

[This country needs a radical and transformative industrial strategy – Long-Bailey](#)

Rebecca

Long-Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,

commenting on falling productivity in the UK, said:

"Our capacity to raise long run living standards seems to be going backwards.

"Productivity growth has been the basis of rises in living standards over the last two hundred years. Yet for each hour of work we put in today, we get less out than we did ten years ago. Further, productivity was 15.1 per cent below the average for the rest of the G7 in 2016.

"This country needs a radical and transformative industrial strategy. The only party that can deliver this is Labour."

[It will be crucial to scrutinise any exemptions to the ivory trade ban being proposed – Sue Hayman MP](#)

Sue Hayman MP, Labour's

Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, commenting on

the proposed ban on ivory sales, said:

"A total ban on trading ivory is long overdue.

"Finally, Environment Secretary Michael Gove has followed Labour's lead on this issue.

"But, given the Conservative Party's failure to include this policy in their manifesto and their notoriously poor record on animal welfare, it will be crucial to scrutinise any exemptions to the trade ban being proposed and to ensure these

proposals are comprehensive and followed through.”

[Theresa May announces £15 billion in uncosted spending commitments – John McDonnell](#)

John McDonnell MP, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor, responding to Theresa May’s speech today at Conservative Party conference, said:

“By the time the current leader of the Conservative Party eventually finished speaking, she had a total of £15 billion in spending commitments just in this Parliament without a single reference to how the money will be found to pay for them. The Tory magical money tree returns.”

[Anneliese Dodds commenting on the European Commission’s proposals for reform of the EU VAT system](#)

Anneliese

Dodds MP, Labour’s Shadow Treasury Minister,

responding to the European Commission’s proposals for reform of the EU VAT system, said:

“Over €50bn of VAT is lost every year through VAT fraud across Europe and the announcement from the European Commission is a welcome step forward to make sure Britain receives the tax it is due from trading across the continent. The reforms will also make it cheaper and easier than ever for British firms to trade around Europe by using a one stop shop so that each company will not need to comply with 28 different VAT regimes.

“The UK Government must support these reforms in the European Council and ensure that British businesses can continue to benefit from them after we

leave the EU. We need more clarity from the Tories on how they intend to maintain the ease of access to the European market that we have now, while keeping compliance costs low. “

The burning injustice that remains in mental health is that underfunding means services are failing too many people – Barbara Keeley

Barbara Keeley MP, Labour’s Shadow Cabinet Minister for Mental Health, commenting on mental health announcements in Theresa May’s Speech to the Conservative Party Conference, said:

“The burning injustice that remains in mental health is that underfunding means services are failing too many people.

“An independent review of the Mental Health Act is long overdue and to be welcomed but, far from being better funded than ever before, more than a quarter of CCGs have under-spent their mental health budgets for 2016/17.

“A Labour Government would invest more money in mental health and ring-fence budgets so that money for mental health reaches the front line rather than being siphoned off for other priorities.”