

It's all about the talent

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[Tough times ahead for jobseekers, but don't give up the fight!](#)

Posted by *AnnieM* on June 28, 2010

OK, so things are really starting to get tough for jobseekers across the UK. If the budget cuts weren't enough, the Coalition Government has now declared war on the unemployed, despite their promises to the contrary. As part of the Government's so-called welfare reform, the Work and Pensions secretary and former Conservative leader, Iain Duncan-Smith has admitted considering a jobseeker exodus – where the [unemployed are relocated to areas of the UK](#) where there are more jobs. This may seem like a good idea on the surface, but consider the following scenarios:

* You have young children settling in nicely into a local school. As an unemployed parent you are told you will only receive help if you move to an entirely new area with more jobs. This will mean uprooting your children from their school and moving away from your family and friends.

* You are a single parent struggling to make ends meet. You are offered a relocation package providing you find work elsewhere. The salaries on offer do not cover the additional childcare costs, the rent and other living expenses.

* You have sought refuge in Britain and have just settled in to your new community. You have been offered assistance to find work on the understanding that you will move to where there are more jobs. This will mean leaving the community you were adjusting to and leaving your family and friends who speak the same language as you.

These are not unfamiliar scenarios and there will be many more which will make it difficult – and unfair – for the jobless to be expected to uproot. If this scheme is implemented, having a free choice where to live will be a luxury for the well-off only. Critics say the scheme is a 'throwback' to the 1980s where politicians held a 'on your bike' attitude towards the unemployed and cut millions of jobseeker's benefits.

Indeed, it seems that we are charging at high speed towards the 1980s: not only will housing benefits be cut in the near future, but it is highly likely that incapacity benefits – or sickness benefits as they are sometimes known – will also be cut under the welfare reform plans. Those who are too ill to work and whom relied on incapacity benefits will be the ones [targeted in this new scheme](#) .

Yet all is not lost. It is a safe bet that if you are reading this you too are unemployed or looking for work. You've come to the right place.

Despite the horrendous cuts and tough years ahead for job seekers in the public sector, [Jobsgopublic](#) is committed to advertising the [best jobs for the best candidates](#). We regularly advertise over 1,000 amazing job opportunities and that is certainly not going to change.

Make sure you continue to visit us often – who knows, the next job you apply for may be the one you'll get.

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[Emergency Budget 2010: The good, the bad and the downright ugly](#)

Posted by *AnnieM* on June 22, 2010

It has been dubbed the most significant [budget](#) for a generation. The news-reading general public have been drip-fed budget-related leaks for the past few days to prepare us for the cuts that would, we were told, have to be made. It was a clever trick.

Preparing us for the worst case scenario would undoubtedly colour our perception of reality: in contrast to our fears, the actual budget would not *seem* so bad.

And indeed there was some good news, although it will be cold comfort to those on benefits and those receiving child tax credits.

Despite Osborne's protestations that the emergency budget protects the poor, some of these new measures will undoubtedly affect those most worst off. In the words of Nick Robinson, political editor of the BBC: "the honeymoon period from this coalition ends today with this budget".

Taxes

- **Increased:** [VAT](#) : from 17.5% to 20% (from January 2011)
- **Increased:** £1000 in income tax allowance by April 2011 (£7,475 tax free) resulting in 80,000 people taken out of income tax all together.
- **Incentives:** Councils with low council tax increases will be given extra funds so they are able to freeze tax from April 2011 onwards.
- **Increased:** Capital gains tax for higher rate tax payers to rise to 28%. It will remain at 18% for low and middle income savers
- **Abolished:** Landline tax – (so called 'broadband tax')
- **Reduced:** Tax credits to be reduced for families with a total income of 40k.
- **Increased:** National Insurance threshold, by £21 per week

Welfare and Pension

- **Increased:** Tax credits, benefits and public sector pensions to rise in keeping with the CPI (Consumer Price Index) rather than the Retail Price Index, (from 2011 onwards).
- **Increased:** From April 2011, basic state pension is to be linked to earnings, earnings prices or 2.5%, whichever is greater.
- **Introduced:** Medical assessment for DLA to be carried out from 2013 for new and existing DLA claimants.

