

 Request for information ATISN 11307

From: Martin Shipton

To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor); Greenough, Matt (Special Advisor)

Sent: Wed 12/04/2017 14:59

For your entertainment ...

Martin Shipton

Chief Reporter

Western Mail

From: Martin Shipton

To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

Cc:

Subject: Fwd: Re: Response to McEvoy/Hill

Sent: Thu 23/03/2017 16:51

See you at 7, Huw!

From: Martin Shipton

To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

Cc:

Subject: Fwd: *Embargoed 00:01 – Thursday 13th April 2017* Putting power back in local hands: A Welsh Conservative Plan for Wales

Sent: Wed 12/04/2017 15:54

Martin Shipton

Chief Reporter

Western Mail

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **martin shipton**

Date: 12 April 2017 at 15:52

Subject: Fwd: *Embargoed 00:01 – Thursday 13th April 2017* Putting power back in local hands: A Welsh Conservative Plan for Wales

To: Huw Price

It would be great if you could come back with a ripose to this ...

All the best,

Martin

Martin Shipton

Chief Reporter

Western Mail

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Vincent Bailey

Date: 12 April 2017 at 14:31

Subject: *Embargoed 00:01 – Thursday 13th April 2017* Putting power back in local hands: A Welsh Conservative Plan for Wales

To: Vincent

PRESS RELEASE

DATGANIAD I'R W



Ceidwadwyr
Cymreig

Welsh
Conservative

Embargoed 00:01 – Thursday 13th April 2017

Putting power back in local hands: A Welsh Conservative Plan for Wales

Welsh Conservatives are today launching their manifesto for the local government elections, including a six-point-plan for a Wales that works for everyone.

The manifesto launch is taking place at Star Inn, Dinas Powys, and Welsh Conservatives are calling on communities to reject Labour's 'top-down' approach and place power in local hands.

The Welsh Conservatives' '*Plan for Wales*' includes a pledge to offer households fairer council tax bills, regular refuse collections, and better support for armed forces heroes.

Welsh Conservative councils will also support local businesses by revitalising high streets and procuring services locally wherever possible. There are also plans to protect our environment by encouraging better recycling and by ensuring that development is restricted to appropriate sites.

Speaking ahead of the launch, Shadow Local Government Secretary – Janet Finch-Saunders AM – warned that Labour and Plaid-led councils were holding back Welsh communities with a “complacency” that has seen council tax bills rise, high streets deteriorate, and picturesque green spaces diminish.

Our Plan for Wales

A Welsh Conservative council would:

- Honour local armed forces heroes
- Support local businesses
- Deliver value for money, including fairer council tax bills
- Protect the environment
- Support future generations
- Safeguard services for those in need

Vale of Glamorgan MP and Secretary of State for Wales, **Alun Cairns MP**, said:

“Welsh Conservatives believe in strong and effective local government that is accountable and delivers high quality public services that matter most to you and your family. We will build a strong local economy where everyone plays by the same rules.

“As we get on with the job of delivering Brexit, we have an important opportunity to create a fairer Wales. We want to emerge from this period of national change stronger, fairer, more united and more outward-looking than ever before.

“We believe that local government is central to this vision.”

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, **Andrew RT Davies**, said:

“The Labour Party can no longer claim to represent local communities. Their plans to force councils across Wales to merge would have taken power away from local people and wiped many areas off the map.

“Areas like Monmouthshire, the Vale of Glamorgan and Conwy in which

“Councils play a hugely important role in shaping the vital public services in your community, but they must be accountable and open to the people they serve.

“We want to see policies developed locally and decisions taken as close as possible to you and your community.

“You only have to look to Monmouthshire Council to see how effective Welsh Conservative policies can be in delivering for local communities.”

Shadow Local Government Secretary, **Janet Finch-Saunders**, said:

“Labour and Plaid Cymru-led councils continue to hold back our communities with a complacency that has seen our high streets deteriorate, picturesque green spaces diminish, and council tax bills spiraling out of control.

“In Conwy, the Labour/Plaid council has moved to monthly bin collections, asking residents to pay more for less in terms of public services.

“The evidence is piling up, and so are your bin bags. Only the Welsh Conservatives can clean up after Labour’s mess”.

Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Conservative Group, **Cllr John Thomas**, said:

“Our plan for local government puts power back in your hands and will ensure your local council delivers effective local services that work for everyone.

