# Julia Hartley-Brewer warns Labour's Net Zero plan risks UK energy stability



Julia Hartley-Brewer has launched a robust critique of Ed Miliband and the Labour Party's approach to climate policy, particularly regarding their commitment to Net Zero initiatives. During a segment on TalkTV, Hartley-Brewer expressed strong concerns about the government's recent £200 million solar panel rollout plan, which is intended to install solar panels on hundreds of schools and hospitals across the country. This initiative is backed by Miliband, who is the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, as well as Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Chancellor Rachel Reeves.

Hartley-Brewer referred specifically to the challenges faced by Spain and Portugal, which recently experienced extensive power outages during a heatwave. She argued that such incidents highlight the vulnerabilities associated with heavy reliance on renewable energy sources, claiming that “climate change policies, Net Zero, which leaves us very vulnerable.” She suggested that the instability brought about by renewable energy, particularly solar power, could exacerbate similar issues in the UK.

Discussing the government’s aim to rely on 95% solar and wind energy, she stated, “I’m sorry. The biggest risk to this country is Net Zero,” during a debate with government advisor Claire Pearsall, who was there to support the initiative. While Pearsall defended the strategy, the sentiment echoed Hartley-Brewer’s assertion that the reliance on renewables might not provide the stability needed for the UK’s energy requirements.

The criticism coincided with an alarming report from the independent Climate Change Committee, which indicated that the government is inadequately preparing for potential climate-related risks. Although the report noted advancements, such as enhanced flood defences, it warned of severe health and economic repercussions if more decisive measures are not enacted.

Compounding the situation, former Prime Minister Tony Blair weighed in on the debate, characterising the current climate policy as “irrational” and “doomed to fail.” This assessment was met with discontent from within the Labour Party, signifying the internal tensions regarding their climate strategy. A senior Labour MP expressed frustration, stating, “It’s maddening… TBI might want to remember it’s not running the country.”

In response to the mounting criticism, Starmer's team reaffirmed its commitment to Miliband’s strategies. A spokesperson defended their approach, emphasising the need for pragmatism: “We’re taking a very practical and pragmatic approach… Families will pay the price for our dependence on fossil fuel markets.”

As Labour navigates the backlash from critics and conflicting opinions from within its ranks, the ongoing discussion surrounding their Net Zero strategy appears to intensify, raising important questions about the future of the UK's energy policy and its associated risks.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.ft.com/content/84381d25-5578-4b79-b6f9-8853a6470981> - This article discusses the massive power outage in Spain and Portugal, highlighting concerns about grid stability amid the green transition, which aligns with Hartley-Brewer's critique of the UK's reliance on renewable energy sources.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/49df0517-707e-4fdd-a5ac-dea2feae8d2d> - This piece examines the Iberian blackout, emphasizing the vulnerability of advanced economies to grid failures and the need for grid resilience, supporting Hartley-Brewer's concerns about the UK's energy stability.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/3b807eff-fdaf-49f6-9611-00c4ff992a43> - This article analyzes the Iberian Peninsula blackout, discussing the challenges posed by the rapid shift to renewable energy and the necessity for grid modernization, echoing Hartley-Brewer's apprehensions about the UK's energy policy.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/49df0517-707e-4fdd-a5ac-dea2feae8d2d> - This report delves into the causes of the Iberian blackout, highlighting the impact of renewable energy integration on grid stability, which resonates with Hartley-Brewer's critique of the UK's Net Zero initiatives.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/3b807eff-fdaf-49f6-9611-00c4ff992a43> - This article discusses the need for substantial investment in grid infrastructure to support renewable energy, aligning with Hartley-Brewer's concerns about the UK's energy strategy.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/49df0517-707e-4fdd-a5ac-dea2feae8d2d> - This piece examines the implications of the Iberian blackout, emphasizing the importance of grid resilience in the context of renewable energy adoption, supporting Hartley-Brewer's critique of the UK's climate policy.
* <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiywFBVV95cUxOZ1dhcVdsYV8taVA5aC1maXhOV211b2UtNldFUHhyWjQ0eFpONTlVOFUtcEZPT1pJdkRtVUhuU3d4ejJDUlZ1UnRsZ21oYTdZcmhHVkxoVWx1X2dLSE0ydU5oN1RrYzNkWFV3dTNyWHBsYkh1dDFHYm9laVV1Um95b1FwTzFvREw3RXlpZ3Y4aHF1Y1N5cDVEdmdkdVJFZGg1Y2tXby1tMXhZeHNkRVRJanRJZ24zV3BIdnZZVDJac1FxdUxfdF9nMHF4TQ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data