

# Jeremy showed the clear choice on offer in this election is about the kind of country we want Britain to be

A

**Jeremy Corbyn spokesperson**, following the Sky and Channel 4 #BattleForNumber10 debate, said:

"In answering the audience's questions, Jeremy showed the clear choice on offer in this election is about the kind of country we want Britain to be. The choice is between Labour's plan to transform Britain for the many not the few, and a Conservative Party that has held people back and put the wealthy first.

"Jeremy was able to talk about our fully-costed manifesto – promises we have made to students to scrap tuition fees, to pensioners to protect their incomes with the triple lock and winter fuel allowance, to families struggling with rising energy costs that we will take back control of the utilities industry and bring down their bills and, crucially, to 95% of taxpayers that we won't put up their taxes. These are promises Theresa May cannot and will not make.

"Jeremy connects with the public in a way that Theresa May doesn't because Labour has a clear plan to transform our economy and society, and people recognise that. Theresa May has hidden from the public during this campaign and run scared of debating Jeremy live on TV, while Jeremy has been travelling around the country meeting people and addressing huge crowds."

**Ends**

**Notes**

In response to the audience questions:

In his interview with Andrew Neil, Jeremy said: "I didn't support the IRA, I don't support the IRA. What I want everywhere is a peace process, what I want everywhere is decency and human rights. We went through all the horrors of Northern Ireland, all through the 70s and 80s, through the period of the Troubles, and eventually came from that a peace process, the Good Friday Agreement and now relative peace and stability."

On the commemoration referred to by the audience member, Jeremy has been very clear that it was held for all those who died in the Troubles.

On leadership, Jeremy has said he sees leadership about listening, not dictating. Listening to what people say, understanding the pressures in their lives and ensuring government policies make a real and positive difference.

Being strong and standing up for people doesn't mean shouting and dictating. It's not a sign of strength to cut taxes for the rich and powerful, it's a sign of weakness. Real strength is standing up to these vested interests and governing for the many not the few.

On small businesses, Labour has pledged they will be protected by reintroducing the lower small profits rate of corporation tax. Labour is the party of small businesses, many of whom are exploited by bigger companies who delay payments to them to maximise their own profits. Labour will declare war on late payment.

On Jeremy Paxman's questions about Labour's manifesto

Labour is a democratic party and our manifesto reflects that. The Tories' manifesto was compiled by a small group of people around Theresa May, and the chaos and confusion that has ensued as a result reflects that.

On MI5

The claim that John McDonnell wants to disband MI5 is entirely false and based on erroneous reports about an unrelated statement that John signed.

Unlike the Tories that cut the budget for the intelligence services in 2012 and have cut police numbers by 20,000 since 2010, Labour is committed to giving our security services the resources they need and will recruit 10,000 extra police officers.

On Hamas

Jeremy has spent his life campaigning for peace and has been very clear that he does not support Hamas.

Questions Theresa May must now answer:

The Conservative manifesto has betrayed Britain's pensioners, threatened unspecified tax rises for tens of millions of working people and set out a grim future of underfunding and understaffing for our vital public services.

Theresa May has broken her flagship manifesto pledge on social care and there is confusion over funding for our NHS and schools. She must answer these questions:

- What will be the cap on social care costs for people with conditions such as dementia, how many pensioners will lose their winter fuel payments, and how will you fund the NHS?
- Will there be increases in National Insurance contributions and income tax?
- How will you fund your school breakfast proposal now you have withdrawn the original 6.8p figure?