“Here in the Vale, Labour’s council tax hikes have cost the residents almost £600; we’ve seen little or no improvements to

transport infrastructure in the Eastern Vale; and communities have faced a desperate fight to stop local schools from closing.

“Our plan for the Vale will deliver fairer council tax bills, regular refuse collections, and much-needed improvements to our creaking infrastructure.

“Your vote on May 4th matters more than ever and a vote for the Welsh Conservatives will mean high quality public services and local decision making for the good of communities across Wales.”

Notes to Editors:

Tomorrow’s local government manifesto launch at the Star Inn, 5 Station Road, Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 4DE. There is parking available behind the venue and pictures will also be taken on the Village Square.

Teas and coffees will be served from 11am with the event officially starting at 11.30am.

Vincent Bailey

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From: Martin Shipton

To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Tory campaign launch

Sent: Wed 12/04/2017 17:20

My sentiments entirely!

M

Martin Shipton

Chief Reporter

Western Mail

On 12 April 2017 at 17:19, Price, Huw (Special Advisor) wrote:

> It'd be rude not to include something on it!

>

>

>

> Sent from my Windows 10 phone

>

>

>

> From: martin shipton

> Sent: 12 April 2017 17:10

> To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

> Subject: Re: Tory campaign launch

>

>

>

> Thanks, Huw - I like the double reference to Reckless!

> M

> Martin Shipton

> Chief Reporter

> Western Mail

>

>

>

> On 12 April 2017 at 17:02, Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

> wrote:

>> Here's a starter for 10 – let me know what they say tomorrow and we

>> can maybe change to fit.

>>

>>

>>

>> Commenting on the Tory local election campaign launch, a Welsh Labour

>> spokesperson said:

>>

>> "This is not so much a plan for Wales as a checklist of reckless failure.

>>

>> "The Tory record is there for all to see and even by their own
>> standards, Wales' only Tory council has failed to deliver for local
>> people. Rather than supporting future generations they slashed
>> education funding by £3.2m, instead of fairer council tax bills the
>> Tory council increased bills almost 25% above the Wales average this
>> year alone. People living in the Tory-run Monmouthshire council area
>> now pay over £230 more in council tax than they did just a few years
>> ago.

>>

>> "When local businesses suffered because of rates changes by the
>> independent valuations office, it was the Welsh Labour Government who
>> stepped up to the plate, not the local Tory council and their plans
>> to increase car-park charges by 10 per cent would be a further hammer
>> blow to local traders.

>>

>> "Rather than safeguarding services the Tories took a knife to front
>> line services including axing free swimming for pensioners, cutting
>> tourism funding and closing a local tourist information centre, and
>> slashed services for some of Monmouthshire's youngest children.

>>

>> "The choice people face on May 4 is clear – a fair deal with Welsh
>> Labour, or reckless failure with a Tory party as quick to raise
>> council tax as it is to slash services."

>>

>> Ends

>>

>> Notes

>>

>> Council Tax in Monmouthshire has risen 18.6% with the cost for a Band
>> D property £230.02 more than in 2013/14:

>>

>> [http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/15187686.Gwent_councils_forced
>> to_cut___192_million_over_five_years/](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/15187686.Gwent_councils_forced_to_cut___192_million_over_five_years/)

>>

>> Fury at Monmouthshire youth service cuts:

>>

>> [http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/10165188.Fury_at_Monmouthshire
>> youth_service_cuts/](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/10165188.Fury_at_Monmouthshire_youth_service_cuts/)

>>

>> Car-park charges and fines may increase by 10 per cent / cutting
>> school meals choice while increasing charges:

>> <http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/10153109.display/>

>>

>> Average council tax rise in Wales is 3% this financial year,
>> Monmouthshire has increased theirs by 3.95%

>>

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From: Martin Shipton
To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)
Cc:
Subject: Qatar
Sent: Tue 02/05/2017 15:10

Qatar and LGBT rights:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/06/13/here-are-the-10-countries-where-homosexuality-may-be-punished-by-death-2/?utm_term=.a720e30241f9

>

> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_Qatar

>

> <https://dohanews.co/what-its-like-to-be-gay-and-qatari/>

-----Andrew White, Stonewall Cymru Director, said:
'The First Minister describes this as 'the beginning of a special relationship with Qatar and the Middle East'. We want the government to also use this opportunity to open discussions about LGBT equality.
These conversations and any resulting activities must be made in consultation with and led by the expertise of LGBT human rights campaigners based in those countries to ensure the safest and most productive outcome.'

