



PRESS RELEASE

UNION ATTACKS GOVERNMENT OVER LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

The Northern Region's biggest general trade union has today reacted angrily to the latest news that the number of people unemployed in the UK rose by 80,000 to 2.51 million in the three months to July, as official figures have shown.

The GMB Union noted that the figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that the unemployment increase is the largest in nearly two years. The GMB said that urgent action was required to get the economy moving again:

GMB Northern Regional Secretary Tom Brennan said:

"The default position for a Tory Government is to let the market decide and this is backed up by their Liberal Democrat partners. However to let the market work things out for itself, was also the position the last time we had a position as bad as this in the 1920s and 1930s. Then it led to misery for millions and failed market led policies."

Calling for a radical new approach to tackling unemployment Mr. Brennan said that there were billions of pounds being lost to the economy by Government failing to tackle tax evaders and not implementing the internationally acclaimed bank transactions tax. In addition the Union is calling for a series of vital public works projects that would enable the regional economy to grow by improving infrastructure.

Mr. Brennan said:

"This Government just doesn't understand the nature of the Northern Region. We need a thriving mix of both public and private sectors to ensure sustainability of jobs and spending power. We need vital projects to build the economy such as a major improvement in road networks from north to south, east to west and vice-versa. We need offshore wind farm technology to help with a sustainable energy sector. And we need green technology as well as carbon friendly investment to create jobs, improve incomes, help families and communities that are feeling the pinch".

"It is brutal out there at the moment and this Region needs a Government that will take action, be on our side and understand us, not a Government that is acting as Pontius Pilate and let the economy go to the dogs. The market gave us greedy bankers, feckless media worship and MPs who regulated themselves. We need and demand a different way".

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