

Dear Ms Dunwoody

Congratulations on becoming the Labour Party candidate for the Crewe and Nantwich by-election, albeit in the sad circumstances of your mother's passing away. She was a formidable lady and an excellent constituency MP; she will be missed.

As the Conservative candidate for Crewe and Nantwich, I am looking forward to the sort of frank and honest campaign that Gwyneth would have been proud of.

So it is in that spirit that I am writing to you to ask your views on a range of important issues. In the interests of fairness, I am very happy to make my views clear on each of them.

Do you support the abolition of the 10p tax rate?

I think it's completely unacceptable to increase taxes on the lowest paid workers in the country. People who do the right thing, by going out to work to earn their keep, should be rewarded, not punished. By increasing taxes on the poorest, Gordon Brown has shown he has no idea what it's like to live on a low income.

Do you support the Government's national identity scheme?

I oppose ID cards because they wouldn't make anyone safer. It would be an expensive project and the money would be better spent on frontline services.

Do you agree that – whatever Gordon Brown says – violent crime and anti-social behaviour is rising locally?

Violent crime has almost trebled in the local area and as the Chief Constable says: "every night of the week Cheshire officers and our community support officers are engaged in a constant battle against anti-social behaviour and alcohol-induced violence".

Do you believe that the pre-charge detention period should be extended in terrorism cases?

I do not believe that the Government has made the case for extending the pre-charge detention period beyond 28 days. Instead, they should rely on using intercept evidence in court and post-charge questioning.

Do you think there should be a referendum on the renamed European Constitution?

I firmly believe that Gordon Brown broke his manifesto promise to hold a referendum on the European Constitution because he thought he would lose. The British people deserve the referendum they were promised.

Do you believe that the net level of immigration should be reduced?

I believe that this Government has failed to give local public services the support they need to cope with a rising population. As a result, there is pressure on the local council budget, on housing, on the NHS and on local schools. So we need to plan properly for increases in population, and reduce the overall level of net immigration.

Do you support the suspension of the Government's post office closure programme?

I think the post office closure programme needs to be suspended immediately. There is nothing inevitable about the closure of local services like post offices, small shops and pubs. The Government and local politicians need to do all they can to keep these important services open.

I would be grateful if you could reply to these important questions as soon as possible. It is extremely important for the people of Crewe and Nantwich to know what sort of choice they face.

Given the public interest in these matters, I am releasing a copy of this letter to the media.

Yours sincerely

Edward Timpson
Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Crewe and Nantwich

Tamsin Dunwoody's selection is yet another sign that the Labour Party is taking Crewe and Nantwich for granted

The British people were denied a general election when Tony Blair decided to hand over to Gordon Brown. Now the Labour Party seems to think it can hand over the constituency of Crewe and Nantwich from Gwyneth Dunwoody to her daughter, Tamsin.

Tamsin Dunwoody lives 175 miles away in South West Wales

Tamsin Dunwoody lives in 175 miles away from Crewe in Pembrokeshire, South Wales. Her address on the electoral register is: Cwarre-Dduon, Ambleston, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 5DR.



Tamsin Dunwoody's local links are in South West Wales

In accepting her nomination as the Labour Party candidate, Tamsin Dunwoody said: "I will be a local champion and stand up for the people of Crewe and Nantwich" (*Labour Party press release, 3 May 2008*). But she has said this when she stood for election before – in her real home patch, Pembrokeshire, South Wales. Then, she said: "As someone who lives in the community, works in the community and whose

children go to school in the community, I have a very real belief in a strong voice in Cardiff for Pembrokeshire” (*Western Telegraph*, 6 May 2003).

Does Tamsin Dunwoody consider Nantwich to be second class?

In her press release, Tamsin Dunwoody on several occasions refers to being the MP for Crewe and Nantwich, yet the only issues she mentions refer to Crewe – not Nantwich, and not the large rural parts of the constituency (*Labour Party press release*, 3 May 2008).

No acknowledgement of local disaffection with the Labour Party

After Labour’s massive defeats in the local elections up and down the country, in the North, and in Crewe and Nantwich, some Labour politicians have tried to face up to the reasons for the Party’s defeats. Not Tamsin Dunwoody. In her first address to the voters of Crewe and Nantwich, she ignored concerns about the cost of living, the 10p tax band, the loss of local services, and impact of recent immigration upon local services like the NHS and schools. When she did make passing reference to local issues, she launched a cheap attack on the local council regarding the regeneration of Crewe, and talked about anti-social behaviour (*Labour Party press release*, 3 May 2008). She failed to mention the fact that under Labour, violent crime is up 192 per cent in the local area (Home Office, *Crime in England and Wales*, various years).

A professional politician from South West Wales

Tamsin Dunwoody was until recently the Welsh Assembly Member for the constituency of Preseli Pembrokeshire, in South West Wales.

Slavishly loyal to the Labour leadership