

Bill lodged to make Frank's Law a reality

29 Jun 2017



A bill to introduce Frank's Law – a guarantee that under 65s with conditions like dementia receive free personal care – has been officially lodged.

Shadow health secretary Miles Briggs was joined in Holyrood today by Amanda Kopel, the wife of former footballer Frank, who died three years ago having been diagnosed with dementia at the age of 59.

The member's bill will allow MSPs to vote on introducing the legislation, which is now supported by all opposition parties.

Some SNP MSPs – including former health secretary Alex Neil – are also keen on the move, even if the party itself has refused to offer support generally.

The bill will open for consultation next week.

Earlier this year, Miles said he would launch the bill if the Scottish Government failed to act.

Scottish Conservative shadow health secretary Miles Briggs said:

"I was delighted to welcome Amanda Kopel to the Scottish Parliament today to mark the lodging of my Member's Bill proposal to implement Frank's Law.

"Amanda's passionate and dedicated campaigning on this issue has been inspirational.

"The consultation on the bill proposal will go live next week and I hope that as many organisations and individuals as possible will take part to demonstrate the level of support for Frank's Law.

"The aim is simple: to end the age discrimination that currently exists whereby under 65s with life limiting conditions do not qualify for free personal care but over 65s do.

"April 16 marked the third anniversary of Frank Kopel's death.

"It is a shocking indictment that in some parts of Scotland today, terminally ill patients under the age of 65 are being charged for the help they need with basic things like washing, dressing and feeding themselves.

"We want to see this change and I am pleased that all opposition parties in this parliament have committed to supporting the policy meaning there is a majority in Holyrood for Frank's Law."

The Scottish Conservatives have consistently supported the campaign for Frank's Law:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2017/03/franks-law-members-bill-to-launch-in-summer/>

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2017/01/bill-on-franks-law-to-be-brought-forward-if-snp-drags-heels/>

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2016/12/sharp-rise-in-u65s-with-dementia-shows-need-for-franks-law/>

Referring the bid to a phase two inquiry by the CMA is the Government doing just the bare minimum – Watson

Tom Watson MP,

Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, commenting on Karen

Bradley's statement on the Sky/Fox merger, said:

"There are no surprises in the statement today.

"Referring the bid to a phase two inquiry by the CMA is the Government doing just the bare minimum. If the Government now accepts further undertakings in lieu instead it will throw the integrity of this process into question.

"Ofcom's finding that the Murdochs remain fit and proper to hold a broadcasting licence, despite 'significant corporate failure' at Fox News, is disappointing. If the executives who ran a company involved in systematic and widespread criminality, including phone hacking and police bribery, can pass the fit and proper test, it begs the question – is the test itself fit for purpose?

"If Karen Bradley really wants the facts then part two of the Leveson Inquiry must go ahead to investigate the corporate governance failures that allowed the phone hacking scandal to take place.

“It’s clear the rules need to be reviewed and the next Labour government will look again at the laws governing media ownership in this country.

“The General Election result last month shows the Murdoch media empire can no longer deliver Tory majorities. So the Government has nothing to lose. It must not let this bid proceed.”

[This inquiry must provide answers for the Grenfell Tower community – Healey](#)

Responding to the appointment of Sir Martin Moore-Bick as head of the public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire, **John Healey MP, Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Housing**, said:

“This inquiry must provide answers for the Grenfell Tower community, find out what has gone so badly wrong, and help ensure this tragedy is never repeated.

“Two weeks on from the fire, trust is low in the community around Grenfell Tower so it is vital that the inquiry gains the trust of Grenfell families and that their voices are heard throughout this process.

“Given we do not know when this inquiry will be completed, it must not be used by the government to delay making the urgent changes we already know are needed.

“We do not need a public inquiry to tell us that tower block residents need a commitment to up-front funding for necessary remedial work, including re-cladding and retrofitting sprinklers starting with the highest-risk buildings. Ministers have failed to give this clear funding commitment, and they should do so now.

“We do not need a public inquiry to know that our system of fire safety checks and controls is failing, and that an overhaul of building regulations is urgently needed as was recommended to the

government
in 2013 following the Lakanal House fire.”

