

News from the Scottish Labour Party in the Highlands and Islands

13 June 2008

First Minister challenged over Western Isles domestic abuse post

Scottish Labour challenged the First Minister yesterday over the axing of a domestic abuse co-ordinator in the Western Isles.

Margaret Curran, Shadow Health Secretary, said that the cutting of the vital local authority post was a huge loss to the islands' communities.

She urged Alex Salmond at First Minister's Questions:

"I do not think that there is one member of the Parliament who does not think that that post in the Western Isles should not be reinstated.

"I ask the First Minister to use his authority and intervene to give the Western Isles back the service that it needs."

Mrs Curran said that women's organisations across the country are telling Labour about a squeezing of services, about posts under threat and about funding being cut and projects merged.

After the exchange she added:

"I am extremely disappointed that Alex Salmond refused to listen to my calls for the Domestic Abuse Service in the Western Isles to be reinstated.

"This is a vital service that has been cut and will seriously affect women, children and young people fleeing domestic abuse," said Mrs Curran.

Highlands and Islands Labour Regional MSP Rhoda Grant added: "The removal of the ring fence from many of the funds that provided help and support to victims of Domestic Abuse was worrying.

"What is more worrying is that this Government appears be happy to stand back and watch these services being withdrawn."

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Ends

web links :

Peter Peacock : www.peterpeacock.org.uk

Rhoda Grant : www.rhodagrants.org.uk

David Stewart : www.davidstewart.org.uk

Highlands and Islands Labour : www.handilabour.org.uk

