

## [This is a significant victory for Parliament, and follows months of concerted pressure from Labour – Starmer](#)

Commenting

on the Government's concession regarding a meaningful vote in Parliament on a final deal to leave the EU, **Keir Starmer, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union** said:

"This is a significant victory for Parliament, and follows months of concerted pressure from Labour.

"Labour has repeatedly said that Parliament must have a meaningful vote on any final Brexit deal – that means MPs are able to vote on the final deal before it is concluded; that the Commons has a debate and vote before the European Parliament does; and that the vote will cover withdrawal from the EU as well as our future relationship with the EU.

"This eleventh hour concession is therefore welcome, but it needs to be firmed up as the Bill progresses through both Houses."

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## [Andrew Gwynne response to new rules new rules from the DFT covering access to taxis for disabled people](#)

**Andrew**

**Gwynne, Labour's shadow minister without portfolio**, commenting on new rules from the DFT covering access to taxis for disabled people, said:

"It is welcoming to see the Government taking a positive step to help to prevent some

of the discrimination faced by wheelchair users, finally bringing into force this aspect of the Equality Act of 2010.

“This new rule matches those already in place to prevent discrimination against users of assistance dogs, but still in the last year YouGov research showed that 42% of assistance dog owners reported being turned away by a taxi or minicab

“Labour’s Disability Equality Roadshow is touring the country, listening to disabled people, many of whom have raised discrimination as an issue.

“Unfortunately the Private Members Bill I introduced earlier this year to fix this problem was talked out by the Government, but I trust the Accessibility action plan will take on the recommendations suggested within my Bill.”

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## [John McDonnell responds to the IFS Green Budget](#)

### **John**

**McDonnell MP, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor**, responding to the publication of the IFS Green Budget today, which reveals that the Tories are going ahead with £34bn in additional austerity at a time when the NHS is in crisis following the slowest growth in health spending since the 1950s, said:

“This report from the IFS is damning of the seven wasted years of Tory economic failure. Rather than learning the lessons of his predecessor, Philip Hammond is pursuing an austerity agenda that will make matters in our NHS and social care system even worse.

“The Chancellor who has been at the heart of government since 2010 must take his share of responsibility, especially as the IFS is now cutting growth forecasts with the national debt at its highest as a fraction of national income since England won the World Cup, and with the tax burden at its highest in thirty years.

"The fact the NHS is seeing its slowest growth in funding since the 1950s proves you cannot trust the Tories with our health service. And the social care crisis is only set to get even worse as the Tories refuse to provide the funding needed, continuing to let elderly people in our communities down.

"Rather than going ahead with £34 billion of austerity while our public services are already stretched, which as the IFS say have under the Tories seen the longest fall in funding on record, it is time for the Chancellor to truly change direction.

"Labour would call for a serious boost to investment, underpinned by our Fiscal Credibility Rule, which would help bring an end to a Tory economy rigged against working people; sort out the public finances; and get the national debt under control."

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## **The measures announced so far in Theresa May's long-promised housing white paper are feeble beyond belief – Healey**

Commenting on further detail on the content of the government's white paper on housing, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Housing John Healey MP said:

"The measures announced so far in Theresa May's long-promised housing white paper are feeble beyond belief.

"After seven years of failure and a thousand housing announcements, the housing crisis is getting worse not better.

"There are 200,000 fewer home-owners, homelessness has doubled, and affordable house-building has slumped to a 24 year low

"Ministers should be setting out clear plans to deal with these problems, but all Theresa May's Ministers have delivered so far is hot air.

"The government should instead back Labour's plan to fix the housing crisis – thousands more affordable homes to rent and buy, a charter of renters' rights and action to end to rough sleeping homelessness."

ENDS

- The government's announcements on housing to date:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements?keywords=&announcement\\_filter\\_option=all&topics%5B%5D=housing&departments%5B%5D=all&world\\_locations%5B%5D=all&from\\_date=06%2F05%2F2010&to\\_date=](https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements?keywords=&announcement_filter_option=all&topics%5B%5D=housing&departments%5B%5D=all&world_locations%5B%5D=all&from_date=06%2F05%2F2010&to_date=)
  - The government's record:
    - The number of households who own their own home has fallen by 200,000, with the number of under-35 households owning a home down by 344,000.
    - There are over 900,000 more households renting from a private landlord than in 2010 including one in four families with dependent children, but rents have risen faster than incomes.
    - Despite 13 separate cuts to housing benefit, including the bedroom tax, the housing benefit bill is £4bn higher each year in cash terms.
    - There are 143,000 fewer council homes than in 2010, with only one home in every six sold under the right to buy replaced, despite promises of 'one for one' replacement. Measures in the recent housing and planning act are set to mean the loss of 23,503 council houses a year according to the housing charity Shelter.
    - According to the Government-commissioned Local Plan Expert Group it is now taking councils almost a year (306 days) longer to adopt vital local plans for housing than in 2009. Among the main reasons are: "a lack of political will and commitment", "a lack of clarity on key issues", "too many changes... of policy", and "a lack of guidance, support and resources". We've had constant chop and change but no improvement, despite six piece of planning legislation in six years under the Tories.
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## [Barbara Keeley responds to Panorama programme on Mental Health services in the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trusts](#)

Commenting

on the BBC Panorama programme on issues in Mental Health services in the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trusts, **Labour's Shadow Cabinet Member for Mental Health, Barbara Keeley MP said:**

"Despite

years of Tory Government promises, funding for NHS Mental Health services has not increased but has actually fallen by £150 million.

“At the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trust, funding cuts led to frontline community teams being disbanded, loss of experienced staff and the cutting of 136 inpatient psychiatric beds. The Panorama programme showed what can go wrong when patients in crisis cannot be admitted to an inpatient bed.

“It is disturbing that while the Prime Minister and the Health Secretary talk about transforming mental health services, what families actually saw in Norfolk and Suffolk is an absence of support and no beds available during a crisis. It is time for action from Tory Ministers, not warm words which fail patients and their families.”