John McDonnell speech – Queen’s Speech Debate

John

McDonnell MP, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor, speaking in the Queen’s Speech debate in the House of Commons today, said:

***CHECK
AGAINST DELIVERY***

“Thank
you Mr Speaker,

I beg to
move the amendment in my name and that of my honourable and right honourable
colleagues.

I
have been in the House now for 20 years, never have we seen such a threadbare
scrap of a document as this Queens Speech.

Let’s
be grateful for small mercies, it’s a pleasure to note what has not been
mentioned in this vacuous notelet.

Despite
being promised in the Conservative manifesto, we have heard no plans for
legislation to end the triple lock.

We
have heard nothing about legislation to end winter fuel payments.

We
have heard no legislative plans for the so-called dementia tax.

Nothing
of the policy to take food from the mouths of infants and younger primary
school children.

Even the
flagship grammar schools policy seems to have been ditched from the Queen’s
Speech.

I
want to thank the millions of voters who rejected the Conservatives, they
have
been prevented the Tories from implementing in full the cuts they promised.

Instead
the Government has been reduced to a grubby back-room deal and pork barrel
politics in an attempt to cling onto office.

The
result is that we have a Queen's Speech devoid of content which offers no
solutions to the pressing issues facing Britain today.

The
Queen's Speech says, and I quote,

*"My
ministers will strengthen the economy so that it supports the creation of
jobs"*

*The
reality Mr Speaker, is that we are witnessing, to quote the Governor of the
Bank of England, the weakest UK business investment in half a century.*

*The
growth of insecure, low paid, low skilled jobs. 1 million on zero hours
contracts.*

*The
Queens Speech promises to "invest in the NHS, schools and other public
services".*

The
reality is that this couldn't be further from the truth.

Spending
per pupil remains set to fall.

Police
officers, firefighters and border guards will be cut.

And the
NHS, already at breaking point, has been promised no new money.

Not our
words Mr Speaker but those of the British Medical Association.

The
Chancellor has, in various interviews, bemoaned the fact that he was hidden
away during the election campaign and that his record on the economy was not
the central plank of the Conservatives' campaign.

I agree.

I wish he had been more to the fore in the campaign and his record more widely exposed.

Because if it had been, Labour would be in government now.

I don't believe that, so far, the Rt Hon gentleman has been afforded his proper place in history.

For those Hon Members who were not in this place 8 years ago, let me explain that the Chancellor was, prior to 2010, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

And as an ardent neo-liberal, the Chancellor, in his role as Chief Secretary, was the Architect of Austerity.

It was he who designed the detail of the economic programme rolled out by his mentor George Osborne after 2010.

He has been at the heart of the Austerity cabinet throughout this period.

He should not hide his light under a bushel.

In his recent Mansion House speech he referred to his Government's record as, "a record of which we are proud".

The foundation of the chancellor's record is his adherence to neo-liberalism – trickle-down economics.

A theory which argues that, if you cut taxes for the rich and for corporations, and turn a blind eye to tax avoidance and tax evasion, then somehow this wealth will somehow trickle down to the rest of society.

The Chancellor has certainly adhered to tax cuts for the rich and for corporations.

Corporation tax, capital gains tax, Inheritance Tax and the Bank levy have all been slashed.

Independent analysis demonstrates that OBR costings of tax cuts introduced by the Conservatives on these four measures alone since 2010 will have cost tax

payers

over £70bn between last year and the end of this Parliament.

The

corporation tax cuts were meant to lead to a large scale increase in Business investment in our economy.

But last

year business investment fell for the first time since 2009 and remains lower than in the rest of the G7, with the exception of Italy.

Corporations

are now sitting on £580 billion of earned income that they are not investing.

Some have

been exposed as being involved in share buy-backs to boost performance statistics and bonuses.

Seven

years of Tory austerity have done nothing to address the grotesque and widening levels of wealth inequality in the UK.

A report

last year by Credit Suisse found that the richest 1% of people in the UK now own almost a quarter of the country's wealth.

