

[Richard Burgon responds to new Ministry of Justice figures on Drugs in Prisons](#)

Commenting on new figures released by the Ministry of Justice showing 225 kg of drugs were recovered across the prison estate in England and Wales in 2016, Shadow Justice Secretary Richard Burgon said:

“It’s clear that we have a crisis in our prisons system, with drugs use and violence continuing to be all too common.

“The Chief Inspector of Prisons recently said that our prisons are dangerous for prisoners and staff alike and are failing in their duty to rehabilitate and reform prisoners.

“These new drugs figures are yet another example of how drastic Tory cuts to prison budgets and staff numbers are driving this prisons crisis.

“Labour would begin to solve this by recruiting 3,000 new prisons officers and improving staff retention by improving terms and conditions for prison officers”

Ends

[The Government must address the chaos engulfing Universal Credit – Abrahams](#)

Debbie

Abrahams MP, Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, commenting on the Citizen’s Advice Bureau report on Universal Credit said:

“The Government must address the chaos engulfing Universal Credit. It must pause the programme to tackle the serious design flaws in UC at the same time as addressing its chaotic mismanagement.”

“The Government’s cuts to Universal Credit means that on top of the design and delivery issues, it fails to make work pay, compounding people’s ability to make ends meet. In spite of this Government’s warm words about making Britain fairer, their tax and spending choices have done the opposite.”

“Labour will invest to reform Universal Credit, under our plans to create a social security system that, like the NHS, is there for us all in our time of need.”

Theresa May’s Brexit strategy risks a cliff-edge for the economy and is a threat to jobs and investment – Starmer

Keir Starmer MP, Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, commenting on the CBI Director-General Carolyn Fairbairn’s speech on Brexit said:

“Today’s speech from the CBI underlines what Labour has been saying for months: that Theresa May’s Brexit strategy risks a cliff-edge for the economy and is a threat to jobs and investment.

“Labour agree that we need an early commitment to ensure strong transitional arrangements, and that these should be on similar terms to those we currently enjoy. Without that commitment, and without a bridge to new trading arrangements with the EU, there will be growing uncertainty for businesses and investment decisions will be delayed.

“Labour are clear that jobs and the economy must come first in the Brexit negotiations. It is time the Prime Minister and the Brexit Secretary listened to the growing concerns from businesses and the Treasury and changed their reckless approach.”

Inhumane treatment of deportees is unacceptable – Diane Abbott

Speaking in response to the first annual report of the official watchdog monitoring treatment of deportees, **Labour’s Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott said:**

“This report presents a troubling picture of the way deportees are treated.

“Inhumane treatment can never be justified. Where deportation is appropriate, it should always be conducted in a reasonable, effective and humane way. We cannot allow a climate of hostility to spill over into mistreatment of anyone. The Government needs to act to ensure there is no recurrence.”

The report from the independent monitoring board can be found here <https://www.imb.org.uk/enforced-removal-people-uk-chartered-flights-falls-short-humane-treatment-occasions/>

We will transform the social security system so that, like the NHS, it is there for us all in our time of need – Abrahams

Debbie Abrahams MP, Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, commenting on today’s figures on the estimated impact of the household benefit cap on parents by age of youngest child, said:

“Today’s figures highlight the huge impact the new, lowered household benefit cap has on lone parents who make up well over half of households affected, with nearly 80% having children under five.”

“As we warned, the impact of this and the Government’s other social security cuts is pushing more children into poverty, punishing them for their parent’s circumstances.

“The Government must listen to the High Court’s judgement that this policy is discriminatory and unlawful, marking another blow in their failing austerity agenda.

“Labour has stood against the reduction of the benefit cap. We need to tackle our struggling economy, labour market inequalities and the high cost of housing rather than penalising children.”

“We will transform the social security system so that, like the NHS, it is there for us all in our time of need.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

- Today’s figures can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/benefit-cap-estimated-impact-on-parents-by-age-of-youngest-child>.

- Lone parents make up 63% of households estimated to be in scope for the lower cap and of these lone parents 78% have a youngest child under the age of 5
- The High Court judgement on the 22nd June ruled that the benefit cap is unlawful and illegally discriminates against single parents with young children under the age of two.