Business

- **Increased:** Capital Gains Tax entrepreneur relief of 10 per cent: extended from 2 million to 5million.
- **Introduced:** [Levy imposed on banks](#) .
- **Reduced:** Corporation tax to be cut next year to 27% and by an additional 1% annually for the next three years until it reaches the 24% cap.

- **Reduced:** Small companies tax rate cut to 20%.
- **Abolished:** tax relief for the video games industry.
- **Reduced:** New South East England businesses and those from the East of England will be exempt for £5,000 of National Insurance payments for the first ten employees.

Family

- **Increased:** tax credits for low income families
- **Abolished:** Health in Pregnancy grant.
- **Abolished:** Sure start maternity grant for 2nd/ 3rd/4th etc child.
- **Introduced:** Lone parents expected look for work when child goes to school
- **Frozen:** [child benefits](#) (for three years).

Public Sector

- **Increased:** Public sector workers earning less than 21k will get flat pay rise of £250 for both years
- **Frozen:** public sector wages over 21,000 (for two years).

Miscellaneous

- **Frozen:** alcohol, tobacco and fuel duties remain the same.
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[Labour Leadership contest 2010](#)

Posted by *AnnieM* on June 16, 2010

Contestants for the Labour leadership took part last night in a [televised debate](#) on Newsnight which saw Diane Abbott, Ed Balls, Andy Burnham and brothers David and Ed Miliband fight it out as they attempted to woo voters on national television.

Members of the labour party and various trade unions will ultimately decide who will be the next Labour leader when they vote in September.

Yet with such seemingly similar contestants, it will be hard to unpick the vital differences between each of them. [So what are their differences](#) ? How does each one stand out from the others?

[Ed Balls](#)

MP for Morley and Outwood

- Brought together schools and children's policy for the first time in the Children's plan
- Voted for the Iraq invasion
- Gordon Brown ally
- Believes in:
 - Power to detain terror suspects for 42 days without charge
 - Trident renewal
 - House of lords reform (80% elected lords)

- Identity cards
- Respite care for disabled people and their families
- Raising education and training age to 18
- Against:
 - Strengthening laws in IVF clinics (to consider need for father and mother)
 - Ban on hybrid embryos
 - House of lords reform (100% elected lords)

Diane Abbott

MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington

- Britain's first black MP
- Wants to rebuild 'party democracy' and rebuild the party
- Voted against the Iraq war
- Believes in:
 - Legalising abortion in Northern Ireland
 - Civil Liberties
 - Supporting child migrants rights
 - Tackling crime (gun crime in particular)
 - Improving education
 - Improving local transport services
 - Enabling local people greater involvement during the olympics
- Against:
 - Legal Aid reform
 - Privatisation of Healthcare
 - National DNA database
 - Offensive pornographic materials in newsagents

Andy Burnham

MP for Leigh

- From Merseyside
- First attended meetings at 14 years old
- Voted for the Iraq invasion
- Believes in
 - Reconnecting Labour
 - (free) National care service for the elderly
 - Save the future jobs fund
 - Power to detain terror suspects for 90 days without charge
 - House of lords reform (100% elected lords)
 - Identity cards
 - Ban on fox hunting
 - Allowing unmarried and gay couples to adopt
 - Stricter asylum system

- Against
 - Voted against the investigation into Iraq war
 - Laws to stop climate change

David Miliband

- Attended state school
- Younger brother to Ed Miliband
- First foreign secretary to write a blog
- 'Building Schools for the Future' programme
- Believes in:
 - Fox hunting ban
 - Wholly elected house of lords
 - Gay rights
 - Id cards
 - Stricter asylum system
 - Labour should be guided by three 'big ideas'
 - 'Ensure people have the power to shape their destiny'
 - 'Providing people with the security they need'
 - 'Cherishing sense of belonging'
- Against
 - Israel's invasion of Lebanon
 - The investigation into the Iraq war
 - Laws to stop climate change
 - Renewing trident

Ed Miliband

MP for Doncaster North

- Joined the Labour party in the 1980s
- Older brother to David Miliband
- Believes in
 - Living wage
 - 50p top tax rate
 - Gay rights
 - Anti terrorism laws
 - Entirely elected house of lords
 - EU integration
 - ID cards
- Against
 - The investigation into the Iraq war
 - Reduction in abortion time limit (24 to 22 weeks)
 - Strengthen IVF clinic laws (need for mother and father)
 - Ban on hybrid embryos

As the leadership contest progresses, we'll be bringing you up-to-date news via our blog and [Twitter](#) .

