



House of Commons
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Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

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Sarah Champion MP hits out at the Government as the number of in-work people in Rotherham applying for housing benefit doubles

New research from Labour has exposed that the number of in-work households receiving housing benefit in Rotherham has more than doubled since David Cameron became Prime Minister.

The research comes as Labour warns that five more years of Tory failure to tackle the issue of low pay will cost taxpayers £9bn in additional social security payments.

David Cameron has presided over the largest fall in real terms wages since 1870 with people in Yorkshire on average £1,879 a year worse off now than they were in 2010.

The result has been more people having to call on extra help to make ends meet. In May 2010 just over 22,000 people claimed housing benefit in Rotherham; 1,727 of them were in work. But by August 2014, the number of employed claimants had more than doubled, up 110 per cent to 3,631 people, despite there being just an 11 per cent increase in the total number of people claiming housing benefit.

Rotherham has seen one of the highest increases in the country.

Speaking about the shocking figures, Sarah said:

“David Cameron’s Tory-led government have presided over the steepest fall in living standards since the days of Charles Dickens, and these figures show that once again the people of Rotherham are paying the price for his economic failure.

“The Government like to tell us that things are getting better all the time when it comes to the economy. I think my constituents would beg to differ. Rotherham has the 35th highest rate of unemployment in the country, zero-hour contracts continue to blight the work force and now we read these figures.

“The Tories’ failure to make work pay and their failure to deliver their promises on deficit reduction are two sides of the same coin. The number of people earning less than a living wage nationally has rocketed from 3.4 million in 2009-10 to 4.9 million according to the latest figures.

“The choice we now face is clear the Tories’ low wage, low skill economy driving up benefit bills and undermining tax revenues or Labour’s plan: a plan to help businesses create and fill more productive, high skilled jobs. The Tories will leave us paying the bills of in-work poverty for years to come. Only Labour will make work pay.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Figures showing total numbers, and numbers of people in employment, claiming Housing Benefit in Rotherham in 2010 and 2014

	Total housing benefit claimants	Housing benefit claimants in employment
May 2010	22, 013	1, 727
August 2014	23, 591	3, 631
Increase numerically	+1, 578	+1,904
Increase in percentage	+7%	+110%

Across Yorkshire and Humber there has been a 72 per cent increase in in-work housing benefit claimants.

Across Britain there has been a 66 per cent increase in in-work housing benefit claimants.

2. Five more years of Tory social security failure could cost £9 billion

- If forecasts for average earnings growth were overoptimistic to the same extent that they were between 2010 and 2015 then social security and tax credit spending would be around £9 billion higher in 2020
- OBR source:-<http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/wordpress/docs/Briefing-paper-No4-How-we-present-uncertainty.pdf> (page 39)

3. A Labour government will:

Tackle low pay and poor employment practices:

- raising the National Minimum Wage to £8 before the end of the next Parliament
- bringing in "Make Work Pay" contracts to get more workers paid a living wage
- ban exploitative zero hours contracts,
- closing loopholes in Agency Worker regulations
- cracking down on false self-employment
- outlawing the exploitative use of migrant workers to undercut wages and working conditions

Equip our workforce for more high skilled, well paid jobs

- introduce a Basic Skills Test to give jobseekers the skills they need to find work
- bringing in a Youth Allowance to ensure young people are in training or work
- revolutionising vocational education and training;

Tackle long-term unemployment

- introducing a compulsory jobs guarantee
- reforming the government's failing Work Programme
- delivering a dedicated, more tailored service for disabled people

Ensure as part of our plan to deliver a more productive economy

- back small businesses and the growth industries of the future;
- secure investment in ideas, innovation and infrastructure;
- get more homes built in the places we need them;
- extend accessible and affordable childcare for parents who want to work;
- reform banking and energy markets so they work for the whole economy;
- devolve power and money to city and country regions to grow their economies;
- keep in Britain in Europe, where our key export markets lie.

For more information please contact:

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If you would like to receive Sarah's E-newsletter to learn more about her work representing Rotherham - please click [here](#) to subscribe