

29 April 2010

## Hopkins confirms plans to stop Labour's tax on jobs

Keighley and Ilkley Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has confirmed that the Conservatives, if they win the General Election next Thursday, will halt Labour's plans to increase National Insurance for employees and employers.

In a statement, Kris said:

"The Labour Party has lost every major argument it has entered during the last three weeks of the General Election campaign, most spectacularly over its plans to raise National Insurance Contributions (NICs) for both employees and employers.

"Thankfully, the Conservatives have pledged to stop this tax on jobs by cutting waste and leaving seven out of 10 working people being better off.

"However, because of the untruths being peddled by Labour, I thought it might be useful to briefly outline precisely what the effects of the Conservative approach will be.

"Firstly, in relation to Labour's plans to raise Employees' National Insurance Contributions for everyone earning over £20,000, a Conservative Government will stop this increase altogether for everyone earning under £35,000 by raising the primary threshold at which people start paying NICs by £24 a week, and raising the Upper Earnings Limit by £29 a week. Compared to Labour's plans, everyone earning between £7,100 and £45,400 – which is seven out of 10 working people – will be up to £150 better off a year under the Conservatives. Lower earners will get the greatest benefit as a percentage of their earnings. Nobody will be worse

off.

"Secondly, Labour are also planning to raise Employers' NICs for everyone earning over £5,700. This is a tax on jobs that will undermine the recovery. We will raise the secondary threshold at which employers start paying NICs by £21 a week, saving employers up to £150 for every person they employ compared to Labour's plans. This will reduce the cost of Labour's tax rise on employers by more than half.

"These Conservative plans have received widespread support across Keighley and Ilkley, both from local residents I speak to every day in the street and on the doorstep, and also from business.

"Once again, Labour has been shown to be out of step with what people here want, and out of touch from reality."

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