



# Lib Dem manifesto 2010... **whatever happened to that?**

## **unfair taxes**

The Lib Dems promised fair taxes, but millionaires have been given a tax cut while working people have seen wages fall £1,600 a year since 2010

## **no chance**

The Lib Dems promised a fair chance, but broke their promise to not raise tuition fees and trebled them as soon as they were in power

## **an uncertain future**

The Lib Dems promised a fair future, but they backed the Tory cuts which mean that today there are 628 fewer Sure Start centres across the country

## **a cosy deal**

The Lib Dems promised a fair deal, but instead made a cosy deal with the Tories, betrayed their voters and backed David Cameron all the way

Change you cannot trust  
**Building an unfair Britain**

**YOU CAN'T TRUST  
NICK CLEGG**

## The Lib Dems can't escape their past

***You can't trust Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats. They broke their promises and have been too weak to stand up to the Tories.***

***This week the Lib Dems will be running away from their record as part of the Tory-led Government and trying to pretend that Tory policies are nothing to do with them – even though they voted for them. The Tories couldn't have done it without them.***

**You can't trust the Lib Dems: They broke their promises.**

- They promised to scrap tuition fees and then trebled them.
- They promised not to increase VAT, warned against a "Tory VAT bombshell", but then voted through a VAT rise on everyday working families.
- They promised a fair tax system with the wealthiest paying more, but they cut taxes for millionaires while most families are worse off.
- They promised to be on the side of working people, but working people are £1,600 a year worse off since the Lib Dems joined the Tories in government.

**You can't trust the Lib Dems: They will attack David Cameron and the Tories this week but Nick Clegg has been weak and backed the Tories all the way.**

- Nick Clegg backed the Tories' in taking the NHS backwards. Thanks to them it's harder to see your GP, waiting lists are going up and £3 billion was been wasted on top-down reorganisation of the NHS. The Tories couldn't have done it without the Lib Dems.
- They've supported David Cameron in failing to stand up to the energy companies, instead of backing an energy freeze for hardworking families who have seen their bills go up by over £300 a year.
- Nick Clegg backed Michael Gove and allowed schools to recruit unqualified teachers, putting school standards at risk.

**You can't trust the Lib Dems: Their promises for the future are undermined by their actions in government**

- They say they want fairer taxes for working people but in government they have given millionaires a tax break while everyone else pays more.
- Nick Clegg says he wants a mansion tax but he and the Lib Dems voted against it.
- They say they want to scrap the hated Bedroom Tax, but they voted for it four times and have prevented Labour's efforts to get rid of it. It's only there thanks to Lib Dem support.

## A record of delivery (...of Tory policies)

Introduce the bedroom tax

Promise 'fair taxes' and then nod through a tax cut for millionaires while ordinary, hardworking people have seen wages fall £1,600 a year since 2010

Promise to scrap tuition fees and then treble them

Warn against a "Tory VAT bombshell" and then vote through a VAT rise on hardworking families

Support the Tories' wasteful and damaging £3 billion top-down reorganisation of the NHS, cutting nurses and increasing waiting lists

Back a £145m tax cut for hedge funds

Back the energy companies over consumers and do nothing as families see their energy bills rise by more than £300

## A promise of more (...of the same)

No plans to scrap the bedroom tax fully, as Labour will do, and voted against doing so

No plans to reverse the tax cut for millionaires in order to get the deficit down fairly

Stick by this broken promise, with no plans to move towards a fairer funding system

Oppose Labour's plans to cut income tax for hardworking people through a lower 10p starting tax rate

No plans to increase the number of nurses, doctors and GPs without any additional borrowing

Keep this in place and reject Labour's plans to reverse this tax cut and use the money to fund scrapping the bedroom tax

No plans for an energy price freeze to help families, as Labour will do

## The Lib Dem hypocrisy roll call

The Lib Dems say one thing but do another.

The Lib Dems released a 'pre manifesto' which Nick Clegg said was 'about the future'. The claims within the document, however, seek to gloss over their real record of supporting Tory policies.

The Lib Dems' pre-manifesto claims are nothing short of hypocrisy from a party which has been part of the Tory-led Government.

In a hypocrisy roll call, below are 20 examples of the Lib Dems saying one thing and doing another.

### Hypocrisy #1: balancing the books

#### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***

'Finish the job on the deficit fairly and balance the books so the next generation aren't burdened by huge interest payments.'

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.8*

#### ***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems' real record***

The Lib Dems failed to balance the books. Nick Clegg signed up wholesale to the Tories' economic policy and deficit is now set to be £75 billion next year. The Government will borrow almost £190 billion more than their plan entailed at the time of the 2010 Spending Review.<sup>1</sup>

The Lib Dems will not match Labour's pledge to reverse their tax cut for millionaires, which would ensure the deficit is reduced fairly.

