

Other public services should not be expected to cover for this Tory Government's cuts to the border agency – Diane Abbott

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Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, speaking after revelations that confidential NHS patient data is being gathered by the Home Office to trace suspected illegal immigrants, said:

"This is unacceptable. We have already seen this government using schools to gather immigration data on children. Now we find they are using the NHS in the same way.

"Other public services should not be expected to cover for this Tory Government's cuts to the border agency. People could be deterred from seeking medical care because they are worried their confidential information might be passed on. This could do irreparable damage to the people concerned and it may have public health implications. It should stop now."