Adam Price said: "Qatar is an important potential source of investment and export sales for Wales. However, that should not obscure the fact that Qatar is guilty of the most severe form of discrimination against LGBT people, including imprisonment and physical punishment. While this appalling record of human rights abuse remains in place then it must, with regret, be stated unequivocally then Qatar and Wales cannot be partners in any wider sense."

Martin Shipton
Chief Reporter
Western Mail

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From: Martin Shipton

To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

Cc:

Subject: Re: FW: NEWS FROM LABOUR: Keir Starmer speech on Labour's approach to Brexit

Sent: Fri 12/05/2017 16:35

Cheers, Huw.

M

Martin Shipton

Chief Reporter

Western Mail

On 12 May 2017 at 16:32, Huw.Price (Special Adviser) wrote:

> Here's the KS speech broadly setting out Labour's position.

>

>

>

> From: Labour Party Press Office [<mailto:press@labour.org.uk>]

> Sent: 25 April 2017 10:21

> Subject: NEWS FROM LABOUR: Keir Starmer speech on Labour's approach to
> Brexit

>

>

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> ***CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

>

>

>

> Keir Starmer MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the
> European Union, setting out Labour's approach to Brexit, will say:

>

>

>

> At this election there will be a very clear choice on the ballot paper.

>

>

>

> A choice of two visions of Brexit.

>

>

>

> Labour's approach to Brexit will be based on our values: internationalist.

> Outward looking. A belief that we achieve more together than we do alone.

>

>
>
> We accept that outside the EU our relationship with Europe must change.
>
>
>
> But we do not accept that Brexit has to mean whatever Theresa May says
> it means. We do not accept that there has to be a reckless Tory
> Brexit. We do not believe that if you're a citizen of the world,
> you're a citizen of nowhere.
>
>
>
> We recognise that immigration rules will have to change as we exit the
> EU, but we do not believe that immigration should be the overarching priority.
> We do not believe that leaving the EU means severing our ties with Europe.
> We do not believe that Brexit means weakening workers' rights and
> environmental protections or slashing corporate tax rates.
>
>
>
> Labour believe in a very different vision of how Brexit can work for
> Britain and the EU.
>
>
>
> We believe in building a new relationship with the EU – not as members
> but as partners. Where jobs, the economy and retaining the benefits of
> the Single Market and the Customs Union are our priority. Where
> hard-fought workplace rights and the environment are protected. Where
> we are an open, outward looking country. Where EU nationals living
> here are guaranteed their rights and can live in certainty that Brexit will not affect
them.
>
>
> A Brexit that brings the country together, radically devolves power
> and supports all regions and nations of the UK.
>
>
>
> That's the approach to Brexit I will set out today.
>
>
>
> A Labour Government would reset the Tories failing approach to Brexit.
>
>
>
> We will scrap the Government's Brexit White Paper and replace it with
> fresh negotiating priorities that reflect Labour values and our six tests.

>
>
>
> Labour's White Paper will have a strong emphasis on retaining the
> benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union as we know that is
> vital to protecting jobs and the economy.
>
>
>
> Our White Paper will make clear that jobs and the economy are Labour's
> priority throughout – whereas the Conservatives are willing to put
> this at risk.
>
>
>
> That means we will seek: continued tariff-free trade between the UK
> and the EU, no new non-tariff burdens for business, regulatory
> alignment and continued competitiveness for goods and services.
>
>
>
> Whether this is best achieved through reformed membership of the
> Single Market and the Customs Union or via a bespoke trading
> arrangement is secondary to the outcome. What matters for jobs, the
> economy and living standards is that we retain the benefits of the
> Single Market and the Customs Union.
>
>
>
> And rather than focusing on hypothetical new trade deals with other
> countries, Labour will focus above all else on securing strong trading
> arrangements with the EU. After all, the EU accounts for 44 percent of
> our exports and is by far and away our most important trading partner.
>
>
>
> It is extraordinary that we have a Prime Minister who has given up on
> the Single Market and the Customs Union even before negotiations have
> begun, but is so willing to talk up the chance of there being no deal reached.
>
>
>
> Theresa May has said that no deal is better than a bad deal. Boris
> Johnson has said no deal is no problem. Labour are very clear that no
> deal is the worst possible deal.
>
>
>
> It would cause huge damage to British businesses and trade, including
> likely tariffs of 30-40 percent on dairy and meat producers, 10

