

## [It is staggering that it would take a typical worker 160 years to earn the average annual package of a FTSE 100 chief executive – Bill Esterson MP](#)

**Bill Esterson MP, Labour's Shadow Business Minister**, commenting on the High Pay Centre report, said:

"It's appalling that we live in a society where Britain's top bosses are awarding themselves huge salaries whilst ordinary working people are facing a decline in real term wages and the worst squeeze in living standards in seventy years.

"It is staggering that it would take a typical worker 160 years to earn the average annual package of a FTSE 100 chief executive.

"That's why Labour proposed to roll out a maximum pay ratio of 20:1 in the public sector and in companies bidding for public contracts.

"The report also reveals that male chief executives earn on average an outrageous 77 percent more than their female counterparts. Labour would legislate to require all large employers to conduct equal pay audits.

"We need to ensure fairness in pay and an economy which works for the many, not just the few."

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## [Richard Burgon MP writes to David Lidington MP to seek assurances over fire safety in prisons](#)

Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary, Richard Burgon MP, has today written to David Lidington MP, the Justice Secretary, to ask what measures the Government is taking to address the fact that every prison in England and Wales that has undergone a fire inspection has failed its inspection.

**Richard**

**Burgon MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary, said:**

"It is appalling that not a single prison in England or Wales meets the required fire safety standards. The terrible fire at Grenfell Tower underlines the need to take fire safety seriously.

"The current situation not only puts prisoners at risk, it is putting staff and visitors at risk too. That is why I have written to David Lidington, the Secretary of State for Justice, to ask exactly what he is doing to address this danger.

"It is vital that urgent steps are taken to ensure prisons meet the required fire safety standards, and that instead of keeping reports secret, the results of future inspections are immediately made public."

**Ends**

**Notes to editors:**

Full text of the letter from Richard Burgon MP to David Lidington MP:

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to ask what measures you are taking in response to the information released by the Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group that confirms every prison in England and Wales that has undergone a fire inspection has failed its fire inspection.

It is clear that staff, inmates and visitors are being put at significant risk by the current fire safety conditions within prisons. Therefore, I would like you to clarify the following:

1. What immediate and concrete steps are being taken to improve fire safety conditions?
2. How can the fire inspections regime be made more transparent so that failings can be identified and acted on earlier?

Given the danger posed to members of the public, I have made this letter public. I believe it would also be appropriate for your reply to be made public.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgon MP

## [It is a scandal that some patients are waiting years to be discharged – Keeley](#)

**Barbara Keeley MP, Labour's Shadow**

**Mental Health Minister**, commenting on the BBC's research into delayed discharges from mental health units, said:

"It is a scandal that some patients are waiting years to be discharged, despite being medically fit for discharge.

"Under the Tories, mental health services have come under increasing pressure due to underfunding and staffing shortages, and also the lack of integrated working.

"It is unacceptable that patients are stuck in mental health units for such long periods waiting to be discharged despite being fit to leave. The delay puts their recovery at risk and means that other people who urgently need to access mental health services are not able to get the treatment they need. It should never be the case that such extended delays are caused by wrangling between different health bodies over funding.

"Labour would invest more in mental health to ease the pressures and we would ring-fence mental health spending so that funding for mental health is not used to fill holes elsewhere in NHS budgets."

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## [Today's figures highlight the worrying impact the benefit cap is having on families – Greenwood](#)

**Margaret Greenwood**

**MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Minister**, commenting on the DWP's Benefit

Cap statistics, said;

“Today’s figures highlight the worrying impact the benefit cap is having on families across the country, with 68,000 affected by the new lower cap level, a sharp increase

“Child poverty is also increasing. Last month the High Court ruled that the cap was “unlawful” for lone parents with young children, with the judge commenting that the cap was causing “real misery to no good purpose.

“Clearly, this Government’s decision to cut families’ incomes does not amount to supporting them into work, especially given their total failure to provide adequate affordable childcare. It is time that we urgently reviewed the Benefit Cap’s impact and effectiveness.

“Rather than penalising children for its failed austerity plans, the Government should instead undertake the task of supporting people into work, tackling the high cost of housing, improving pay and investing in childcare.”

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## [If you cut budgets and push out teachers then life in school will become even harder for the most disadvantaged – Angela Rayner](#)

### **Angela**

**Rayner MP, Labour’s Shadow Education Secretary**, commenting on the EPI report on trends in educational attainment and disadvantage, said:

“The findings of this report are deeply concerning but unfortunately come as no surprise.

“If you cut school budgets and push out teachers, as the Tories have done, then life in school will become even harder for the most disadvantaged kids. It is no wonder that we are still generations away from closing the attainment gap.

“The Tories’ key election pledge was to bring back grammar schools and segregate our children, a move that would make the situation even worse. A Labour Government would deliver an education system for the many, not the few.”