

# GILLIAN ANDERSON

**Exclusive interview**  
On War and Peace and return of The X-Files  
In The Magazine



**SKYLINE**  
This panel tells the reader about what is happening in another section of the paper. It is to tempt readers inside the newspaper.

## IN THE NEW REVIEW DICAPRIO AND ME

Director Alejandro González Iñárritu on *The Revenant*



## SPORT TOP GUNNERS

Arsenal open up a two-point lead on another dramatic Premier League day



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The Observer costs £2.90p. The price covers 60% of the cost. The rest comes from adverts.

**MASTHEAD**

# Flooded: how Tory cuts are wrecking UK flood defences

- Ministers warned of risk – document
- Twice number of homes to face threat

by John Vidal and Toby Helm

Many of Britain's flood defences are being abandoned or maintained to minimal levels because of government cuts that could leave almost twice as many households at "significant risk" within 20 years, according to a leaked document submitted to ministers.

The paper, written by the body representing all major organisations responsible for flood defences, was presented to ministers on 30 November last year – days before Cumbria was hit by the

**ON OTHER PAGES**

'I can't see people being keen to buy houses here for a long time' 8-9  
Observer Comment 30

heaviest rainfall recorded in 24 hours in Britain.

It was then discussed by floods minister Rory Stewart and Oliver Letwin, the cabinet office minister leading the government's flooding review.

The leaked document says: "We have had the five wettest years since 2000. The Environment Agency's funding for maintaining flood assets has fallen by 14%. Downward adjustments have also been made to intended revenue spending commitments."

It adds: "Failure of assets and net-

works is events and unpredictable approach. A standfirst is used to add detail that was not included in the headline.

Referring to the threat to more households as a result of cuts, the experts say: "Annual flood and storm damage costs are approximately £1.1bn, according to the Association of British Insurers, and those households at significant risk [of flood damage] through a reduction in our capacity to manage water levels could increase from 330,000 today to 570,000 in 2035." Furthermore, a 10-60% increase in extreme rainfall could lead to a quadrupling of flooding in urban areas.

Written by the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA), whose members include the Environment Agency, it is further told by the report that cuts had led to a greater number of complete failures of defences were reported in England and Scotland. The report said that flood defences were inadequate in many areas, but insisted that extreme weather was to blame, not government cuts. But the experts challenge this view, saying

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**CRUEL SNOWS OF WINTER**



**HEADLINE**

The biggest headline on the page is called the "main splash". This is a serious story so no jokes are made in the headline.

**STANDFIRST**

A standfirst is used to add detail that was not included in the headline.

**BODYTEXT**

The main "body" of a news story. Often the only part written by the reporter. This text is the Observer's standard body text. The font is 9.25 point Mercury text.

**STANDALONE**

A picture that is unrelated to the main stories on the front page, such as this, is called a standalone. It will have its own headline or strap, and a longer caption than other photos. Often the story connected to the picture will be further inside the paper.

A young Syrian girl outside her tent at the Bareilias refugee camp in the Bekaa valley, eastern Lebanon, which has been hit by snowstorms. (Christmas appeal raises £2m, page 4; refugees in asylum limbo, page 19) Photograph by Lucie Parsaghian/EPA

## Corbyn poised to move Benn in high-stakes reshuffle

by Toby Helm  
Political Editor

For the shadow cabinet post, ensuring one voice, the

The Labour leader may make a series of highly controversial changes within days that could also include a switch for defence spokeswoman Maria Eagle.

The reshuffle – while not finalised, and with no date yet set – is being planned principally as a way to avoid

**ON OTHER PAGES**

Let's stick together: Labour first-termers on their hopes and fears for 2016 22-23

the Labour leader publicly voicing opposing views to members of his shadow team on their specific briefs.

Corbyn believes that the party is remarkably united on most domestic issues, including economic policy, and that it now has to present a similar front on foreign affairs and defence in votes on key issues such as Trident in the coming months.

But if Benn and Eagle are singled out, it will be seen by detractors in the parliamentary Labour party and shadow cabinet as a declaration of war, particularly as Corbyn began his leadership promising to allow everyone on the front bench the freedom to express differing views. Among those who,

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**CAPTION**

Captions give a brief description of a photograph or graphic. Often they include the photographer's name.

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SPEEDY, THIS SECTION PAGE 45 EVERYMAN, PAGE 34 + AZED, PAG

REVIEW

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Up to five different editions are printed per night. Five stars means the fifth edition.

ENDS JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> 2016

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