

The reality hits home – the ConDems are deliverin...

Published: January 13, 2026, 2:18 am

Yes I know there was snow in December.

Yes I know that gives George Osborne an excuse for [worse than expected GDP figures](#).

But even being charitable it looks likely the UK economy would have flat-lined at best in the last quarter of 2010.

And let's be clear — Ed Balls was right to say that this is the consequence of ConDem cuts reversing the trend to recovery that Labour left in our economy.

Richard Lambert, outgoing director of the CBI said yesterday that the ConDems were cutting without a plan, without consideration for growth and without consideration of consequences. Liberated from his constraint of needing to keep his membership happy as he's now leaving he was, for once, right.

No one denies there are issues to address in our economy. No one denies that resolving the legacy of neo-liberal economics — a malaise from which New Labour suffered but from which Labour must be cured in the future — won't be hard. But reckless cutting, cavalier cuts and dogma driven redundancy is already driving hope out of our economy.

It's true that once any political party loses economic credibility it takes time to regain it. Labour faces that problem. But let's face it — neither the Conservatives or Liberal Democrats ever had this credibility — neither did, after all, win the last election, for precisely this reason and despite facing a prime minister who was by then a lame duck.

And if now the economy goes belly up so rapidly after the ConDems reversed so much that Labour did to deliver growth — whilst bringing in borrowing much below expectation — then Labour's record is going to be looked at in a new light. Especially if government borrowing now increases, as is likely.

I wonder what the odds of Osborne going in a reshuffle are? I'd think they're getting to be one to look at for the punters out there. Not that I am. So please don't ask me to put

up a tenner. I don't.