The

Sunday Times Rich List told us that the richest 1000 families in the UK had more than doubled their wealth since the financial crash.

This is

the record of which the Chancellor is so proud.

Let's

measure the impact of this record on the rest of society.

It's

important we do because this Queen's speech promises just more of the same.

This

could have been the Queen's Speech that ended austerity once and for all. It certainly doesn't.

Is it a

matter of pride for the Chancellor that nearly one and a quarter million food parcels were handed out by food banks last year?

Are we to

be proud of a government that can't feed its people?

How can

anyone be proud that over 77,000 households were in temporary accommodation

this year- an almost 8% increase on last year?

Rough

sleeping has increased by 134% since this Government came to power.

There are

1.2 million households on the housing waiting lists.

Nearly

70,000 children are being brought up in temporary accommodation whilst house building has fallen to its lowest level since the 1920s?

Are we to

be proud that we have a government that can't adequately house its population?

Is it a proud

record that four million children are trapped in poverty in our country?

Two

thirds of these children are in working families.

And it's

not just children.

The

latest figures show that 14 million people are living in poverty in the UK.

This includes

nearly two million pensioners – the very people the Conservatives were going to

hit with ending the triple lock, means testing winter fuel payments and introducing a dementia tax.

Over 80%

of the austerity measures have fallen on women.

But some

of the hardest hit have been disabled people.

According

the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, almost half of those in poverty are disabled or

live in a household with a disabled person.

The

brutality of the Work Capability Assessment has been associated with over 590 suicides.

Is it a

record to be proud of that his cap on public sector pay has contributed to wages falling by 10% since 2008?

We have
witnessed the longest fall in wages on record.

Nearly
six million people earn less than the living wage.

People
were shocked when the RCN revealed nurses pay had fallen by 14%, forcing some
nurses to rely on foodbanks.

Is it
something to be proud of that the UK is the only major developed country that
has seen economic growth but falling wages?

Yesterday
we had the chaos of mixed messages coming out from Number 10 and the Treasury
over hints that the pay cap was to be scrapped.

Last
night the coalition of the Tories and the DUP voted down our motion to
support
public sector workers securing a fair pay rise.

Ministers
have been quick to praise the devotion and bravery of our emergency services
in
the aftermath of the tragedies we have seen in recent weeks.

But last
night they could not extend that generosity to give those men and women that
put their lives on the line to keep us safe, a pay rise.

The
proper governance of this country is being undermined by the disputes between
the PM and the Chancellor.

Let's
look at the desperate state of our public services.

How can
anyone take pride in:

Spending
per pupil set to fall by 8% between 2015-16 and 2019-20

Over
46,000 children's operations have been cancelled over the last four years

Police
numbers have been cut by 20,000 since 2010

Firefighter
posts have been cut by 10,000 since 2010

20,000
soldiers cut from 2010.

So we
have a government that can't feed our people, can't house our people or
protect
our children and older people from poverty.

It cannot
ensure that when people go to work they earn enough to live on.

And it
can't maintain our basic public services.

That's a
government that doesn't deserve to remain in office.

All this
suffering by ordinary people under austerity to protect the rich and the
corporations has been for what?

On the
government's own metrics it has significantly failed.

They
promised that the deficit would be eradicated in five years- now it will be
15
years at best.

They have
added £700 billion to the national debt, leaving £1.7 trillion of debt for
future generations.

In the
first quarter of this year growth has fallen to 0.2% while inflation has
increased to 2.9% – below wage growth.

Last year
saw the slowest rate of business investment since 2009.

Wages are
lower today than when the Tories took office in 2010.

Unsecured
debt per household will reach a record high this year.

It's not
just the Labour Party that is highlighting the consequences of the Tories'
failed economic approach.

Last
week, the Governor of the Bank of England warned of "weaker real income
growth".

He spoke
about “markedly weak investment” and “rapid consumer credit growth”.

And
worryingly he warned that “the extent to which the UK’s [current account] deficit has moved closer to sustainability remains an open question”, as we continue to rely on the “kindness of strangers” to fund us.

The
Bank’s Chief Economist said last week that 7 per cent of the entire workforce could be on zero-hours contracts in a decade.

