

Conservative inaction fuelling economic crisis, Greens warn



Green Party

21 September 2023

Responding to the news that the Bank of England has held interest rates at 5.25%, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“Today’s decision to hold interest rates will come as some relief to households who have been finding it hard to make ends meet over the last couple of years.

“However, keeping the base rate at 5.25% will do nothing to actually help those who are struggling as a result of this Conservative government’s complete and utter inaction in the face of an economic crisis.

“It’s clear the Bank of England feels it has been left with no option but to use the blunt instrument of rising interest rates over the last few months, and risk recession, due to the fact that the Chancellor and Prime Minister see no need to do anything to help those who need it right now.

“It is clear as day that these two millionaires simply cannot see the devastating impact the current economic climate is having on millions of households.

“What we need to do is look for ways to support the economy without fuelling inflation by shifting consumption from the wealthy to those on lower incomes.

‘This means paying public sector workers in line with inflation and funding this through taxing the super-rich. Shifting spending power in this way would reduce any potential consumption impact on inflation without piling pressure on the struggling majority.

“It is the companies currently making billions in profits and the most wealthy who can and should bear the burden of a crisis rooted in inequality.

“At the same time, an increase in Universal Credit of £40 per week, and the same for legacy benefits, would provide immediate support to those that need it right now.”

ENDS

For more information or to arrange an interview contact the press office on press@greenparty.org.uk or call 0203 691 9401

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Temporary governing body chair appointed at Belfast Metropolitan College

The Department for the Economy has appointed Mrs Michele Corkey as temporary Chair of the governing body of Belfast Metropolitan College. The appointment takes effect from 26 October 2023.

Department for Communities celebrates success of Special Olympics Ulster athletes at World Summer Games

Sixteen Special Olympics Ulster athletes have been recognised at a celebration in Parliament Buildings hosted by Department for Communities Permanent Secretary, Colum Boyle.

Sunak's u-turn a symptom of government climate policy failure, warn Greens



Green Party

20 September 2023

Responding to Rishi Sunak's press conference in which the Prime Minister confirmed he is weakening the government's net zero policies, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"This is a desperate and dangerous u-turn from the Prime Minister which will throw the UK economy, the wellbeing of its citizens and the future of our environment out the window in a misguided attempt to create divisions for political gain.

"More than anything this speech sounded like an admission of the government's failure to implement climate policy in a way that brings people with them while showing the benefits of a more sustainable future.

"The government should be taking responsibility and leading the way by investing in the green transition, rather than putting the burden onto individuals. At the same time, it needs to be honest with the public about the need to reach net zero and what it will take to get there.

"We know that people are extremely concerned about the environment [1] and want clear leadership and action on the climate. This means insulating people's homes, investing in renewables and making sustainable transport more affordable, accessible and convenient.

"Not only would this help the UK reach its climate commitments but it would also help households through the cost of living crisis through cheaper bills and creating jobs.

"Instead, we have a government which is going backwards on all of these things, stoking fears of change and undermining the good work already being done.

"And let's not pretend there isn't the money around to make this happen. The government is currently spending billions of pounds subsidising the fossil fuel industry [2] which is actively making the climate crisis worse, costing us all billions more in the process.

"Meanwhile, a wealth tax on the richest 1% could go a long way to fund the changes necessary to reduce emissions and ensure those with the broadest shoulders play a part in improving the lives of those who are struggling right now."

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/public-importance-climate-change-and-environment-doubles-become-joint-third-biggest-issue-facing>

2

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/09/fossil-fuels-more-support-uk-than-renewables-since-2015>

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Sunak's net zero roll back "economic and environmental vandalism", say Greens



Green Party

20 September 2023

Responding to the news that the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is due to weaken the government's net zero policies, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"This is nothing short of economic and environmental vandalism that will mean higher energy bills, fewer jobs and lost investment all while weakening the UK's climate action even further.

"Households are already paying way more than they should be doing to heat their homes because of the last time the Conservatives decided to 'cut the green crap' [1], while businesses are crying out for more certainty from the government over the green transition which so clearly needs to happen.

“The UK is already not doing enough to reach its climate commitments [2]. Watering them down further, instead of ramping them up, will make it even harder to achieve these and further damage the UK’s climate credentials around the world.

“This reckless political gimmick will mean higher energy bills, colder homes, fewer jobs, more dirty air and more climate chaos. Meanwhile, Labour is not saying it will restore anything the Conservatives undo if they are elected at the next election. [3]

“Once again, this shows why it is so important to elect a group of Green MPs to hold whoever is in government to account and fight for better protections for both people and planet.”

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2022/mar/19/david-cameron-green-crap-energy-prices>

2

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/uk-action-on-climate-change/progress-snapshot/>

3

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66862498>

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