

# Hollow words from Jeremy Hunt as the NHS is suffering from the biggest financial squeeze in history – Ashworth

**Jonathan Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on reports that Jeremy Hunt said the problems facing some parts of NHS England are 'completely unacceptable', said:**

"These are hollow words from the Secretary of State this morning. On his watch the NHS is suffering from the biggest financial squeeze in history and social care is at tipping point. Jeremy Hunt appears to be finally waking up to the scale of the crisis but he must now accept responsibility. Instead he offers just hand wringing but no solutions.

"This week we have seen more and more statistics revealing that patients are waiting longer, and suffering longer in discomfort.

"Government advisor Lord Carter has extraordinarily called NHS conditions 'warlike' and now Sir Robert Francis says there is an 'existential crisis' for the health service warning that another Mid Staffs is 'inevitable.'

"By making such stark warnings Sir Robert Francis blows apart Jeremy Hunt's rhetoric on putting patient safety first.

"The Prime Minister can't just put her head in the sand and ignore these astounding warnings. This is clearly not just a 'small number of incidents' as she glibly suggested.

"The Government's mismanagement of the NHS is causing chaos and misery for patients. We can't go on like this. They need to listen to the experts and explain fully in the Budget in a few weeks time how they will put the NHS and social care on sustainable footing. NHS patients and their families should never be put through a winter like this again.

**Ends**

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## **Notice: Weston Favell Lock Emergency Repairs**

When: 6 to 10 February 2017

What's happening: Emergency repairs to Weston Favell Lock

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## **The Special Issue of the Journal of Quaternary Science on the Quaternary of the North Sea**

The special issue stems from the Quaternary Research Associations Annual Discussion Meeting that staff from BGS Edinburgh organised in 2015. BGS scientists feature as authors on a significant number of the papers.

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## **Notice: Shoaling works at Orton**

When: 20 to 24 February 2017

What's happening: Shoaling works taking place at Orton.

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## **Research and analysis: UK Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment: research projects**

The Department has maintained an active SEA research programme; identifying information gaps (some of which are outlined in previous SEA Recommendations)

and commissioning new research where appropriate. This has been part of the Department's offshore SEA programme since 1999.

Completed studies relating to earlier SEAs are located on the [British Geological Survey \(BGS\) SEA archive](#).