

Labour's proposed spending cuts exceed Thatcher's

- The spending cuts proposed in today's budget exceed the cuts implemented under Mrs Thatcher in the 1980s.
- Under Mrs Thatcher, the peak of public expenditure was in 1982/3 when it was 48.1% of GDP. This is exactly the same as predicted for the forthcoming year 2010/11 by Alistair Darling.
- In 4 years, Mrs Thatcher reduced spending to 43.6% of GDP, though she continued to reduce it for another two years after that. Mr Darling plans to cut spending after 4 years to 42.4% of GDP.
- In real terms, beginning from 2009/10, the government plans to increase spending in real terms by 4.2% over 5 years. This compares to an increase of 4.1% under Mrs Thatcher.

