

Nonsense from a Tory campaign that's all slogan and no substance – Andrew Gwynne

Labour's
Andrew Gwynne said:

"This
is yet more nonsense from a Tory campaign that's all slogan and no substance.

"Their
claims are so flimsy that even the most cursory reading reveals error after error: claims that don't add up, things they say are Labour policy which aren't
and blatant misrepresentation of policies which we have clearly set out how to
pay for. The whole thing isn't worth the paper it's written on.

"That
Philip Hammond is willing to put his name to this nonsense is deeply worrying given it suggests he's unable to tell the difference between capital and revenue spending.

"Frankly
this is just the latest desperate attempt by the Tories to distance themselves
from their failures and to distract from the fact that they've not ruled out hitting those on lower and middle incomes with further tax increases.

"Labour's
policies are fully-costed and properly paid for. Our plans will be set out in our manifesto. Don't trust the Tories: they are the party of the few, not the many."

Labour to halt the Tories hospital closure plan

Labour
will today announce that a future Labour Government will immediately halt the proposed closure of A&Es in England and carry out a full scale review of all proposals.

Having listened to campaigners and concerned patients up and down the country, Jonathan Ashworth, as Labour health secretary will immediately halt the Tories chaotic 'sustainability and transformation plan' (STP) programme.

Shadow Health Secretary Jonathan Ashworth, will say:

"Labour will put the best interests of patients at the heart of our NHS so today I'm announcing we will halt planned closures to hospitals and other services. We will have a moratorium on the STPs.

"We have listened to the hundreds of patients and campaigners up and down the country that have been pleading with the Government to hear their concerns about their local services. Threats of hospitals being closed, A&E services moved miles up the road, and children's wards being shut, have caused widespread concern and confusion. What is more, these decisions have been decided behind closed doors, with no genuine involvement of local people. It's a disgrace.

"The public deserves better. My first job as Secretary of State will be to review every single STP proposal looking at what's in the interest of quality of patient care.

"We'll ask a new body – NHS Excellence – to lead that review. And patients and local communities will be involved at every stage. Local people should be at the heart of decisions about how care is provided."

[Theresa May is less Margaret Thatcher and more Veruca Salt – Emily Thornberry](#)

Emily Thornberry, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary of State, speaking on Channel 4 News, said:

"The truth is that Theresa May paints herself as a bloody difficult woman or a Margaret Thatcher figure, but I think this is less Margaret Thatcher and more Veruca Salt. You can't just stand there and simply say: 'I want, I want, I want' when you are

negotiating.

"What you have to do is to persuade the other side that you have some ideas that would be good for both sides. You need to be able to calm down and you need to be able to make friends and be prepared to compromise.

"Otherwise we are heading for a hard Brexit; we are heading for no deal and she must back off. A strong Brexit is about a deal that works for the British economy. We are talking about people's jobs – that's the important thing."

[Theresa May's campaign is going to extraordinary efforts to avoid any form of public scrutiny: we've still not even heard from the Prime Minister on the alarming leaks from Brussels – Andrew Gwynne](#)

Andrew Gwynne MP, Labour's National Election Chair, commenting on reports that local reporters were "locked in a room and banned from filming" during Theresa May's visit to Cornwall today, said:

"Theresa May's campaign is going to extraordinary efforts to avoid any form of public scrutiny.

"What is especially worrying is that we've still not even heard from the Prime Minister on the alarming leaks from Brussels, which expose just how reckless her Brexit plans are.

"Rather than hiding away, the Prime Minister needs to come out and explain just what on earth is going on."

[Today's IFS analysis reveals the](#)

failure of seven years of Tory Government – John McDonnell

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow

Chancellor, commenting

on today's IFS analysis of the public finances, said:

"Today's analysis by the IFS reveals the failure of seven years of Tory Government.

"Despite promising to balance the books by 2015, the IFS says the UK's public finances 'compare unfavourably to other advanced economies' with the fifth largest deficit and the sixth largest debt pile.

"The IFS points to 'persistently poor economic growth' as one of the factors explaining the UK's poor public finances.

"It is clear that under the Tories working people have suffered from sluggish growth, soaring debt and stagnating pay.

"Only Labour has a proper plan for the public finances underpinned by our Fiscal Credibility Rule, which will allow us to grow the economy and deliver for the many, not the few."