

# [The prison crisis is a stark example of failure by the Conservative government – Richard Burgon](#)

**Richard Burgon MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Justice**, responding to the latest Ministry of Justice statistics, said:

"The crisis in our prisons is a stark example of failure by the Conservative government. Violence and assaults on staff are now at record levels. This has resulted in a failure to rehabilitate prisoners, meaning the system is failing to keep the public safe.

"We have also seen record numbers of prisoners being released by mistake. With staff over worked and underpaid it is hardly surprising that our prisons are in such a desperate state.

"The public and those who work in our prisons deserve better."

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## [More than half a million pupils are now crammed into supersize classrooms](#)

Labour

today publishes analysis of overcrowding in English primary schools with more than half a million pupils being taught in super-size classes. It reveals:

- **542,679 children are now in super-size classes in primary school, as class-sizes continue to rise**
- **39,000 primary pupils are in classes of over 36 pupils and 16,571 are now in class sizes of at least 40**
- **The mounting pressure on school places is now starting to hit secondary schools, with figures showing an increase in the number of pupils in very large classes in the last year**
- **The South East and North West are the two worst hit areas with latest figures showing over 90,000 primary school pupils in classes over 30**

- The number of infant school children (between the age of 5 and 7 years) in classes over 30 has almost trebled since 2010

#### Commenting

on the figures, Shadow Schools Minister, Mike Kane, said:

“These figures expose seven years of Tory failure in our schools. The number of pupils being taught in super-sized classes is skyrocketing while schools face the first real terms cuts to their budgets in a generation.

“This situation is unsustainable. If the Tories wanted to give every child the education they deserve they would ensure that children were not crammed into super-sized classes.

“A Labour Government would ensure that schools are built where they are needed, and cap class sizes at 30 for all primary school pupils.”

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## [There should be no attempt to reform the immigration system until this report has been published and debated – Abbott](#)

**Diane Abbott MP, Labour’s Shadow Home Secretary** welcomed

the Government’s commissioning of a report on the role of EU nationals in the UK economy and society and said:

“There is far too much heat and not enough light about immigration, so any truly objective and well-informed analysis must be welcome.

“We already know that immigrants, both EU and non-EU, make a huge contribution to the economy and to wider society. They occupy both high-skilled, high-wage jobs and lower-skilled, lower paid ones, adding value across a wide range of economic sectors. They help make the UK more internationally competitive, and sectors with staff shortages, such as the NHS, social care and agriculture, would be in serious difficulty without them.

"The report should be published. There must be no repeat of the buried Home Office reports into international students, or the Saudi funding of terrorism. And there should be no attempt to reform the immigration system until the report has been published and debated."

**Ends**

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## **Labour's objective is tariff free access to the single market – Starmer**

**Keir Starmer MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, speaking at a Labour in the City event this evening, said:**

"Labour's objective is tariff free access to the single market, no new red tape at customs and a deal that works for services as well as goods. It is vital that we retain the benefits of the single market and the customs union. How we achieve that is secondary to the outcome and should be part of the negotiations. We need to be flexible in our approach and not sweep options off the table."

**Ends**

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## **This Tory Government needs to stop burying its head in the sand about the problems in social care – Barbara Keeley**

**Barbara Keeley MP, Labour's Shadow Social Care Minister, commenting on the Government's decision to temporarily suspend HMRC enforcement action and waive historical penalties for sleep-in shifts, said:**

"This announcement does little to help sort out the issue of pay for sleep-in shifts."

"Care providers still face a £400 million bill and care workers still have no idea when they will get the money they have rightfully earned. Delaying enforcement action for a few weeks does nothing to address the issue and is a dangerous and retrograde step that risks undermining the very principle of a statutory minimum wage. If an exemption is granted in this case, it will not be long before other employers start pleading poverty to get out of their duty to properly pay their workforce.

"This Tory Government needs to stop burying its head in the sand about the problems in social care and put the funding of social care on a long-term sustainable footing."