

Government must now act to stop the growing pressure on low and middle income families – Abrahams

Debbie Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, commenting on today's Labour Market Statistics, said:

"We welcome the overall increase in employment, but are concerned that wide regional differences in the numbers of people in work remain.

"It is also worrying to see that rising living costs are quickly catching up with wage growth. If this trend continues, the Government's abysmal record on living standards will get even worse.

"With wages set to be lower in 2021 than before the Tories came to power, they must now act to stop the growing pressure on low and middle income families.

"That's why Labour is urging the Government to reverse cuts to in-work support that could see some working families worse off by £2,600 a year."

Workers and investors need confidence that automotive industry will be robustly supported by Government – Long-Bailey

Rebecca Long-Bailey, Labour's Shadow Business Secretary, commenting on reports that General Motors is in talks to sell its European arm Opel, which includes the UK's Vauxhall, said:

"In light of plans by General Motors to explore the option of selling Vauxhall and Opel,

the Government should be pushing protection of our automotive sector right to the top of their agenda.

“Workers

and investors need confidence that this industry will be robustly supported by

Government for many years to come so that jobs are secure and investors are able to make long term decisions.

“I would

also urge General Motors to work very closely with trade unions in progressing

any deal to ensure that jobs are protected.”

Ends

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Burgon MP, Labour’s Shadow Justice Secretary, commenting on press coverage of problems at HMP Northumberland, said:

“While

conditions in HMP Northumberland will shock many people, it should come as no surprise to this Tory Government – Labour has repeatedly warned them that this

is what is happening in prisons on their watch.

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Justice Secretary must set out the terms of the investigation she is conducting

into the running of the prison by Sodexo. She needs to set a clear deadline for

Sodexo to prove they can run HMP Northumberland effectively and warn that if they fail to do so, HM Prison and Probation Service will.

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It is now clear that the Government is

unwilling to commit the necessary resources to our nation's defences – Griffith

Nia Griffith MP, Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to the International Institute for Strategic Studies' Military Balance report, said:

"This report exposes the Government's complete and shocking failure to maintain its commitment on defence spending to our Armed Forces and to the country.

"Just weeks after the Prime Minister was lecturing our allies about increasing spending to meet the 2 percent NATO commitment, it is now clear that her Government is unwilling to commit the necessary resources to our nation's defences.

"As the Defence Select Committee has shown, the MoD was already barely scrapping over the 2 percent mark and had changed its accounting methods to give the illusion of keeping the commitment. To be spending less than 2 percent of GDP on defence is utterly unacceptable, particularly in this time of immense global uncertainty.

"Labour is committed to spending at least 2 percent of our GDP on defence spending, as we consistently did when in government."

ENDS