

21 November 2007

Hopkins stunned at Revenue data losses

The loss in the post by HM Revenue and Customs of personal details belonging to 25 million people including millions of children has been described as “potentially catastrophic” by Kris Hopkins, the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley.

He said he believed the episode was “further evidence of a Labour Government with a rapidly growing reputation for incompetence, gaffe and recklessness.”

Cllr Hopkins continued:

“As a parent myself, I am most disturbed that such sensitive information has been placed in the public arena. It is the biggest Government foul-up I can remember which could have a potentially catastrophic effect on many thousands of people’s lives.

“It was also clearly an accident waiting to happen, given the Government’s decision to cut 25,000 jobs in the newly merged HM Revenue and Customs including the closure of its Worth House office in Keighley which I strongly opposed.

“The most obvious consequence of the latest gaffe is that the Government should announce it will abandon its plans to introduce national identity cards – it simply cannot be trusted to hold such a huge volume of sensitive personal information in one place.

“However, coming on the back of a succession of major Government failures in recent weeks including over Northern Rock, clearance for illegal workers to take up sensitive security posts and hugely understating the number of migrants who have entered this country, it places huge question marks over this Gordon Brown-led administration to do its job.

“This is now a Labour Government in meltdown – the end cannot come soon enough.”

ENDS