

Jeremy Corbyn speaking ahead of EU elections

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, speaking ahead of the EU elections today, said:

“Today, the country has an opportunity to have a say on what kind of country we want Britain to be.

“A vote for Labour is a vote for a tolerant and fairer country, and an end to the division and austerity which has devastated our communities for a decade.

“The threat from the far-right is real. They serve only to sow division and offer no solutions. A vote for Labour today will challenge the far-right in Britain and across Europe.

“A vote for Labour is a vote to bring our divided country together, whether you supported Remain or Leave. We are the only party working for a sensible solution to break the Brexit deadlock and protect jobs, rights and living standards.

“We will continue to oppose the Tories’ bad deal or a disastrous No Deal. If we can’t get an agreement along the lines of our alternative plan, we will take it back to the people whether it’s through a public vote or general election.

“A vote for Labour is a vote for the only party that stands for the real change our country desperately needs, to benefit all communities, not just a privileged few.”

Treasury response to LCF scandal – John McDonnell comment

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, responding to the directions issued today about the FCA's handling of the LCF scandal, said:

"The Government has not taken this seriously, and these directions from the Economic Secretary do not change that. The Government has not joined the dots of successive scandals. They have not seen that the root of multiple scandals is systemic regulatory failure, rather than one-off acts of misconduct or 'bad apple' individuals. The Chancellor needs to front up and review the entire regulatory architecture.

"The investigation into the approach of the FCA and 'wider policy questions' is encouraging, but a 12 month investigation is far too long to wait for people whose lives have been torn apart by the collapse of LCF, and are desperate for answers.

"The Government's actions reflect a combination of incompetence and a blinkered ideology: their commitment to 'new and innovative forms of finance' has blinded them to the harms of inadequate regulation.

"A Labour Government would take a fundamentally different approach. We've commissioned work on overhauling the regulatory architecture. We will ensure that finance is a servant to, not master of, the public – and that our regulators bear this in mind at all times."

Labour calls on the Government to hold social media companies to account over discrimination in sport

Today (Wednesday), Labour will use an Opposition Day

Debate in the House of Commons to call for tougher action to tackle discrimination in sport.

Labour would like to see a system introduced where offending content on social media is shared with sports governing bodies and clubs to ensure the offender can be banned from matches and sporting events.

Labour MPs will be calling on the government to hold social media companies to account given the unacceptable levels of discrimination that remain in sport.

Racism, sexism and homophobia targeted at players and fans are often left unpunished on social media. It affects athletes of all levels, across the country.

Labour recognises the work done by governing bodies, clubs and supporters' groups across all sports to combat discrimination and encourages these organisations to work with fans to stamp out the behaviour of a minority of supporters.

Rosena Allin-Khan MP, Labour's Shadow Sports Minister, said:

"Parliament has a responsibility to send a strong message that we need to combat discrimination across all sports. This is an important debate because right now, our national sport is being ruined by racists, sexists and homophobes.

"The comments being made on Twitter would be indefensible in a court of law, indefensible in front of an employer, and yet they are going unpunished on social media. We want social media companies to have a responsibility to remove hate speech within 24 hours or face serious fines that hit their bottom line.

"There is no greater unifier in the world than sport, so we want Parliament to send a clear message today, that discrimination in sport must no longer be tolerated."

Plastics plan falls short while recycling rates slump – Hayman

Sue Hayman MP, Labour's Shadow Environment Secretary, commenting on the government's plastics announcement, said:

"It is disappointing that this announcement falls short of EU proposals announced earlier this week, especially when we have had warm words from government that British environmental standards will not lag behind after Brexit. Despite the headlines, it appears that plastic drinks stirrers are the only item that will be totally banned from sale.

"Meanwhile, recycling rates have slumped and the UK continues to export large amounts of recyclable materials to countries that have little or no waste infrastructure – which is how a lot of plastic ends up in our oceans.

"Labour is calling for a truly comprehensive waste and recycling strategy that tackles our lack of domestic infrastructure to deal with what we throw away as well as further action to reduce waste at source and improve levels of recycling."

John McDonnell responds to news that inflation has increased to 2.1%

John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor, responding to news that inflation has increased to 2.1% and that borrowing in the latest full financial year has exceeded the March forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility, said:

"With rising prices and surging government borrowing today, it's

clear the Tories have left the economy unprepared for the shock of a No Deal Brexit.

“They have broken their promise to eliminate the deficit by 2015, and have overseen stagnating wages driven by slumping business investment and productivity.

“Only a Labour Government will deliver the radical transformation that is desperately needed to boost livelihoods and protect future generations.”