

## Why Labour's pledges on NHS and pensions are meaningless

An announcement by the Labour Party that it would invest £45bn in the NHS and social care over five years as well as protect pensions could be rendered meaningless by Brexit, Liberal Democrats have said.

Treasury analysis from 2016 estimated that the form of Brexit supported by the Labour and Conservative parties – a negotiated bilateral agreement as opposed to membership of the single market – would rob public services of £36bn EACH YEAR. A botched Brexit could cost the Exchequer up to £45 billion a year. The government has neither formally rejected this analysis nor commissioned new figures since the referendum.

Susan Kramer, Liberal Democrat Business spokesperson, said: “In the biggest fight for the future of our country in a generation, Jeremy Corbyn’s Labour has let down those who need a strong NHS and a secure pension by voting with Theresa May on Brexit – not against her. Jeremy Corbyn ordered his MPs to vote in favour of Article 50 despite the Government making no concessions to them whatsoever, including on staying in the single market.

“Over the course of a parliament, Labour would have to find many times the amount they are promising on the NHS and social care just to pay its Brexit bill. But with trade with Europe set to be hit by an extreme Brexit, how could this be delivered?

“That’s why Liberal Democrats will give the people a chance to change Britain’s future by letting them reject a bad Brexit deal, putting a penny on income tax to rescue the NHS and social care, and reversing Theresa May’s heartless cuts to school funding.”

---

## The IFS analysis is clear: only Labour will give schools the resources they need to deliver a world-class education – Angela Rayner

**Angela**

**Rayner, Labour’s Shadow Education Secretary**, commenting on the Institute of Fiscal Studies

analysis of the main political parties’ proposals on school spending in

England, said:

“There is now no doubt about what Tory plans mean for education – our schools will see their budgets cut.

“And head teachers have warned us what the consequences will be for parents and pupils: fewer teachers, larger classes, a narrower curriculum, or even a shorter school week.

“The IFS analysis is clear: only Labour will give schools the resources they need to deliver a world-class education for the many, not just the few.”

---

## [Tory spending plans will hit public services and the economy – John McDonnell](#)

**John McDonnell, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor**, responding to the IFS manifesto analysis, said:

“The IFS assessment of the Conservatives is clear: their plans would damage our economy and public services with five more years of damaging austerity.

“They also confirm that the Tories have not specified any additional funding for the NHS, meaning a continued crisis in our health service if they are re-elected next month. The Tories plans on schools will mean continuing to sell away our future, with continued real terms cuts to per pupil spending.

“Today has confirmed that only a Labour Government would give our NHS and schools the essential funding they need, and that our increase in infrastructure investment would boost GDP and tax receipts. The IFS confirms that Labour are on target to meet our manifesto commitments in regards to our Fiscal Credibility Rule, to balance the budget on day to day spending in the coming parliament and have debt falling as a share of GDP as we have committed.

“We believe the IFS has

underestimated the revenue raising effectiveness of some of the tax changes we would make, but we recognise the potential for uncertainty which is why we have allowed headroom in our plans.

"The only numbers we saw in the Tory manifesto were the page numbers. But what has become clear today is the choice at this election – continued austerity and falling living standards under the Tories, or higher wages and increased investment in our public services and infrastructure under Labour."

---

## [Jeremy Corbyn speech](#)

**\*\*\*CHECK  
AGAINST DELIVERY\*\*\***

**Jeremy  
Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party,**  
speaking at a speech in central London today, said:

Our whole nation has been united in shock and grief this week as a night out at a concert ended in horrific terror and the brutal slaughter of innocent people enjoying themselves.

When I stood on Albert Square at the vigil in Manchester, there was a mood of unwavering defiance.

The very act of thousands of people coming together sent a powerful message of solidarity and love. It was a profound human impulse to stand together, caring and strong.  
It was inspiring.

In the past few days, we have all perhaps thought a bit more about our country, our communities and our people.

The people we have lost to atrocious violence or who have suffered grievous injury, so many of them heart-breakingly young .

The people who we ask to protect us and care for us in the emergency services, who yet again did our country proud: the police; firefighters and paramedics; the nurses and doctors; people who never let us down and deserve all the support we can give them.

And the people who did their best to help on that dreadful Monday night – the homeless men who rushed towards the carnage to comfort the dying, the taxi drivers who took the stranded home for free, the local people who offered comfort, and even their homes, to the teenagers who couldn't find their parents.

They are the people of Manchester. But we know that attacks, such as the one at the Manchester Arena, could have happened anywhere and that the people in any city, town or village in Britain would have responded in the same way.

