<u>Passengers are being tricked into</u> <u>buying tickets for non-existent</u> <u>services over Christmas – Maskell</u>

Rachael Maskell MP, Labour's Shadow Rail Minister, commenting on a Transport Focus investigation which has found the rail industry is failing to tell passengers in time if their journey will be disrupted, said:

"Not only will passengers suffer the steepest fare hike in five years in January, they are also being tricked into buying tickets for non-existent services over Christmas.

"Train companies should guarantee that passengers who have been mis-sold tickets will be notified immediately and that they will incur no additional cost to transfer onto on the most suitable alternative train.

"Under the Tories, train companies are ripping people off and the solution is a Labour Government that puts people before profit and brings our railways into public ownership."

It's disappointing the Government has refused to extend support packages to those who completed their duties between 2006 and 2011 – Nia Griffith

Nia

Griffith MP, Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to the Government's statement on locally employed staff who worked alongside British forces in Afghanistan, said:

"Afghan

citizens who worked with British forces as interpreters or drivers put themselves

in extreme danger and many continue to face threats and intimidation today.

"It

is hugely disappointing that the Government has refused to extend support packages to those who completed their duties between 2006 and 2011. This arbitrary approach risks letting down those who put their lives on the line in support of our Forces. The Ministry of Defence should re-examine this short-sighted decision as a matter of urgency."

<u>The Government has conceded their</u> plans for EU citizens are unfair and unworkable – Diane Abbott

Diane Abbott

MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, commenting on the Government admitting that the current system for EU citizens applying for permanent residency in the UK is unfit, said:

"Labour

consistently argued that the Government's plans were unfair and unworkable. Now

the government has conceded as much.

"But

a lot of uncertainty remains, which affects both UK citizens living in the EU as well as EU citizens here. The Government needs to give clarity on what it has agreed, and to stick to its word. Labour has always argued for guaranteed rights for UK and EU citizens."

Ends

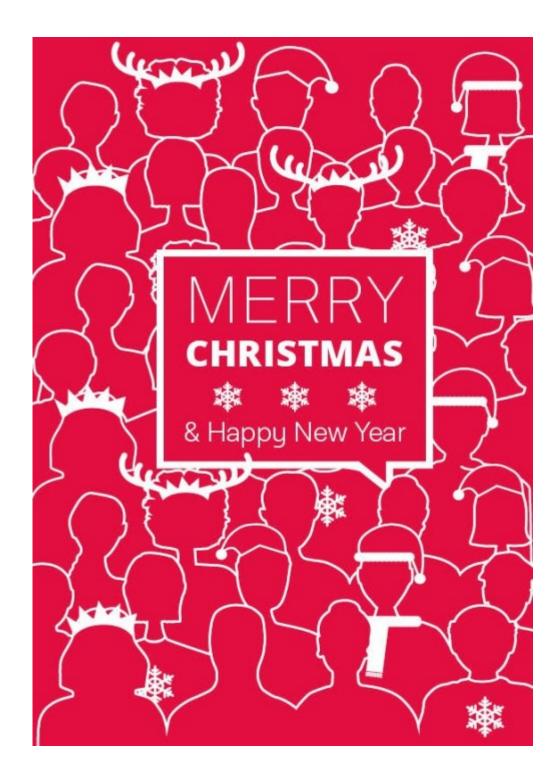
<u>New research shows there are far too</u> <u>many young people gambling in Britain</u> <u>today – Tom Watson</u>

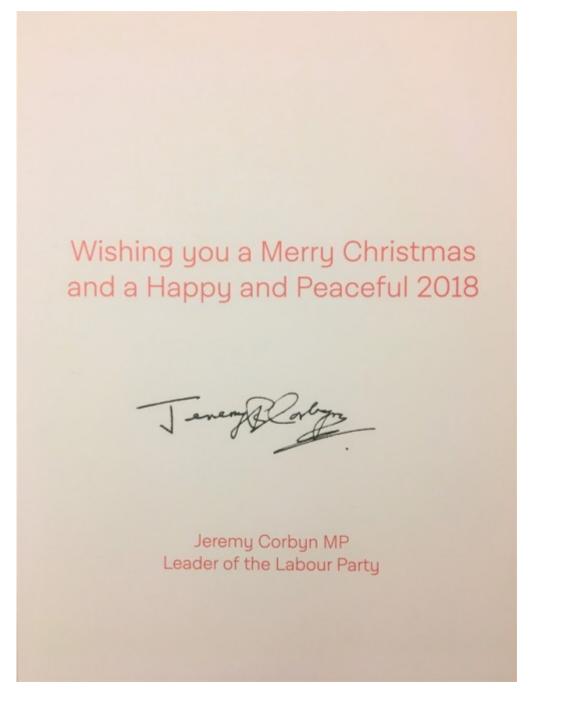
Tom Watson MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, responding to the Gambling Commission's 'Young People and Gambling 2017 Survey', said:

"This new research from the gambling commission shows that there are still far too many young people gambling in Britain today.

"It is worrying that children continue to be bombarded with adverts promoting gambling through TV, online and via social media. 80 per cent of young people say they see gambling adverts on TV each week. "The rise of 'skins' gambling and other forms of gambling online or in games which encourage children to trade-in cosmetic online items for cash, only serve to demonstrate that our gambling laws are woefully out of date. "The next Labour government will bring in a new Gambling Act that ensures our gambling laws are fit for the digital age and finally tackle Britain's hidden gambling epidemic."

Labour Leader sends message of hope and peace for...





Labour Leader sends message of hope and peace for Christmas

Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn is sending out a message of hope and peace in his 2017 Christmas card.

The design echoes the cover of the party's general election manifesto, 'For the Many, not the Few', that helped inspire Labour's biggest increase in vote share since 1945.

The message inside reads: "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2018."

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

"Christmas is a time to reflect on the urgent need to transform our society to eradicate homelessness, loneliness and poverty, and bring about peace around the world.

"This year we defied the pundits and in the snap General Election overturned Theresa May's majority and her mandate, giving hope to millions of people that things can and will change.

"We look forward to 2018 as a government in waiting, ready to take over and serve the interests of the many, not the few."