

## Gordon Brown exposes Labour cuts at PMQs

Gordon Brown's promise to change didn't last long. His claim that Labour is not planning to cut departmental spending is dishonest:

*'Public spending is rising every year; just be absolutely clear about that. Public spending is due to rise every year... The public spending in our country is rising and it's going to continue to rise'* (Gordon Brown, Number 10 Press Conference, 5 June 2009)

*'The only party that's proposing a cut in public spending is the Conservative Party.'* (Gordon Brown at PMQs today)

But the new Government spending figures he gave for the first time today at PMQs tell the real truth:

*"Public spending this year is 621 million. It rises next year to 672 million, that's this financial year, then to 702, then to 717, then to 738, then to 758."* (Gordon Brown at PMQs today)

What this confirms for the first time is that Labour's own plans mean cuts in departmental spending because these figures do not adjust for inflation and they include big increases in spending on debt interest and benefits:

|   | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | Average real growth per year | Real growth (2011-2013) |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Brown's PMQs figures for total public spending</b>   | £702bn  | £717bn  | £738bn  | £758bn  |                              |                         |
| <b>Minus Treasury forecasts for inflation =</b>   | £702bn  | £699bn  | £701bn  | £700bn  | -0.1%                        | <b><u>-0.3%</u></b>     |
| <b>Minus IFS estimates for debt interest and benefits, leaving real departmental spending =</b> | £391bn  | £382bn  | £373bn  | £364bn  | -2.3%                        | <b><u>-7%</u></b>       |

And, if health is protected from cuts, the Prime Minister's numbers mean that all other departments would see their real spending cut by **10 per cent** over three years. These calculations have been confirmed by the IFS.

|   |        |        |        |        |       |                    |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------------------|
| <b>If health is protected from cuts =</b> | £266bn | £257bn | £249bn | £240bn | -3.3% | <b><u>-10%</u></b> |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------------------|

### **Alistair Darling has told the truth about Labour's plans**

Alistair Darling: *'I have cut overall public spending'* (The Today Programme, 23 April 2009)