

Lines to Take

Ed is in favour of:

- Fully elected House of Lords
- Votes at 16
- AV voting for Westminster
- a written constitution
- Keeping the 50% tax rate
- Keeping the tax on bank bonuses
- Separating high street from casino banking
- More mutualisation in banking
- 50% of the shadow cabinet women
- CCTV and using DNA evidence
- Looking again at stop-and-search
- A graduate tax, along the lines of NUS plans
- High Pay Commission for public and private sector
- Pay audits and transparency on pay
- A Living Wage campaign
- Right to request flexible working for ALL employees
- Publicly owned Royal Mail and a Post Office Bank
- An elected Party Chair
- Reforming and improving prison system, not just building new ones
- Retaining Trident for now, but pushing ahead with multilateral disarmament

Text below may have been published before so DO NOT just copy and paste!

<p>CHANGE TO WIN</p>	<p>It could be a long road to the next General Election, but the change has to start now. We achieved some great things in government – the minimum wage, new schools and hospitals across the country, Surestart children’s centres, and world-leading climate change action. But we have to recognise that we lost the election and the voters rejected our offer for the future. So we’ve got to accept responsibility and learn the lessons about where we went wrong.</p> <p>In Government we sometimes seemed to lose a sense of the values that should always shape Labour’s mission. As leader, I would put these values back at the heart of everything we do. We became managers rather than campaigners for progressive change, and it meant we made mistakes like the 10p tax rate. That’s why people, in safe seats and marginal ones, said they didn’t know who or what we stood for. That must change.</p> <p>I want to lead a Party that actively turns its values into reality, to improve people’s lives. In 2015 (or whenever the coalition collapses), we need to be ready to offer a better vision to the electorate. We need to have already shown by our actions and arguments that Britain needs a different kind of economy in which new manufacturing and small businesses are prized. We need to show we are capable of building a more equal society for the benefit of all. And we need to be prepared to protect the things we value from the excesses of the market, stand up for individual liberty and resist the overbearing state.</p> <p>Despite raising the living standards of millions who were neglected under the previous Tory government, the gap between rich and poor was still too wide under Labour. So we have to go further: I would make tackling this inequality a central part of my leadership, through initiatives like a High Pay Commission, taxes on banking bonuses and retaining the 50% tax rate.</p> <p>And our values have to start in how we organize ourselves. Sometimes we looked as if</p>
-----------------------------	---

	<p>Labour felt as if it was in Government despite its members, not because of them. We need a living breathing party of which people are proud to say they are members and proud to call their own.</p> <p>We can only do that by listening to our party and building a movement for change. The campaign for a living wage – to pay people a wage in line with local living costs - is a great example of this. It is has been championed by the trade unions, pioneered by Labour councils and I am putting it at the forefront o f my leadership campaign.</p>
<p>WINNING THE SOUTH / EAST etc</p>	<p>I don't buy the argument that Labour values only resonate in the old industrial heartlands. People in Cambridgeshire are just as angry about the banking crisis as people in Gateshead. And parents in Doncaster want good schools for their children just as much as those in Somerset. But we have to recognise that voters in the South, East and Southwest have been the quickest to reject New Labour. It is in these areas where our defeat in May was most acute.</p> <p>In the past we were so concerned about appealing to middle England that we got too close to big businesses and declared that we were "intensely relaxed about people getting filthy rich". So when the financial crisis hit, voters felt we had failed to deliver for them.</p> <p>To be relevant to these voters again, we need to ensure our values permeate everything we do as a party. It means a society where we show we can look after each other, including on unaddressed issues such as elderly care. It means creating a different kind of state, more open and more responsive to local concerns rather than central diktats. And in opposition we are presented with a great opportunity: to stand up for the high-quality local services cherished by communities which are falling under the Con-Dem axe. Labour has always defended public services and we need to make sure we do not resile from this responsibility.</p> <p>Perhaps most importantly, we need to be the Party that stands up for the backbone of the British economy - small businesses and the self-employed – rather than tying our fate to a small number of big businesses.</p> <p>In 1997, we won seats in the South and East where we had already made inroads in local councils and demonstrate our values. With disillusioned Lib Dem voters joining our party in the thousands, we have an opportunity to show that we are the only progressive choice in politics.</p>
<p>GENDER</p>	<p>What is your approach to how we change the culture to embrace great gender diversity and a parliament which speaks better for us all?</p> <p>All women shortlists have helped to change politics in this country by getting more women into parliament. Without them I doubt we would have had the changes to family policy and flexible working that are some of the best things we did in government. We will need to continue to have all-women shortlists in order to increase the representation of women. But politics is still a pretty macho business and the more we can do to change the political culture the better. So not just for policy but also for an improvement in the conduct of politics I am arguing the shadow cabinet should be made up of 50% women.</p> <p>1. What would you do about the gender pay gap? 2. Would there have been a</p>