Don't stay out of the loop – keep checking back for latest updates!

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[Excuses, excuses Mr Cameron](#)

Posted by *AnnieM* on June 08, 2010

Prime Minister David Cameron gave the [following speech](#) yesterday:

“This is the sober reality that I have to set out for the country today. The legacy left by the last government is terrible. The private sector has shrunk back to what it was over six years ago. Unless we act now, interest rates – interest payments – in five years time could end up being higher than the sums we spend on our schools, on climate change and on transport combined.

“Because the legacy we’ve been left is so bad, the measures that we need to deal with it will be unavoidably tough. But people’s lives (and this is vital) people’s lives will be worse unless we do something now.

“The cause of building a fairer society will be set back for years, unless we do something now. We are not alone in this. Many countries around the world have been living beyond their means and they too are having to face the music.

“And I’ll make this promise to everyone in Britain – you will not be left on your own in this. We are all in this together and we are going to get through this together. We will carry out Britain’s unavoidable deficit reduction plan in a way that strengthens and unites our country. We are not doing this because we want to. We are not driven by some theory, some ideology. We are doing this as a government because we have to. Driven by the urgent truth that unless we do so, people will suffer and our national interest will suffer too.

“But this government will not cut the deficit in a way that hurts those we most need to help. In a way that divides our country, or in a way that undermines the spirit and the ethos of our vital public services.

“Freedom, fairness, responsibility: those are the values that drive this government. They’re the values that will drive our efforts to deal with our debts and to turn this country around. So yes, it will be tough. I make no bones about that but we will get through this together. And Britain, and all of us, will come out stronger on the other side. “

There are several points I'd like to make in response to this clever piece of writing. He has an excellent speech writer. His speech writer is someone who knows and understands the values of writing in layman's terms. There is no jargon, there is no fluffy language. It is direct, it is open. It is honest.

But is it? It may 'speak' to the average person, but it is writhing in smugness. Utilising a culture of blame, Cameron and his cronies gloat over the 'fact' that the previous government have driven our country into debt. The fault is all Labours. The coalition government use this 'fact' to justify (ahead of the budget in two weeks' time) the horrendous cuts they will have to make. Simply by passing the buck they can justify just about anything in this way. Yes, they may promise not to 'hurt those we most need to help' but they can now – in clear consciences – make the budget axe fall on any area of public service under the guise of transparency,

because – don't you know – it's for our own good.

They can cut frontline services because it's part of the 'tough cuts' they've had to make. They can cut spending on NHS trusts, state schools, transport. They can cut spending on education, emergency services and housing. They may disguise these cuts well – they may cut the back office functions of these services and claim they are 'protecting' front line services in doing so, but ultimately, it will be the frontline services that suffer.

If you make a million hospital cleaning staff redundant, you increase infection rates in hospitals, you increase the likelihood of an excellent, hygienic and infection-free hospital falling foul of hygiene standards. And so it goes on.

I agree on one thing in Cameron's patronising and empty statement, though. It *is* going to be tough. But whether it's a move towards a 'fairer society' is another matter all together.

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[big earners go live](#)

Posted by *AnnieM* on June 01, 2010

Whitehall have today released into the public domain the [top earners from within the public sector](#). The salaries, ranging from a modest 100k to £280k per annum – with some civil servants earning 30k for 30 days work per year – were published in an attempt to create a culture of 'transparency' within Central Government. Smashing the top of the high earner charts was John Fingleton, Office of Fair Trading who earns a mere £279,999 per year, David Nicholson, NHS who earns £259,999 and Joe Harley, Department for Work and Pensions who earns £249,999.

According to the BBC, nearly thirty of the high earners worked at the Ministry of Defence and who earned over £150k.

Since the [list went live](#) (and the website which published them duly crashed due to high demand), Liberal Democrat Business Secretary Vince Cable called for 'more discipline' in salary rises for the big earners.

For the rest of us, working for significantly less salaries, it will be interesting to see how this new transparency initiative develops in time and whether it could, inadvertently, do more harm than good.

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