<u>Tory cuts to police "have left our communities exposed" — Diane Abbott MP</u>

Diane Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, commenting on today's ONS crime statistics, said:

"The Tories can no longer hide behind claims that crime is falling to justify their severe cuts to the police.

"They have left our communities exposed, with police numbers the lowest on record at a time when forces are under unprecedented pressure from surging crime, an ongoing terror threat, and from covering for cuts to other services.

"Labour will recruit 10,000 new police officers to restore neighbourhood policing and tackle rising crime."