

Greens: Carillion collapse final nail in HS2 coffin



Green Party

15 January 2018

The Green Party has called on the Government to cancel HS2 after the collapse of Carillion, the company building the high speed rail link.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, also urged the Government to reverse privatisation, bring contracts back in house and launch a full-scale inquiry into the decisions made about the company, and the wider “privatisation experiment”.

Bartley said:

“The collapse of Carillion should be the final nail in HS2’s coffin. Cancelling this vanity project would save tens of billions of pounds, and stop the environmental vandalism which would see miles of countryside and ancient woodland covered in concrete. Instead, Britain’s rail network has the opportunity to rise like a phoenix from Carillion’s flames. Thousands of jobs could be created by investing instead in the upgrades local rail networks desperately need.

“Carillion’s demise should be seen as an opportunity to reverse privatisation, and protect jobs and pensions by bringing contracts back in house. It should also be the trigger for a full-scale inquiry, not just into the reckless decisions this Government has made over Carillion but also the whole privatisation experiment, which has been tried and found consistently wanting.”

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let’s block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

Let us know what you think: EUIPO User Satisfaction Survey launched today

January 15, 2018 [About the EUIPO](#)

Let us know what you think: EUIPO User Satisfaction Survey launched today

Every year EUIPO carries out a satisfaction survey to identify goals and priorities for improvement, as well as to assess the satisfaction of our users with the services we provide.

The 2017 user satisfaction survey is sent via e-mail to the users of EUIPO's services. These users will receive an e-mail with a link to a secure web-based questionnaire from the market research agency *Berent* which is carrying out this survey on behalf of the EUIPO. The questionnaire can be completed in any of the five working languages of the Office (English, Spanish, German, French and Italian) with a deadline of 4 February

This survey helps us to get a clear picture of how our users see EUIPO, what they think of the Office and the services we provide in various areas including:

- Legal practice
- Online tools
- Community trade mark registration
- Community design registration
- Customer and information services

More on our quality management system

User feedback is paramount in all of EUIPO's activities. That is why our quality management policy is based on ISO 9001, an international standard for which organisations need to demonstrate their ability to meet user expectations and establish continual improvement procedures.

We have been measuring levels of satisfaction with our services and decisions relating to the registration of trade marks and designs since 2005.

[More information on EUIPO's management system standards.](#)

Let us know what you think: EUIPO User Satisfaction Survey launched today

January 15, 2018 [About the EUIPO](#)

Let us know what you think: EUIPO User Satisfaction Survey launched today

Every year EUIPO carries out a satisfaction survey to identify goals and priorities for improvement, as well as to assess the satisfaction of our users with the services we provide.

The 2017 user satisfaction survey is sent via e-mail to the users of EUIPO's services. These users will receive an e-mail with a link to a secure web-based questionnaire from the market research agency *Berent* which is carrying out this survey on behalf of the EUIPO. The questionnaire can be completed in any of the five working languages of the Office (English, Spanish, German, French and Italian) with a deadline of 4 February

This survey helps us to get a clear picture of how our users see EUIPO, what they think of the Office and the services we provide in various areas including:

- Legal practice
- Online tools
- Community trade mark registration
- Community design registration
- Customer and information services

More on our quality management system

User feedback is paramount in all of EUIPO's activities. That is why our quality management policy is based on ISO 9001, an international standard for which organisations need to demonstrate their ability to meet user expectations and establish continual improvement procedures.

We have been measuring levels of satisfaction with our services and decisions relating to the registration of trade marks and designs since 2005.

[More information on EUIPO's management system standards.](#)

Press release: New steps to tackle illegal waste and fly-tipping announced

New powers to tackle the serious problem of waste crime will be granted, and further action opened for consultation in a crack-down on illegal sites, Environment Minister Therese Coffey announced today following the recent launch of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

Waste crime cost the English economy more than £600m in 2015, including lost landfill tax revenues and clean-up costs, and creates severe problems for people who live or work nearby with odour, dust, litter, vermin, fly infestations, pollution and fires blighting lives. Waste criminals also undercut genuine businesses who dispose of waste responsibly.

New powers will therefore be introduced for the Environment Agency (EA) to lock the gates or block access to problem waste sites to prevent thousands of tonnes of waste illegally building up. The powers will also enable the EA to force operators to clear all the waste at a problem waste site, not just the illegal waste.

The government has also launched [a new consultation to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector](#). Proposals include raising the bar required to hold EA waste permits, and putting a stop to criminals hiding their illegal activities by requiring them to register low-risk waste operations which are currently exempt from the need to hold a permit.

The consultation proposes improving awareness amongst householders, so people can check on the EA website to see if the recipient of their waste is licensed to take their waste, or their duty to pass waste to legitimate carriers.

