<u>Inflation rise hits millions of</u> <u>working-class families and highlights</u> <u>Tory failures — Dowd</u>

Peter Dowd MP,

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

"Today's rise in

inflation to its highest level in over five-and-half years is extremely concerning, and once again reveals that after seven years of Tory economic failure, this Government has no answers to the problem of wages continuing to fail to keep up with prices.

"We shouldn't

forget that there will be millions of working families who will be struggling this Christmas already as a direct result of government policies such as the benefits freeze and the public sector pay cap; this is a further reminder of just how bad this double whammy of rising prices and Tory austerity policies will be this month for them.

"The

next Labour government will ensure working people's living standards are protected with a Real Living Wage of £10 per hour, ending the public sector pay

cap, and by building a high wage, high skill economy that works for the many, not the few."

Ends