



News from Westminster

February 2010 Claire Ward MP

Crime falls despite the recession

New figures show crime has fallen across Britain in the last year. This comes despite predictions over the last few months of a recession-linked crime wave.

This drop in crime is good news and shows that our community has not been broken by the recession.

This has not happened by accident. It is because of the brilliant work of our neighbourhood police teams. Police officers and community support officers (CSOs) in Watford should be very proud of their work during these tough times.

Getting more bobbies on the beat in our streets is my top priority. That's why I have supported Labour investment that has meant there are now 16,000 more police officers and 16,000 more CSOs on Britain's streets.

What I won't stand for is cuts to frontline police officers and CSOs. Conservative plans would mean 3 500 less officers on Britain's streets.

I don't think this is the right way to fight crime.

Police officers also need the right tools to do the job. And DNA evidence puts criminals where they belong – in jail.

The cold facts are that in the last year 23 killers and rapists would have remained free to kill and rape again if we had adopted the Conservative proposals.

The Conservatives seem to care a lot about the human rights of suspected criminals. I believe that the human rights of people to feel safe in their homes and communities deserve respect too.



What happened in previous recessions?

During the 1990s recession, burglary, robbery and theft rose by 19 per cent in 1990 and 18 per cent in 1991.

During the current recession burglary has actually fallen by 8 per cent and robbery has fallen by 9 per cent - with robbery at knife point down by 16 per cent.

If crime had followed the pattern of the previous two recessions, over 100,000 more homes would have been burgled this year, and over 15,000 more people would have been robbed this year.

We must keep investing to help everyone back into work

The rate of job losses in this recession has been four times less than if the experience of the 1990s had been repeated. But we've got to keep investing in jobs through the recovery. I am backing the Future Jobs Fund which will bring more jobs to the area, a fund that that David Cameron wants to slash.

In previous recessions unemployed young people were left on the scrapheap. We can't let this happen again.

That's why I support Labour's guarantees - an education or training place for young people up to 18. And a job or training place for 18-24 year olds out of work for six months. Both funded by a one off tax on bankers' bonuses.

Extra investment has helped keep unemployment round here at lower than in the 90's recession. We must keep investing to help everyone back into work.

We are experiencing the worst global recession for 70 years. But unemployment is 1.7m **lower** than it would have been if the experience of the 1990s recession had been repeated.

The difference is clear – Labour's investment and support, or higher unemployment under the Tories.

