

Labour reveals “winter of misery” as 20,000 patients stuck in ambulances for over 30 minutes in just two weeks – Ashworth

Labour’s analysis of the first two weeks of winter data (20 November to 3 December) released today by NHS England, reveals 20,818 patients were stuck in the back of ambulances for over 30 minutes.

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour’s Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on Labour’s analysis of the first weekly situation reports issued by NHS England, said:

“After an inadequate Budget for the NHS, healthcare leaders warned of an imminent and unprecedented winter crisis. Today’s data reveals a stark picture of what lies ahead: a winter of misery for patients and unparalleled pressures on our NHS staff.

“Our new analysis of ambulance diverts reveals the dire impact Tory underfunding is already having on thousands of patients unable to promptly access A&E Departments right across the country. Some Trusts are already completely full with no spare beds- an extremely worrying indicator of what is still to come particularly after NHS Improvement’s explicit warning that handover delays “should not occur”.

“Astonishingly, the small pot of winter pressures funding in the Budget has still not been allocated to struggling Trusts. Ministers must urgently explain why this money has not been forthcoming and be held to account for the reality that when the money does eventually arrive it will come far too late to be used to maximum effect.”