

Under Theresa May and the Tories we've seen seven years of failure on housing- Healey

John

Healey, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, responding to Theresa May's

announcement that the Conservatives will build more affordable homes, said:

"This is political spin, with no substance. There's no commitment on the number of new affordable homes or on new funding.

"Under Theresa May and the Tories we've seen seven years of failure on housing, with the level of new affordable housebuilding now at a 24-year low.

"The number of government funded social rented homes being built has fallen to fewer than 1,000 last year from almost 40,000 under Labour in 2009-10.

"Theresa May has been at every cabinet since 2010 and can't sidestep her share of the blame for the Tory housing crisis. The number of home-owners has fallen by 200,000, homelessness has more than doubled and new affordable housebuilding is at a near-record low.

"After seven years of failure, the Conservatives have no plan to fix the housing crisis. A Labour government will back first-time buyers and build the homes we need, including 100,000 genuinely affordable homes to rent and buy a year by the end of the next Parliament."

ENDS

Notes to editors

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Affordable housebuilding has fallen to a 24 year low:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/595369/Live_Table_1000.xlsx

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The number of government funded social rented homes started each year has fallen from almost 40,000 to fewer than 1,000:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572767/Live_Table_1012.xlsx

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Home-ownership has fallen by 200,000 since 2010 after rising by a

million under Labour:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/595786/2015-16_Section_1_Households_Annex_Tables.xlsx

Labour will protect state pension as Tories fail to commit to Triple Lock

A Labour

Government will protect the incomes of twelve million pensioners by legislating

to keep the 'triple lock', Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, will say today.

Under the

Conservatives' watch 300,000 more pensioners are in poverty, yet the Conservative

Party has failed to commit to the 'triple lock' on state pensions; a policy which protects pensioners' standard of living by guaranteeing that their incomes rise to meet the cost of living.

A Labour

Government will protect pensioners by legislating to guarantee the triple lock,

and committing to keep the Winter Fuel Allowance and free bus passes.

Meeting

pensioners in Norwich on Saturday, Jeremy Corbyn will say:

"The

Conservative's failure to guarantee a decent standard of living for older people, Tory cuts to social care and their failure to protect the NHS are proof

that the Tories' are abandoning older people.

"With more

pensioners in poverty under the Conservatives, it is clear that a Labour Government is necessary to provide a secure and dignified retirement for the many who have contributed all their lives.

"Labour will

legislate to guarantee the triple lock on state pensions over the next parliament, and we'll protect the Winter Fuel Allowance and free bus passes."

Labour calls for action over NHS cyber-attack

Jonathan

Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, has today written to Jeremy Hunt condemning "the cyber criminals whose flagrant disregard for our health service has placed patient wellbeing at risk".

Jonathan

Ashworth said:

"The

incident highlights the risk to data security within our modern health service

and reinforces the need for cyber security to be at the heart of government planning.

"As

Secretary of State, I urge you to publicly outline the immediate steps you'll be taking to significantly improve cyber security in our NHS. The public has a

right to know exactly what the Government will do to ensure that such an attack

is never repeated again."

The

letter from Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, calls on the Government to set out:

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Why

NHS organisations failed to act on a critical note from Microsoft two months ago?

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What

additional resources are being given to the NHS to bring the situation under control as soon as possible?

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What

arrangements are currently in place to protect our NHS, and its sensitive data, against cyber-attacks?

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Whether
the Government will launch a full, independent inquiry into the events of
yesterday?

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Reassurance
for patients that no patient data has been accessed or compromised in
yesterday's attack?

Ends

**Notes
to editors:**

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Please see below for full text of the letter:

Dear
Secretary of State,

I am
writing to ask for urgent clarification regarding yesterday's major
ransomware
attack on our NHS. I hope you'll join me in condemning the actions of the
cyber
criminals whose flagrant disregard for our health service has placed patient
wellbeing at risk.

As you
know, the attack has had a serious impact on services, with some hospitals
diverting emergency ambulances and cancelling elective operations. A large
range of IT services have been affected, including pathology test results,
x-ray imaging systems, phone and bleep systems, and patient administration
systems.

