of new Labour government

Responding to the news that there will be no dedicated disability minister in government, Mags Lewis, Green Party Spokesperson for Disability said,

“Whilst it is to be welcomed that the Government finally announced the new Disability Minister late last week, it is a huge concern to see the role has been added to, or amalgamated with, the Minister for Social Security.

“This means that there will be no dedicated disability minister in government.

“Sir Stephen Timms will be the Secretary of State (Minister for Social Security and Disability), but with disability a notoriously neglected area and with us being shamefully under-represented in the House of Commons and indeed every area of government, what message does this send to the 16 million disabled people in the UK?

“Whilst disability is the responsibility of every minister and disability crosses all areas of government, such as health, DWP and social services, we need a minister with the time, focus and authority to champion the transformational change desperately needed and to see us not as a problem, but as an asset.

“Waiting over a week for a minister to be appointed, and for it to be added onto another department, sends a clear message to disabled communities that we are not a priority.

“It is only by having a dedicated and high profile minister with a cross government brief, will we see any positive change in structures and the dismal position of many disabled people in the UK.”

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Equalising capital gains tax could pay for lifting the two-child benefit cap

many times

The Green Party is today arguing that hundreds of thousands of children can be lifted out of poverty if Labour committed to equalising capital gains tax to pay to scrap the two-child benefit cap. The four newly elected Green MPs, will be proposing a reasoned amendment to the King's Speech that includes the scrapping of the two-child benefit.

The [IFS estimates](#) that the cap will impact 2.63 million children by the end of this parliament and that scrapping the cap would cost in the region of £3.4billion – before taking into account the wider economic impact of poverty on health and welfare systems. In their recent manifesto, the [Green Party estimated](#) that making Capital Gains Tax fairer could raise £16bn, a move that would impact less than 2% of income taxpayers [2]. This £16bn figure is supported by research conducted by [Arun Advani](#), a tax expert at the University of Warwick, who estimated that equalising CGT and income tax rates would raise £16.7bn a year [3].

Green MPs will tomorrow propose an amendment to propose the government scraps the two-child benefit cap. Green Party Co-Leader, Carla Denyer MP, speaking on behalf of the Green group of MPs said,

"I think Labour are serious when they say they want to change the country. But the change they are looking to achieve will always be hamstrung for as long as they limit their own potential to raise additional revenue to spend on frontline services. The impact of this approach is already clear. Every day we have children going hungry, unable to concentrate in school or struggling to ascertain even the very basics – this is the real world impact of child poverty. And so today we're offering Labour a positive fairer taxation that will allow them to redistribute money from some of the wealthiest to some of the very poorest. This is a political choice that they must now make."

The IFS looked at the disparity of how the two-child benefit cap affects different families, and noted particularly the figures relating to British-Pakistani and British-Bangladeshi children saying "We estimate that 43% of children in households with one adult of Bangladeshi or Pakistani origin (400,000 children) would be affected by the policy when fully rolled out, compared with 17% of children in other households (2.4 million children)."

Commenting, Green Party Work, Employment and Social Security Spokesperson, Prof Catherine Rowett said, "Scrapping the two-child benefit cap is a moral and practical imperative. It is a matter of social, economic and racial justice. Today we have outlined one way that Labour, if they had the political will, could choose to help millions of children. And child poverty blights lives and costs millions, as generations of children are condemned to lower achievement and a lifetime of poor health. When they say there is no money, remember this is a political choice – they're ignoring the political, social and economic costs of keeping children in poverty."

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