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Doubling National Insurance hike puts jobs at risk

The Labour Government's decision to raise National Insurance by an extra 0.5% - on top of the 0.5% announced last year – will place thousands of public and private sector jobs at risk, Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has said.

In a statement in response to this afternoon's Pre-Budget report, Cllr Hopkins commented:

“The latest rise in National Insurance is effectively a tax on jobs and, with unemployment now approaching 3 million, it could not have come at a worse time.

“Public sector bodies such as local authorities, already facing the prospect of huge cuts to their budgets, and private companies, already struggling to stay afloat, will now have to ask themselves if they can afford to pay their existing staff, never mind fill any vacancies which might exist.

“Whilst confirming the absolutely horrendous state this Labour Government has left our economy in and the £1 trillion plus debt Gordon Brown has placed around our necks, the Chancellor once again failed to give any detail on where he intends to make cuts in public spending.

“Yet he did find time to confirm his pre-leaked stunt relating to bankers bonuses and announce a small cut in bingo duty.

“Sadly, it is typical of this dying Labour Government: go for the cheap, gimmicky headlines rather than show leadership and responsibility on behalf of the people they claim to govern.”

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