

Jonathan Ashworth response to the National Audit Office's report on sustainability and transformation in the NHS

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on the National Audit Office's report on sustainability and transformation in the NHS, said:

“The NAO’s report confirms the Government’s flawed and wholly inadequate approach to the sustainable, long term funding of the NHS. Ministers have failed to increase per head spending in real terms each year, a key election promise, and there are still no details of a long overdue pay rise for NHS staff.

“Our NHS is in crisis. Years of underinvestment culminated in December 2017 being the worst month on record for A&E performance and elective operations being cancelled until the end of January. Targets are being missed and in-year cash injections are not improving the financial performances of Trusts.

“Unlike the Tories, Labour outlined a costed long term plan for funding the NHS. Labour will give our NHS an extra £6 billion a year to ensure that our NHS remains a world class service for all.”

Ends

Nia Griffith responds to the Public Accounts Committee report

Nia Griffith MP, Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to the Public Accounts Committee report on Delivering Carrier Strike, said:

“This report highlights the significant concerns about the affordability of a key part of

the MoD's equipment plan and a vital aspect of our future defence capability.

“The Government needs to address this issue urgently and ensure that the Carrier programme is adequately funded going forward, in particular the F-35s which need to be paid for in US dollars and will be impacted by fluctuating foreign exchange rates.

“It's reassuring that MoD staff have told the Committee that they do not plan to take the Albion class out of service early. The Defence Secretary should stop dodging questions about the future of the vessels and confirm that he will not be selling them off. The loss of this class without replacement would be an unacceptable cut to our nation's defences.”

Ends

Yasmin Qureshi responds to Government consultation announcement into HM Courts & Tribunals Service estate

Yasmin

Qureshi MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Minister, responding to the Government's announcement of a consultation into the HM Courts and Tribunals Service estate, said:

“This consultation should not be a smokescreen for yet more court closures and staff losses which would further undermine local access to our justice system.

“Tory cuts have already led to the closure of hundreds of courts and the axing of thousands of court staff.

“There are obvious fears that this consultation is just part of the Government's plan to cut hundreds of millions of pounds more from the Ministry of Justice budget by 2020.

“The

Government should not proceed with any further court closures until its promised Courts Bill is published and its reforms can be subjected to full parliamentary scrutiny.”

Ends

HMP Liverpool report raises more very serious questions about the outsourcing of Government contracts – Richard Burgon

Richard

Burgon MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary, responding to the report into HMP Liverpool by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, said:

“After Carillion’s collapse, this report raises more very serious questions about the outsourcing of Government contracts.

“Private contractor Amey has failed to complete thousands of maintenance jobs at HMP Liverpool and the Government must explain why it is continuing to receive public money when the work simply isn’t being done.

“The conditions at HMP Liverpool with rat infestations, leaking toilets, damp and squalor are the worst ever seen by inspectors. This is a new low in the long list of damning evidence that shows Tory outsourcing and cuts to the prison service are fuelling a crisis in our prisons.

“Labour in government would look at bringing prison maintenance contracts back in house. The Government must now do the same.”

Ends

Justice Secretary needs to take urgent action to sort out this crisis at HMP Nottingham

Imran Hussain MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Minister, responding to the urgent notification issued at HMP Nottingham, said:

“This is yet more evidence of the deep crisis across our prison system.

“Tory cuts to staff and budgets have fuelled an epidemic of violence that has seen assaults and self-harm at record levels.

“The Justice Secretary needs to take urgent action to sort out this crisis at HMP Nottingham and ensure that the whole of our prisons system is safe for prisoners and staff alike.”