

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to outline my views on issues important to your parishioners.

The cost-of-living crisis:

Locally, as the Member of Parliament for the City of Chester from December 2022 – May 2024, I dealt with 9,000 cases putting over £430,000 back into the pockets of local people. I championed local charities and dedicated a section of my website to cost-of-living advice.

Nationally, Labour plans to bring down the cost of energy bills, to help alleviate fuel poverty. We will reduce food prices by removing barriers to businesses trading. We will make housing more affordable, expand access to childcare, and make work pay. We will support families with children by introducing free breakfast clubs in every primary school. Labour will also keep mortgage rates as low as possible, with a strong, independent Bank of England – which will continue to target stable inflation of 2 per cent.

Labour recognises the negative consequences of the cost-of-living crisis on those using social security. Therefore, Labour is committed to reviewing Universal Credit so that it makes work pay and tackles poverty. Before making promises that we can't deliver, Labour needs to win the election and inspect the economy to determine what is possible rather than raising false hopes that turn people away from politics.

Climate:

The Labour Party is committed to our net-zero goals, but we need to ensure this is a just transition, taking communities with us and not entrenching the cost-of-living crisis. I'd encourage constituents to read the section of the Labour Party manifesto "Make Britain a clean energy superpower", this is an ambitious mission to help turn our country around and deliver our climate goals in a positive fashion.

International Aid:

I'm proud that the Labour Party established the Department for International Development in 1997 to tackle the global challenges of the time. However, 2024 is a different time from 1997, therefore in our manifesto, Labour has committed to turn the page to rebuild Britain's reputation on international development with a new approach based on genuine respect and partnership with the global South to support our common interests.

Labour is committed to restoring development spending at the level of 0.7 per cent of gross national income as soon as fiscal circumstances allow. We will deliver value for money for the British taxpayer by working closely with the Independent Commission for Aid Impact to apply the highest standards to our aid spend – bringing in robust measures of development effectiveness, transparency, and scrutiny.

Thanks again for providing me with the opportunity to address your parishioners' concerns.

Best wishes

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