In total
more than a third of NHS Trusts have been impacted, and NHS England has
consequently declared a Major Incident. This is terrible news and a real
worry
for vulnerable patients and our hardworking staff.

The
incident highlights the risk to data security within our modern health
service
and reinforces the need for cyber security to be at the heart of government
planning.

As
Secretary of State, I therefore urge you to publicly outline the immediate
steps you'll be taking to significantly improve cyber security in our NHS.
The
public has a right to know exactly what the Government will do to ensure that
such an attack is never repeated again.

However,
this is not the first time NHS Trusts have been attacked. In February,
Freedom
of Information Requests found that 79 English Trusts, more than 33 per cent,
had suffered ransomware attacks since June 2015.[\[1\]](#)

For
example, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust was attacked 19 times in 2016,
and the Leeds Teaching Hospital faced five attacks in the past year.[\[2\]](#) In
November, a major ransomware
attack on the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Trust affected three hospitals,
forcing the cancellation of hundreds of routine operations and outpatient
appointments.[\[3\]](#)

As
recently as in January, the largest NHS Trust in England, Barts Health Trust,
was infected with a ransomware virus affecting thousands of sensitive
files.[\[4\]](#)

I am
therefore extremely concerned that extensive warning signs appear to have
been
ignored by yourself and your department.

Moreover,
your own colleague Ben Gummer, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, warned in
October that “large quantities of sensitive data” held by the NHS and the
Government were being targeted by hackers, with the potential for significant
disruption.[\[5\]](#)

Speaking
about the threat to the health service, Mr Gummer stated: “The Government has
a
clear responsibility to ensure its own systems are cyber secure. We hold and
the rest of the public sector- including the NHS- hold large quantities of
sensitive data and provide online services relied on by the whole
country.”[\[6\]](#)

Furthermore,
in March a joint report from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and
the
National Crime Agency (NCA) warned that cyber-criminals could increasingly
lock
computers, phones and watches to run cyber extortion and blackmail rackets.

At the
time, Ian Levy, technical director of the NCSC, warned that the best defence
against ransomware was to ensure software on devices was up to date.[\[7\]](#)

However,
it appears that many of those hospitals affected by yesterday’s attack had
not

updated their Windows operating systems to include a security patch. This unacceptable cybersecurity neglect has clearly made the NHS extremely vulnerable to an attack.

NHS

Trusts have been running thousands of outdated and unsupported Windows XP machines despite the Government ending its annual £5.5 million deal with Microsoft, which provided ongoing security support for Windows XP, in May 2015.[\[8\]](#)

It effectively means that unless individual Trusts were willing to pay Microsoft for an extended support deal, since May 2015 their Operating Systems have been extremely vulnerable to being hacked.

Given

your Government's sustained underfunding of our NHS it is of little surprise that many Trusts have reported taking minimum action. Indeed, research through previous FOIs has found that at least seven NHS Trusts, which treat more than two million Britons, spent nothing at all on cyber security infrastructure in 2015.[\[9\]](#)

This is extremely serious and as Shadow Secretary of State of Health I share the public's concern at these revelations.

Yesterday's attack is unprecedented in scale, but it is abundantly clear that our NHS should have been better prepared for ransomware attacks.

Therefore,
will you firstly explain why NHS organisations failed to act on a critical note from Microsoft two months ago?

Secondly,
what additional resources are you giving the NHS to bring the situation under control as soon as possible?

Moreover,
will you clarify publicly what arrangements are currently in place to protect our NHS, and its sensitive data, against cyber-attacks? Will you ensure that every single NHS organisation receives an on-site assessment from CareCERT to improve security?

Will you additionally launch a full, independent inquiry into the events of yesterday?

Finally,
will you reassure patients that no patient data has been accessed or compromised in yesterday's attack?

Secretary
of State, the prevalence and sophistication of cyber-attacks on our NHS is
only
set to increase. I therefore urge you to take immediate action so that a
crisis
on this scale is never repeated again.

