

LABOUR CANDIDATE CONDEMNS THE CONDEMS UNFAIR VAT HIKE

4 January 2011

Labours Banffshire and Buchan Holyrood candidate Alan Duffill has condemned the Conservative/ Liberal Democrat Government's unfair VAT hike which saw VAT soar from 17.5% to 20%. The 2.5% rise will cost the average family up to £448 per year. The rise came into effect today (4 January) and means many items including adult clothes and electrical goods will become more expensive.

Commenting on the recent increase Alan Duffill commented as follows:-

"The Tory /Liberal Democrat Government's VAT rise will push some local families to the brink. The very last thing they need now is a massive VAT hike. This is a regressive tax that hits the poorest hardest and it is little wonder that people are genuinely worried about how they are going to cope with it amid job losses and service cuts.

This Government increased VAT not because they had to, but because they believe they could get away with hurting the vulnerable in society the most. They rejected our calls for a larger bank levy, preferring to target less well off people already struggling to get by with a tax hike that will hurt poorer pensioners and those on fixed incomes as they face increased costs for basic necessities.

Cameron's Cabinet of millionaires have shown how out of touch they are. They are failing to understand that an extra £450 per year will push some local families to the brink. History has shown that increases in taxes on goods – such as Vat – are the Conservative government's tax of choice. They raised it in the 1980s when they doubled Vat, again in the 1990s when they extended it to fuel and now they push it still higher. They would rather hike up taxes on basic and necessary goods that we all use and need than take increased tax from those best able to bare it. This time this Conservative led government are putting VAT on with Liberal Democrat support notwithstanding that those same Liberal Democrat politicians paraded their opposition to any increase in VAT before the General Election.

The VAT increase also brings with it a fuel price hike. Whilst the previous Government's duty freezes reduced the tax-take on petrol this is being reversed by the Coalition. This is especially damaging in coastal communities like ours where many people commute to work by car, or travel in and out of town for shopping by car, given the few public transport alternatives available."