

The biggest risk to the UK economy is Theresa May's Government – John McDonnell

John

McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, commenting on the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) Fiscal Risks report this morning, said:

"The

Tories want to blame Brexit for their failures on the economy, but what this report really reveals is that one of the biggest risks to our economy is Theresa May's weak government, and the last seven years of Tory economic failure.

"Given

recent poor economic news, showing a lost decade of productivity growth and falling real earnings, the risks highlighted today by the OBR of slower productivity growth, a persistent current account deficit, high level of household debt, and weak business investment are extremely worrying.

"The

OBR have today put the final nail in the coffin of Tory economic credibility. They have confirmed health spending has been falling under the Tories, social care is in crisis and local authority budgets have been stripped to the bone. Rather than invest in our public services, the OBR notes this government's shambolic 'periodic policy reversals' while at the same time giving away billions in tax breaks to the super rich.

"It

is a dereliction of duty of this government that the OBR can claim that after seven years of austerity, the British economy, and working people, are less prepared for the 50/50 risk of a recession in the next five years.

"Only

a Labour Government will negotiate a sensible jobs-first Brexit which does not risk long-term damage to our economy and has set out a serious plan for the public finances. Labour's strategic investment will be underpinned by our Fiscal Credibility Rule, to help build the high wage, high skill economy of the future for the many not the few."

[It is deeply worrying that delayed transfers of care attributed to social care have increased by almost 10,000 since last year – Barbara Keeley](#)

Barbara

Keeley MP, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Minister for Social Care, commenting on the latest delayed transfer of care figures, said:

“Over

the past seven years the Tories have presided over a crisis in social care. Today's delayed transfer of care figures show that crisis is still getting worse on their watch.

“It

is deeply worrying that delayed transfers of care attributed to social care have increased by almost 10,000 since last year and have doubled in the last three years. We know that keeping older and vulnerable patients in hospital longer than needed poses significant risks to their morale, mobility and to their likelihood of contracting hospital-acquired infections. Under this Government these risks are increasing.

“The

Tory solution of threatening to punish those councils struggling with social care is not the answer. Taking funding away from councils will only lead to worsening quality and safety issues in care. Rather than threatening councils, the Tories need to match Labour's commitment and provide urgent additional funding for social care.”

[Jonathan Ashworth responds to Government's new ambulance service standards announcement](#)

Jonathan Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on the

Government's announcement of new ambulance service standards, said:

“This Government have failed to hit any of their

main NHS ambulance targets since May 2015 and an updated system that truly works for patients is clearly overdue. NHS ambulance trusts must now be given every support to build a new system which has the support of paramedics and patients alike.

“The truth is that the Tories’ underfunding and mismanagement of the NHS has pushed ambulance services to the brink and left record numbers of patients suffering and in discomfort. The public will want to know that a new series of standards is truly based on the best clinical evidence and not just on the money which the Government are making available.

“Sir Bruce Keogh has shown great leadership in demanding the best for NHS patients. The Government must now match these ambitions and give ambulance trusts the support and resources they need to deliver the best possible quality of care for ill and injured patients.”

[Most people worse off after Theresa May’s year as Prime Minister – Jeremy Corbyn](#)

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party,

commenting on Theresa May’s year as Prime Minister, said:

“A year ago today, Theresa May stood on the steps of Downing Street, saying she wanted a country that works for everyone.

“One year on, most people are worse off, with vital public services cut to the bone, falling wages and stagnating living standards, soaring classroom sizes and a million more on NHS waiting lists under the Tories.

“Under her government, the privileged few have benefited from tax give-aways, at the expense of the majority, who have borne the brunt of Conservative cuts.

“Theresa May now heads a zombie government, with no ideas, no answers and no leadership. This is a government in name only, having to ask other parties to “clarify and improve” its policies and delaying most Parliamentary business until the autumn.

“The

Conservatives have no plan for Britain. Labour is ready to fight the next election, whenever it may be, to form a government that will build a country for the many, not the few.”

[This Government's policies have slammed the door on the aspirations of people across Britain – Angela Rayner](#)

Angela Rayner MP, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary, commenting on UCAS figures for UK higher education applications, said:

“These figures show the worrying impact of a Conservative Government happy to burden young people with over £50,000 of debt just for getting an education.

“From tuition fees rising with no end in sight, to maintenance grants being scrapped, and extortionate interest rates on student debt, this Government's policies have slammed the door on the aspirations of people across Britain, and now we are beginning to see the impact that will have on university applications.

“The decline in nursing applications is utterly shocking, and shows the results of the Government's regressive and short-sighted decision to scrap nurses' bursaries at a time when our NHS will desperately need more staff.

“If the Tories want to see more young people go on to university they would bring back maintenance grants, tackle high interest rates on student debt, and end their plans to see tuition fees rise each and every year.”