

## [Next month's budget must address unprecedented workforce crisis in our NHS – Jonathan Ashworth](#)

**Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's**

**Shadow Health Secretary**, responding

to the Health Foundation's warning that NHS workforce planning is 'not fit for purpose', said:

"Theresa May has overseen an unprecedented workforce crisis in the NHS. This latest warning is the culmination of an incompetent strategy, which has left our health service with a shortage of 40,000 nurses, 3,500 midwives and 10,000 GPs.

"For years the Tories have taken NHS staff for granted and asked them to do more for less, resulting in a recruitment and retention crisis which threatens patient care on a daily basis.

Evidently the Government's hope of recruiting 2,000 extra foreign GPs by 2020 looks thoroughly unlikely.

"The public is under no illusions:

a repeat of last winter is entirely intolerable. In next month's Budget the Government must take urgent action to secure a sustainable workforce in our NHS in years to come."

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## [John McDonnell responds to IFS research on public finances ahead of the Budget](#)

**John McDonnell MP,**

**Labour's Shadow Chancellor**, commenting on analysis published today by the IFS on the public

finances ahead of the Budget, said:

"The IFS have today confirmed seven years of Tory austerity policies have failed to drive up investment and productivity, with serious potential consequences for the

public

finances. Tory economic failure means wages and salaries are lower today than when they came to power, and still falling, whilst their mishandling of Brexit

is now also adding to the uncertainty around future borrowing plans.

“Instead of dragging

millions of ordinary people through the endless misery of Tory spending cuts, the Chancellor now needs to make a decisive break with past Tory failure and end austerity. If he cannot, Labour stands ready to govern, end the appalling failure

of Tory austerity and build an economy that works for the many, not the few.”

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## [Jeremy Hunt's remarks bear no resemblance to the reality of our mental health services – Barbara Keeley](#)

**Barbara Keeley**

**MP, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Minister for Mental Health**, commenting on the Government's record on Mental Health, following Jeremy Hunt's appearance on the Andrew Marr show, said:

“Jeremy Hunt's

remarks bear no resemblance to the reality of our mental health services; the Tory Government's record on mental health has been dismal.

“Mental

health nurse numbers have fallen, more than a quarter of CCGs underspent their

mental health budgets for 2016/17 and some children are waiting as long as eighteen months to be treated.

“The

Tories will not be taken seriously on mental health unless they invest more in

services and ring-fence budgets, as Labour pledged to do at the General Election.”

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## **PFI companies are profiting at the expense of our public services – John McDonnell**

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, responding to reports that PRO companies have paid little or no tax, said:

"It has been clear for some time that PFI is an inefficient and opaque system for delivering public services. PFI companies are profiting at the expense of our public services: if they are also avoiding their tax while doing so, the Government must immediately take action to end this scandal by banning shares in PFI companies being bought up by corporations based in tax havens.

"Labour under Jeremy Corbyn will end the PFI racket, bringing existing contracts back in-house, and delivering more money into our public services more accountably, transparently and efficiently."

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## **Conservative-led governments have made it easier for tax avoiders to duck their obligations – John McDonnell**

**John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor**, responding

to the EU investigation into the UK's "controlled foreign company" schemes, said:

"The new EU investigation into the controlled foreign company tax dodge opened up by the Conservatives vindicates Labour's demands for its closure and blows Tory claims to be targeting tax avoidance out of the water.

"Far from clamping down on tax dodgers, Conservative-led governments have made it easier for tax avoiders to duck their obligations to society and not pay their fair share of tax.

"Labour's election manifesto demanded the closure of the controlled foreign company loophole and only Labour will take the tough action needed to end the scourge of tax avoidance and build an economy for the many, not the few."