	<p>financial crisis if the women ran the banks?</p> <p>Transparency is key. There's no justification for paying people differently according to gender, and firms need to be open in exactly how they determine pay scales. I support pay audits. The financial crisis was caused by irresponsible lending, and a culture which was more concerned with short term gains and not the systemic effects. But the reason I want more women in politics is because they help to change the conversation and shift priorities. That may well have happened in banking too – though I don't think men have a monopoly on short-termism.</p>
<p>HIGHER EDUCATION</p>	<p>How would the graduate tax work for people who drop out of University in years one or two? Would they still have to pay the tax despite not receiving their degree or would they not have to pay, despite having used publicly funded resources?</p> <p>A graduate tax would replace upfront tuition fees and be a sustainable source of funding for a world-class university sector. Students would still need to make provision for their living costs as under the current system so there is no question of penalizing those who are careful with their costs. Instead of upfront fees, graduates would be asked to contribute a small percentage of their salaries to a fund over a fixed time period. The percentage would vary according to income, so independent studies have suggested the very highest earners might pay up to 2%, while those on lower earnings would pay less. This would link university funding to a graduate's ability to pay in the future, rather than to their parents' ability to pay upfront. You're right to point out the practical issues this raises, and that is why I want to consult widely before publishing detailed plans later this year. The NUS, for example, have argued that the tax should be discounted for those who only complete a proportion</p>
<p>BANKING</p>	<p>What will you do to reform the banks so that they invest for the development of the UK economy?</p> <p>Business as usual says let's sell our stake in the banks back to the private sector as quickly as possible. But I would take the opportunity of the rationalisation of these stakes to create a new banking system which works to invest in the industries of the future and the small businesses that can be the centre of our communities. This means creating a stronger regional dimension to our banking system and potentially keeping a public stake or remutualising part of the sector.</p> <p>I'm also in favour of separating the high street and casino banking operations. I want to see banks return to a more local basis.</p>
<p>BUDGET</p>	<p>How would you promote UK growth? As part of the economic solution? Or would you just rely on public service cuts and tax rises to rebalance the budget?</p> <p>UK growth is the best way of reducing the deficit which is why what the coalition is doing—in cutting some key investments—makes no sense. We would have had a different balance of tax rises and spending cuts, and the coalition have gone far</p>

	<p>beyond labour in the scale of cuts they are demanding.</p> <p>The recent budget plans to reduce the deficit chiefly by cutting spending, with the ratio of 77:23 with tax rises. Are you happy with this ratio? If not, where would you make cuts and raise taxes? Be specific.</p> <p>No –I think the Budget was the most unfair I have ever seen in my political lifetime. The Coalition have gone far beyond Labour’s planned spending cuts, and I’m dismayed that the Liberal Democrats are backing changes which go against their election promises. I would not raise VAT – it is the most unfair tax, and disproportionately impacts on the poorest. I would keep the 50% top-rate of tax indefinitely. I would also keep the Bankers Bonus tax in place. In terms of spending cuts, we outlined what we thought the pace of reduction should be. We know there are hard decisions to be made but the motivation behind this Budget is to cut the size of the state because the Tory-LibDem coalition thinks government should get out of the way. That is why they are cutting further and faster. I would not cut further until our recovery is secured. Cutting the Future Jobs Fund and support for growth industries of the future is incredibly short-sighted.</p> <p>The Coalition will cut public spending dramatically. Which areas of expenditure will you fight hardest to defend? How do your choices differentiate you from the other candidates?</p> <p>I will fight in particular for those areas of spending which will help economic growth, including the investment in new jobs in Sheffield through a loan to a company called Sheffield Forgemasters in the nuclear supply chain. The government appears set to cut it which is an self-defeating short-termism: it would harm our industrial future and future jobs. Also, I would fight against the unfair cuts that are already becoming a hallmark of what the government is proposing: for example, their local government cuts are hitting the poorest areas hardest.</p>
<p>RURAL</p>	<p>What steps would you take to ensure that rural areas of the UK share fairly in economic growth and the development of new industries particularly where there are challenges of low private investment, high levels of poverty like in the urban wards of King’s Lynn and of financial and digital technology exclusion like many parts of North-West Norfolk ?</p> <p>It will require us thinking differently about our economy and also what we value for our rural communities to thrive in the way we would all like to see. New technologies and better infrastructure offer opportunities for growth but the fair sharing of the future growth will require us to do more than simply hope the market will deliver or that subsidies should offset the inequities of that market. Rural communities need active government as much as people living in cities.</p>
<p>BRITISHNESS</p>	<p>What, in your view, is ‘Britishness’? Do you feel that patriotism is either necessary or desirable?</p> <p>Being British is about fair play, respect for differences, and fighting on even if the odds</p>

