

Labour challenge Tory climate change denial at PMQs

Rebecca Long Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Business Secretary, standing in today for Jeremy Corbyn at Prime Ministers Questions (PMQs), has highlighted climate change denial at the top of the Tory party and fears that the next Prime Minister will be unwilling to tackle the climate emergency

New research from Labour reveals that 15 of Theresa May's current and former cabinet ministers are implicated in climate change denial, including Tory leadership favourites Boris Johnson and Environment Secretary Michael Gove.

On Tory leadership candidates, analysis found that:

- Boris Johnson, Andrea Leadsom and Michael Gove have previously denied climate science.
- Dominic Raab, Matt Hancock and Esther McVey were linked to individuals or organisations promoting climate change denial.

Boris Johnson has referred to global warming as a "primitive fear" that is "without foundation". As Education Secretary, Michael Gove opposed teaching climate science in school, with his spokesperson dismissing climate science as "a particular political or ideological point of view".

On serving and former cabinet members, analysis also found:

- Three current cabinet ministers have previously denied the scientific consensus on climate change: Environment Secretary Michael Gove; International Trade Secretary Liam Fox; and Transport Secretary Chris Grayling.
- Three other cabinet ministers have close financial or professional links with organisations and individuals promoting climate change denial: Health Secretary Matt Hancock; Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss; and May herself.
- Four of May's former cabinet ministers have denied climate science:

former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson; former Brexit Secretary David Davis; Leader of the Commons Andrea Leadsom; and former Defence Secretary Chris Grayling.

- Five other former cabinet ministers were linked to individuals or organisations promoting climate change denial: former International Development Secretary Priti Patel; former Conservative chairman Patrick McLoughlin; former Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey; and former Brexit secretaries David Davis and Dominic Raab.

In recent months the government has been subject to mounting criticism for ignoring the science on climate change. Last year leading climate scientist James Hansen accused government energy policy of “aping Trump”, while this March the High Court ruled government fracking policies unlawful for failing to take into account scientific evidence.

Rising public pressure forced the government into a humiliating U-turn last month when it belatedly accepted a Labour motion to declare a climate and environment emergency. But this analysis will raise fresh fears about the scale of climate change denial in the Conservative Party and whether it is capable of taking the necessary action to tackle the climate crisis.

Rebecca Long Bailey MP, Labour’s Shadow Business Secretary, speaking at PMQs, said:

“How much authority does the government really have on climate change?

“Three current ministers ‘have denied’ the scientific consensus on climate change.

“And several of those standing in the Tory leadership contest, have close links with organisations and individuals ‘promoting’ climate change.”

Labour announces plans for Overseas Loan Transparency Act

Ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers meeting this weekend, Labour announces plans for an Overseas Loan Transparency Act which will establish a new compulsory register of overseas loans.

The new Act will require all lenders from the UK to disclose loans to foreign governments.

Labour are is taking this action to put an end to exploitative secret loans to avert a new debt crisis for countries in the Global South.

Labour will take a stand against the injustice of countries having to divert money away from public services to repay unfair international debts at the same time as bearing the burden of a global climate crisis they did not create.

Countries such as Mozambique are already struggling under crippling debt burdens after London-based banks were able to issue secretive loans worth \$2 billion without the knowledge of Mozambique's parliament. Subsequent debt burdens have triggered an economic crisis in the country leading to rising inflation, higher food prices and increased rural poverty.

Dan Carden MP, Labour's Acting Shadow International Development Secretary, said:

"Tackling the growing debt crisis faced by countries in the Global South is a matter of global justice and is central to our work tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality and supporting people on frontlines of the fight against poverty.

"Growing debt burdens often far outweigh any aid or charity given and can present one of the greatest threats to poverty alleviation as money that should be spent on public services is re-directed to debt repayment.

“It’s been fourteen years since Labour led the way in securing the cancellation of 130 billion dollars of debt for low-income countries at the 2005 G7 Finance Ministers meeting. And today we are once again taking action to avoid a new global debt crisis.”

John McDonnell MP, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor, said:

“We have to play our part in ending the scandal of secret loans to foreign governments.

“It’s time for the UK to take responsibility for upholding standards of probity and transparency.

“A Labour government will bring foreign policy in line with economic policy – putting justice, solidarity and fair dealing at the heart of everything we do.”

[Northants Council Leader must resign after reviews into toddler murders – Andrew Gwynne](#)

Andrew Gwynne MP, Labour’s Shadow Communities and Local Government Secretary, responding

to the news that Northants Council has been strongly criticised by two serious case reviews into the murders of toddlers, said:

“My thoughts are with the family of the two children involved in this tragic case. Losing a child is an awful trauma.

“A decade after the tragic death of Baby P and vulnerable young people are still being failed, a situation made worse by years of Government cuts to the services that are there to prevent these tragedies from happening.

“There have been repeated failures in children’s services in Northamptonshire since 2013 and there is now no question: Council Leader Matt Golby has to go. He failed when he was in charge of children’s services, and he’s failed since taking over the Council. The people of Northants need to be reassured that vulnerable children in the county will be protected. And the County Council must immediately restore the funding that it has cut from children’s services.”

Ends

[Jonathan Ashworth responds to the workforce plan](#)

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour’s Shadow Health Secretary, responding to the workforce plan, said:

“Labour welcomes any proposals that, as we have called for, genuinely improve staff wellbeing but overall this report is thin gruel ducking the big challenges of how to solve an escalating staffing crisis because Tory ministers have refused to back up the plan with the cash that is so desperately needed.

“As Dido Harding’s report hints at, scrapping the bursary, cuts to career development budgets, pay restraint and ongoing austerity means the NHS is left struggling with 100,000 staff shortages including 40,000 nurses and 10,000 doctors. The consequence is patient safety at risk and poorer standards of care.

“Expected recommendations to recruit 5,000 nurses a year internationally have mysteriously vanished from the final draft.

“Without immediate determined action, backed up by investment, the NHS workforce crisis will only get worse.

“Ministers should have today announced they were restoring the bursary, reversing cuts to training budgets, and legislating for safe staffing on wards. Instead, we have a government in meltdown and a Health Secretary jockeying for a prominent role in the next Tory Cabinet. Only Labour will properly deal with the workforce problems our NHS face.”

Jeremy Corbyn's statement ahead of meetings in Dublin

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, speaking ahead of meetings with the Irish President and Prime Minister and other political leaders in Dublin, said:

“Throughout this summer, our politics will be paralysed and our country's future put on hold while the Conservatives are locked in internal conflict over their leadership. Jobs and investment will be put at risk in Leave and Remain areas alike.

“The Tory leadership contest will most likely end with a small number of wildly unrepresentative rightwing Conservative activists foisting a No Deal zealot on the country.

“The next Tory leader will be yet another unelected Prime Minister, without the support of the public and with no mandate for whatever form of Brexit he or she supports.

“Since the 2016 referendum, Labour has backed an alternative plan for Brexit that would work for the whole country, protecting jobs and living standards. Brexit has not happened because of the sheer incompetence and infighting of the Conservative Party.

“Labour will work with anyone across party boundaries and do whatever is necessary to stop a disastrous No Deal outcome, which would open the way for a frenzy of deregulation and a race to the bottom in jobs, rights and protections.

“But faced with the threat of No Deal and a Prime Minister with no mandate, the only way out of the Brexit crisis ripping our country apart is now to go back to the people. Let the people decide the country’s future, either in a general election or through a public vote on any deal agreed by parliament.

“For Labour any outcome has to work for our whole country, not just one side of this deliberately inflamed divide.”