

Latest figures from Bus Passenger Survey show Government plans will not put passengers first – Daniel Zeichner

Daniel

Zeichner MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Minister, commenting on the publication of the Transport Focus Bus Passenger Survey figures for Autumn 2016, said:

“These results show once again that compared to national operators, municipal bus companies provide some of the best bus services in the country. The Government's plans to ban local authorities from forming their own bus companies in the future clearly flies in the face of all the evidence.

“This year's survey also suggests that congestion is becoming an increasing problem for bus users. With traffic projected to grow, this problem is only going to become worse. We really need to see local authorities and bus companies using the tools available in the Bus Services Bill to address congestion, and clean up our air.”

Police staff confidence hits new low

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Police officer confidence throughout Scotland has hit a new low, an internal survey conducted by Police Scotland has revealed.

The shocking statistics show that just one in 10 police officers believe that Police Scotland has a “positive future.”

It was reported this morning that the questionnaire asked all staff their thoughts on the statement: “I feel positive about the future within Police Scotland.”

Results revealed that only 10 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement – while 71 per cent suggested they either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The severe confidence crisis looks set to continue over the next few years

with the force facing huge budget pressures on the SNP's watch.

Scottish Conservative shadow justice secretary Douglas Ross said:

"This survey puts a spotlight on just how little confidence there is within the police for the single force.

"Officers and staff need to have full confidence in Police Scotland if they are to work to the best of their abilities and keep Scotland's communities safe.

"It's extremely worrying that almost four years on from the SNP centralising our police forces, morale within the organisation remains at rock bottom."

For a copy of The Sun's exclusive article regarding the survey click here:
<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/756737/shock-stats-reveal-police-morale-has-hit-new-low-as-just-one-in-10-cops-back-the-forces-future/>

[David Hodge's resignation makes the need for full disclosure from the Government more pressing – Teresa Pearce](#)

Teresa

Pearce, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, commenting on the news that Surrey

County Council Leader David Hodge is standing down as the Local Government Association's Conservative group leader, said:

"It

appears that the row around the Tory sweetheart deal for Surrey Council has claimed a victim with the resignation of David Hodge as the man responsible for

standing up for all Tory councils. Perhaps that's unsurprising given the accusations he colluded with the Government over a favourable deal not available to other councils.

"This

doesn't put the matter to bed however. Theresa May has failed to come clean about the terms of the deal offered to Surrey, failed to apologise for her Government's misleading suggestion that there had been no such deal and would not give the assurance that other local councils will get the same treatment.

“David

Hodge’s resignation makes the need for full disclosure from the Government more

pressing. What we need from the Tories is a long term sustainable plan for funding social care, rather than cosy deals for Tories councils.”

[Jonathan Ashworth responds to news that three more trusts have been put into financial special measures](#)

Jonathan

Ashworth MP, Labour’s Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on news that three more trusts have been put into financial special measures by NHS Improvement, said:

“The

Government’s inept mismanagement of the NHS is pushing hospital finances to the

brink. NHS Providers have already warned this week that delivering services within the current financial settlement is “mission impossible”. The news today

that another three hospital trusts have been forced into financial special measures just illustrates the deepening financial challenge facing the health service.

“Theresa

May can’t keep on forcing hospitals to choose between balancing the books and providing safe patient care. By underfunding the NHS for so long, the Prime Minister is putting patients at risk. The Government needs to set out a long-term,

sustainable financial settlement for the NHS which allows hospitals to provide

the top quality health services which Britain’s patients expect.”

[Duke of Edinburgh visits RAF Northolt](#)

His Royal □

Highness Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh made an official visit to RAF Northolt on Friday 17 March.

The Duke made the visit in his capacity of Honorary Air Commodore for the unit, which is home to 33 units from across Defence and wider Government.



As part of the visit programme The Duke received an update on operations on the unit and met 120 personnel from all three Armed Services and Civil Servants. Corporal Loz Prior, who works on the unit as a Physical Training Instructor was part of the group that met The Duke, he said: 'I felt immensely proud to be part of the occasion. A big part of my role is to ensure that our people are fit to do their job, and His Royal Highness was very interested in the various ways we manage to achieve that. It was a real honour to meet and speak with a member of the Royal family.'



The Duke last visited RAF Northolt in March 2015, when he awarded a new standard to 32 (The Royal) Squadron as part of the unit's centenary celebrations.

Editor: Squadron Leader James Tenniswood

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