	<p>are against you. This country gave my parents a home when they fled the Nazis. The British determination not to give in to that horror is something I hold very dear. I think there is a difference between being patriotic and being nationalistic. To me, being patriotic is about believing in the potential of your community and giving something back.</p> <p>I am proud of my country. I am proud of its tradition of tolerance that allowed my parents to take refuge here from the Nazis. I am proud of its tradition of fairness that has led to such great institutions as the NHS, our state schools and our welfare state. And I am proud of our tradition of invention which has led to the creation of so many great British businesses – large and small.</p> <p>So I don't agree with people who say Britishness or Englishness are no longer relevant in today's world. I think the aspects of our national identity that mean so much to me are just as important now as they ever were.</p> <p>But if you are proud of something, you should be determined to help make it better. That is the way I feel about our country. So, whether it comes to the role we play in the world or the inequalities that are still too much a part of our society, I want to do my part to make sure we build on the best traditions of Britain's past as we collectively shape the Britain of the future.</p>
<p>CONSTITUTION</p> <p>VOTING REFORM</p>	<p>What is your position on a written constitution?</p> <p>I'm sympathetic because a written constitution could make formal the checks and balances on government and enable people to be clear about their rights as citizens. I think at times Labour has risked being too cavalier about the extension of the power of the state and too casual about individual's liberty and a written constitution could play a role in ensuring that a state which can still make a difference to people's lives is not overbearing.</p> <p>I'm also in favour of a fully elected House of Lords, introducing the AV voting system for Westminster, votes at 16 and more power for local government.</p> <p>I support the AV system for Westminster. It would allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference, and would mean each MP is elected with the support of 50% of voters. But I wouldn't support Proportional Representation as it would fundamentally change the relationship between voters and their representatives. It would break the link between an MP and his or her constituency – meaning that MPs would simply be politicians rather than representatives or campaigners for their area.</p>
<p>LIVING WAGE</p>	<p>I am campaigning for a living wage, so that people are paid enough to live on. No one who works should live in poverty. It would be a rate applicable to local living conditions – in London about £7.60 per hour. It should not impact on small businesses but large corporations and local authorities should set an example and ensure all employees get a living wage. I made sure our manifesto had a commitment to the living wage in Whitehall.</p> <p>Why make a big deal about the living wage if it is voluntary? Aren't you giving workers false hope?</p> <p>This goes to a very important issue. We need the right laws to create a fairer society, but laws aren't the only way that political change happens. First, we need action from government as employer to influence the way the labour market works, which is why we committed in our manifesto pay a living wage in Whitehall as some local councils</p>

