

Jonathan Ashworth responds to Government's new ambulance service standards announcement

Jonathan Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on the Government's announcement of new ambulance service standards, said:

"This Government have failed to hit any of their main NHS ambulance targets since May 2015 and an updated system that truly works for patients is clearly overdue. NHS ambulance trusts must now be given every support to build a new system which has the support of paramedics and patients alike.

"The truth is that the Tories' underfunding and mismanagement of the NHS has pushed ambulance services to the brink and left record numbers of patients suffering and in discomfort. The public will want to know that a new series of standards is truly based on the best clinical evidence and not just on the money which the Government are making available.

"Sir Bruce Keogh has shown great leadership in demanding the best for NHS patients. The Government must now match these ambitions and give ambulance trusts the support and resources they need to deliver the best possible quality of care for ill and injured patients."