

Green Party calls for inquiry into death of schoolboy as 'Hillsborough Law' Bill reaches Parliament



Green Party

28 March 2017

The Green Party has joined calls for an independent panel inquiry into the death of seven-year-old Zane Gbangbola, who died in 2014 after his home in Surrey was flooded.

Zane's family believes he was killed by hydrogen cyanide carried by floodwater from a nearby landfill site, despite the coroner ruling his death was caused by carbon monoxide poisoning.

The family was denied legal aid and is now supporting the Public Authority (Accountability) Bill, dubbed the 'Hillsborough Law' [1], which will be presented to parliament tomorrow, on March 29.

Caroline Lucas MP, Green Party co-leader, is co-sponsoring the bill.

Zane's parents Kye Gbangbola and Nicole Lawler are requesting an independent panel of inquiry, as in the Hillsborough inquest, to review all documentation around Zane's death. More than 30,000 people have signed a petition [2] to support their call.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, met Kye and Nicole earlier this month.

Bartley said:

"I was struck by Kye and Nicole's determination and resilience in terrible circumstances. They've shown enormous courage to continue fighting for justice in the face of a huge bureaucratic machine and vested interests weighted against them.

"I fully support their call for an inquiry and tomorrow we'll take an important step forward with this bill reaching parliament. It's crucial there's a level playing field for families seeking answers about their loved ones' deaths.

“The implications of Zane’s death are enormous, not just for his family, but potentially for everyone who lives near a landfill site, particularly as many of these sites are unrecorded. The authorities involved in the investigation must be accountable so we can make sure the truth emerges and that a tragedy like this never happens again.”

Notes:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2016/sep/08/hillsborough-law-launch-ed-to-ensure-officials-act-with-candour>
2. https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/call-for-a-public-debate-into-the-death-of-7-year-old-zane?bucket=+via+%4038_degrees
3. More information about the campaigns are available at <http://www.truthaboutzane.com/> and <http://www.thehillsboroughlaw.com/>

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[News story: Public sector pay awards for 2017-18](#)

Pay awards for armed forces, NHS staff and doctors and dentists set out by government.

The government has today (28 March 2017) set out the pay awards for armed forces, NHS Agenda for Change staff and doctors and dentists in line with the policy of an average 1% pay rise in 2016-17.

The government asked the following Pay Review Bodies to examine how an increase to base pay could be applied in line with the government’s policy of an average of 1% across the workforces:

- Armed Forces’ Pay Review Body (AFPRB)
- NHS Pay Review Body (NHSPRB)
- Doctors’ and Dentists’ Remuneration (DDR)

The government has accepted the recommendations for the armed forces, NHS Agenda for Change staff and doctors and dentists to receive an average of a 1% pay increase.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, David Gauke, said:

It is always important to recognise the amazing work undertaken every day by our armed forces, doctors and dentists and NHS staff. The settlement for these key workforces protects jobs and helps repair the public finances. The OBR has forecast that the current pay policy will protect approximately 200,000 jobs across the UK.

I am pleased that we are able to accept the recommendations of the independent pay review bodies, and I thank them for their work.

[News story: Cancer innovation challenge in Scotland: apply for funding](#)

Organisations can apply for a share of £325,000 to find new ways of recording and integrating data on patient outcomes and experiences.

Up to £325,000 is available to fund the development of innovative technologies that find new ways of integrating data into Scotland-wide healthcare processes. The aim is to improve patient care.

These technologies should record and integrate cancer patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs). This will:

- improve experiences of treatment, care, and personal outcomes
- explore the clinical and psychosocial impact of new and established cancer treatment
- make better use of NHS resources by reducing waste and inefficient practices
- speed up the adoption of new technologies into the NHS through efficient evaluation mechanisms
- create high value research infrastructure with global reach

This competition has 2 phases. Up to £125,000 (including VAT) is available for phase 1, and up to £200,000 (including VAT) for Phase 2:

- Phase 1: technical feasibility. Projects should last up to 3 months and range in size up to a total cost of £25,000
- Phase 2: development and evaluation. Projects should last up to 6 months and range in size up to a total cost of £100,000
- this competition opens on 31 March 2017
- you must register before 15 May 2017
- you must apply by 29 May 2017

- there will be an [information session for potential applicants](#) on 19 April 2017 in Edinburgh (register by 10 April)
- organisations can carry out the project on their own or work with others

This is a [Small Business Research Initiative](#) (SBRI) competition. The [Data Lab](#) – funded by the [Scottish Funding Council](#) – [DHI Scotland](#) and [Stratified Medicine Scotland](#) will fund this competition.

[News story: Do you want to help shape the future of energy?](#)

Our scientists and engineers are working with partners around the globe to develop fusion as a new source of clean energy for future power stations. In partnership with industry and academia we are also developing opportunities to work together to enable our expertise to be used in non-nuclear applications, with an increased technology focus.

We are seeking two Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) for the UKAEA Board; one a Financial expert (who will also chair the Audit Committee) and the other an academic or R&D leader.

The positions are public appointments. Further information and application details are available on:

Finance NED

<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/united-kingdom-at-omic-energy-authority-non-executive-director-finance-expert>

Academic NED

<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/united-kingdom-at-omic-energy-authority-ukaea>

[Press release: Improvements for drivers on M1 in East Midlands](#)

Motorists using the M1 in the East Midlands are set to benefit from better, more reliable journeys as part of a £120m upgrade starting next week.

Highways England will be improving 7.5 miles of the vital route in a project which will make journeys faster and more reliable by providing a much needed

extra lane in each direction, particularly around East Midlands Airport.

The work, which starts on 30 March, is part of a major government investment worth £15bn to build a modern and resilient road network.

Highways England project manager David Cooke said:

Drivers currently experience congestion and unreliable journey times at busy periods and traffic is predicted to increase, particularly with the growth expected at East Midlands Airport.

By upgrading this stretch of motorway, Highways England will reduce congestion and improve travel times and make journeys more reliable.

This work will also support the economy and boost economic growth within the region by improving traffic flow on the motorway reducing the cost of economic delay to commuters and business traffic.

The M1 is a strategic route that carries more than 130,000 vehicles per day between Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. It will be upgraded to smart motorway between Diseworth (junction 23a) and Risley (junction 25).

The scheme will also introduce new CCTV cameras and electronic information signs and signals on gantries – these will show the variable mandatory speed limits and manage traffic flow and incidents.

Emergency refuge areas will also be installed throughout the length of the scheme with the installation of a reinforced barrier and hardened central reserve to further improve safety.

Between Diseworth and Kegworth (junction 24) the hard shoulder will be used at peak times, and between Kegworth and Risley it will be permanently converted to a fourth traffic lane.

The work is due for completion in winter 2018.

Elsewhere, motorists are also being reminded that there will be a contraflow in place on the M1 between junction 24 for Kegworth to A453/ A42 Finger Farm Roundabout (near East Midlands Airport) while development work starts on the East Midlands Gateway scheme.

For more information about the smart motorway upgrade, [visit the scheme website](#).

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.