

# No energy white paper – Rebecca Long Bailey responds

**Rebecca Long Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Business and Energy Secretary,** responding to the publication of several consultation documents rather than a long-awaited energy white paper, said:

"The publication of a slew of consultation documents, in place of a coherent white paper, is evidence that the Conservatives are failing in one of the central duties of government: keeping the lights on in a way that is climate friendly and affordable.

"After waiting months for an energy white paper, and after almost ten years of Conservative rule, you would expect answers rather than questions."

Ends

## **Notes to editors**

It has been reported that the Treasury is blocking the energy white paper:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-07-12/hammond-poised-to-halt-plans-to-overhaul-u-k-energy-industry>

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## Serious questions for Hancock to answer: Ashworth responds to green paper slipped out by government

**Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary**, responding to the publication of the government's ill health prevention green paper, said:

"There are serious questions for Matt Hancock to answer on why he has slipped this important green paper out at this time. It looks like he is trying to bury bad news and that he buckled under pressure from Boris Johnson and the corporate lobbyists running his campaign.

"With advances in life expectancy stalling, infant mortality rates worsening and health inequalities widening, this green paper is hugely disappointing.

"Proposals to extend the sugar tax to milkshakes have been shelved again and an expected levy on tobacco firms to fund smoking cessation services appear to have been kicked into the long grass.

"The Tories have imposed £800 million worth of cuts to public local health services and there is no indication these cuts will be reversed.

"Sadly this green paper is a missed opportunity, raises disturbing questions about the role of lobbyists in watering it down, and isn't worth the paper it's written on. Only Labour will prioritise health inequalities and fully fund public health services."

Ends

#### **Notes to editors**

The government uploaded its green paper *Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s* today

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s>

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## Ian Lavery responds to the election of Jo Swinson as Liberal Democrat leader

**Ian Lavery MP, Labour Chair**, responding to the election of Jo Swinson as new Liberal Democrat leader, said:

“Jo Swinson sat at the top table of the coalition government and voted for vicious attacks on the most vulnerable and tax cuts for the super-rich and big businesses.

“Austerity couldn’t have happened without Liberal Democrats – leading to shocking levels of child poverty, the tripling of tuition fees, a homelessness crisis and rising food bank use.

“Labour is the only party that can stop the Tories, and transform Britain so that it works for the many not the few”

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## Unprecedented cuts Conservatives have made to defence since 2010 – Nia Griffith

**Nia Griffith MP, Labour’s Shadow Defence Secretary**, responding to the Defence Select Committee’s report *‘Shifting the Goalposts? Defence Expenditure and the 2% Pledge: An Update’*, which shows that MoD spending has been cut by 25% since 2010, said:

“It is hypocrisy of the highest order for both candidates for the Conservative leadership to talk of boosting defence spending when they have consistently voted for budgets, which have slashed the MoD’s funds to what they are today.

“This report highlights the severe and unprecedented cuts that the Conservatives have made to defence since 2010. Instead of considering what is necessary for our defence and security needs, Conservative Ministers have delivered crippling austerity which has put unprecedented strain on the men and women of our Armed Forces.

“You cannot do security on the cheap. The next Labour government will ensure that our armed forces are properly equipped and resourced to respond to wide-ranging security challenges.”

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## **John McDonnell responds to pound falling**

**John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor,**  
commenting on the pound falling after Tory leadership contenders Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt said they were opposed to the backstop, said:

“The instability and uncertainty caused by the Conservative Party leadership contest have real-world consequences. The commitment of both contenders to a No Deal Brexit makes it even more important the Government put an end to playing games with people’s livelihoods and call a General Election now.”