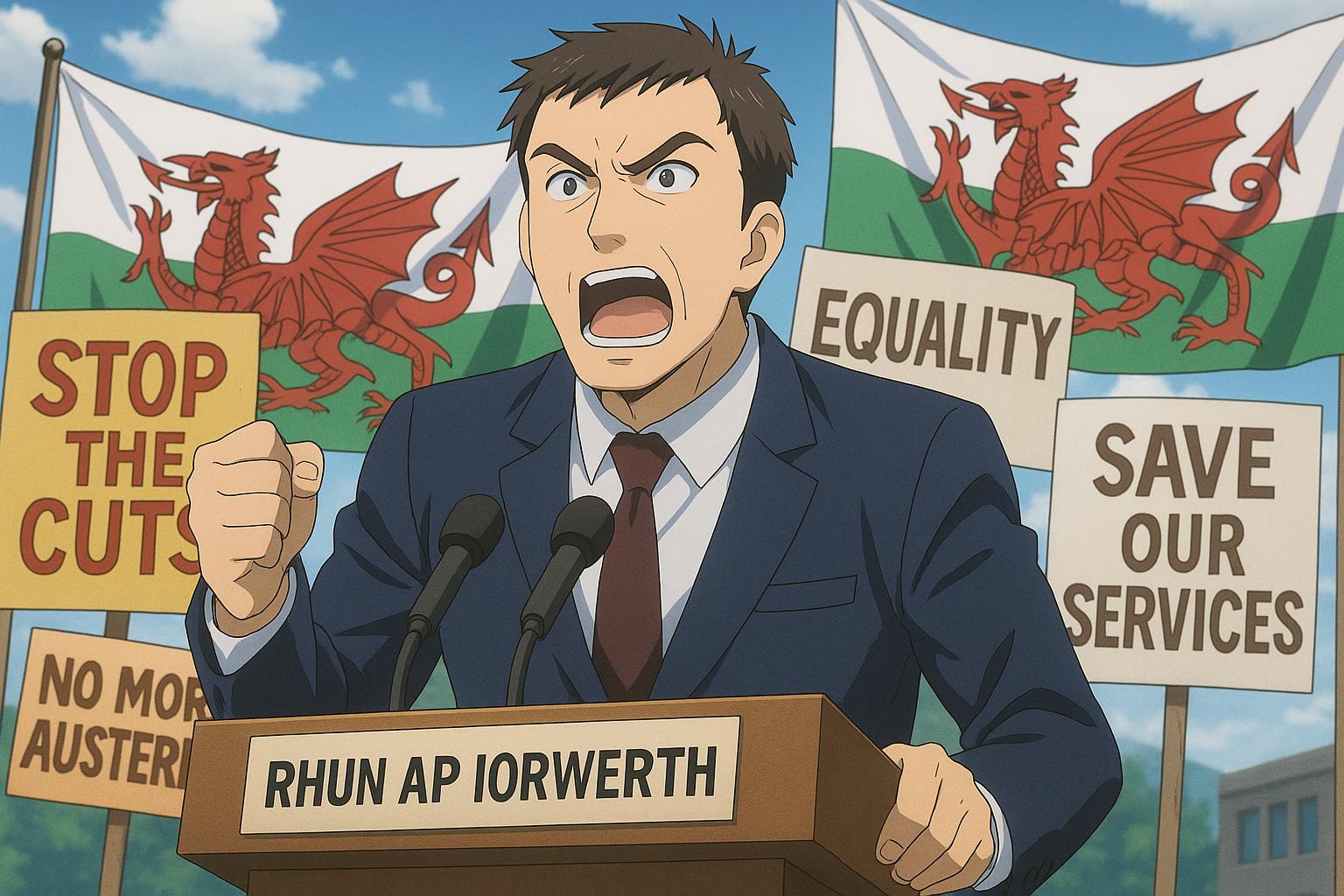
# Plaid Cymru leader slams Labour government over Wales funding and welfare cuts



Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of Plaid Cymru, has delivered a cutting indictment of the new Labour government’s performance, particularly in regard to its treatment of Wales. With nearly a year into their governance at Westminster, the so-called partnership has exposed glaring deficiencies in support for the Welsh populace.

Among the critical issues raised by ap Iorwerth is the alarming £70 million funding shortfall stemming from increased employers' National Insurance Contributions, a burden that threatens to suffocate public sector organisations. Compounding this is Labour's refusal to address the two-child benefit cap, a move that he argues has dire implications for countless families across Wales. The cancellation of the sole in-person consultation on proposed cuts to disability benefits further illustrates the government's neglect. Moreover, the lack of funding for essential rail services highlights a complete disregard for the infrastructure vital to Wales' economic future.

Ap Iorwerth didn’t mince words, stating that "every time we call out these damaging policies, Labour in Wales puts party before country." This sentiment reflects a deepening frustration among Plaid Cymru members about the complacency exhibited by the Welsh Labour government, which seems more inclined to align with Westminster’s missteps than advocate for Wales’ interests.

