

# Nurse numbers are falling because of the Government's disregard for NHS staff – Jonathan Ashworth

**Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary**, commenting on the latest NHS Digital workforce figures which show a fall of 1071 in nurse numbers in the past year, said:

"The Government has totally failed in their planning of the NHS workforce. Cuts to training places and the disastrous pay cap have pushed staff to the brink and now nurse numbers are falling year on year because of the Government's disregard for NHS staff.

"Just yesterday Jeremy Hunt said mental health would be a priority for the Government but even mental health nurse numbers are falling.

"It is essential that the NHS can get enough staff in place to deliver safe services for patients. The Government should immediately end the pay cap and give NHS staff the pay they deserve."