

Owen Smith statement on the extension of time for Northern Ireland power-sharing talks

Commenting on the news that talks to restore power-sharing at Stormont have been extended to Monday, **Owen Smith MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said:**

"I am concerned that a deal has not been reached for today's deadline but I welcome the news that the parties are continuing their intensive discussions over the next few days. It is the right decision by the Secretary of State to hold open the door for further negotiations if there is a chance that a deal can still be reached.

"If there is no further progress over the weekend, however, the Secretary of State must come to Parliament on Monday to explain what additional steps he intends to take to ensure a stable government can be re-established at Stormont."