

Givan welcomes Trade Unions' response to EA Pay and Grading Review

Education Minister Paul Givan has welcomed confirmation from support staff unions that they will consult their members on the proposed Pay and Grading Review resolution.

Ministers committed to all island sustainable tourism

Ministers Conor Murphy and Catherine Martin have today signed an agreement on the need for tourism to be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable on the island of Ireland.

Preliminary works to commence at site of £24.5m Lagan pedestrian and Cycle bridge

Geotechnical Investigation works will commence on the River Lagan on Monday 24 June at the site of the proposed Lagan Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge.

"You can judge a society by how it looks after those in need" says Greens as they promise £20bn social care package

- Greens will introduce free personal care along the lines successfully

brought in by the Scottish Government, to ensure dignity in old age and for the disabled.

- Increase pay rates and introduce a career structure for carers to rebuild the care workforce.
- An additional £3bn to enable local authorities to provide high-quality children's social care

The Green Party is today highlighting their 'take greater care' commitment, pledging better care for millions of people in the care system and those working in it. The Green Party manifesto includes a commitment of £20bn extra a year to ensure free personal care available for all and increased pay rates and a career structure for carers.

Currently there are 150,000 staff vacancies in the care sector. In England there are estimated to be 4.7 million unpaid carers.

The Green Party Communities Spokesperson, Ellie Chowns, said:

"You can judge a society by how it looks after those in need.

"With this test the UK is clearly severely failing and must do better.

"That's why Greens have committed to invest £20bn a year into social care and will put it on a par with health.

"We believe that health and care services must go hand in hand.

"Investment and an increased priority given to care, will help free up hospital beds and reduce waiting lists.

"The Green Party believes free social care is fundamental to ensuring everyone is shown compassion and dignity at any stage in their lives when they need extra support."

The Green Party has also pledged greater care of social care workers. Chowns continued:

"There are 150,000 staff vacancies in the care sector and in England an estimated 4.7 million unpaid carers.

"Green MPs will seek to bring together local authorities, trade unions and private providers to ensure increased pay and improved terms and conditions for all care workers.

"The current system is failing some of the most vulnerable in society.

"It is only The Green Party who are being honest about the levels of investment needed to give people the dignity and wellbeing they deserve."

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Labour's eco policies a "bitter disappointment" say Greens

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Responding to the [ranking of different party manifestos released today](#) by Britain's leading environmental groups, Green Party Co-Leader, Carla Denyer said,

"These rankings show what most of us already know.

"Greens are the party that has the strongest fully costed policies for the environment.

"If you want green, then you need to vote Green.

"Labour's green policies are bitterly disappointing, even in the context of the dire Conservative offering.

"Every single Green vote on 4th July will push the Labour government to be bolder and better on important issues – no more so than on the environment."

She continued,

"We've seen the Labour party U-turn on their once-flagship green policy of £28bn climate investment.

"And that's before they even get into government.

"The environmental NGOs are clear that Labour's lack of green funding hamstrings their offering.

"Without being honest about how they'll fund their climate policies, the Labour manifesto is all talk and no trousers.

"A group of Green MPs will work tirelessly in Westminster to defend against any further Labour U-turns, keep Labour honest, and make the case to invest in our future."

An overview of the analysis is available on the websites of [Friends of the Earth](#) and [Greenpeace UK](#).

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