> percent tariffs on cars and a loss of passporting rights for financial
> services. No wonder the CBI have called it a 'recipe for chaos'.
>
>
>
> A Labour approach to Brexit means ending this reckless approach.
>
>
>
> It means making clear to our EU partners that we will seek to
> negotiate strong transitional arrangements as we leave the EU and to
> ensure there is no cliff-edge for the UK economy.
>
>
>
> It means rejecting no deal as a viable option – a move that will give
> greater certainty for investors, workers and businesses.
>
>
>
> We will also approach negotiations in a completely different way to
> the Tories.
>
>
>
> Where Theresa May wants to shut down scrutiny and challenge, Labour
> will welcome it. We will work with Parliament, not against it.
>
>
>
> Because on an issue of this importance the Government can't hide from
> the public or Parliament.
>
>
>
> A Labour approach to Brexit means legislating to guarantee that
> Parliament has a truly meaningful vote on the final Brexit deal.
>
>
>
> It means regular reporting back to Parliament on progress in
> negotiations and it means working with the devolved administrations to
> reflect specific and particular concerns.
>
>
>
> A Labour approach also means rebuilding relations with our EU
> partners, because striking a good deal for Britain relies on having
> alliances across Europe.
>

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>
> We will make clear that we will seek to build a close, collaborative
> future relationship with the EU.
>
>
>
> Not as members, but as partners.
>
>
> This will involve continued cooperation in a whole range of areas from
> counter-terrorism to higher education; culture to climate change.
>
>
>
> So a Labour Government will seek to remain part of the Erasmus scheme
> so that British students have the same cultural and educational
> opportunities after we leave the EU.
>
>
>
> We will ensure the UK maintains our leading research role by staying
> part of Horizon 2020 and its successor programmes, and by welcoming
> research staff from the EU.
>
>
>
> We will seek to maintain membership of or equivalent relations with
> European organisations which offer benefits to the UK, such as
> Euratom, the European Medicines Agency, Europol and Eurojust – two
> agencies I worked closely with as DPP.
>
>
>
> A Labour approach to Brexit means rejecting Theresa May's argument
> that as we leave the EU, we must also sever links that have served the
> EU and the UK well for decades.
>
>
>
> A Labour Government will also mean a new approach to how we treat EU
> nationals in the UK.
>
>
>
> It is shameful that the Prime Minister rejected repeated attempts by
> Labour to resolve this before Article 50 was triggered. As a result, 3
> million EU nationals have suffered unnecessary uncertainty, as well as
> the 1.2 million UK citizens living in the EU.
>

>
>
> EU nationals do not just contribute to our society: they are our society.
> And they should not be used as bargaining chips.
>
>
>
> So on day one of a Labour Government we will immediately guarantee
> that all EU nationals currently living in the UK will see no change in
> their legal status as a result of Brexit, and we will seek reciprocal
> measures for UK citizens in the EU.
>
>
>
> There could be no clearer signal that Britain is taking a new approach
> to Brexit than a Labour Government immediately rectifying this
> injustice. And there could no clearer signal that Labour want a close
> and collaborative future relationship with our EU partners.
>
>
>
> So I can assure you today that policy will be in Labour's manifesto.
>
>
>
> And we will also set out in further detail how we will reset Britain's
> approach to Brexit and prevent a reckless Tory Brexit.
>
>
>
> Firstly, we will drop the Tories' Great Repeal Bill.
>
>
>
> The EU has had a huge impact in securing workplace protections and
> environmental safeguards. That was one the main reasons Labour and
> trade unions campaigned to stay in the EU.
>
>
>
> But we all know that for many Brexiteers in the Tory Party, this was
> why they wanted to Leave.
>
>
>
> It's why Priti Patel – now in the Cabinet – spoke during the
> referendum of wanting to 'halve the burdens' of 'EU social and employment
legislation'.
>
>