It also suggests providing local authorities with the option of fining those whose waste ends up fly-tipped or illegally dumped rather than having to pursue them through the courts. Latest statistics show that some of the worst hit areas include London which saw over 360,000 fly-tipping incidents last year and the North West of England which saw 128,000 incidents in 2016/17.

Environment Minister Therese Coffey said:

Waste crime and fly-tipping blight our communities and spoil our countryside, and we need determined action to tackle it.

These new powers for the Environment Agency will curb the rise of waste sites that continue to operate outside the law.

But we must all take responsibility for our waste to make sure it does not end up in the hands of criminals who will wilfully dump it. Our new consultation looks more widely at the waste sector and we are keen to hear from industry and the public how we can improve performance, tackle illegality and protect our precious environment.

More than 850 new illegal waste sites were discovered by the EA in 2016-17. While an average of two illegal waste sites are shut down every day, they continue to create severe problems for local communities and business as well as posing a risk to key national infrastructure.

In 2013, for example, a fire at a waste site in Stockport resulted in the closure of the M60 motorway and three weeks of disruption to traffic, residents and businesses. By empowering the EA further, these measures will help prevent such disruption.

Household waste is also a problem and makes up nearly two thirds of fly-tipped waste. Currently local authorities can only prosecute householders in court but a new fixed penalty notice would be less costly to enforce for local authorities, and more proportionate for householders.

The government is clear however that new fixed penalty notices should not be abused simply as a means of raising money. Guidance on how the fines should be applied will therefore be issued to councils.

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, said:

We take tough action against anyone involved in illegal waste activity and last year, the Environment Agency >closed down two illegal waste sites every day. We welcome these new powers, which will enable our teams to block access to problem sites, preventing illegal waste building up and becoming even more serious.

This will allow us to take faster action against criminals and will make a real difference to communities, but >everyone has a role to play. We all need to check our waste is going to the right place and is handled by the right people.

The new powers for the EA to tackle problem waste sites will be introduced by spring 2018, subject to parliamentary approval. This follows a public consultation in which an overwhelming majority (90%) of respondents were in favour of allowing regulators to take physical steps, such as locking the gates to an illegal waste site, to prevent operators from accepting more illegally dumped waste and enabling the EA to require all the waste to be removed.

Notes:

- [The responses to the 2015 public consultation on increasing EAs powers is available online](#)
- Current rules are already clear that action against those who litter the streets and cause harm to their local communities must be fair and proportionate. We do not expect anti-social behaviour legislation, for example, to be used as a backdoor fine to penalise a householder for not closing a bin lid nor for putting a bin out for collection a few hours too early. In addition, the Government will work with WRAP and local authorities to review current guidance to make clear what can and cannot be charged for waste at HWRCs (including in respect of DIY waste) and the Government believes it should be free for residents to dispose of DIY household at a civil amenity site.
- The cost of waste crime to the English economy being over £600m in 2015 is from the Environmental Services Association 2017 report 'Rethinking waste crime'
- Householders can check on the EA website that a waste carrier is licensed to take their waste.
- [The government's 25 Year Environment Plan is available to read online](#)

[News story: Bids open to host annual Armed Forces Day National Event in 2019](#)

In 2019, Armed Forces Day will celebrate eleven years of supporting our Armed Forces Community, from serving personnel and reserves to veterans, cadets and families.

The eleventh Armed Forces Day, on Saturday 29 June 2019, will be a chance for the British public to show their gratitude to the Armed Forces for their hard work and sacrifice, to keep us safe at home and abroad.

Defence Minister for the Lords, Earl Howe, said:

This is a fantastic opportunity for a town or city to be at the

centrepiece of the nationwide celebration as events and celebrations take place up and down the country.

In recent years the Armed Forces Day National Event has been held right across the country, showing the spectrum of British society – from the nation's capitals like Edinburgh and Cardiff to Liverpool and coastal communities like Cleethorpes and Blackpool.

This year's event will be hosted by the historic North Wales seaside town of Llandudno. The hosts, Conwy Council, have a spectacular range of celebrations planned to show their gratitude to the Armed Forces community. Councillor Gareth Jones, Leader of Conwy County Borough Council, said:

We are proud and privileged to be named as the Host of the National Armed Forces Day in 2018.

Conwy County has a deep affiliation with the Armed Forces and a strong historical link. Llandudno will be a great destination to showcase the outstanding work of the Armed Forces past and present.

The event will be supported by all the North Wales Councils and key colleagues across Wales. Serving personnel and veterans of our Armed Forces Community will be assured of a very warm welcome and an event that thanks them for their commitment to keeping the country safe.

Anyone interested in becoming the 2019 host should contact the Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Day team for more information by email at armedforcesday-events@mod.uk or by telephone on 020 7807 0970. The deadline for applications to be considered as host is 15 March 2018.

More information about Armed Forces Day is available at armedforcesday.org.uk