### Hypocrisy #2: fairer taxes

#### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***

'We will continue our reforms to make taxes fairer and simpler, help those on low and middle incomes, and ensure that those on the highest incomes make a fair contribution.'

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.30*

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<sup>1</sup> Office for Budget Responsibility, Economic and Fiscal Outlook, November 2010 and March 2014; Office for Budget Responsibility, public finances databank

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

Nick Clegg supported a tax cut for millionaires while working people suffer a cost-of-living crisis. The decision to cut the 50p rate to 45p from April 2013 handed a £3 billion tax cut to the richest one per cent in the country. It means that someone earning £1 million received a tax cut of over £42,000 a year.<sup>2</sup>

Before the election Nick Clegg warned of a Tory 'VAT bombshell' but then signed up to a VAT rise which means families are paying hundreds of pounds more a year.

### **Hypocrisy #3: tuition fees**

#### **The Lib Dems say one thing...**

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

'A world class university sector, open to all... we need to ensure higher and further education remain accessible to all those who can benefit'.

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.44*

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

In opposition, the Lib Dems campaigned on a promise to scrap tuition fees if they got into power, and every Liberal Democrat MP pledged to vote against any proposed increase in Parliament. In government, the Liberal Democrats voted to treble tuition fees to £9,000.<sup>3</sup>

### **Hypocrisy #4: cutting energy bills**

#### **The Lib Dems say one thing...**

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

'Cut energy bills for everyone with more competition'

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.31*

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

Nick Clegg stood on the side of the 'big six' energy companies and has taken no action in the face of soaring costs. Since 2010, families have seen their energy bills rise by more than £300.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> HMRC, Exchequer effect of the 50 per cent additional rate of income tax, March 2012, Table A1, p.48, <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2012/excheq-income-tax-2042.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> *Higher Education Fees, Division 150, Hansard, 9 December 2010,* <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101209/debtext/101209-0004.htm#10120946000013>

<sup>4</sup> According to analysis from the House of Commons library, based on figures from the Department for Energy and Climate Change, household energy bills rose by 21% in real terms between 2010 and 2013, meaning household energy bills were £221 a year higher in 2013 compared to 2010. Some suppliers also implemented further price rises which came into force in December 2013 and 2014, meaning this is likely to be an underestimate of the total increase in household energy bills since 2010.

## Hypocrisy #5: supporting families

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***

‘But we need to do more so that all who want to work can do so – families need more free hours and help which starts earlier than when a child is aged 3.’

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.32*

### ***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems’ real record***

By 2015 the Government will have taken away up to £15 billion in support for children and families.

## Hypocrisy #6: mansion tax

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***

‘We will introduce a banded High Value Property Levy (the ‘Mansion Tax’) on homes worth over £2 million’

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.14*

### ***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems’ real record***

Only last year the Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats voted to reject Labour’s proposals to introduce a Mansion Tax on properties worth more than £2m.<sup>5</sup>

## Hypocrisy #7: NHS

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***

‘Liberal Democrats in government have started to reform public services so they are more responsive to local communities, but we must go further’.

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.48*

### ***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems’ real record***

The Lib Dems supported the Government’s wasteful, £3bn re-organisation of the NHS means. Last year almost 1m people waited longer than four hours in A&E<sup>6</sup>; more patients are waiting longer than 62 days for cancer treatment,<sup>7</sup> and ambulance response times are rising.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Tax Fairness Opposition Day Debate, Division 179, Hansard, 12 March 2013,

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130312/debtext/130312-0001.htm#13031241000001>

<sup>6</sup> NHS England, Quarterly time series <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/weekly-ae-sitreps-2013-14/>

<sup>7</sup> NHS England, 25 July 2014, Cancer Waiting Times annual report, 2013-14, Pg. 17

<sup>8</sup> NHS England, Ambulance Quality Indicators, <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators/ambulance-quality-indicators-data-2014-15/>

## Hypocrisy #8: GP access

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***  
'Encourage GPs to work together to improve access and availability of appointments, including out of hours...Incentivise GPs and other community clinicians to work in more disadvantaged areas'.  
*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.50*

### ***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems' real record***  
One of the first acts of Nick Clegg's government was to scrap Labour's guarantee of a GP appointment within 48 hours.<sup>9</sup> They also removed this right from the NHS Constitution saying that it was "no longer a priority". Now one in four wait a week or more to see a GP.<sup>10</sup>

## Hypocrisy #9: home-building

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***  
'Build the homes our country needs to stop prices spiralling out of reach, so the next generation have the chance to bring up a family in a home of their own.'  
*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.8*

### ***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems' real record***  
Nick Clegg has presided over the lowest level of house building in peacetime since the 1920s. Annual home completions have been lower under his government than in every year of the last Labour Government.<sup>11</sup>