	<p>are already doing. Secondly, from people putting pressure on private businesses to become living wage employers, particularly larger multinationals that have been persuaded to do so in London. That's what I want the Labour party to be campaigning for. It's not false hope, it's about an understanding of the way long-term change happens.</p> <p>Do you believe that it should be the role of government to narrow inequalities in income and wealth and, if so, what instruments would you advocate to achieve this?</p> <p>Yes I do, and it's partly the reason I entered politics. I think as progressives we need to develop a new economic model which doesn't just try to correct the failures of the market through taxes and transfer payments but aims to shape the market so that high skill, high pay jobs support a more equal society in which there is greater opportunity. As part of this I would establish a High Pay Commission to look at pay gap in both the public and private sectors. It cannot be right that people at the top of an organisation are earning more than a hundred times those at the bottom, and we should not be afraid to say so. The 50% tax rate is also a good way to make sure those with great wealth pay their fair share, and I don't see why it shouldn't be permanent.</p> <p>A High Pay Commission should look at these issues, but it's not about putting a cap on aspiration – it's about saying as a society what we think is a justifiable reward for hard work.</p>
<p>IMMIGRATION</p>	<p>As an unsuccessful candidate at the last election, the issue that came up most often on the doorstep was immigration. What is your policy on this and how would you act to prevent us losing contact with our natural supporters on this or other issues in the future?</p> <p>We have to recognize that immigration is a class issue. Although immigration has benefited the economy as a whole, we have to recognize that it has been perceived to have a negative impact in terms of social housing and jobs. We need to address these issues directly. We need to be willing to talk about the issue of immigration, but the question is what should be done to address the underlying causes of people's concerns about immigration. And to have a convincing story about how we can make people's lives better.</p>
<p>DISCONNECTED POLITICS</p>	<p>Do you agree that it is problematic the lack of experience in the 'real world' of political leaders such as Ed Balls, yourself and your brother, and David Cameron? How do you personally overcome this disconnect and do you think you really understand the people you serve?</p> <p>I agree we need people from diverse backgrounds. I am the son of two refugees who fled from persecution before and after the second world war and went to a comprehensive in London but it's true also that I have spent much of my professional career in politics. The reason is because I think politics is what makes a difference to people's lives. My constituency in Doncaster is one of the things that keeps me rooted. But we also need to encourage new people, including from trade union backgrounds and elsewhere into politics.</p>

	<p>Hi Ed, For the last election I was involved with a campaign engaging young people to vote and the majority of people don't vote because they feel that they are not listened too and politicians are out of touch. How do you plan to engage young people? and encourage them to vote.</p> <p>Votes at 16, improved citizenship education, Youth mayors but not just institutional changes. We have to show young people that politics makes a difference. That is why I place such emphasis on clear and meaningful values at the centre of politics translated into action: like the emphasis on equality.</p>
<p>BROTHERS</p>	<p>Two brothers standing for the leadership. What are the chances? Don't you think it smacks a bit of dynasticism?</p> <p>Dynasticism would be about deals between family members which would be the wrong thing to do. I am standing in this contest because of what I believe: the values that drive me, the ability to listen and to inspire new people to join the party. Party members get to choose their leader, and I think it benefits the party to have as wide a range of candidates on offer as possible. The last thing I or David would do, is to strike a deal behind the scenes to deny party members a wide choice for the leadership.</p>
<p>PFI</p>	<p>PFI enabled us to build and modernise 100 hospitals. Any contracting out had to be done on the basis of the same wages and conditions as a result of the changes we made. The vast majority of the NHS is currently run in the public sector and in my view should and will remain so.</p>
<p>LEARNING LESSONS</p>	<p>We need to move on from Brown and Blair, despite their great achievements. All of us share responsibility for what went wrong in the last government. My analysis is that values need to be at the centre of what we do: and we became too technocratic and didn't properly address the issues people saw in their lives: stagnant living standards, problems with housing and a private sector, like the banks, that seemed unaccountable. I agree with you about speaking to issues like time, the environment and quality of life which are about more than money.</p> <p>You wrote the Manifesto – why are you now saying different things?</p> <p>The election Manifesto was a collective effort and represented our offer at the election. But the crucial fact here is that it was rejected by the electorate. That's why I now think we have to go further and have a better offer than we did.</p>
<p>RECORD AT DECC</p>	<p>We became the leader in offshore wind generation, we introduced feed in tariffs, we got a better deal for pre-payment meter customers working with the regulator, we published the most comprehensive plan for a domestic transition, sector by sector and, despite the disappointments of Copenhagen, we got the first agreement internationally to cover 80% of global emissions. On nuclear, we drove the process forward hard as anybody would tell you. And on smart meters, we legislated for and set out how the process of transition would work and got on with the crucial process of starting to make it happen.</p>

