

# It is not acceptable to run a prison with insufficient staff, where prisoners can take drugs and threaten staff – Burgon

**Richard**

**Burgon MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary**, commenting on press coverage of problems at HMP Northumberland, said:

“While conditions in HMP Northumberland will shock many people, it should come as no surprise to this Tory Government – Labour has repeatedly warned them that this is what is happening in prisons on their watch.

“The Justice Secretary must set out the terms of the investigation she is conducting into the running of the prison by Sodexo. She needs to set a clear deadline for Sodexo to prove they can run HMP Northumberland effectively and warn that if they fail to do so, HM Prison and Probation Service will.

“It is not acceptable to run a prison with insufficient staff, where prisoners can take drugs and threaten staff, and where core security functions don't work and where fences are cut and alarms fail.”

ENDS