

# Unchecked UK Statement on Protecting What Matters

Whether you work in financial services, competition policy, environmental protection or consumer rights, Labour's deregulatory growth agenda threatens the protections we all care about.

Our statement below sets out why deregulation cannot be allowed to dominate Labour's strategy for boosting growth. Please sign it with your name, title and organisation - and share the statement with other organisations and experts who agree that social and environmental protections must be at the heart of the next Parliament.

We, the undersigned organisations and experts, are concerned about the government's emerging deregulatory agenda.

The evidence shows that strong, well-enforced protections create the stability needed for a fair and sustainable economy. They ensure our food is safe, our workplaces secure, our environment protected, and our markets operate fairly. They provide the foundation for businesses that want to do the right thing to thrive.

Recent moves to weaken regulatory oversight - from relaxing financial rules to streamlining environmental assessments - risk undermining these vital safeguards. History shows that when protections are weakened or poorly enforced, it is communities and consumers who bear the cost, while those who cut corners profit.

The public understands this. Polling consistently shows that voters across the political spectrum support strong protections and proper enforcement. They recognise that rules exist to prevent harm and ensure fairness, creating an economy that works for everyone.

We therefore call on the government to:

- Maintain robust regulatory standards across all sectors
- Properly resource enforcement agencies to do their vital work
- Ensure regulators can act independently in the public interest
- Put protection of people and the environment at the heart of economic policy

A stable, secure society requires strong foundations. Dismantling vital protections risks creating an economy that works only for the few, while leaving the majority more vulnerable to harm.

Signed by:

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Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, Rivers Trust

Susan Hawley, Executive Director, Spotlight on Corruption

Dominique Muller, UK Policy Lead, Labour Behind the Label

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Simon Youel, Head of Policy & Advocacy, Positive Money UK

Brendan Costelloe, Directory of Policy and Strategy, Soil Association

Nicholas Shaxson, Economics author and journalist

Rosanna Downes, Head of Campaigns, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Kit Stoner, CEO, Bat Conservation Trust

Mick McAteer, Co-Director, Financial Inclusion and Markets Centre

Nick Measham, CEO, WildFish

Emeritus Prof. Rupert Read, Co-Director of the Climate Majority Project

Jamie Page, Chief Executive, The Cancer Prevention and Education Society

Josie Cohen, Head of Policy & Campaigns, Pesticide Action Network UK

Ash Smith, Chair of Trustees, Windrush Against Sewage Pollution

Giles Bristow, CEO, Surfers Against Sewage

Andy Agathangelou, Founder, Transparency Task Force

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