

[Sharon Hodgson response to Scottish Medicines Consortium's decision to provide Kadcyła and PrEP on the NHS](#)

Sharon

Hodgson MP, Shadow Minister for Public Health, commenting on the Scottish Medicines Consortium's decision to provide Kadcyła and PrEP on the NHS, said:

"It is welcoming to see that both Kadcyła and PrEP will now be funded by the NHS in Scotland, after the concerted campaigning of different organisations and individuals who will benefit directly by these drugs now being made accessible.

"These decisions are game-changing. Not only in the fact that they will help the many people in Scotland who rely upon these drugs, but also by highlighting a failure to act here in England, where Kadcyła has been provisionally rejected by NICE and is now under review and PrEP, which faced a long, drawn-out court battle, is going through yet another trial.

"These announcements must make NHS England and Jeremy Hunt sit up and listen. We need concerted action to ensure we don't see disparities in the drug treatments on offer in Scotland and England. The Tory Government should be doing all they can to provide access to these treatments for those who need them."

[Libor rigging – schools, hospitals, local councils all potential victims – Shadow Chancellor demands compensation for public bodies](#)

Libor rigging – schools, hospitals, local councils all potential victims – Shadow Chancellor demands compensation for public

bodies

Local councils, NHS hospitals and schools engaged with PFI contracts, derivatives linked to Libor and day-to-day borrowing could be large scale victims of Libor rigging.

Yesterday, Shadow Chancellor, John McDonnell MP, called for the Chancellor to establish a public inquiry into the scandal. He is today demanding an independent assessment of the losses to public bodies and that where losses are identified as a result of Libor rigging, they must be made good by the banks.

Revelations by the BBC's Panorama programme concerning the involvement of the Bank of England and senior officials from major banks in the rigging of the Libor index raise urgent questions for the Bank of England and the Government:

- Did senior Bank of England officials, in allegedly applying pressure to banks to lowball their reported borrowing rates, act with or without the knowledge of Treasury officials and ministers?
- Was the Bank or Treasury aware of the potential costs to public authorities as a result of lowballing?
- How many public bodies have losses arising from their purchase of Libor-linked derivative products, and what are the scale of those losses?

John McDonnell MP said:

"This is now a matter of utmost concern that gets to the heart of failings in our banking system. Did senior officials at the Bank of England, with or without government encouragement, knowingly cause public bodies like NHS hospitals, schools and local councils to suffer potentially major losses?"

"My concern is that local councils, NHS hospitals, and schools could have paid a huge cost for the Libor rigging scandal. We need to know exactly what went on, what was the impact on public finances and who was responsible.

Above

all else if local councils and other public bodies suffered losses then the institutions responsible should pay them back for those losses."

Today's inflation figures are yet more worrying news for working people –

Peter Dowd

Peter Dowd MP, Labour's Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, responding to today's inflation figures, said:

"Today's inflation figures are yet more worrying news for working people.

"Living standards are being squeezed, with inflation rising and wage growth slowing. As a result, real pay is beginning to decline again, contracting at the start of 2017 for the first time since August 2014.

"Only

Labour will ensure working people's living standards are protected. That's why

this week Labour is announcing a real Living Wage of £10 per hour from 2020."

Estonian-President-visits-euLISA

The President of the Republic of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid met with the Executive Director of eu-LISA Krum Garkov today in the headquarters of the Agency in Tallinn, Estonia. The principle purpose of the meeting was to discuss the evolving role of the large-scale IT systems in contributing to safety and security in Europe.

Mr Garkov welcomed President Kaljulaid and thanked her on behalf of the Agency for the interest and support demonstrated by the high-level visit. According to the Executive Director it gives a clear sign that the issues of an open, yet safe and secure European Union are high up on the European agenda. Likewise are matters related to innovation, digital transformation and information technology, which increasingly affect the way we manage EU justice and home affairs. Since eu-LISA is the Agency that has a role in both EU values and modern technologies, the importance of eu-LISA for Member States and for the EU as a whole will continue to grow.

President Kaljulaid and the Mr Garkov discussed the impact of transformations in the area of EU freedom, security and justice, which has become increasingly reliant on modern technologies and information sharing. The Executive Director elaborated on the eu-LISA 2017 priorities related to the evolution of the existing IT systems and the integration of new ones in line with their respective legal basis. Both of these major task areas are linked to the revision of the Agency's mandate and with legal proposals that are currently being negotiated at institutional level.

During a brief tour of the Agency's current headquarters, located in the EU

House in Tallinn, the President and Mr Garkov spoke about progress on the new headquarters building that will house eu-LISA in Tallinn. The expanded tasks of the Agency related to the current as well as the new systems have made the need for a larger working space increasingly evident.

President Kaljulaid also met and spoke to the staff of eu-LISA, with the offices in Strasbourg and Brussels connected via video conference.

Links:

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[Public consultation: effects of pesticides on amphibians and reptiles](#)

EFSA is inviting comments on its overview of scientific knowledge concerning the risks to amphibians and reptiles from pesticides.

The Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues has investigated the coverage of the risk to amphibians and reptiles provided by risk assessments for other vertebrate groups. The experts have also reviewed available test methods and exposure models with regard to their applicability to amphibians and reptiles.

In a draft scientific opinion launched for public consultation today the Panel proposes that a specific environmental risk assessment scheme should be developed for these two groups.

Interested parties can submit comments up to 24 May 2017.