

## **Jonathan Ashworth responds to the latest NHS performance data**

**Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health and Social Care Secretary,** responding to the latest NHS performance data, said:

"While the Health Secretary plays Tory leadership games, patients continue to suffer deteriorating care.

"Patients will find it staggering that this summer A&E performance so far has actually been worse than it was in the run up to Christmas and those stranded on trolleys in overcrowded hospitals is up 376% compared to last June.

"What's more, the waiting list for treatment is at a record high with patients waiting longer in pain and distress for treatment.

"This is an NHS in a year round crisis thanks to years of cutbacks and understaffing. The Health Secretary must park his obsession with gimmicks, gizmos and gadgets and get a grip of the plummeting standards of patient care happening on his watch."

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## **Review of social security for the terminally ill – Marsha de Cordova responds**

**Marsha de Cordova MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Disabled People,** commenting on the announced review of social security for the terminally ill, said:

"It is welcome the Tories are finally acknowledging that their

'six-month rule' is cruel, arbitrary and outdated, but we do not need a review to know it should be scrapped. The longer the government delays, the more needless suffering and anxiety is inflicted on ill and disabled people with terminal illnesses.

"Shamefully, between 2013 and 2018, 17,000 terminally ill people died while waiting for a decision on their Personal Independence Payment claims. This means people spent their last days waiting for the outcome of a cruel assessment without the financial support they needed.

"The government must now adopt a definition of terminal illness based on sound clinical judgements and scrap all unnecessary assessments for terminally ill people."

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## **Imran Hussain responds to the Prison Inspector's report into HMP Berwyn**

**Imran Hussain MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Minister**, responding to the Prison Inspector's report into HMP Berwyn, said:

"These problems are a direct consequence of brutal staff and budget cuts made by the Tories and, in Coalition, by the Lib Dems.

"Sadly, there are many other prisons also suffering from this staffing crisis. The number of frontline prison officers who have resigned has more than tripled since the Coalition government began, and that's left our prison staff, prisoners and the public vulnerable.

"This crisis is the government's fault, and it must end it fast. We need a retention strategy to end the exodus of experienced staff in our prisons. That's the only way to make sure everyone is safe. You can't keep people safe on the cheap."

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## Labour Party response to Panorama programme

**A Labour Party spokesperson, responding to BBC Panorama's programme, said:**

"We completely reject any claim that Labour is antisemitic. We stand in solidarity with Jewish people, and we're taking decisive action to root out antisemitism from our movement and society.

"The Panorama programme was not a fair or balanced investigation. It was a seriously inaccurate, politically one-sided polemic, which breached basic journalistic standards, invented quotes and edited emails to change their meaning. It was an overtly biased intervention by the BBC in party political controversy.

"An honest investigation into antisemitism in Labour and wider society is in the public interest. The Panorama team instead pre-determined an answer to the question posed by the programme's title.

"No proper and serious attempt was made to understand our current procedures for dealing with antisemitism, which is clearly essential to reach a fair and balanced judgement. And Panorama distorted and manipulated the truth and misrepresented evidence to present a biased and selective account.

"We complained in advance to the BBC over the way the programme was put together and its choice of a presenter who has expressed overt personal and political hostility to Jeremy Corbyn's politics. We will be pursuing complaints at every level.

"The Labour Party will fully investigate any complaints concerning the antisemitic incidents reported by party members in interviews in the programme.

"Labour stands in solidarity with Jewish people and is fully committed to the support, defence and celebration of the Jewish community and its organisations.

"Despite claims made in the programme, Labour is taking decisive action against antisemitism. Since Jennie Formby became General Secretary the rate at which antisemitism cases have been dealt with has increased more than four-fold.

"We will build on the improvements to our procedures made under Jennie Formby, and continue to act against this repugnant form of racism."

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## **McDonnell calls for radical reform of global institutions ahead of International Social Forum**

**John McDonnell MP today (Wednesday 10 July) called for radical reform of global institutions, so that they can respond effectively to climate change, inequality and the displacement of people.**

The Shadow Chancellor was speaking ahead of the Labour Party hosting the International Social Forum, a conference of progressive political leaders, campaigners and economists to discuss far reaching institutional reforms.

McDonnell and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn will speak at the event this weekend, at SOAS, University of London.

This two-day conference is part of internationalising Labour's programme to harness the full might of the Treasury in government to tackle climate change, end austerity and erode sky-high inequality.

**John McDonnell MP said:**

“The world is facing a range of challenges that require transnational action and global solutions.

“The existing global institutions are proving to be incapable of responding effectively to the existential threat of climate change, the increasingly unaccountable power of multinationals, and the large-scale displacement of people.

“Labour has convened an international social forum bringing together politicians, economists and social movement leaders from across the world to launch a new dialogue on the reform of the international institutional architecture needed to tackle the global challenges of the twenty first century.”

Ends

**Notes for news editors**

In 2017 speech at the United Nations, Geneva, Jeremy Corbyn MP set out four main threats faced by humanity: the concentration of wealth and power in a small group, exacerbated by tax avoidance; climate change; lack of global cooperation on the refugee crisis; and the “bomb first, think later” approach to conflict resolution.

**Speakers:**

- John McDonnell MP (Saturday 0945), Jeremy Corbyn MP, leader of the Labour Party (Sunday 1630).
- The Labour leader and Shadow Chancellor will also share a platform in the closing plenary – (Sunday 17.30pm)
- Other speakers include: the former president of Brazil Dilma Rousseff, Ann Pettifor, co-founder of the Jubilee 2000 campaign, and Jayati Ghosh, economics professor at Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi.

Also speaking, former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis, Tina Ngata, an indigenous New Zealand campaigner on climate change, Asad Rehman, the executive director of War on Want, Fiona Tregenna, Professor of Economics at the University of Johannesburg and Richard Kozul-Wright, the director of the division on globalisation and development strategies at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.