>
> A Labour Government will never consider these rights a 'burden' or
> accept the weakening of worker's rights, consumer rights or
> environmental protections.
>
>
>
> So instead of going ahead with the Tories' Great Repeal Bill we will
> introduce new legislation – an EU Rights and Protections Bill.
>
>
>
> This will make sure that all EU-derived laws – including workplace
> laws, consumer rights and environmental protections – are fully
> protected without qualifications, limitations or sunset clauses. We
> will work with trade unions, businesses and stakeholders to ensure
> there is a consensus on this vital issue.
>
>
>
> A Labour approach to Brexit will ensure there can be no rolling back
> of key rights and protections.
>
>
>
> And we will go further, because protecting existing rights can never
> be the summit of our ambition. A Labour Government will work with EU
> partners, trade unions and businesses to ensure that, outside the EU,
> the UK does not lag behind Europe in workplace protections or
> environmental standards in future.
>
>
>
> We will also make sure that there is rigorous and independent scrutiny
> of any new powers this gives to the Executive, because Brexit cannot
> result in a power grab by Whitehall.
>
>
>
> This brings me to another commitment we will have in our manifesto: a
> presumption that any new powers that are transferred back from
> Brussels should go straight to the relevant devolved body.
>
>
>
> This will apply to regional government across England, as well as to
> the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
>
>
>

> This was a proposal included by the Mayor of London in his Brexit
> White Paper and it is one a Labour Government will take forward.
>
>
>
> A Labour approach to Brexit will be part of a radical extension of
> devolution, and will help bring the country together.
>
>
>
> A Tory Brexit will push the country further apart and lead to a
> concentration of power in Whitehall.
>
>
>
> A Labour approach to Brexit will also contribute to how we rebuild a
> fairer, more progressive country.
>
>
>
> The debate over Brexit is not happening in a vacuum.
>
>
>
> It will be shaped by the approach the Government you elect takes to a
> whole range of wider issues – security, taxation, public services, the
> environment and education.
>
>
>
> The Tories see Brexit as a way to further their wish to deregulate the
> economy, slash corporate taxes, water down workers' rights and remove
> Britain from anything and everything European.
>
>
> But a Labour approach to Brexit will help ensure we have a fairer
> society, a strong economy, robust workplace rights, action on climate
> change and a more international, outward looking nation.
>
>
>
> We need a Labour Government to deliver a real living wage – giving a
> pay rise to over 5million people – invest in public services and
> tackle the crisis in housing, the NHS and our schools.
>
>
>
> That choice is on the ballot paper at this election.
>
>

>
> If Theresa May wins another 5 years in power, she will take it as a
> green light to side-line Parliament, ignore opposition and drive
> through a reckless Tory Brexit.
>
>
>
> She will isolate us from our nearest partners and strike trade deals
> with any country that will talk to us – no matter the consequences for workers'
> rights, environmental protections or our place in the world
>
>
>
> The only way to stop that and to build a fairer Britain is to elect a
> Labour Government.
>
>
>
> A Labour Government who will reset our approach to Brexit, rebuild
> relations with the EU and make sure that jobs, the economy and rights come first.
>
>
> We have 6 weeks to make that case.
>
>
>
> Thank you.
>
>
>
> Ends
>
>
>
> Sent by email from the Labour Party, promoted by Iain McNicol on
> behalf of The Labour Party, both at Southside, 105 Victoria Street,
> London, SW1E 6QT
> Website: www.labour.org.uk to join or renew call 0345 092 2299.

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From: Martin Shipton

To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

Cc:

Subject: Re: FW: Arriva Trains Wales

Sent: Thu 11/05/2017 17:41

Yes indeed!

M

Martin Shipton

Chief Reporter

Western Mail

On 11 May 2017 at 17:39, Huw.Price (Special Adviser) wrote:

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> Ken has been very clear on this issue previously:

> <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/politics/arriva-trains-wales-profits>

> -are-12496653

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> A spokesperson for Ken Skates said:

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> "The Welsh Labour Government has been very clear that in planning for

> the next Wales and Borders franchise due to begin in 2018 we will not

> be allowing the kind of excessive profits we have seen in the current

> franchise which was let by the UK Government. The next franchise is

> one that we are developing here in Wales and we have made clear to all

> the bidders that excess profit will be reinvested back into the

> transport system here in Wales, incentivising choice and driving down costs for the
> passenger."

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> ENDS

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> More on our approach to the new franchise can be found here:
> <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/business/minister-infrastructure-ken-skates-how-12014328>
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> Huw Price
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> Special Adviser | Ymgynghorydd Arbennig
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> Welsh Government | Llywodraeth Cymru
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From: Martin Shipton

To: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Brexit

Sent: Thu 01/06/2017 17:45

Thanks, Huw!

