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Making his statement to the House of Commons, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne announced £7bn of new money for house building and declared “we are the builders”. Alongside this declaration were a further two big messages for the UK: proposed reductions in tax credits have been scrapped and the police budget will be protected in real terms. That these two pieces of news were welcomed by both chambers and MPs of all parties may well be considered as yet more proof of Osborne’s extensive political savvy. The Government are exactly where they were three months ago concerning tax credits and the police budgets, yet the chancellor is tonight toasted as protector of the police and the working class.

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