

## Yet more division at the top of government- McDonnell

**John**

**McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor**, responding to the Chancellor's comments on public sector pay, said:

"This represents yet more division at the top of government. The Chancellor's remarks show that he is more interested in fighting with his fellow Tory cabinet colleagues, than for better incomes for working families in our country.

"The firefighters, police officers, nurses, and ambulance drivers who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe have been abandoned by a Tory government intent on holding down their pay, while ploughing ahead with tax giveaways to a wealthy few.

"It is now time for this out-of-touch Chancellor and shambolic Government to stand aside. Only a Labour Government will give our public sector workers the pay rise they deserve and end austerity in the national interest."

Ends

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## 5 measures SNP must adopt as Scotland stands on brink of recession

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4 Jul 2017



The Scottish Conservatives have set out five key initiatives to boost the country's economy – with Scotland potentially 24 hours away from recession.

Tomorrow's GDP figures will confirm whether or not Scotland entered a second quarter of economic downturn in the first three months of 2017.

If it did, it will mean Scotland is in a technical recession for the first time since the global economic crash, while the rest of the UK experiences growth.

As a result, shadow economy secretary Dean Lockhart has called on the SNP government to adopt pro-business measures, and set out five areas where ministers could begin.

Proposals include restoring business rates parity with the rest of the UK by cutting the large business supplement; boosting tourism by scrapping APD on long-haul flights; and working more closely with businesses towards a more flexible apprenticeship and skills framework.

Building on a Scottish Conservative plan for local growth, he added that the Scottish Government should empower councils to drive growth locally.

And removing the threat of a second independence referendum altogether would reduce uncertainty for firms north of the border.

Mr Lockhart was also critical of the SNP's moves to make Scotland the highest-taxed part of the UK.

**Scottish Conservative shadow economy secretary Dean Lockhart said:**

"Scotland stands on the brink of recession, and the nationalists have no-one to blame but themselves.

"They can't point to Brexit, because the rest of the UK is powering ahead – this is all on the SNP's shoulders.

"Even if Scotland does escape technical recession in these GDP figures, it's been far too close for comfort.

"That's why the Scottish Government has to adopt these ideas to kickstart Scotland's economy, and at least begin to catch up with other parts of Britain.

"The large business supplement has to be cut to ensure our firms aren't at a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the UK, and there is much that can be done with APD to encourage more visitors on long-haul flights.

"We also want to see ministers work harder with apprenticeships, and allow local authorities more control to drive growth locally.

"And, of course, the easiest thing of all for the SNP to do to help reduce uncertainty is to take the threat of a second independence referendum off the table.

"The Scottish Government could also use the UK-wide Industrial Strategy as a coherent framework to maximise the potential of Scotland's sectors and to increase our export base."

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The Scottish Conservatives today set out five initiatives which could steer Scotland clear of recession in future:

In the last set of GDP figures, it was confirmed that Scotland was halfway to recession:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2017/04/scotland-halfway-towards-recession-under-the-snp/> And last week, the Fraser of Allander Institute said whether or not Scotland officially plunged into recession was “in the balance”:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2017/06/recession-for-scotland-in-the-balance-say-experts/>

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## [Huge rich-poor divide revealed in u18 pregnancies](#)

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- Huge rich-poor divide revealed in u18 pregnancies

4 Jul 2017



Girls under the age of 18 in deprived areas are seven times more likely to get pregnant than those in the wealthiest areas, new figures have revealed.

ISD Scotland published teenage pregnancy statistics today, which showed a general reduction across the board in recent years.

However, the rich-poor divide remains stark. According to the data, 40.2 in every 1000 under 18s in the most deprived areas got pregnant in 2015.

That compares to just 5.7 in every 1000 for the least deprived girls.

And while most health boards recorded a decrease in teenage pregnancies generally, rates went up in both NHS Ayrshire and Arran and NHS Dumfries and Galloway.

**Scottish Conservative shadow health secretary Miles Briggs said:**

“It’s extremely worrying that the social background of under 18 girls is so influential when it comes to the likelihood of their getting pregnant. “

The fact that risk increases seven-fold from the wealthiest to the poorest

areas should be a wake-up call.

“Of course, it’s welcome to see teenage pregnancy rates in general decrease.

“And it’s also worth noting, particularly at the older end of the scale, many of these pregnancies will have been planned and result in happy family lives.

“But we can’t neglect the fact that more needs to be done to help those younger teenagers in some of Scotland’s most deprived areas.

“An unplanned pregnancy at that age can be emotionally damaging and have a very serious impact on life chances.

“I hope the Scottish Government looks at these figures and sets out what it intends to do to close this gap.”

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To see the full ISD Scotland report, visit:

<https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Sexual-Health/Publications/2017-07-04/2017-07-04-TeenPreg-Report.pdf>

The report stated that an under 18 girl from the most deprived area was seven times more likely to get pregnant than one from the least deprived. When considering the under 20 bracket, the gap falls from seven times to five times more likely.

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## **Mai 2017 comparé à avril 2017 – Les prix à la production industrielle en baisse de 0,4% tant dans la zone euro que dans l’UE28**

Europe must capitalise better on the knowledge it produces, and turn its innovation potential into economic growth. Research and innovation should be prioritised in EU and national budgets, with a doubling of the budget of the successor to Horizon 2020, the current EU research and innovation programme.

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## May 2017 compared with April 2017 – Industrial producer prices down by 0.4% in both euro area and EU28

In May 2017, compared with April 2017, industrial producer prices fell by 0.4% in both the **euro area** (EA19) and the **EU28**, according to estimates from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In April 2017 prices remained stable in the **euro area** and rose by 0.1% in the **EU28**.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)