<p>MILIBAND FATHER</p>	<p>Your father was a marxist, do you feel that labour’s weak and naff ‘socialism’ which isn’t even actually socialism, but more an over-generous welfare state, a betrayal of his beliefs?</p> <p>Tell that to the people whose lives have been changed by sure-start, tax credits, the new deal for young people and the people whose lives will be damaged by the abolition of the future jobs fund for example. Unlike the premise of your question, he saw the value of making these kinds of changes to help enable people to lead better and happier lives.</p> <p>In what ways did your father help shape your political vision?</p> <p>I learned from him most of all that you shouldn’t walk by on the other side in a society where there are huge injustices, you should do something about them. His way was to write and think, mine is to be in politics.</p>
<p>DEEPWATER HORIZON</p>	<p>The Prime Minister and President need to say loud and clear that the most important lesson of Deepwater Horizon is that we need to be serious about weaning ourselves our chronic dependence on oil and the other old ways of providing energy.</p> <p>We all – not just America – must dramatically reduce our voracious appetite for oil, so that we are not forced to keep drilling ever more deeply under water. If we are serious about alternative energy sources, not only can we create thousands of highly skilled jobs, but we can avoid another disaster like the one that is still going on off the Gulf Coast.</p> <p>On the immediate crisis, rather than pointing fingers, a proper investigation must establish the responsibilities of BP, the other private companies involved and the American regulatory authorities. Regulators and corporations must act responsibly to protect the public interest.</p>
<p>ISRAEL</p>	<p>Israel has a right to exist and defend itself with proportional force. But it needs to lift the blockade, co-operate with a full international inquiry on the flotilla. Its refusal to do so will only harm its quest for peace and undermine its credibility.</p>
<p>CIVIL LIBERTIES</p>	<p>We were at times too cavalier on civil liberties. I am a supporter of CCTV – they have helped to reduce crime, they make people feel safer in our city centres and they provide the evidence needed to put criminals away. But we should have been more careful in our use of stop and search – these powers needed to be carefully restricted and defined by government.</p>
<p>THE STATE AND MARKETS</p>	<p>The New Labour model of minimally regulated markets combined with redistribution of income and wealth achieved significant progressive gains; it created sustained economic growth and millions of jobs; it enabled us to reduce child poverty and reinvest in neglected public services.</p> <p>I was part of that at the Treasury and I am proud of it.</p> <p>But I also take responsibility for its limits. It produced an economy too reliant on financial services and many people got stuck in low wage, long hours jobs, with stagnant living standards, with little opportunity to break out of their situation and aspire to something better for themselves and their families.</p>

	<p>The paradox is that despite being the most redistributive government since 1945, something we should be proud of, the gap between rich and poor grew.</p> <p>We need to move on from the New Labour approach of using the state to correct for gross inequalities and injustices of the market, to one that better avoids them in the first place – through industrial policy, through the right approach to regulation and through responsibility at the top of society.</p>
<p>BUSINESS</p>	<p>While Old Labour was seen as anti-business, New Labour made an alliance with big business. The truth is that we need to be the champions most of all of small business.</p> <p>An economy which cultivates and supports small businesses offers the opportunity for people to become entrepreneurs and provides them with greater control over their work.</p> <p>We should be their champion, not on the basis of low tax and regulation but by championing the fight that small business and entrepreneurs who will build the businesses of the future have against vested interests that hold them back, from the banks to the energy companies.</p> <p>I do think we need to refocus our business strategy on small businesses rather than relying on a handful of large corporations. An economy which cultivates and supports small businesses offers the opportunity for people to become entrepreneurs and provides them with greater control over their work. We should be their champion.</p> <p>It is scandalous that the Tory /LibDem government have scrapped the EEDA, the East's Regional Development Agency. It is clear that in many regions the RDAs have led the way in building the growth economies of the future and investing in regeneration. Our country should be building on the success of the RDAs which actively promote small businesses and a more active industrial policy.</p> <p>Finally we have an opportunity with what we do with our stake in the banks. I would take the opportunity to create a new banking system which works to invest in the industries of the future and support small businesses at the centre of our communities. This means creating a stronger regional dimension to our banking system, perhaps keeping a public stake or encouraging remutualisation in the industry.</p>
<p>ROYAL MAIL</p>	<p>If elected as the Labour leader, would you support a three-line whip for the PLP against the Coalition government's Bill to privatise, and break up, Royal Mail?</p> <p>Yes I would have a clear position against the Coalition's plans for privatisation. They are the wrong answer for the workforce and citizens.</p> <p>CWU have worked hard with the Royal Mail to agree comprehensive modernisation plans and these are supported by CWU members. I believe that we need to show as a party, including in the case of Royal Mail, that we can modernise and improve public services without resorting to privatisation. So we need to back up the modernisation plans by finding innovative ways to enable the Royal Mail to work in the public interest as a publicly owned service with the investment it needs and the improved management at the top of the organisation.</p> <p>And we also need to examine the competition regime to ensure that we don't have a situation which unfairly disadvantages the Royal Mail. Britain needs a strong modern Post Office, which provides a world-class postal service and also diversifies into new areas, like the Post Office Bank.</p>

