

[It will be crucial to scrutinise any exemptions to the ivory trade ban being proposed – Sue Hayman MP](#)

Sue Hayman MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, commenting on the proposed ban on ivory sales, said:

"A total ban on trading ivory is long overdue.

"Finally, Environment Secretary Michael Gove has followed Labour's lead on this issue.

"But, given the Conservative Party's failure to include this policy in their manifesto and their notoriously poor record on animal welfare, it will be crucial to scrutinise any exemptions to the trade ban being proposed and to ensure these proposals are comprehensive and followed through."

[Theresa May announces £15 billion in uncosted spending commitments – John McDonnell](#)

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, responding to Theresa May's speech today at Conservative Party conference, said:

"By the time the current leader of the Conservative Party eventually finished speaking, she had a total of £15 billion in spending commitments just in this Parliament without a single reference to how the money will be found to pay for them. The Tory magical money tree returns."

[Anneliese Dodds commenting on the](#)

European Commission's proposals for reform of the EU VAT system

Anneliese

Dodds MP, Labour's Shadow Treasury Minister,

responding to the European Commission's proposals for reform of the EU VAT system, said:

"Over €50bn of VAT is lost every year through VAT fraud across Europe and the announcement from the European Commission is a welcome step forward to make sure Britain receives the tax it is due from trading across the continent. The reforms will also make it cheaper and easier than ever for British firms to trade around Europe by using a one stop shop so that each company will not need to comply with 28 different VAT regimes.

"The UK Government must support these reforms in the European Council and ensure that British businesses can continue to benefit from them after we leave the EU. We need more clarity from the Tories on how they intend to maintain the ease of access to the European market that we have now, while keeping compliance costs low. "

The burning injustice that remains in mental health is that underfunding means services are failing too many people – Barbara Keeley

Barbara Keeley MP, Labour's Shadow Cabinet

Minister for Mental Health, commenting on mental health announcements in Theresa May's Speech to the Conservative Party Conference, said:

"The burning injustice that remains in mental health is that underfunding means services are failing too many people.

"An independent

review of the Mental Health Act is long overdue and to be welcomed but, far from being better funded than ever before, more than a quarter of CCGs have under-spent their mental health budgets for 2016/17.

"A Labour

Government would invest more money in mental health and ring-fence budgets so that money for mental health reaches the front line rather than being siphoned off for other priorities."

[Rebecca Long- Bailey response to energy price cap](#)

Rebecca

Long- Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,

responding to Theresa May's re-announcement of an energy price cap, said:

'Today, after pressure from Labour and her own backbenches, Theresa May has finally been forced to recognise that the energy market is broken. But her response doesn't go nearly far enough.

"It is unclear if responsibility for action has again been passed to OfGem, with no commitment on when or how action will be taken. Yet again the country is left confused about whether the Prime Minister will honour her election promise.

"Labour has been clear that we would introduce a clear emergency price cap whilst taking the bold measures needed to reform our broken energy market in the long run such as bringing energy back into public ownership."