

Justin Madders response to Philip Dunne saying that there are seats to sit on if beds aren't available

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Madders MP, Labour's Shadow Health Minister, responding to Philip Dunne MP's remark that there are seats to sit on if beds aren't available, said:

"This is an appalling and ignorant remark from a Minister entirely out of touch with the reality of the NHS winter crisis.

"Placing sick patients in chairs because of acute bed shortages is clearly not acceptable in the 21st Century. And yet with numerous Trusts this winter at times reporting 100 per cent bed occupancy, hospitals simply cannot cope and are being forced into these intolerable situations.

"Patients and staff are currently facing an unprecedented winter crisis. Instead of worrying about reshuffles, the Prime Minister must urgently sort this mess out."

Theresa May continues to show utter disregard for patients – Ashworth

Responding

to Theresa May's comment on the Andrew Marr show that "nothing is perfect" in the NHS, Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, said:

"Yet again Theresa May has shown utter disregard for those patients languishing on trolleys, delayed in ambulances in the freezing cold weather or forced to wait longer in pain and anxiety because their operation has been cancelled.

"A real apology would be backed up by real action. Instead all we get is a plan to promote the Health Secretary who has overseen this crisis. Promoting the Health Secretary would be a betrayal of patients who deserve better this winter."

[Tories have a long way to go to reverse their abysmal record on animal welfare – Hayman](#)

Responding to Theresa May's announcement to drop plans for a vote on fox hunting, Sue Hayman MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said;

"The Tories have finally bowed to pressure from Labour and campaigners with this long overdue U-Turn, just months after the Prime Minister publicly stated her support for a free vote on the matter.

"85 per cent of the public do not want a return of this cruel and barbaric activity. The Government must now outline plans to take tough action against those who continue to conduct illegal fox hunts.

"The Tories still have a long way to go to reverse their abysmal record on animal welfare. Labour calls on Theresa May to now drop her government's poorly regulated, reckless badger cull across England, to take action against raptor bird persecution and make comprehensive commitments on banning the sale of ivory and wild animals in circuses."

[Unlike this Government, Labour is committed to supporting renewable energy projects – Alan Whitehead](#)

Alan Whitehead MP, Labour's Shadow Energy and Climate Change Minister, commenting on the Governments response to the unabated coal closure consultation, said:

"While Labour supports the phased removal of coal from the system by 2025, unfortunately, this consultation leaves open a number of loopholes that could

hinder the process.

“The Government’s lacklustre support for renewables and scrapping of a number of green schemes has left it on course to miss its own climate targets. Similarly, their decision to massively reduce the levels of funding for carbon capture and storage, which would help a genuinely inclusive transition, is disappointing.

“Unlike this Government, Labour is committed to supporting future renewable energy projects to build the clean economy of the future.”

Bailout of East Coast rail is undoubtedly good news for the pay packet of Richard Branson – Andy McDonald

Andy McDonald MP, Labour’s Shadow Transport Secretary, responding to Richard Branson’s comments defending the Government for the bailout of Virgin’s East Coast Rail franchise, said:

“The bailout of the East Coast rail franchise is undoubtedly good news for the pay packet of Richard Branson, but not for taxpayers and passengers who have been short-changed by up to £2 billion.

“This bailout is yet another example of the Tories defending profiteering train companies and the rich elite at the expense of the British public who pay for and use our rail services.”