

Three consecutive quarters of falling productivity – John McDonnell

John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor, responding to news of productivity decreasing by 0.2% in the first quarter of 2019, said:

“We now have three consecutive quarters of falling productivity – another sign of an economy going backwards under the Tories.

“For nine long years, we’ve seen not just brutal austerity but also an utter failure by the Tories to get a grip on the productivity crisis.

“While the Tory leadership candidates talk about tax cuts for the rich, it’s clearer than ever that it’s time for a Labour Government, which will tackle the productivity crisis through a package of policies including a National Transformation Fund, National Investment Bank, and £10 per hour real living wage.”

John McDonnell response to reports that Boris Johnson held a secretive dinner at a restaurant owned by donors accused of money laundering

John McDonnell MP, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor, responding to reports that Boris Johnson held a secretive dinner at a restaurant owned by donors accused of money laundering, said:

“Boris Johnson’s association with a company being investigated for money laundering makes him wholly unfit to be Prime Minister.”

Rebecca Long Bailey responds to fall in the number of hybrid cars sold

Rebecca Long Bailey, Shadow Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Secretary, responding to a fall in the number of hybrid cars sold, said:

“If the government is serious about tackling the climate emergency they must put money where their mouth is and take real action, not cut subsidies which were working. Their mixed messages are undermining efforts both by manufacturers and consumers to make the transition to low emissions vehicles.

“On the one hand they want to end the sale of combustion engines by 2040 but on the other hand they are cutting subsidies and dragging their feet on the infrastructure necessary to make it happen.

“We can all agree that electrification is necessary but it can only be done if government supports industry and consumers to meet the challenge.”

Tory cuts driving crumbling state of our hospitals, Labour reveals

New research published today by the Labour Party reveals the shocking state of hospitals across the country.

Freedom of information requests were sent to every hospital trust in England. 170 trusts responded. The data shows:

- 76 hospital trusts in England revealed that incidents had occurred

at their trust due to estates and infrastructure failures in 2018/19.

- Problems included sewage and water leaking on to hospital wards, broken lifts, and ceilings collapsing.
- Some incidents have affected patient care, often leading to the cancellation of appointments and leaving people waiting longer for vital treatment.

Specific shocking examples found include:

- In one Trust in the North West, there was a ceiling collapse on a side ward, water leaking from the ceiling on the top of the maternity landing and a lift broke down trapping two nurses inside.
- In one Trust in Yorkshire and the Humber, call bells were broken on a ward. Also, FOI data shows that faeces were coming through the floor on the ultrasound corridor.
- In one Trust in the West Midlands, a waste pipe above a ward broke, which resulted in waste leaking into the ward area
- In one London Trust, part of the Emergency Department was closed due to a “severe” sewage leak in December 2018.
- In one Trust in the West Midlands, Estates were trying to clear a drain, which resulted in dirt/faeces/slime spurting up through a sink. This landed on a patient’s bed, and covered the floor and surrounding area. There was also a “severe” leak from the roof by the maternity unit. Store cupboards were soaked, and water was going into electric fittings.
- In one Trust in the South East, a lift which had initially had a jammed door, stopped working. Staff and patients were unable to use the lift and this impacted on patient care.
- In one London Trust, water poured on to a ward bed from the ceiling and patients had to be moved.
- In one East Midlands Trust, sewage was coming up through the drains in bathrooms, water flooded into the ward corridor. Only one shower room was able to be used for 19 patients.
- In one East Midlands Trust, due to water leaking from pipes, there were delays to patients being operated on – operating time had to be reduced and some were cancelled, or re-located to other operating theatres.
- In one Trust in the East Midlands, several lifts were out of service. There was no access to the Coronary Care Unit for catering trolleys, bed or patients. A patient was left on the Clinical Decisions Unit in a wheelchair, as they were unable to access CCU for treatment.
- In one Trust in the South, a burst pipe meant no x-rays could be taken.
- In one Trust in the North West, a ceiling panel on a ward collapsed, but fortunately missed the patient.
- In one London Trust, people were trapped in a lift.
- Information received from one Trust in the West Midlands stated that there had been “ceiling leakage” and tiles falling off on numerous areas on a ward, and that on one occasion the labour ward was very cold,

and they were unable to keep babies warm.

- In one Trust in the South East, lifts were not in action, making it impossible to get immobile patients upstairs – some were coming directly from clinic for urgent surgery and appointments had to be cancelled.

Infrastructure problems in hospitals come at a time when the Tories have failed to provide investment for capital in the NHS, leaving hospitals with a backlog of maintenance works.

The cost of eradicating 'high risk' backlog maintenance rose from £947 million in 2016/17 to more than £1 billion in 2017/18. The total backlog increased from £5.5 billion in 2016/17 to almost £6 billion in 2017/18.

Commenting on Labour's findings, Jonathan Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health and Social Care Secretary, said:

"Years of Tory cuts are pushing hospitals to rack and ruin. From ceilings collapsing, sewage pipes bursting to central heating faltering, patient safety and care put at risk.

"The NHS now faces a staggering £6 billion repair bill, £3 billion of which is considered 'high' or 'significant' risk.

"Patients deserve to be treated in the very best quality health facilities with the most up to date equipment, and yet the Tories have utterly failed to invest in the infrastructure capital budgets. Only Labour will give the NHS the funding it needs."

[Corbyn visits Labour council that declared climate emergency to call on other communities to take urgent](#)

action

Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn will today visit Cheshire East, where the local council recently declared a climate emergency, to urge people and communities to follow suit and “come together to demand change and climate justice”.

In a call to action ahead of the visit, the Labour Leader warned that the climate emergency will not be dealt with “from above by people sitting in offices in Whitehall and Westminster alone”. The climate crisis demands a collective response because “individual action is not enough and the invisible hand of the market will not save us”.

This call for collective action comes after Labour forced Parliament to declare a climate emergency in May, with the Labour leadership determined to set off a wave of action from parliaments and government across the world, as well as local authorities across the United Kingdom.

The Conservatives lost 19 seats on Cheshire East Council in the local elections in May, losing control of the flagship council for the first time. Following Labour’s successful motion in Parliament to declare a climate emergency on 1st May, Cheshire East Council’s new Labour Leader, Councillor Sam Corcoran, declared an environment and climate emergency and committed the council to a target of being carbon neutral by 2025 at the Council’s first meeting since coming under Labour control.

During his visit to Cheshire, the Labour Leader will also meet councillors and members of the local community at a community garden, where he will discuss the environmental and health benefits of gardening and people growing their own food.

Speaking ahead of the visit, Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn MP said:

“I congratulate the newly-elected Labour leadership of Cheshire East Council for declaring a climate emergency and setting an example for other communities and councils to follow.

"We have no time to waste. The scale and severity of the climate emergency requires urgent action in every community across our country and across the world. We are living in a climate crisis that will spiral dangerously out of control unless we take rapid and dramatic action.

"Climate justice is about social justice. It is working class communities in inner-city areas that suffer the worst effects of air pollution. Around the world, it is the poorest people who are already paying a heavy price of this crisis while the super-rich and the big corporations, who are most responsible for emissions, can afford to look after themselves.

"Local government and local communities are absolutely essential to confronting the climate emergency. Action from above by people sitting in offices in Whitehall and Westminster alone will never deliver the change we need.

"But individual action is also not enough, and the invisible hand of the market will not save us. We need a collective response that empowers people. An emergency of this magnitude requires concerted and urgent action at every level to take on the polluters and secure our planet's future."