

## [Jonathan Ashworth response to the National Audit Office's report on sustainability and transformation in the NHS](#)

**Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary**, commenting on the National Audit Office's report on sustainability and transformation in the NHS, said:

"The NAO's report confirms the Government's flawed and wholly inadequate approach to the sustainable, long term funding of the NHS. Ministers have failed to increase per head spending in real terms each year, a key election promise, and there are still no details of a long overdue pay rise for NHS staff.

"Our NHS is in crisis. Years of underinvestment culminated in December 2017 being the worst month on record for A&E performance and elective operations being cancelled until the end of January. Targets are being missed and in-year cash injections are not improving the financial performances of Trusts.

"Unlike the Tories, Labour outlined a costed long term plan for funding the NHS. Labour will give our NHS an extra £6 billion a year to ensure that our NHS remains a world class service for all."

Ends

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## [Nia Griffith responds to the Public Accounts Committee report](#)

**Nia Griffith MP, Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary**, responding to the Public Accounts Committee report on Delivering Carrier Strike, said:

"This report highlights the significant concerns about the affordability of a key part of

the MoD's equipment plan and a vital aspect of our future defence capability.

"The Government needs to address this issue urgently and ensure that the Carrier programme is adequately funded going forward, in particular the F-35s which need to be paid for in US dollars and will be impacted by fluctuating foreign exchange rates.

"It's reassuring that MoD staff have told the Committee that they do not plan to take the Albion class out of service early. The Defence Secretary should stop dodging questions about the future of the vessels and confirm that he will not be selling them off. The loss of this class without replacement would be an unacceptable cut to our nation's defences."

Ends

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## [Yasmin Quereshi responds to Government consultation announcement into HM Courts & Tribunals Service estate](#)

**Yasmin**

**Qureshi MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Minister**, responding to the Government's announcement of a consultation into the HM Courts and Tribunals Service estate, said:

"This consultation should not be a smokescreen for yet more court closures and staff losses which would further undermine local access to our justice system.

"Tory cuts have already led to the closure of hundreds of courts and the axing of thousands of court staff.

"There are obvious fears that this consultation is just part of the Government's plan to cut hundreds of millions of pounds more from the Ministry of Justice budget by 2020.

"The

Government should not proceed with any further court closures until its promised Courts Bill is published and its reforms can be subjected to full parliamentary scrutiny.”

Ends

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## [HMP Liverpool report raises more very serious questions about the outsourcing of Government contracts – Richard Burgon](#)

**Richard**

**Burgon MP, Labour’s Shadow Justice Secretary**, responding to the report into HMP Liverpool by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, said:

“After Carillion’s collapse, this report raises more very serious questions about the outsourcing of Government contracts.

“Private contractor Amey has failed to complete thousands of maintenance jobs at HMP Liverpool and the Government must explain why it is continuing to receive public money when the work simply isn’t being done.

“The conditions at HMP Liverpool with rat infestations, leaking toilets, damp and squalor are the worst ever seen by inspectors. This is a new low in the long list of damning evidence that shows Tory outsourcing and cuts to the prison service are fuelling a crisis in our prisons.

“Labour in government would look at bringing prison maintenance contracts back in house. The Government must now do the same.”

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# [News story: CC Haulage & Sons Ltd to pay £109,000 for dumping on Devon farms](#)

A Devon haulage and site clearance company faces a bill of more than £100,000 for dumping thousands of tonnes of soil and stone on farmland. The case was brought by the Environment Agency.

CC Haulage & Sons Ltd is a family owned and run company based at Manor Farm, Colebrooke, Crediton. The two directors are Colin Clarke and his wife, Deborah Clarke.

Farmers are allowed to accept up to 1,000 tonnes of non-hazardous waste including soil and stone under a permission known as an 'exemption' that is commonly used on farms to construct hard-standings, bases for buildings and tracks and doesn't need an environmental permit.

In November 2016 the Environment Agency visited Beech Down Farm in Tedburn St Mary where waste was being tipped in a valley. Inquiries revealed that CC Haulage had deposited 7,820 tonnes of waste at the farm. Excessive quantities of waste, much of it from building and construction sites, had also been tipped at 3 other Devon farms at Longdown, Exeter, Yeoford and Crediton.

The offences came to light after the Environment Agency examined waste transfer notes that identified CC Haulage as the source of the excessive amounts of waste material. The company benefitted financially by paying the farmers less to accept the waste than it was charging its clients to take the material away.

The firm's defence said CC Haulage believed the farmers had the necessary permits to accept the waste, but admitted the company should have checked.

Richard Cloke of the Environment Agency said:

Haulage businesses must ensure they comply with the limits and conditions of environmental permits and exemptions.

These are in place to stop the illegal deposit of waste, protect the environment and create a level playing field for the waste industry.

Appearing at Exeter Crown Court, CC Haulage & Sons Ltd was fined £14,000 and ordered to pay £5,000 costs. Judge Geoffrey Mercer also imposed a £90,000 Proceeds of Crime confiscation order at the sentencing hearing on 15 January 2018. The company must pay back this figure from the profits it made from its criminal activities.

Judge Mercer said: "It is not entirely clear to me how the company were unclear about the limits."