It is these people who are the strength and the heart of our society. They are the country we love and the country we seek to serve.

That is the solidarity that defines our United Kingdom. That is the country I meet on the streets every day; the human warmth, the basic decency and kindness.

It is our compassion that defines the Britain I love. And it is compassion that the bereaved families need most of all at this time. To them I say: the whole country reaches out its arms to you and will be here for you not just this week, but in the weeks and years to come.

Terrorists and their atrocious acts of cruelty and depravity will never divide us and will never prevail.

They didn't in Westminster two months ago. They didn't when Jo Cox was murdered a year ago. They didn't in London on 7/7. The awe-inspiring response of the people of Manchester, and their inspirational acts of heroism and kindness, are a living demonstration that they will fail again.

But these vicious and contemptible acts do cause profound pain and suffering, and, among a tiny minority, they are used as an opportunity to try to turn communities against each other.

So let us all be clear, the man who unleashed carnage on Manchester, targeting the young and many young girls in particular, is no more representative of Muslims, than

the murderer of Jo Cox spoke for anyone else.

Young people and especially young women must and will be free to enjoy themselves in our society.

I have spent my political life working for peace and human rights and to bring an end to conflict and devastating wars. That will almost always mean talking to people you profoundly disagree with. That's what conflict resolution is all about.

But do not doubt my determination to take whatever action is necessary to keep our country safe and to protect our people on our streets, in our towns and cities, at our borders.

There is no question about the seriousness of what we face. Over recent years, the threat of terrorism has continued to grow.

You deserve to know what a Labour Government will do to keep you and your family safe.

Our approach will involve change at home and change abroad.

At home, we will reverse the cuts to our emergency services and police. Once again in Manchester, they have proved to be the best of us.

Austerity has to stop at the A&E ward and at the police station door. We cannot be protected and cared for on the cheap.

There will be more police on the streets under a Labour Government. And if the security services need more resources to keep track of those who wish to murder and maim, then they should get them.

We will also change what we do abroad. Many experts, including professionals in our intelligence and security services have pointed to the connections between wars our government has supported or fought in other countries, such as Libya, and terrorism here at home.

That assessment in no way reduces the guilt of those who attack our children. Those terrorists will forever be reviled and implacably held to account for their

actions.

But an informed understanding of the causes of terrorism is an essential part of an effective response that will protect the security of our people, that fights rather than fuels terrorism.

Protecting this country requires us to be both strong against terrorism and strong against the causes of terrorism. The blame is with the terrorists, but if we are to protect our people we must be honest about what threatens our security.

Those causes certainly cannot be reduced to foreign policy decisions alone. Over the past fifteen years or so, a sub-culture of often suicidal violence has developed amongst a tiny minority of, mainly young, men, falsely drawing authority from Islamic beliefs and often nurtured in a prison system in urgent need of resources and reform.

And no rationale based on the actions of any government can remotely excuse, or even adequately explain, outrages like this week's massacre.

But we must be brave enough to admit the war on terror is simply not working. We need a smarter way to reduce the threat from countries that nurture terrorists and generate terrorism.

That's why I set out Labour's approach to foreign policy earlier this month. It is focused on strengthening our national security in an increasingly dangerous world.

We must support our Armed Services, Foreign Office and International Development professionals, engaging with the world in a way that reduces conflict and builds peace and security.

Seeing the army on our own streets today is a stark reminder that the current approach has failed.

So, I would like to take a moment to speak to our soldiers on the streets of Britain. You are doing your duty as you have done so many times before.

I want to assure you that, under my leadership, you will only be deployed abroad when there is a clear need and only when there is a plan and you have the

resources

to do your job to secure an outcome that delivers lasting peace.

That is

my commitment to our armed services.

This is

my commitment to our country. I want the solidarity, humanity and compassion that we have seen on the streets of Manchester this week to be the values that guide our government. There can be no love of country if there is neglect or disregard for its people.

No

government can prevent every terrorist attack.

If an individual is determined enough and callous enough, sometimes they will get through.

But the

responsibility of government is to minimise that chance, to ensure the police have the resources they need, that our foreign policy reduces rather than increases the threat to this country, and that at home we never surrender the freedoms we have won, and that terrorists are so determined to take away.

Too often

government has got it wrong on all three counts and insecurity is growing as a result. Whoever you decide should lead the next government must do better.

Today, we

must stand united. United in our communities, united in our values and united in our determination to not let triumph those who would seek to divide us.

