

Businesses need certainty and stability from the Government on terms of transitional deal – Starmer

Keir Starmer MP, Labour's Shadow Brexit Secretary, responding to the publication of the European Commission's guidelines on the next phase of the Brexit negotiations, said:

"The immediate priority for the Brexit talks must be to secure sensible transitional arrangements that will protect jobs and the economy.

"Labour has been clear that it would seek a time-limited transitional deal that maintains the same basic terms that we currently enjoy with the EU. That means we would seek to remain in a customs union with the EU and within the single market during this period. It means we would abide by the common rules of both.

"The Government must now follow Labour and the EU and set out its own proposals. Theresa May cannot allow herself to be wrong footed again by refusing to set out in detail the terms of the transitional deal she wants to reach. Businesses need certainty and stability from the Government, not more confusion and chaos."

IMF reminds the Chancellor that Tory economic failure is undermining our economy – McDonnell

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, commenting on the IMF's report out today, said:

"The IMF has today played the role of the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future to remind the Chancellor that the last seven years of Tory economic failure is undermining our economy.

"They confirmed the downbeat assessment last month by the OBR, highlighting low growth, the Government's productivity failure and neglect of the regions. The report also confirmed what we all know, that Conservative governments are

good

at cutting public services to give tax cuts to a wealthy few, but hopeless at investing in the skills and infrastructure our country needs to develop an economy for the many.

“As the

IMF rightly points out, despite strong global growth, UK economic growth is revised down, and business growth is down despite Tory tax giveaways to big business; while working households this Christmas are struggling with rising prices and lagging wages.

“In

addition, this report can be seen as further proof that the Tories have completely lost the economic argument. Austerity has failed and will only continue to undermine our economy during the Brexit negotiations.

“The next Labour government will

end austerity and provide the proper investment our country needs, underpinned

by our Fiscal Credibility Rule, to build a high wage, high skill economy for the many not the few.”

[Tracy Brabin comments on inclusion of foster children in 30 hours childcare policy](#)

Today,

Minister for Children and Families, Robert Goodwill bowed to campaigning pressure and committed to including foster children in the 30 hours offer from

September 2018.

Labour

MP Tracy Brabin has been campaigning against the unfair exclusion of foster children from the flagship government policy.

Tracy

Brabin, Shadow Early Years Minister,

commenting on the policy concession, said:

“The

exclusion of foster children from the 30 hours policy was clearly cruel and wrong to everyone apart from Conservative Ministers.

“I’m

glad those Ministers have adopted Labour's position and committed to include foster children from next year. It's clear they wouldn't have taken this step if it wasn't for the pressure they faced from us, from foster parents, and from all others who cared about righting this wrong.

"Foster children are some of the most vulnerable in our society and it'll be welcome news to foster carers that they'll now have the same right to access funded childcare as their peers."

[Government favours tax dodgers over tax payers – Peter Dowd](#)

Peter Dowd MP, Labour's Shadow Chief

Secretary to the Treasury responding to the Government voting down Labour's amendments to the Finance Bill:

"This Conservative Government has once again demonstrated that it favours tax dodgers over tax payers, bankers over single mothers and large multinationals over public sector workers.

"This evening's votes saw the Government block Labour's amendments which would have required the Minister to publish an equalities impact assessment on all economic policies and forced ministers to review the tax gap.

"The next Labour Government is committed to ensuring that all our policies have equality impact assessments, and we will implement thorough measures to crack down on tax dodging under our Tax Transparency and Enforcement Programme. Unlike the Conservatives, we will create a country and an economy that works for the many and not just a privileged few."

[Government has decided not to give our](#)

schools the resources they need – Angela Rayner

Angela Rayner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education, commenting on the Government's School Revenue Funding Settlement published today, said:

"Today's announcement simply confirms that the Conservatives will do nothing to reverse per-pupil funding cuts since 2015 or compensate schools for £2.7 billion in cuts to school funding.

"It is a source of national shame that the Government has decided not to give our schools the resources they need despite soaring class sizes, with teachers leaving the profession in record numbers and recruitment targets being missed.

"The next Labour government will reverse the cuts to school budgets and protect per-pupil funding in real terms, as we build a National Education Service that will create a country for the many, and not just the few."

Ends