

Next month's budget must address unprecedented workforce crisis in our NHS – Jonathan Ashworth

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's

Shadow Health Secretary, responding

to the Health Foundation's warning that NHS workforce planning is 'not fit for purpose', said:

"Theresa May has overseen an unprecedented workforce crisis in the NHS. This latest warning is the culmination of an incompetent strategy, which has left our health service with a shortage of 40,000 nurses, 3,500 midwives and 10,000 GPs.

"For years the Tories have taken NHS staff for granted and asked them to do more for less, resulting in a recruitment and retention crisis which threatens patient care on a daily basis.

Evidently the Government's hope of recruiting 2,000 extra foreign GPs by 2020 looks thoroughly unlikely.

"The public is under no illusions:

a repeat of last winter is entirely intolerable. In next month's Budget the Government must take urgent action to secure a sustainable workforce in our NHS in years to come."