

# THE Sun 11|03|12 Sunday

**TRAGIC** events last week in Afghanistan have highlighted, yet again, the true bravery of Britain's Armed Forces.

The deaths of Sgt Nigel Coupe and his five comrades, killed on Tuesday when their Warrior armoured vehicle was destroyed by a roadside bomb, is a reminder of the sacrifices made by troops and their families.

Now there is a way in which, when they are back on Civvy Street, those who brave bombs and bullets on our behalf can be recognised for their courage.

The new Rewards for Forces scheme, backed by The Sun, could save Our Boys and their families up to £1,000 a year.

It is overdue. In America, servicemen and veterans have, for years, rightly been given discounts, special offers and free tickets to events.

Here, while other groups like students enjoy big discounts in shops, cinemas and restaurants, there has been nothing similar for our heroes apart from the

## The just rewards

MoD's defence discount scheme. Until now. The beauty of Rewards for Forces is its simplicity.

The reward card issued under the scheme means those without MoD identification need never miss out on discounts and savings.

That will please those without official ID, such as service families, veterans and service widows and widowers.

You can play your part by supporting hundreds of businesses behind the scheme.

**After all, the more there is on their bottom line, the more discounts they can give those serving on the front line.**



### Criminal record...

**DAVID** Cameron's declaration of war on Britain's knife crime scourge won him support from actress Brooke Kinsella — whose brother was stabbed to death — and The Sun.

Yet on his watch, knife thugs are spared jail, while robberies at knifepoint rose by ten per cent in the year to the end of September.

Labour's Yvette Cooper is speaking our language on crime.

It's no surprise to see her cutting the PM's poll lead on law and order.

### Stop the clockers

**THE** explosion in the number of firms that cut car mileage is shocking.

It means thousands of honest motorists are conned into buying over-priced second-hand motors.

A car with clocked mileage is also more dangerous if it lulls the driver into a false sense of security.

**The loophole allowing this scam to become so widespread must be closed without delay.**

### Ice cream crackers

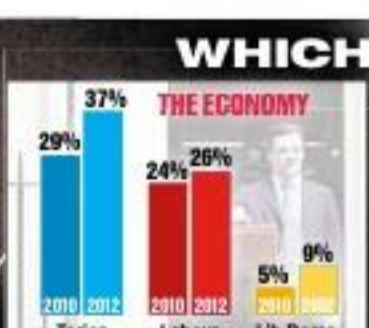
**MORE** than 2.6 million are out of work and the surging cost of fuel is crippling households and businesses.

So there will be more than a ripple of discontent at news Whitehall has launched a pointless 17,000-word consultation on whether the friendly tinkles of Britain's ice cream vans are too loud.

Ministers must be a flake short of a '99 for encouraging this nonsense.

**There must be a better wafer the country to be run.**

## THE Sunday ISSUE



**LABOUR'S** most powerful woman, tipped as a future leader, says the party has learned from its mistakes — and challenges PM David Cameron on the key issue of crime.

Meeting police officers in the Midlands last month, I was told a shocking story. A 999 call had come in about a hit-and-run but the nearest officer was 45 minutes away.

When the constable finally arrived, blue light flashing, the culprit was long gone. Angry residents started a slow handclap.

Police forces are struggling to cope with cuts of 16,000 officers thanks to this government. And communities are paying the price.

That is David Cameron's law and order policy: Crime up, police down. It's madness — cutting emergency response officers, neighbourhood police and specialist detectives even though violence, theft and robbery are increasing.

Whether it be on crime, the NHS, jobs or family finances, the Prime Minister and his government are badly out of touch.

I know many readers were fed up with Labour by the last election. They felt we weren't doing enough to stand up for those who played by the rules.

We've heard the message loud and clear. We know we have to work hard to win back their support.

### Squeezed

Hard-working people are getting a deeply unfair deal from this Tory-led government. It's the Labour Party's job to stand up for people hit hard by their dangerous decisions and show there is a better way.

Ed Miliband is right to argue that the squeezed middle are taking too much of the strain. It's outrageous ministers are taking more from families with kids than from the banks.

With petrol prices and commuter fares rocketing, and redundancies still high, many people are really struggling to get by.

Yet the government is still doing nothing to boost **JOBS** and **GROWTH**. George Osborne is ignoring Labour's plan to tax bankers, bonuses and put that money into 100,000 jobs.

The Government isn't listening on the NHS either. Spending billions on a chaotic reorganisation will push waiting times up and damage our precious NHS too. Doctors and nurses have been warning about that for months.

And I'm urging David Cameron to change course on **CRIME** before it is too late. It fell by 40 per cent under Labour.

We want a government that pulls out all the stops to cut crime. Instead the Tories are doing the opposite — removing 17,000 rape suspects from the DNA database, watering down terror laws and wanting to ditch Asbos.

Labour didn't get everything right in power. But we were tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime. This government is **WEAK** on both.

Crime, the NHS, jobs or family finances — the Tories and Lib Dems are letting Britain down on them all.

### PROFILE

**Born:** Inverness, 1969. Father a union leader, mother from family of miners

**Educated:** Comprehensive school in Hampshire, first in PPE at Oxford, masters degree in economics at LSE

**Elected:** 1997, MP for Pontefract and Castleford

**Married:** 1998, to Ed Balls

**Children:** Two daughters and a son

**2008:** Chief Sec to Treasury  
**2009:** Work and Pensions Sec  
**2010:** Shadow Foreign Sec  
**2011:** Shadow Home Sec



Bow... Miliband



Hubby... with Ed