M

Martin Shipton

Chief Reporter

Western Mail

On 1 June 2017 at 17:22, Huw.Price (Special Adviser) wrote:

> This is interesting too:

> <https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.>

> theneweuropean.co.uk%2Ftop-stories%2Fexclusive-we-ll-give-scotland-nor

> thern-ireland-and-wales-their-say-on-brexit-says-keir-starmer-1-504347

>

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ad0%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C636319323063480323&sd

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ata=%2BG6d2lji686KRBWAVLGWMkljOSQGkP80BZCmmwF9cao%3D&reserved=0

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From: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

To: Martin Shipton

Cc:

Subject: FW: Arriva Trains Wales

Sent: Thu 11/05/2017 17:40

Ken has been very clear on this issue previously:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/politics/arriva-trains-wales-profits-are-12496653>

A spokesperson for Ken Skates said:

“The Welsh Labour Government has been very clear that in planning for the next Wales and Borders franchise due to begin in 2018 we will not be allowing the kind of excessive profits we have seen in the current franchise which was let by the UK Government. The next franchise is one that we are developing here in Wales and we have made clear to all the bidders that excess profit will be reinvested back into the transport system here in Wales, incentivising choice and driving down costs for the passenger.”

ENDS

More on our approach to the new franchise can be found here:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/business/minister-infrastructure-ken-skates-how-12014328>

Huw Price

Special Adviser | Ymgynghorydd Arbennig

Welsh Government | Llywodraeth Cymru

From: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

To: Martin Shipton

Cc:

Subject: FW: NEWS FROM LABOUR: Keir Starmer speech on Labour's approach to Brexit

Sent: Fri 12/05/2017 16:33

Here's the KS speech broadly setting out Labour's position.

From: Labour Party Press Office [<mailto:press@labour.org.uk>]

Sent: 25 April 2017 10:21

Subject: NEWS FROM LABOUR: Keir Starmer speech on Labour's approach to Brexit

*****CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*****

Keir Starmer MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, setting out Labour's approach to Brexit, will say:

At this election there will be a very clear choice on the ballot paper.

A choice of two visions of Brexit.

Labour's approach to Brexit will be based on our values: internationalist. Outward looking. A belief that we achieve more together than we do alone.

We accept that outside the EU our relationship with Europe must change.

But we do not accept that Brexit has to mean whatever Theresa May says it means. We do not accept that there has to be a reckless Tory Brexit. We do not believe that if you're a citizen of the world, you're a citizen of nowhere.

We recognise that immigration rules will have to change as we exit the EU, but we do not believe that immigration should be the overarching priority. We do not believe that leaving the EU means severing our ties with Europe. We do not believe that Brexit means weakening workers' rights and environmental protections or slashing corporate tax rates.

Labour believe in a very different vision of how Brexit can work for Britain and the EU.

We believe in building a new relationship with the EU – not as members but as partners. Where jobs, the economy and retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union are our priority. Where hard-fought workplace rights and the environment are protected. Where we are an open, outward looking country. Where EU nationals living here are guaranteed their rights and can live in certainty that Brexit will not affect them.

A Brexit that brings the country together, radically devolves power and supports all regions and nations of the UK.

That's the approach to Brexit I will set out today.

A Labour Government would reset the Tories failing approach to Brexit.

We will scrap the Government's Brexit White Paper and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities that reflect Labour values and our six tests.

Labour's White Paper will have a strong emphasis on retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union as we know that is vital to protecting jobs and the economy.

Our White Paper will make clear that jobs and the economy are Labour's priority throughout – whereas the Conservatives are willing to put this at risk.

That means we will seek: continued tariff-free trade between the UK and the EU, no new non-tariff burdens for business, regulatory alignment and continued competitiveness for goods and services.

Whether this is best achieved through reformed membership of the Single Market and the Customs Union or via a bespoke trading arrangement is secondary to the outcome. What matters for jobs, the economy and living standards is that we retain the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union.

And rather than focusing on hypothetical new trade deals with other countries, Labour will focus above all else on securing strong trading arrangements with the EU. After all, the EU accounts for 44 percent of our exports and is by far and away our most important trading partner.

It is extraordinary that we have a Prime Minister who has given up on the Single Market and the Customs Union even before negotiations have begun, but is so willing to talk up the chance of there being no deal reached.

Theresa May has said that no deal is better than a bad deal. Boris Johnson has said no deal is no problem. Labour are very clear that no deal is the worst possible deal.

It would cause huge damage to British businesses and trade, including likely tariffs of 30-40 percent on dairy and meat producers, 10 percent tariffs on cars and a loss of passporting rights for financial services. No wonder the CBI have called it a 'recipe for chaos'.

