

People can see through pre-election Budget tax bribes



Green Party

6 March 2024

“People can see through these pre-election tax bribes that will have to be paid for by cuts to our NHS and other vital public services,” says Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer.

Denyer said:

“People are crying out for investment in social care, in our NHS and in dentistry. We needed a ‘care full’ Budget but have ended up with a careless, reckless Budget.

“Chancellor Jeremy Hunt is attempting to bribe the electorate through tax cuts, which can only mean more pain for public services that are already on their knees.

“People won’t be richer, healthier or happier because of this Budget. People know a con when they see one.

“The Fairness Foundation found only 16 per cent of the British public and 17 per cent of Conservative voters would support tax cuts if it meant public service cuts. [1]

“Councils are going bust up and down the country, NHS waits are getting longer, dentists can’t be found, while anyone travelling by train or bus, or visiting our town centres feels the lack of investment all around them.

“These headline tax cuts will do nothing to reverse the decade-long, real-terms wage freeze most workers have faced under successive Conservative governments.

“The Resolution Foundation says those earning up to £19k pa will be losers because of freezing of tax thresholds, while pensioners and those on benefits gain nothing at all. [2]

“There is wealth in the UK, but it is distributed unfairly. Our economy is failing because our wealth, rather than circulating and benefiting everybody, is held in the stagnant assets of the super-rich.

“So, we needed a Budget that released the money available from a wealth tax to invest in the green jobs of the future, to cut NHS queues and restore nature and the places we live and work.

“We needed a Budget that introduced a Wealth Tax, and reformed Capital Gains Tax and National Insurance to raise over £50bn per year. [3]

“That would have provided the vital public investment our country is crying out for.

“Now we have Labour huffing and puffing but offering no real alternative to being locked into a Conservative-forged cuts straitjacket.

“Thankfully, a General Election is coming where people can vote Green for the real change that will lead to a fairer, healthier and more caring country.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Cross border trade is surging – Murphy

Building and sustaining cross-border cooperation and trade is key to the growth of our businesses, Economy Minister Conor Murphy has said.

Opportunity to invest in public services missed – Archibald

Finance Minister, Caoimhe Archibald has said the Chancellor's Budget means the financial outlook for public services remains extremely challenging for devolved governments.

O'Dowd offers condolences following fatality on the A5

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Long praises new online prison visits booking system

The Northern Ireland Prison Service is leading the way in offering the first fully online visit booking system across UK prisons.