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Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release

13 May 2014

Sarah's shock at 92% increase in working people claiming housing benefits in Rotherham

Sarah Champion MP, the Member of Parliament for Rotherham, has this week shared her concerns about the number of working people on housing benefit in Rotherham. Since David Cameron became Prime Minister, the number of working people claiming housing benefit has increased by 60 per cent nationally, costing ordinary British taxpayers an extra £4.8 billion.

However, the figures paint a more stark picture in Rotherham, with the number of working people now claiming housing benefit having increased by a staggering 92 per cent.

Sarah commented: "I am shocked and saddened to hear that the cost of living crisis has become so bad that hundreds of hard-working local people are now reliant on housing benefit just to keep a roof over their heads.

"Since 2010 working people are on average £1,600 a year worse off as wages have fallen while prices have soared.

It can't be right that ordinary people who do the right thing and go to work have to rely on housing benefit.

People in Rotherham want real action to tackle the spiralling cost of living, and the increasingly large housing benefit bill. That's why I'm proud of Labour's plan to make work pay, by strengthening the national minimum wage, and to tackle the housing crisis by building 200,000 homes a year up until 2020."

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Notes to Editors

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