

# The Government's announcement of an inquiry into contaminated blood is long overdue – Sharon Hodgson

**Sharon**

**Hodgson, Labour's Shadow Minister for Public Health**, commenting on the news there is to be an inquiry into how thousands of people were infected with contaminated blood transfusions, said:

"The Government's announcement of an inquiry into contaminated blood is long overdue. Labour will be working with campaigners to scrutinise the announcement and make sure this inquiry finally delivers justice for the families of the victims of this appalling tragedy.

"The inquiry should deliver full disclosure of documents relating to the disaster, through a process managed by the victims and should compel parties involved in the scandal to participate fully. It must investigate not just the events leading up to individuals' infection, but the aftermath as well.

"There are a number of recent allegations about the conduct of public officials and the treatment of the victims which need to be fully and transparently addressed. The victims and their families have suffered for too long and the Government should provide every possible support to them in their quest for truth."

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## 'Coast chiefs' to fight pollution, illegal fishing

A coastal Chinese province is to appoint coast chiefs to fight pollution and illegal fishing.

Zhejiang provincial government said Tuesday that the arrangement will take effect on August 7 and by the end of this year all coasts in Zhejiang should have their chiefs.

Coast chiefs will be responsible for supervising waste discharged into the sea, illegal fishing gear, unlicensed fishing boats, illegal use of coasts,

illegal ship building, repairing and recycling, the government said in a circular.

Zhejiang has a coastline of more than 6,600 kilometers, the longest of any Chinese province.

The coast chief practice is regarded as an extension of river chiefs, which are being rolled out across the country after a successful trial in Jiangsu Province.

The responsibilities of river chiefs include water resource protection, pollution prevention and control, and ecological restoration. Their performance is assessed and they will be held accountable for environmental damage in the bodies of water they oversee.

Zhejiang tested the practice in 2008 and expanded it across the whole province in 2013 and there are now 61,000 river chiefs there.

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## [Press release: Calstock flood defence improvements](#)

The existing Calstock flood embankment was improved in the 1980s following a significant flood in the village. It still plays an important role in reducing flood risk in Calstock, but requires periodic repairs.

In 2012/13 the Environment Agency carried out emergency work on just over 100 metres of the embankment. This work incorporated less than 10% of the total embankment length, but cost in excess of £300,000. Maintaining the current embankment in its existing location on a 'patch and repair basis' is not sustainable.

The Environment Agency is now looking at ways to continue to manage flood risk in the village. Likely options will include moving the existing embankment inland away from the river where it will be under less pressure from erosion.

Project manager Dan Boswell said:

It's our priority to do everything we can to protect people from flooding.

Unfortunately the current embankment is no longer viable so we have to look at other options to maintain the current level of flood protection for Calstock. One of the options involves moving the existing embankment inland.

In addition to flood risk management benefits, moving the embankment would enable the creation of reed-bed habitat attracting additional wildlife. It is important to note that we are looking at all options which may be available to us. We will be talking to the community about these before final decisions are made.

The Environment Agency is looking to work with local partners to ensure that people can still use this area recreationally. Currently the Environment Agency has granted a permissive footpath across the embankment and they are keen that the footpath should continue in some form, but this will require the collaboration of local partners.

Over the next few months the Environment Agency's consultants will be carrying out ground investigations and topographic surveys to help them develop suitable options. When they have developed these the Environment Agency will arrange a drop-in session in Calstock for the community to come along and view and comment on proposals. This is likely to take place in the autumn.

The Environment Agency is spending more than £2.5 billion to build flood schemes around the country, which will better protect 300,000 homes by 2021.

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## [The Taylor Report was a huge missed opportunity to tackle the growing problem of insecure employment – Jeremy Corbyn](#)

**Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party**, commenting on the Taylor Report, said:

"The Taylor Report was a huge missed opportunity to tackle the growing problem of insecure employment.

"In Labour's manifesto 'For The Many Not The Few' we set out a 20 point plan to transform the workplace and protect and improve workers' rights. By abolishing Employment Tribunal fees, scrapping zero hour contracts and giving rights to all workers from day one, we would halt and reverse the spread of exploitation in the Gig Economy.

"Theresa May says she wants parties to contribute ideas. But when we asked her Government to give its support

to Labour's Queen's Speech amendment to give millions of public sector workers a much needed pay-rise, the Conservatives voted against it.

"Only yesterday

Theresa May delivered a slap in the face to hard working teachers by giving them another real term cut by maintaining the 1 per cent pay cap.

"The Prime Minister now heads a zombie government that has no ideas, no answers and no leadership. Her premiership has run out of steam and she will soon have to deal with her own insecure employment.

"Only a Labour Government can deliver for the many not the few."

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## [Green Party responds to Taylor review](#)



# Green Party

11 July 2017

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Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"Theresa May says she wants bold ideas but her response is weak. The Prime Minister looks set to under deliver on a review into the gig economy that does not go far enough to empower or protect workers.

"It is inadequate to tinker with the edges of a system that is already broken. Introducing a presumption of employment, with the burden falling on the employer to prove otherwise is a step in the right direction – but it's disappointing to see no moves to get rid of extortionate tribunal fees which stop workers who have been exploited from accessing justice. Proposals for tax and National Insurance reform, meanwhile, lack teeth. Greater 'consistency' between employment and self-employment will only happen in the long term and provide no guarantee of equality.

“Despite talk of addressing insecurity and the impact automation, and aspirations to change the debate about what good work looks like, there is no mention in the report of a shorter working week or a Basic Income. If the Prime Minister is serious about overhauling the world of work to keep up with the demands of the 21st Century she will consider Green calls for a shorter working week, a move which would improve people’s quality of life and see productivity rise at the same time. A universal payment to all people in the form of a Basic Income would reward unpaid work, enable people to pursue fulfilling employment, increase people’s options and act as a safety net for everyone.

“In her speech the Prime Minister flagged the Brexit vote as an indication that people wanted more control. The question by which this review and the actions of the Prime Minister should be measured is ‘will the balance of power in the workplace fundamentally shift?’ The resounding answer is ‘no’.”

1.  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/626772/good-work-taylor-review-modern-working-practices.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626772/good-work-taylor-review-modern-working-practices.pdf)

## **Green Party press release**

**For immediate release – 11 July 2017**

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ENDS.

For more information contact: [press@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:press@greenparty.org.uk) / 0203 691 9401

Notes:

1. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/626772/good-work-taylor-review-modern-working-practices.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626772/good-work-taylor-review-modern-working-practices.pdf)

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