

This speech only confirmed Theresa May's failure – Jon Trickett MP

Jon Trickett MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office,

responding to Theresa May's to Conservative Conference, said:

"This was supposed to be the speech where Theresa May relaunched her flailing Premiership but it only confirmed her failure.

"She admitted Britain faces great problems but all she has to offer are watered down versions of Labour's ideas, reheated policies, and empty promises.

"On housing there were warm words but nowhere near enough action, on tuition fees she talked of a "review" but failed to mention that the Tories trebled them to over £9,000 and on energy bills, she provided no clarity after months of confusion and u-turns. And there was nothing at all to deal with the crisis the Tories have created in the NHS, nor to deal with the fact that working people's wages have flat-lined under the Tories.

"Rather than apologising to her party, Theresa May should have taken the opportunity to apologise to the public for a record of failure for the many which has left Britain worse off.

"Conference season has shown us that the Conservatives are yesterday's party; Labour is setting the agenda. With bold, mainstream plans like scrapping tuition fees, building a million new homes and public ownership of the energy system, Labour is the only party who will deal with the challenges facing the country. We will build a Britain for the many not the few."

Today's speech was meaningless bravado from the government's most policy-light minister – Gardiner

Barry

Gardiner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, responding to Liam Fox's Conservative Party speech said:

"Today's speech was an opportunity for the Secretary of State to allay business and industry's fears about the structure of our future trade relations. A serious politician would have addressed the threat to 4,000 jobs in Northern Ireland by the American decision to impose a 220 per cent tariff on Bombardier's C Series aircraft.

"His facile suggestion that "Free Trade in Action" will increase variety for consumers and reduce prices will ring hollow to those who fear what it could mean for British jobs, given the Conservative's failure on Bombardier.

"Fox has had more than a year to bring forward a trade white paper that sets out a proper road map for business export and inward investment. Today would have been a sensible time to introduce some of its key ideas. Instead we got meaningless bravado from the government's most policy-light minister."

Kate Osamor responds to Priti Patel

Kate Osamor MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, responding to Priti Patel's speech to Conservative Party Conference, said:

"Priti Patel's speech was incredibly thin on substance.

"She made no commitments to better resource and staff DFID so it can properly oversee private sector contractors or to ensure other government departments actually raise their game and fix the cross-government aid spending chaos. Priti Patel implied she will seek to change the international aid rules in October to divert Official Development Assistance meant for the world's poorest to "British citizens in our British territories", instead of funding the territories' Hurricane Irma recovery from across Whitehall.

“Labour will continue to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on overseas development assistance, and develop a targeted development agenda to tackle global inequality and poverty, to build a world that works for the many, not the few.”

[Tory infighting is harming the Brexit process – Keir Starmer](#)

“David Davis’ damp squib of a speech has offered nothing new on how the Government intends to break the impasse in Brexit negotiations and deliver a new progressive partnership with the EU.

“On the day the European Parliament voted to delay future trade talks with Britain, it is now clear that Tory infighting is harming the Brexit process. Paralysis in the negotiations risks havoc for the British economy and uncertainty for EU and UK citizens.

“Theresa May must use her speech tomorrow to finally face down the fantasy Brexiteers in her party and put the national interest first. If she is unwilling to do so, Labour stands ready to take charge of the negotiations and deliver a jobs-first Brexit deal that works for the many not the few.”

[Nia Griffith response to Michael Fallon comments](#)

Nia Griffith MP, Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, responding to Sir Michael Fallon’s call to raise NATO 2% defence spending target, said:

“The Defence Secretary has finally recognised that the Government needs to invest more in our nation’s security, but it is pretty galling for him to talk about going beyond the 2 per cent commitment when this Government is barely scraping over the line at present.

“Indeed they can only claim to be doing so by counting items, such as pensions, that do not contribute to our defence capabilities and which Labour did not include when in Government.

“Labour is fully committed to spending at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence as we consistently did when in government. If Sir Michael Fallon is serious

about putting more money on the table, he should act immediately to give our Armed Forces the real terms pay rise that they have been so cruelly robbed of since 2010."