

[Bailout of East Coast rail is undoubtedly good news for the pay packet of Richard Branson – Andy McDonald](#)

Andy McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, responding to Richard Branson's comments defending the Government for the bailout of Virgin's East Coast Rail franchise, said:

"The bailout of the East Coast rail franchise is undoubtedly good news for the pay packet of Richard Branson, but not for taxpayers and passengers who have been short-changed by up to £2 billion.

"This bailout is yet another example of the Tories defending profiteering train companies and the rich elite at the expense of the British public who pay for and use our rail services."

[It's concerning that the sales of new cars are falling – Long-Bailey](#)

Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Business Secretary, commenting on the fall in new car sales for the first time in six years, said:

"The Government's mismanagement of the economy and mishandling of the Brexit negotiations has shaken consumer and business confidence and it's concerning that the sales of new cars are falling.

"The industry has been warning the Government time and time again and, as has become typical with the Tories, they have failed to listen or take action.

"The British car industry is a vital part of our economy, directly employing up to 170,000 people. Labour's Industrial Strategy will set out a radical programme of investment and genuine partnership between industry and government, to protect vital jobs and build an economy that works for the many, not the few."

Rebecca Long-Bailey comment on Colman's factory closure in Norwich

Rebecca

Long-Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Business Secretary, commenting on the closure of

Colman's mustard factory in Norwich, said:

"The closure of Colman's in Norwich is a blow not only to the workers at Colman's and their families but to the town and region more generally.

"Despite their claims to the contrary, the Government haven't done anywhere near enough to stop this closure.

"This highlights exactly why we need a Labour government with a forward thinking industrial strategy to attract and keep firms in the UK."

Theresa May's boast that the NHS is the best prepared it's ever been has now been entirely discredited – Ashworth

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, responding to today's NHS England stats, said:

"These figures reveal the shocking scale of the crisis in our NHS this winter. Over 75,000 patients have been left languishing in the back of ambulances this winter, something the Government should be deeply ashamed of.

"Labour and clinicians have warned Ministers for months to prepare for this winter, but concerns were casually dismissed out of hand. Theresa May's boast that the NHS is the best prepared it's ever been has now been entirely discredited.

"The truth is we are now approaching the 8th year of desperate underfunding and cuts to our health and social care services by the Tories. We've seen thousands of beds cut from the NHS and the numbers of days lost to delayed

discharge are up by 50% since 2010.

“The NHS is being pushed to the brink under Theresa May and it is patients suffering as a consequence.”

[Jonathan Ashworth response to PM's comments on the NHS](#)

Jonathan

Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, responding to the Prime Minister's comments about the NHS being 'better prepared for this winter', said:

“Yet again Theresa May reveals how entirely out of touch she is. Next, she will be trying to lecture patients that 'nothing has changed' for patients.

“The reality is we see hospitals at full capacity, ambulances backed up, cancelled operations and patients waiting for hours on trolleys.

“Instead of burying her head in the sand, Theresa May needs to explain why she has allowed underfunding and cuts to health and social care to continue. As Tory MP Sarah Wollaston said this morning, the Government needs to get a grip.”

Ends