	<p>As we made clear in the Manifesto, we need to invest and develop the Post Office as a public service, vital to our economy and vital to millions of people across the country who want to stay connected with their friends and family.</p>
<p>EDUCATION</p>	<p>Without doubt our resources should be directed towards the early years – that is where we know we can make most difference to life chances for kids from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p> <p>I believe in comprehensive education. Selective education is designed in order to ensure some children fail and that is not right for them, for their families, their communities or their country.</p> <p>We must campaign for failing schools to be supported and federated with successful ones, campaign for fair access and campaign against free schools.</p> <p>Children need fewer exams and more fun. Schools need to be supported and led by local councils which should act as advocates for higher standards better discipline and a strong and diverse curriculum.</p>
<p>FREE SCHOOL MEALS</p>	<p>I definitely want to expand the number of children eligible to receive free school meals. Labour had begun expansion plans which have just been torn up by Michael Gove, meaning more children will miss out. As to whether everyone should get free meals, I think we have to look at what is affordable – my priority is that school meals should be free for those most in need.</p>
<p>TRIDENT</p>	<p>I think there is a continuing case for Britain to retain an independent nuclear deterrent. However, we must continue to support – and lead – international efforts towards multilateral disarmament. The key decision on the renewal of Trident will be made in the next few years, and we need to have a thorough examination of that decision as part of the government’s strategic defence review. We must make an important choice about the best way of maintaining the minimum possible independent deterrence consistent with protecting our national security. When this choice is made our decision should be informed by progress in multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation discussions, and an analysis of the costs and effectiveness of alternative delivery systems.</p> <p>The key decision on the renewal of Trident will be made in the next few years, and we need to have a thorough examination of that decision as part of the government’s strategic defence review. We must make an important choice about the best way of maintaining the minimum necessary independent deterrence consistent with protecting our national security. When this choice is made our decision should be informed by progress in multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation discussions, and an analysis of the costs and effectiveness of alternative delivery systems.</p>
<p>PRISONS</p>	<p>We need a prison system – and I emphasize the word system – which works. Prison needs to work to reduce crime and re-offending, not just warehousing people out of society. We should be allocating resources to improving the prison system, rather than just building more of the same.</p>
<p>DEFICIT</p>	<p>Let’s nail the lie that the deficit is because of reckless spending by the government. The deficit is because of reckless behaviour by the banks. A couple of ways to cut the deficit would be to make the bankers bonus permanent and keep the 50p tax rate, the</p>

	<p>burden should be shared fairly. We have to cut the deficit and we had plans to do so over four years. The Tories plans are ideologically motivated – cutting further and faster. Private companies will lose contracts as the cuts dig deep in the public sector. Their assumption is that the private sector will fill the gap where the public sector is cut back is economic illiteracy. Yes we would have had to cut, but let's be clear the OBR has shown the economy is in a better state than previously predicted, so the cuts could have been more kind.</p> <p>Alastair Darling's position was a good starting point and the right plan for the election. But if I was leader I would have to look again at how to tackle the deficit based on the economic conditions we face. Getting the balance between cuts and tax rises is key.</p>
TRADE UNION LINK	<p>I was brought up to believe that the Labour movement has real power to change the injustices in society. The trade unions are key to this. They are often at the heart of that fight and Labour's link with working people through the trade unions is a fundamental part of our mission. Crucially, it allows Labour to be connected to the lives of millions of working people and provides a key communication link between the leadership and the grassroots. As leader I will defend this link. I want to see more people join trade unions - it's a real shame that the private sector has such a low level of trade union membership.</p>
STRIKE ACTION	<p>We need to look at how judges are interpreting the law. Seems that strikes are being ruled invalid on technicalities - there were 200 people queuing outside polling stations when the ballot closed in the General, but that didn't invalidate the entire election. So we need to look at this and clarify the rules. Dismissing strikes on technicalities seems to just exacerbate tensions for both sides, rather than diffusing the situation. Two other points to make: need better access to workplace for TU officials to recruit - sad that only 15% of private sector employees are TU members. Also need to allow both sides in a dispute to refer to ACAS for arbitration.</p>
ENERGY MIX NUCLEAR	<p>We need to pursue the trinity of low-carbon technologies: renewables, nuclear and clean coal. On nuclear, it's safe to say that I did not grow up in a household that was enthusiastic about nuclear power. Few people were in the 1970s and 1980s. Energy companies, not taxpayers, should pay the costs of clean-up - and thanks to Labour that's now in legislation. But with safeguards on cost and safety in place, I believe, like many others seeing the threat of climate change and the need for a solid base of low-carbon power, that we should support new nuclear energy. Nuclear power no thanks today means climate change no doubt tomorrow.</p>
CHILD ASYLUM SEEKERS DETENTION	<p>I think we have to say that we got this wrong in government. No one wants to see children being detained, especially if they are here to seek our protection. We should look at alternatives to the detention of children as part of looking more widely at how we manage asylum. Clearly if adults do need to be detained for whatever reason, and they wish to keep their children with them in detention, that is a different matter, but it should not be done as a matter of policy.</p>
AFGHANISTAN	<p>We know that 75% of the plots against Britain uncovered in the last ten years have been traced back to the Afghanistan / Pakistan region, and I really think we can't ignore this. My concern in Afghanistan is that it cannot be a war without end. It is right that British troops should be there while they are making a positive difference. We will have succeeded in Afghanistan if we have dealt a devastating blow to al-Qaida's ability to plan attacks on Britain, taken action in curbing the cultivation of drugs and enabled Afghans to take control and lead peaceful lives.</p>

