



House of Commons  
London  
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**Sarah Champion**  
**Member of Parliament for Rotherham**

**Immediate release**  
**12 January 2015**

### **Rotherham MP demands action from Business Secretary on Equal Pay**

Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham, today wrote to Business Secretary Vince Cable demanding to know why the Government continue to block her action on equal pay.

On the 16th December, Sarah took a Ten Minute Rule Bill to Parliament demanding that large companies show their commitment to equal pay for men and women. MPs voted overwhelmingly in favour of her measures for pay transparency, which would see organisations with over 250 staff publish their gender pay gap. However the Government has so-far refused to implement it.

Sarah's measure is supported by leading employers including PwC who are one of just 5 companies known to voluntarily publish the information.

The Coalition will next have an opportunity to support pay transparency on February 27th when the Government have another chance to support the proposal.

Speaking after sending the letter, Sarah said:

*"Across Rotherham and up and down the country, women and their families will be wondering why this Government won't take action on equal pay and on the Ten Minute Rule Bill I took to Parliament.*

*"Today I've written to the Business Secretary calling on him to support Equal Pay and get on with implementing pay transparency.*

*"I was delighted when my motion received such huge support from fellow MPs last month yet find myself incredibly frustrated that the Government is still to act on it.*

*"Women across Britain are still earning on average 81p for every pound a man earns, and in Rotherham that drops to 77p for every pound. The Equal Pay Act was passed in 1970 and yet 45 years on we are still fighting to implement equal reward for equal work. Pay transparency will encourage action on the pay gap. If this Government refuses to implement it a Labour Government will."*

**ENDS**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

- Despite the Government refusing to back the measure, Labour won the vote meaning the Bill will move further towards becoming law when it is next heard in Parliament on February 27th. However one dissenting MP will mean the entire Bill is killed.
- The campaign for pay transparency is being led by Labour in Parliament, and supported by leading employers including PricewaterhouseCoopers who are one of just 5 companies known to voluntarily publish their pay gap.

- Pay transparency for large employers was originally included by Labour in the Equality Act (2010) (section 78) but ditched by the Conservatives and Lib Dems on entering Government. The measure is widely viewed as a way to stimulate action on the causes of the gender pay gap.
- Women in the UK still earn on average just 81p for every pound a man earns. The UK Gender Pay Gap in the UK is still higher than in most other EU countries.

**Letter sent by Sarah Champion MP**

12 January 2015

Dear Vince,

On Tuesday 16th December Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of my motion to introduce pay transparency under section 78 of the Equality Act 2010.

This Government has failed to use the powers Labour set out to require big companies of over 250 employees to publish their pay gap.

When women still earn on average just 81p to every male pound, the people of Rotherham have a right to know why you have so far failed to take action that companies themselves admit would stimulate activity on closing the gender pay gap.

I understand that it is now Liberal Democrat policy to implement section 78 of the Equality Act (2010). Given this fact, and that Parliament has voted overwhelmingly in favour of the measure, is there any reason why the Government cannot implement pay transparency now?

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Champion MP

Member of Parliament for Rotherham

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