A Labour approach to Brexit means ending this reckless approach.

It means making clear to our EU partners that we will seek to negotiate strong transitional arrangements as we leave the EU and to ensure there is no cliff-edge for the UK economy.

It means rejecting no deal as a viable option – a move that will give greater certainty for investors, workers and businesses.

We will also approach negotiations in a completely different way to the Tories.

Where Theresa May wants to shut down scrutiny and challenge, Labour will welcome it. We will work with Parliament, not against it.

Because on an issue of this importance the Government can't hide from the public or Parliament.

A Labour approach to Brexit means legislating to guarantee that Parliament has a truly meaningful vote on the final Brexit deal.

It means regular reporting back to Parliament on progress in negotiations and it means working with the devolved administrations to reflect specific and particular concerns.

A Labour approach also means rebuilding relations with our EU partners, because striking a good deal for Britain relies on having alliances across Europe.

We will make clear that we will seek to build a close, collaborative future relationship with the EU.

Not as members, but as partners.

This will involve continued cooperation in a whole range of areas from counter-terrorism to higher education; culture to climate change.

So a Labour Government will seek to remain part of the Erasmus scheme so that British students have the same cultural and educational opportunities after we leave the EU.

We will ensure the UK maintains our leading research role by staying part of Horizon 2020 and its successor programmes, and by welcoming research staff from the EU.

We will seek to maintain membership of or equivalent relations with European organisations which offer benefits to the UK, such as Euratom, the European Medicines Agency, Europol and Eurojust – two agencies I worked closely with as DPP.

A Labour approach to Brexit means rejecting Theresa May's argument that as we leave the EU, we must also sever links that have served the EU and the UK well for decades.

A Labour Government will also mean a new approach to how we treat EU nationals in the UK.

It is shameful that the Prime Minister rejected repeated attempts by Labour to resolve this before Article 50 was triggered. As a result, 3 million EU nationals have suffered unnecessary uncertainty, as well as the 1.2 million UK citizens living in the EU.

EU nationals do not just contribute to our society: they are our society. And they should not be used as bargaining chips.

So on day one of a Labour Government we will immediately guarantee that all EU nationals currently living in the UK will see no change in their legal status as a result of Brexit, and we will seek reciprocal measures for UK citizens in the EU.

There could be no clearer signal that Britain is taking a new approach to Brexit than a Labour Government immediately rectifying this injustice. And there could no clearer signal that Labour want a close and collaborative future relationship with our EU partners.

So I can assure you today that policy will be in Labour's manifesto.

And we will also set out in further detail how we will reset Britain's approach to Brexit and prevent a reckless Tory Brexit.

Firstly, we will drop the Tories' Great Repeal Bill.

The EU has had a huge impact in securing workplace protections and environmental safeguards. That was one the main reasons Labour and trade unions campaigned to stay in the EU.

But we all know that for many Brexiteers in the Tory Party, this was why they wanted to Leave.

It's why Priti Patel – now in the Cabinet – spoke during the referendum of wanting to 'halve the burdens' of 'EU social and employment legislation'.

A Labour Government will never consider these rights a 'burden' or accept the weakening of worker's rights, consumer rights or environmental protections.

So instead of going ahead with the Tories' Great Repeal Bill we will introduce new legislation – an EU Rights and Protections Bill.

This will make sure that all EU-derived laws – including workplace laws, consumer rights and environmental protections – are fully protected without qualifications, limitations or sunset clauses. We will work with trade unions, businesses and stakeholders to ensure there is a consensus on this vital issue.

A Labour approach to Brexit will ensure there can be no rolling back of key rights and protections.

And we will go further, because protecting existing rights can never be the summit of our ambition. A Labour Government will work with EU partners, trade unions and businesses to ensure that, outside the EU, the UK does not lag behind Europe in workplace protections or environmental standards in future.

We will also make sure that there is rigorous and independent scrutiny of any new powers this gives to the Executive, because Brexit cannot result in a power grab by Whitehall.

This brings me to another commitment we will have in our manifesto: a presumption that any new powers that are transferred back from Brussels should go straight to the relevant devolved body.

This will apply to regional government across England, as well as to the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This was a proposal included by the Mayor of London in his Brexit White Paper and it is one a Labour Government will take forward.

A Labour approach to Brexit will be part of a radical extension of devolution, and will help bring the country together.

