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Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, responding to Jeremy Hunt's announcement at Tory party conference, said:

"Seven years of Tory rule has been catastrophic for both nurses and patients.

"Our NHS faces a 40,000 shortfall of nurses because of reduction of training places, seven years of capped pay, and the scrapping of the nurses' bursary. On top of this record of failure, Theresa May's shambolic handling of Brexit means more EU national nurses could leave the NHS.

"Today's announcement won't reverse the damage this Government has already done.

"Our NHS needs what Labour pledged in our manifesto – bring back the nurses' training bursary and give nurses the pay rise they deserve."