Yours
sincerely,

Jonathan
Ashworth

Shadow
Secretary of State for Health

[1] <https://www.ft.com/content/e96924f0-3722-11e7-99bd-13beb0903fa3>

[2] <https://www.ft.com/content/b9abf11e-e945-11e6-967b-c88452263daf>

[3] <https://www.ft.com/content/b9abf11e-e945-11e6-967b-c88452263daf>

[4]
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/13/largest-nhs-trust-hit-cyber-attack/>

[5]
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/31/nhs-at-risk-of-cyber-attacks-minister-says-as-he-warns-hackers-a/>

[6]
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/31/nhs-at-risk-of-cyber-attacks-minister-says-as-he-warns-hackers-a/>

[7]
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/14/smartphones-tvs-watches-could-held-ransom-hackers-cyber-security/>

[8]
<http://www.silicon.co.uk/security/nhs-hospitals-data-risk-outdated-windows-xp-201761>

[9] <https://www.ft.com/content/b9abf11e-e945-11e6-967b-c88452263daf>

This cyber-attack is terrible news and

[a real worry for patients – Jonathan Ashworth](#)

Jonathan

Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on reports that NHS England has been hit by a cyber-attack, said:

"This cyber-attack is terrible news and a real worry for patients. Our hard-working NHS staff are already operating under unprecedented pressure and should be given every support to help the public in the face of these malicious and disturbing actions.

"This incident highlights the risk to data security within the modern health service and reinforces the need for cyber security to be at the heart of government planning. The digital revolution has transformed the way we live and work but we have to be ready for the vulnerabilities it brings too.

"The Government need to be clear about what's happened, and what measures they are taking to reduce the threat to patients. The safety of the public must be the priority and the NHS should be given every resource to bring the situation under control as soon as possible."

[John McDonnell at Fire Brigades Union conference](#)

John McDonnell, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, speaking at the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) conference today in Blackpool, will say:

"I'm delighted to be speaking here today after the FBU took the historic decision to re-affiliate to the Labour Party after Jeremy Corbyn became Labour leader.

"Over the next four weeks of campaigning in this General Election, Labour candidates will proudly stand shoulder to shoulder with our firefighters who dedicate their lives to keeping the British public

safe.

"It is also 'National nurses day' today, and we know how little Theresa May appreciates them, along with other public sector workers. When she is not reducing their numbers, she is holding down their pay as prices rise.

"The situation has got so bad in our country under the Tories that nurses, and I am sure some of your members, are reliant on foodbanks.

"And what is Theresa May's response when asked about this?

"She dismisses it as a 'complex' issue, and refuses to do anything about it.

"That is the difference between a Labour Prime Minister and a Tory Prime Minister.

"We know it is not a 'complex' issue for why people use foodbanks, it's because they cannot afford to buy food.

"It's because the Tories are letting public sector pay fall behind prices.

"That is why I can give you this promise today, if a Labour Government is elected next month, then we will end the public sector pay freeze, and we will protect our fire and rescue services by ending the reckless and dangerous Tory cuts, which are a risk to communities up and down this country.

"The Conservatives have cut fire services' budgets in England by 17 per cent since 2010. These reckless cuts are putting the British public and our firefighters in danger.

"On the economy there is no hiding from the truth. The Conservatives' failed economic plan is holding Britain back, undermining our economy and threatening working people's living standards.

"This week we've seen that only Greece, Italy and Austria are forecast to suffer bigger falls in real wages by the end of 2018, according to the TUC. And the Bank of England says that the economy is falling back, and wages will not keep up with prices.

"Real wages haven't risen since the Tories came to power in 2010. And the UK is the only country which has had GDP growing but wages falling in the last decade.

"After seven years of Tory economic failure, it is

working people in our country who are being made to pay the price as the Tories
handout billions in tax giveaways to the super-rich and big business.

“This General Election is a choice between a Labour Party that will stand up for the many and a Tory Party that only looks after the privileged few.”