The
Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies has called the lost wage growth in
this country “completely unprecedented”.

The IFS
have also referred to the “unacknowledged risks to the quality of public services” under the Conservatives, and judge that their austerity plans would be so harsh as to potentially be undeliverable.

A Queen’s
speech which is devoid of any serious measures to address the economic challenges facing this country and the pressures ordinary people and our public
services are under.

Austerity
continues to impact on our schools, health services, emergency services and peoples living standards.

In the
Autumn Budget, it will be interesting to see how the Chancellor covers the black hole derived from his last disastrous budget. At least £2bn we are aware
of and according to some commentators growing to anything up to £7bn.

In particular
it would be helpful if the Chancellor explained today how he covers the cost of
the £1b grubby bribe to the DUP to keep his party clinging onto office.

£100m a
vote the cost of the deal.

If I were
a Tory backbencher I would start to negotiate now for a slice of that action.

After the
miraculous discovery of funds for the DUP deal I don’t expect to hear much more
about magic money trees from the other side.

£1bn

found for the DUP but nothing to address the fundamentals of our weak and precarious economy which is now faced with the challenges of BREXIT.

Increasingly

people are waking up to the fact that a government lacking a strong and stable

leadership is incapable of securing a deal which protects our jobs and economy.

Divisions

at the top of Government, a Cabinet divided.

Rows

between members of the Government's negotiating team are breaking out on a daily basis as they position themselves for their own leadership challenges.

As a

result we witness weekly changes of direction in the Government's own negotiating stance.

That

includes even changes in direction by the Chancellor.

Only

weeks ago he was threatening no deal – walking away to set the UK up as a tax haven off the coast of continental Europe.

Now it is

reported he is potentially looking to the customs union and a long and uncertain transition period.

Only

months ago he went along with the Government prioritising immigration control over the protection of jobs and the economy. Now he claims to want a jobs first BREXIT.

All this,

the failed and deeply unpopular austerity programme, the deeply divided rudderless cabinet and the directionless Brexit negotiating strategy, a content-less Queen's speech surely confirm it is time for this government to go.

It's time

for change.

As the

Labour Party demonstrated during the general election campaign: there is an alternative.

We can

address the deep-rooted problems our economy faces.

The Labour Party has forged ahead with a serious, credible alternative to the Governments failed approach.

Our society can afford decent public services.

We are the fifth largest economy in the world.

If we have a fair tax system, we can end the cuts in schools budgets.

We can end the horrific sight of children sleeping on chairs in hospital corridors.

We can end the bedroom tax and the punitive benefits sanctions regimes.

And we can do that – as confirmed by the IFS – while remaining on target to eliminate the budget deficit in accordance with our Fiscal Credibility Rule.

But it's not just about a fairer tax system: we need a government to invest what's needed to secure our future.

Not the derisory numbers floated by the Chancellor in the Autumn Statement with so little to back them up.

A serious, long-term vision of the economy which tackles the regional disparities and the changes taking place in the labour market.

A commitment to drive up productivity by increasing investment – as demanded by the CBI and many others – and delivering a serious industrial strategy.

It's a transformative programme we look forward to implementing in Government.

This Queen's Speech does nothing to solve our problems.

It confirms a Government isolated from the real world in which our people live.

Labour's amendment today sets out the alternative our country so desperately needs.

I urge

all Honourable members to support the amendment.”

Kommission stellt Pläne für neues europaweites privates Altersvorsorgeprodukt vor, das den Verbrauchern beim Sparen für ihren Ruhestand helfen soll

On 23 June 2016 citizens of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU by...

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place some of the highest common asylum standards in the world. And in the past two years, European migration policy has advanced in leaps and...

‘Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.’ Robert Schuman 9 May 1950 On 25 March 2017,...

In response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU has imposed restrictive measures against the Russian Federation. Overview...

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his annual State of the Union speech at the European Parliament on 14 September 2016, just two days ahead of the informal meeting of 27...

Enlargement is the process whereby countries join the EU. Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 member countries to 28. Any European country that respects the principles of liberty,...