<u>Does this deal help or hinder the</u> <u>process of restoring power-sharing in</u> Northern Ireland? — Smith

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Smith MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, commenting on the release of the Tory DUP Deal, said:

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"Labour

argued at the election just a few weeks ago that public services require extra

funding across the UK, so I welcome the announcement today that additional funding has now been found for Northern Ireland.

"However,

the deal between the Tories and the DUP throws up all manner of questions,

least whether more money can now also be found for schools, hospitals, social care and emergency services in desperate need of cash in England, Scotland and

Wales.

"Most

important of all, does this deal help or hinder the process of restoring power-sharing in Northern Ireland? Already, it is clear that other parties in Northern Ireland consider the deal to compromise the ability of the British Government to be truly impartial as stipulated under the Good Friday Agreement."