So for

the rest of this election campaign, we must be out there demonstrating what they would take away: our freedom; our democracy; our support for one another.

Democracy

will prevail. We must defend our democratic process, win our arguments by discussion and debate, and stand united against those who would seek to take our rights away, or who would divide us.

Last week, I said that the Labour Party was about bringing our country together.

Today I do not want to make a narrow party political point. Because all of us now need to stand together.

Stand together in memory of those who have lost their lives

Stand together in solidarity with the city of Manchester

And – stand together for democracy.

Because when we talk about British values, including tolerance and mutual support, democracy is at the very heart of them.

And our General Election campaigns are the centrepieces of our democracy – the moment all our people get to exercise their sovereign authority over their representatives

Rallies, debates, campaigning in the marketplaces, knocking on doors, listening to people on the streets, at their workplaces and in their homes – all the arts of peaceful persuasion and discussion – are the stuff of our campaigns.

They all remind us that our government is not chosen at an autocrats' whim or by religious decree and never cowed by a terrorist's bomb.

Indeed, carrying on as normal is an act of defiance – democratic defiance – of those who do reject our commitment to democratic freedoms.

But we cannot carry on as though nothing happened in Manchester this week.

So, let the quality of our debate, over the next fortnight, be worthy of the country we are proud to defend. Let's have our arguments without impugning anyone's patriotism and without diluting the unity with which we stand against terror.

Together, we will be stronger. Together we can build a Britain worthy of those who died and those who have inspired us all in Manchester this week.

Thank you.

---

[World's 1st poverty reduction database in tree diagrams](#)





Officials and representatives from international organizations, embassies as well as businesses launch the Global Poverty Reduction Online Knowledge Sharing Database in Beijing, May 26, 2107. [Photo/China.org.cn]

The Global Poverty Reduction Online Knowledge Sharing Database was launched on Friday at the 2017 China Poverty Reduction International Forum in Beijing being attended by officials and representatives from international organizations, embassies as well as businesses.

Created by the Global Poverty Reduction & Inclusive Growth Portal (GPIG), the database (<http://case.iprcc.org.cn/>) is a platform to share successful models of poverty reduction from both China and the international community, which is distinguished by its use of tree diagrams, standardized templates and a strong network of contributors.

Designed for worldwide use, its systematic presentation of poverty alleviation cases is unprecedented. Through the use of the tree diagrams, it provides a clear depiction of how China and other international bodies are seeking to address the problem, in particular focusing on cases with a high degree of technical applicability for various countries. To facilitate social participation, the platform contains a guide to help users upload cases in standard templates.

The Chinese poverty reduction cases are divided into three categories: market-oriented, government-led, and community-driven. The international cases are classified as poverty reduction through increasing opportunities, improving human capital and capacity, and through reducing vulnerability. Each has various subcategories.

By analyzing factors impacting poverty reduction, the diagrams extract experiences in a more intuitive way, inspiring the international community, low-income nations in particular, to rapidly grasp specific successful practices so as to be able to learn from or even replicate them. It is hoped that the process will generate new solutions to poverty alleviation problems.

The database benefits from a strong network of contributors. While the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) is taking the lead on the Chinese side by leveraging its own resources and its partnerships with universities and research institutes, a raft of international organizations also play their part.

With major contributions from the World Bank, GPIG is also building strong partnerships with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The public are also encouraged to upload cases that they believe could be valuable.

As a systematic project, it is planned to summarize new poverty alleviation strategies, develop new representative cases, and add them to the database on a regular basis in the future. It is expected that, after years of efforts, the database will evolve into a knowledge-sharing center in the fields of poverty reduction and south-south cooperation.

China has recorded tremendous achievements in poverty alleviation by lifting more than 700 million people out of backwardness. However, there is a lack of comprehensive or systematic publicity of China's experience in the existing research.

Meanwhile, in the process of building a well-off society in an all-round way, China has been constantly exposed to new challenges. Hence, it is necessary to build an exchange platform that provide China with successful models from the international community while introducing China's own achievements to the world.

The Global Poverty Reduction Online Knowledge-sharing Database has transformed GPIG from an information sharer into a producer, which was officially launched at the forum last year. Initiated by the World Bank and supported by ADB, it is co-hosted and co-managed by IPRCC and China Internet Information Center (CIIC).

With one year of development, the portal now brings together information from different sources in a standardized way, promoting knowledge-sharing online and offline. It contributes to the successful achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well, gaining a positive response from the poverty reduction community.