

# It is essential that the details of any agreement with the DUP are made public – John McDonnell

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, has today written to the Chancellor, Philip Hammond MP, calling on him to make public the cost of any secret deals the Government are making with the DUP.

Calling it "essential" that the details of any agreement are made public, the Shadow Chancellor lays out a number of questions that Hammond must answer around additional spending as well as the Barnett Formula implications of any potential deal.

## **Ends**

Letter  
from Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell MP to Chancellor Philip Hammond MP:

Dear  
Chancellor

I am writing to call on you, in the interests of transparency, to publish the financial consequences of any electoral deal reached between the Conservative Party and the Democratic Unionist Party.

There has been speculation in the media about possible additional infrastructure and NHS spending for Northern Ireland, or reductions in Northern Ireland rates of corporation tax, VAT and/or Air Passenger Duty.

It is essential that the details of any agreement are made public, including any costing calculations and evidence for measures which are agreed, and how additional spending or reduced tax revenue will be affected by Barnett Formula considerations.

Specifically, will any additional spending or tax cuts offered to Northern Ireland be offset through reductions in the Northern Ireland block grant and if not how will additional spending be paid for?

Can  
you clarify whether any additional spending will be funded from general UK-  
wide  
taxation, or by increased borrowing, or by some other means?

Since  
your Spring Budget there has already emerged a 'black hole' of £2bn as a  
result  
of the Government's U-turn on increasing Class 4 National Insurance  
contributions. Can you inform us how you are planning to plug this gap: with  
further spending cuts, tax rises, or additional borrowing? I note that this  
comes in the context of Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts for an  
increase in Public Sector Net Borrowing this year.

I  
look forward to receiving your reply,

John  
McDonnell MP

Shadow Chancellor