[Paul Nuttall does not stand up for working people – Lavery](#)

Ian Lavery, Labour's Elections and National Campaign Co-ordinator, responding to Paul Nuttall's speech to UKIP Spring Conference, said:

"You cannot trust a word Paul Nuttall says, he'll say anything to try and get elected. His speech today is simply more empty rhetoric from the leader of a failing party that has no answers to the challenges we face.

"Paul Nuttall does not stand up for working people, just as he does not stand up for the people of Stoke. All he wants is to get to Westminster to back the Tories and privatise our NHS. A vote for him is a vote to break up the health service as we know it."

[Labour will support new-tech co-ops to help fight the "Uberisation' of the workplace](#)

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, speaking at the Open 2017: Platform Cooperatives conference at Goldsmiths University in London today, said:

"The discussion of the challenges for the modern world of work posed by the so called 'gig economy' are nothing new. They represent an age-old threat to diminish the hard-won workplace rights, terms and conditions offered by full-time employment.

"However, as technology changes so too does the nature of the threat to job security in the new world of work. That is why it's exciting to see the ideas and the discussions on how we can help build the economy and society of the future that secures sustainable, well paid jobs.

"Rather than running away from innovation and technological advances, we need to see where we can use them to adapt to the challenges they may present to full-time work.

"The power that these changes in technology give us all is the ability to pool our collective talents and skills and produce wealth not just for the benefit of a tiny handful at the top, but for all of us. It can help us mitigate the potential growth in the 'Uberisation' of the workplace.

"Digital technology means there is no longer a convincing reason to allow the wealth of society to be taken by a tiny elite, instead of shared for the many. The old rules about the supposed efficiency of the free market and the private firm are being rewritten right in front of us.

"That's why the next Labour government will be completely committed to fixing our rigged economy and promoting the co-operative ownership of the wealth we produce, doubling the size of the co-operative sector. We'll support the development of platform co-operatives instead of allowing new technologies to be exploited for the benefit of an elite few.

"The new National Investment Bank and network of regional development banks will be tasked with supplying the funding to help support a new generation of co-operatively owned Ubers and Airbnbs."

Ends

Notes to editors:

•   For more on the event please see here for more information:
 https://2017.open.coop

•   Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell MP speaking at the Open 2017: Platform Cooperatives conference at Goldsmiths University in London today announced Labour's support for platform co-operatives by freeing up funding from the National Investment Bank and regional development banks as part of developing a more entrepreneurial state.

•   As part of Labour's plans to help double the size of the co-operative sector in our economy to £70bn National Investment Bank (NIB) and network of regional development banks will be charged with breaking the existing barriers in the UK financial system that see SMEs and co-operatives unable to access the finance they need to prosper.

•   Labour's NIB and the regional development banks will be explicitly mandated to provide funds to co-operative enterprises with innovative businesses models, including those social enterprises whose websites and apps are designed to minimise the costs of connecting producers with consumers in the transport, accommodation, cultural, catering and other important sectors of the British economy.

[The failure to resolve this industrial dispute is bad news for both staff and passengers – Andy McDonald](#)

Andy McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary,
commenting on reports that Aslef members have rejected a deal with Southern rail, said:

"Southern services are abysmal even without strike action, but the failure to resolve this industrial dispute is bad news for both staff and passengers.

"The Government and Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) have failed to guarantee passenger safety or accessibility for disabled passengers who face a
loss of independence with the expansion of Driver-Only Operation services.

 "For the sake of long suffering passengers, all parties need to get back around the negotiation table and thrash out a deal that delivers a safe, reliable and accessible service."

[These further cuts will simply apply more pressure on an already overstretched police service – Diane Abbott](#)

**Diane
Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary**, commenting on Bernard
Hogan-Howe's warning on cuts to the Met's Home Office grant, said:

"When
the most senior officer in the country warns that the Tories' cuts to the police budgets are dangerous, we should all take note. But ministers arrogantly persist in claiming to have protected spending.

"The
substantial reductions to police budgets since 2010 already pose a threat to public safety, now these further cuts will simply apply more pressure on an already overstretched police service.

"Labour
will be pushing ministers keep the promise they made and protect police
spending."

[We need urgent action to tackle the understaffing which is contributing to the Tories' prisons crisis – Yasmin Qureshi](#)

**Yasmin
Qureshi MP, Labour's Shadow Prisons Minister**, commenting on today's National
Offender
Management Service (NOMS) workforce statistics, said:

"It's no
wonder ministers tried to sneak this out during Parliamentary recess.

"It would
appear Liz Truss's flagship recruitment drive is failing and frontline
officers
are still leaving the service.

"We need
urgent action to tackle the understaffing which is contributing to the
Tories'
prisons crisis."