## Hypocrisy #10: rebalancing the economy

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***  
'Now is the time to push forward with our ambitious plans, and reject attempts by establishment forces simply to rebuild the old economy.'  
*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.16*

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<sup>9</sup>[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Primarycare/PMC/AccessResponse/DH\\_120575](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Primarycare/PMC/AccessResponse/DH_120575)

<sup>10</sup> GP Patient Survey <http://gp-patient.co.uk/surveys-and-reports>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/311130/LiveTable209.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311130/LiveTable209.xlsx)

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

Our export growth since 2010 is sixth in the G7, 16th in the G20 and 22nd in the EU.<sup>12</sup> While business investment is the fourth lowest in the EU as a share of national income.<sup>13</sup>

The Lib Dems signed up wholesale to the Tories' policy of 'trickle down' economics, giving tax cuts to those at the very top while failing to support working people.

### **Hypocrisy #11: early years education**

#### **The Lib Dems say one thing...**

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

'Invest every penny we can in education from cradle to college – nursery, school, apprenticeships and college – so all our children get the chance to live out their full potential.'

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.8*

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

Childcare costs have risen by 30 per cent since 2010<sup>14</sup> – five times faster than wages. There are 628 fewer Sure Start children's centres than when Nick Clegg took office.<sup>15</sup>

### **Hypocrisy #12: zero hour contracts**

#### **The Lib Dems say one thing...**

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

'Clamp down on any abusive practices in relation to zero hours contracts.'

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.21*

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

There are currently over one million zero hours contracts in our economy.<sup>16</sup> The Government has taken no action to ban them, as Labour propose.

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<sup>12</sup> IMF, World Economic Outlook Database April 2014

<sup>13</sup> Eurostat, Annual sector accounts, Investment by institutional sectors

<sup>14</sup> Family and Childcare Trust, 2014 Annual Childcare Costs Survey, p11,  
<http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-costs-surveys>

<sup>15</sup> Freedom of Information requests to the Department for Education

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776\\_361578.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_361578.pdf)



## Hypocrisy #13: Universal Credit

### *The Lib Dems say one thing...*

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

‘Complete the introduction of Universal Credit, in order to ensure that people are always better off in employment.’

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.33*

### *...but they do another*

- **Lib Dems’ real record**

Universal Credit is a farce. The number of people claiming UC is just over 11,000.<sup>17</sup> That’s just one per cent of the one million people that that the Government once claimed would be on Universal Credit by April 2014.

## Hypocrisy #14: bedroom tax

### *The Lib Dems say one thing...*

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

‘We will reform the policy to remove the spare room subsidy.’

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.36*

### *...but they do another*

- **Lib Dems’ real record**

The Liberal Democrats voted for the Bedroom Tax at Second and Third Reading and Nick Clegg has repeatedly defended the Bedroom Tax. As recently as April, Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords voted to keep the Bedroom Tax when they had the chance to scrap it. In February, Liberal Democrat MPs voted against a Labour Ten Minute Rule Bill to abolish the Bedroom Tax.<sup>18</sup>

## Hypocrisy #15: Free Schools

### *The Lib Dems say one thing...*

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

‘Parents’ guarantee: core curriculum in every school’

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.41*

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<sup>17</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, Universal Credit statistics

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/apr/03/labour-mocks-lib-dems-peers-vote-keep-bedroom-tax>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140212/debtext/140212-0002.htm>

Hansard, 9 March 2011, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110309/debtext/110309-0004.htm#11030953002098>,

Hansard, 9 June 2011, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110615/debtext/110615-0004.htm#11061559001806>

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats may try to distance themselves from the Coalition Government's Free Schools policy, but the Liberal Democrats are as responsible for it as the Tories. The Liberal Democrats voted for the creation of Free Schools in 2010<sup>19</sup>, they were promoted by Nick Clegg in his first speech as Leader of the Liberal Democrats<sup>20</sup> and have repeatedly been supported by Nick Clegg and David Laws.

### **Hypocrisy #16: teaching standards**

#### **The Lib Dems say one thing...**

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

'That's why we've developed our Parents' Guarantee that every child will be taught by qualified teachers'

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.43*

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

The Lib Dems have allowed unqualified teachers to be permanently employed in schools and removed the requirement for teachers to have any qualifications, something which was promoted by David Laws.<sup>21</sup>

### **Hypocrisy #17: supporting young people**

#### **The Lib Dems say one thing...**

- **Pre-manifesto claim**

'Helping young people to access work and learning'

*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.44*

### **...but they do another**

- **Lib Dems' real record**

There are almost 750,000 young people unemployed and apprenticeships for young people are falling, with the number of under-25-year-olds starting an apprenticeship falling by over 11,000 between 2011-12 and 2012-13.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Hansard, 26 July 2010, col 828,

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/debtext/100726-0004.htm#10072645001227>