Delving deeper, ap Iorwerth pointed out the broader financial crisis besieging local councils, collectively staring down a £500 million deficit. He stressed that the anticipated benefits of a unified Labour administration, both in Cardiff and Westminster, have utterly failed to materialise. This unfulfilled promise undermines the very rationale for such a political alignment, impeding meaningful enhancements for the Welsh economy. He has passionately called for an immediate reassessment of the Barnett funding formula and demanded substantial reforms to guarantee Wales receives its rightful share from vital UK Government projects, including the HS2 rail initiative, which he asserts could inject £4 billion into the Welsh economy.

In recent debates, ap Iorwerth condemned the two-child welfare benefit limit as "cruel," underscoring the inadequacy of both Labour and Conservative parties in delivering a just benefits system. He emphasized the urgent need to address rising child poverty rates in Wales and implored Welsh voters to reconsider their support for Labour in light of these critical issues, suggesting that the party should not be given a “free pass” in the upcoming elections.

The Plaid Cymru leader was also unrelenting in his critique of First Minister Eluned Morgan, calling for her to vocalise her disapproval of the welfare cuts imposed by the UK Government. He accused the Welsh Labour Government of failing to act, perpetuating the suffering of vulnerable populations amidst rising financial hardship. Citing a range of cuts to crucial welfare support, including the winter fuel allowance, as symptomatic of profound neglect, he highlighted the urgent need for a government that prioritises the welfare of its citizens.

As these political dynamics shift, ap Iorwerth’s unwavering criticism stands as a clarion call for robust representation and advocacy for Wales, echoing a broader demand for accountability from those in power. He firmly concluded that "the people of Wales deserve a government that will always stand up for them," encapsulating the urgent need for a proactive approach that prioritizes the needs and rights of the Welsh people above all.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25210982.rhun-ap-iorwerth-accuses-labour-actively-hurting-wales/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.herald.wales/national-news/budget-wales-response/> - Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of Plaid Cymru, criticised the Welsh Labour government's handling of the UK Budget, highlighting a £700 million real-term shortfall and a £500 million deficit faced by councils. He accused First Minister Eluned Morgan of failing to secure HS2 funding for Wales, stating that the promise of two Labour governments working together to benefit Wales had been undermined. Ap Iorwerth also pointed out the lack of progress on the Barnett funding formula, the winter fuel allowance, and the two-child benefit cap. ([herald.wales](https://www.herald.wales/national-news/budget-wales-response/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3ggw27403lo> - Plaid Cymru leader Rhun ap Iorwerth called for Wales to receive an additional £4 billion from the HS2 rail project and advocated for a £20 per week increase in child benefit. He criticised the current funding system, proposing a shift from the Barnett formula to a needs-based approach. Ap Iorwerth urged Welsh voters not to give Labour a 'free pass' in the general election, emphasising the need for fair funding and investment in public services and the economy. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3ggw27403lo?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2dp2wn42xko> - Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of Plaid Cymru, stated that the Welsh Labour government must secure fair funding for Wales, including compensation from the HS2 high-speed rail project, before his party would consider supporting its budget. He accused the Welsh government of failing to stand up for Wales to avoid embarrassing Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. Ap Iorwerth highlighted the £350 million assessment of funds owed to Wales from HS2, criticising the lack of action to secure the money. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2dp2wn42xko?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1rrxwy0x3wo> - In a BBC Wales TV general election debate, Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of Plaid Cymru, called for the next UK government to abolish the two-child welfare benefit limit, describing it as 'cruel' and a factor in increasing child poverty. He criticised both the Conservatives and Labour for their stance on the benefit cap, emphasising the need for a fairer benefits system to support families and lift them out of poverty. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1rrxwy0x3wo?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.nation.cymru/news/mss-express-grave-concerns-over-national-insurance-hike/> - Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of Plaid Cymru, expressed concerns over the UK Government's national insurance tax hike, warning of its disproportionate impact on employers and employees in Wales. He highlighted the potential negative effects on job creation and wages, noting that employment levels in Wales were at their lowest for almost a decade. Ap Iorwerth accused Labour of breaking a manifesto pledge and called for the UK Treasury to fully cover the added cost to public sector employers in Wales. ([nation.cymru](https://nation.cymru/news/mss-express-grave-concerns-over-national-insurance-hike/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.nation.cymru/news/plaid-calls-on-first-minister-to-condemn-uk-government-welfare-cuts/> - Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of Plaid Cymru, criticised First Minister Eluned Morgan for refusing to condemn welfare cuts imposed by the UK Government. He accused the Welsh Labour Government of being content to see the most vulnerable people in Wales face financial hardship. Ap Iorwerth highlighted previous cuts, including the winter fuel allowance and the two-child benefit cap, and called for the First Minister to stand up to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer on behalf of the people of Wales. ([nation.cymru](https://nation.cymru/news/plaid-calls-on-first-minister-to-condemn-uk-government-welfare-cuts/?utm_source=openai))