

Green Party applauds students receiving their A level results



Green Party

17 August 2023

Responding to today's A Level results, Vix Lowthion, Green Party Lifelong Education spokesperson, said:

"All students collecting their results today should be applauded for their unique achievements – this Class of 2023 never sat their formal GCSE exams, and so congratulations are in order for all staff and students who have worked hard to get their grades.

"Yet the disadvantage gap at A Level remains too wide, with poorer pupils continuing to lag behind the most privileged. At current rates of progress this gap will never close. Class sizes in state schools in England are the highest since records began – and this Conservative government has no policies, plans or funding proposals to address this.

"In addition to the challenges in schools, students who are planning to take the next steps and go to university face the significant costs of tuition fees and also possible continued disruption due to industrial action as a consequence of the refusal of some universities to negotiate a resolution with lecturers.

"Young people achieving today are owed a lot more support throughout their future than they have been granted by this government in the last 13 years.

"The Green Party remains committed to abolishing tuition fees for university students, and to properly funding education at school, vocational and university levels. It is only through investing in our young people that we can ensure they have all the opportunities that they deserve."

ENDS

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact the Press Office press@greenparty.org.uk 0203 691 9401

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Department for Infrastructure issues opinion on planning applications for Blaris, Lisburn

The Department for Infrastructure has today issued Notices of Opinion for two planning applications in the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area which were called into the Department for consideration.

Closure of Ffos-y-fran coal mine must mark next chapter of Wales' renewable revolution, say Greens



Green Party

15 August 2023

Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter has said the closure of the Ffos-y-Fran coal mine [1] should mark the next chapter in Wales' rich industrial heritage and its journey to becoming a renewables powerhouse.

Slaughter said:

“Fuelling the nation’s energy needs is part of who we are in Wales. Coal has been central to that, but our future now must be as a renewables powerhouse.

“And it is vital that everybody is included as we make this transition. That means we need investment in renewables alongside financial and training support for those workers who will now lose their jobs as a result of the closure of this mine.

“The Welsh government refused to step in to stop this coal mine operating 11

months after its planning permission ran out. That is one more symptom of Labour's failure to deliver a clean green future for everyone.

"Our natural resources provided the fuel for the Industrial revolution. Now our natural resources – wind, sun and water – can lead a green industrial revolution.

"Local people have led the campaign to end coal mining and restore our natural environment. Now they need the Welsh government to support them, show political leadership and deliver a shared vision of Wales as a renewables powerhouse.

"In the first instance, that means government holding the company to its promise to restore the environment. Then, we need investments in green jobs of the future that respect Welsh people's historic contribution to meeting the energy needs of the whole UK."

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxek2j20x5lo>

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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[Greens call for rail fare freeze as Government announces below inflationary fare rise](#)



Green Party

15 August 2023

Following the government announcing it plans to increase rail fares by less than the rate of inflation and will delay fare increases until March 2024, Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay has called on the government to go further and freeze rail fares for at least the next year [1].

Contrasting year on year rail fare rises with the freeze in fuel duty for drivers and cuts to air passenger duty for domestic flights, Ramsay has urged the government to ensure that rail passengers are not penalised for using a more sustainable form of transport.

Adrian Ramsay said:

“This government is moving in completely the wrong direction. Fuel duty has been frozen since 2011, while air passenger duty cuts this year will be a disaster for the climate crisis by encouraging people to fly more.

“This is despite the fact UK rail passengers are already paying more to travel by train [2] than flying and are faced with some of the most expensive tickets in Europe.

“Emissions from transport are higher than for any other sector of the economy. If the UK is to meet its climate commitments then we need more people choosing trains over cars and planes, and we need more commuters opting for public transport and active travel to get to work.

“Making train travel more expensive, while closing rail ticket offices that support travellers to get the best deal, would underscore the government’s contempt for climate action and the travelling public.

“Pushing up prices at all would make it harder for hard-pressed travellers to make the right decision for pocket and planet.

“That is why I am urging the government to come forward with a plan which will freeze rail fares. This would help address the cost of living crisis while helping to tackle the climate emergency.

“The Green alternative to the continued rundown of our railways is clear – make train travel affordable, safe and easy.

“That means bringing the whole rail system into public ownership, making sure it is always cheaper than the equivalent route by air or road, and encouraging more freight onto rail.

“That’s a win-win for the public and tackling the climate crisis.”

Notes

1. The rise in rail fares each January is usually based on the annual increase in Retail Price Index (RPI) measured the previous July. The price cap is usually announced by the Government each December. The government has indicated that next year’s rise will be below inflation and any increase will

also be delayed until March 2024. However, the Green Party believe there should be a fare freeze. [Next year's English rail fares rise will be below inflation, says Government](#)

2. [Recent research suggests train travel is 35% more expensive than flying](#), despite the fact that plane journeys on average emit twice the CO₂ on average (118% more) compared to travelling by train, while fuel duty is frozen

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[Labour Market Statistics](#)

The labour market statistics were published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.