

DON'T BREAK BRITAIN CUTS KILL COMMUNITIES



Don't Break Britain – protect public services

The most important issues to raise with your MP is what cuts are happening in your community and to their constituents (ie their voters). Once your MP starts to get a real picture of the human costs of cuts they are less likely to support them.

Real stories will make your MP sit up and take notice.

There is an alternative to cuts

- The coalition has maintained that reducing the deficit is 'the most urgent issue facing Britain' – that cutting fast and deep is 'unavoidable'. It is not. Leading economists argue that cuts to public spending now, when the economy is still fragile, risks the recovery and could lead to a double dip recession.
- Unite believes that there is a better, fairer way to reduce the deficit. When the government spends money, it generates more money and wealth. So cuts to public spending drains money from the economy, hitting both private and public sector jobs.
- The Treasury has predicted that 500,000 public sector jobs and between 600,000-700,000 jobs in the private sector will be lost as a direct of the cuts, hitting poorer regions hardest.
- The coalition has blamed Labour's 'reckless' spending on public services for causing the deficit. But Unite, the TUC and many economists argue it was caused by the sharpest recession in this country since World War II. A recession caused, largely, by the near global collapse of the financial banking services industry. This then led to a massive fall in tax income for the government, as the government was forced to bail out the banks and people lost their jobs.
- The government promised that the cuts would be fair. Instead, the Budget's measures will hit frontline services, the poor and the vulnerable; risks increasing inequality, opening up a North/South divide and lets the rich off the hook.
- Unite is arguing for an alternative economic strategy that supports long-term, sustainable growth, maintains public services and creates jobs. Investing in our public services and job creation is the best way to encourage growth which in turn reduces the deficit.

As well as your local issues other questions you might want to ask:

1. **You said these cuts would be fair – why are you forcing through cuts that will harm the most vulnerable and poorest in society?**

Your MP may say: The government is committed to protecting the most vulnerable and poorest in society.

Rebuttal: *Many leading economists argue that the cuts will hit poorer households hardest. The poorest 10% of households will be worse off by £1,514 a year – this is 21.7% of people's household income. But the richest 10% of households are losing just 3.6% of their annual household income.*

2. **Why is the government committed to reducing the deficit so fast risking a double-dip recession?**

Your MP may say: Labour left the government with no alternative. If the deficit is not tackled the UK will lose its triple A credit rating, increasing the price the country must pay to borrow money on the markets, as well as the amount paid servicing the debt.

Rebuttal: *The UK is not broke. The UK remains the fifth largest industrial economy in the world, slashing so deep and fast is not necessary and is driven more by ideology than economic reality.*

3. **How will the government create jobs?**

Your MP may say: The government's say the private sector will create 2 million jobs over the next five years.

Rebuttal: *History tells us otherwise. Following the recession in the 1980s it took seven years to create 2 million jobs and nine and half years after the recession of the early nineties. This was on the back of annual growth of 3.6 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.*