<sup>20</sup> Nick Clegg, 14 January 2008

<sup>21</sup> David Laws, Hansard, 4 July 2013, c746W

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships--2>

## Hypocrisy #18: crime prevention

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***  
'Our focus is on trying to prevent crime from happening in the first place.'  
*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.57*

### ***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems' real record***  
There are now almost 16,000 fewer police officers than there were in 2010.<sup>23</sup> Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has warned that neighbourhood policing is "being eroded".<sup>24</sup> The number of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse cases reported to the police is going up, but the number of cases that the police put forward for prosecution is plummeting as the service is hollowed out.<sup>25</sup>

## Hypocrisy #19: female representation

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***  
'Make Parliament more family friendly, and establish a review to pave the way for MP job-sharing arrangements.'  
*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.67*

### ***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems' real record***  
Only 7 of the Liberal Democrats' 56 MPs are women (just over 12 per cent) – as many as the number of male Lib Dem MPs who are knights. Not one Liberal Democrat female MP is in the Cabinet.

## Hypocrisy #20: cutting carbon

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- ***Pre-manifesto claim***  
'Rewire the economy to cut out carbon'  
*Lib Dem pre-manifesto 2014, p.8*

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/policing-statistics>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/policing-in-austerity-rising-to-the-challenge.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> House of Commons Library

***...but they do another***

- ***Lib Dems' real record***

The Committee on Climate Change recommends that to meet our legally binding target of reducing the UK's CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, we need to decarbonise the power sector.<sup>26</sup> The Liberal Democrats, however, voted against including a target to decarbonise the power sector by 2030 in the Government's flagship Energy Bill.

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<sup>26</sup> Energy prices and bills – impacts of meeting carbon budgets, Committee on Climate Change, December 2012, [http://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/1672\\_CCC\\_Energy-Bills\\_bookmarked.pdf](http://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/1672_CCC_Energy-Bills_bookmarked.pdf)

# The Liberal Democrats' Top 5 Broken Promises

## 1. Tuition Fees

### *The Lib Dems say one thing...*

- In opposition, the Party campaigned on a promise to scrap tuition fees if they got into power, and every Liberal Democrat MP pledged to vote against any proposed increase in Parliament.



### *...but they do another*

- In government, the Lib Dems voted to treble tuition fees to £9,000<sup>27</sup>.

## 2. Sure Start

### *The Lib Dems say one thing...*

- Nick Clegg promised to protect Sure Start.

“Difficult decisions are going to have to be made in public spending, but Sure Start is one of the best things the last government has done and I want all these centres to stay open”

*Nick Clegg, Independent, 5 May 2010*

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<sup>27</sup> Higher Education Fees, Division 150, Hansard, 9 December 2010, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101209/debtext/101209-0004.htm#10120946000013>

**...but they do another**

- In government the Lib Dems have backed cuts to Sure Start, with a £1.4 billion cut in the Early Intervention Grant. As a result there are now 628 fewer children's centres than in May 2010.<sup>28</sup>

**3. VAT**

***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- The Lib Dems warned against a Tory 'VAT bombshell'



**...but they do another**

- In government the Lib Dems backed the Tories in increasing VAT.<sup>29</sup>

**4. Police Officers**

***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- The Lib Dems promised 3,000 more police officers

“Liberal Democrats will: Pay for 3,000 more police on the beat...”  
*Liberal Democrat manifesto 2010, p. 72*

**...but they do another**

- In government the Lib Dems backed the Tories as they cut almost 16,000 police officers.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Freedom of Information requests to the Department for Education

<sup>29</sup> Value added tax (rate and supplementary charge), Divison 10, Hansard, 28 June 2010

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/debtext/100628-0022.htm#100629300001>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/policing-statistics>

## 5. Mansion Tax

### ***The Lib Dems say one thing...***

- The Lib Dem manifesto promised a Mansion Tax, and Nick Clegg said earlier this year that he couldn't understand why the Tories were opposed.

Introducing a Mansion Tax at a rate of 1 per cent on properties worth over £2 million, paid on the value of the property above that level.

*Liberal Democrat manifesto 2010, p. 14*

"I remain perplexed that the Conservatives still refuse to countenance any change in the tax system to ask people occupying very high-value properties to make small additional contribution..."

*Nick Clegg, press conference, 6 January 2014,*

<http://www.libdemvoice.org/nick-clegg-id-probably-relish-debating-farage-37735.html>

### ***...but they do another***

- The Lib Dems voted with the Tories, against Labour's motion for a mansion tax in the House of Commons.

MPs have rejected Labour calls for a "mansion tax" on properties worth more than £2m to be introduced before the next general election.

Conservative and Lib Dem MPs joined forces to defeat the move by 63 votes after a Commons debate.

*BBC News, 12 March 2013, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21745529>*