<p>INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>I'm opposed to what the Coalition are proposing. Labour's record on international development over the last thirteen years is something to be really proud of. We led the way – created a separate Department for International Development, cancelled third-world debt, and trebled aid to developing countries. Aid from the UK during Labour's Government directly resulted in lifting 3 million children out of poverty every year. So I'm proud of our record, and I don't like seeing it undercut by this coalition. We should oppose their moves to widen the definition of aid to include foreign students and defence equipment. And we need to remain committed to our United Nations MDG obligation of 0.7% spending on aid.</p>
<p>ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE</p>	<p>I'm in favour of lowering voting age to 16, but you're right we do need to do more. You often hear people say that young people aren't interested in politics, and that's just not true. Lots of young people around the country attend marches, go on demos and get involved in campaigning for various causes - that's politics, but it's not Party politics. I marched with thousands of young people in London last December calling on the world to take tough action at the Copenhagen climate summit. What we have to do, and what I want to do as Labour leader, is show that the Labour Party is still an effective campaigning machine for these and other progressive causes.</p>
<p>ROBIN HOOD TAX</p>	<p>I support an international tax on all global financial transactions. The Labour government led the international calls on this, when Gordon Brown convened the G20 summit in London at the height of the financial crisis. We asked the IMF to come up with plans to make a transaction tax work. More broadly, I am in favour of keeping the tax on banking bonuses permanently.</p>
<p>HOMELESS</p>	<p>During Labour's term in office, homelessness fell by about two-thirds, but we still need to do more. There are far too many people living close to homelessness – in temporary housing or sheltered accommodation. But encouraging unemployed people to move and restricting Housing Benefit – as the coalition are doing - will only lead to more people sleeping rough.</p>
<p>GOING GREEN</p>	<p>We went further than any other country in the world, and in fact lots of countries followed our lead. We were the first to put binding carbon targets into law, we created an independent Climate Change Commission to monitor progress and hold the government to account. We began a tenfold increase in our renewable energy capacity so that we are now the world leader in offshore wind capacity and will achieve 20% of our energy from renewables in ten years' time, and we are pioneering the use of clean coal and carbon capture technology. Of course we have to continue to do more, and I hope the coalition doesn't back away from the progress we made. But I read in the papers today that the Coalition plans to scrap the Green Investment Bank – a billion pound fund to invest in low-carbon industry for Britain's future. That's not the right way forward.</p>
<p>PARTY POLICY PROCESS</p>	<p>I do think members should have more say in policy making. Sometimes we looked as if Labour felt as if it was in government despite its members, not because of them. We need a living breathing party of which people are proud to say they are members and proud to call their own. We did many good things in government, but we also got things wrong – things like the 10p tax – which perhaps we could have avoided if we had listened to members.</p>

**AGENCY
WORKERS**

It's a fundamental Labour belief that work should pay and those who work hard should be properly rewarded. That's why it was so important for us to implement the agency workers directive, although it took far too long to do so. Now the Coalition are rowing back from this commitment, and I've written to David Cameron to make sure the regulations stay.