A Tory Brexit will push the country further apart and lead to a concentration of power in Whitehall.

A Labour approach to Brexit will also contribute to how we rebuild a fairer, more progressive country.

The debate over Brexit is not happening in a vacuum.

It will be shaped by the approach the Government you elect takes to a whole range of wider issues – security, taxation, public services, the environment and education.

The Tories see Brexit as a way to further their wish to deregulate the economy, slash corporate taxes, water down workers' rights and remove Britain from anything and everything European.

But a Labour approach to Brexit will help ensure we have a fairer society, a strong economy, robust workplace rights, action on climate change and a more international, outward looking nation.

We need a Labour Government to deliver a real living wage – giving a pay rise to over 5million people – invest in public services and tackle the crisis in housing, the NHS and our schools.

That choice is on the ballot paper at this election.

If Theresa May wins another 5 years in power, she will take it as a green light to side-line Parliament, ignore opposition and drive through a reckless Tory Brexit.

She will isolate us from our nearest partners and strike trade deals with any country that will talk to us – no matter the consequences for workers' rights, environmental protections or our place in the world

The only way to stop that and to build a fairer Britain is to elect a Labour Government.

A Labour Government who will reset our approach to Brexit, rebuild relations with the EU and make sure that jobs, the economy and rights come first.

We have 6 weeks to make that case.

Thank you.

Ends

Sent by email from the Labour Party, promoted by Iain McNicol on behalf of The Labour Party, both at Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QT Website:

www.labour.org.uk to join or

From: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

To: Martin Shipton

Cc:

Subject: ZHCs

Sent: Wed 03/05/2017 12:23

Hi Martin,

Spokesperson comment below as discussed.

All the best,

Huw

“This is shocking hypocrisy from Plaid Cymru who continue to employ hundreds of people in Gwynedd and Ceredigion on Zero-Hours Contracts.

“Welsh Labour has led the way when it comes to getting rid of Zero-Hours Contracts: we've done so in Government and we've done so in organisations that are funded by Government.

“Fairness is an important value underpinning all we do as a Government and we are committed to building a prosperous and balanced economy that delivers social justice and opportunity for all the people of Wales. We will continue to work tirelessly to eliminate poor employment practice in every part of Wales.

“Welsh Labour are already delivering a fair deal for workers in Wales and we are committed to continue taking real action based on evidence.”

Ends

From: Price, Huw (Special Advisor)

To: Martin Shipton

Cc:

Subject: Tory campaign launch

Sent: Wed 12/04/2017 17:02

Here's a starter for 10 – let me know what they say tomorrow and we can maybe change to fit.

Commenting on the Tory local election campaign launch, a Welsh Labour spokesperson said:

“This is not so much a plan for Wales as a checklist of reckless failure.

“The Tory record is there for all to see and even by their own standards, Wales’ only Tory council has failed to deliver for local people. Rather than supporting future generations they slashed education funding by £3.2m, instead of fairer council tax bills the Tory council increased bills almost 25% above the Wales average this year alone. People living in the Tory-run Monmouthshire council area now pay over £230 more in council tax than they did just a few years ago.

“When local businesses suffered because of rates changes by the independent valuations office, it was the Welsh Labour Government who stepped up to the plate, not the local Tory council and their plans to increase car-park charges by 10 per cent would be a further hammer blow to local traders.

“Rather than safeguarding services the Tories took a knife to front line services including axing free swimming for pensioners, cutting tourism funding and closing a local tourist information centre, and slashed services for some of Monmouthshire’s youngest children.

“The choice people face on May 4 is clear – a fair deal with Welsh Labour, or reckless failure with a Tory party as quick to raise council tax as it is to slash services.”

Ends

Notes

Council Tax in Monmouthshire has risen 18.6% with the cost for a Band D property £230.02 more than in 2013/14:

[http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/15187686.Gwent councils forced to cut 192 million over five years/](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/15187686.Gwent_councils_forced_to_cut_192_million_over_five_years/)

Fury at Monmouthshire youth service cuts:

[http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/10165188.Fury at Monmouthshire youth service cuts/](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/10165188.Fury_at_Monmouthshire_youth_service_cuts/)

Car-park charges and fines may increase by 10 per cent / cutting school meals choice while increasing charges:

<http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/10153109.display/>

Average council tax rise in Wales is 3% this financial year, Monmouthshire has increased theirs by 3.95%