

The number of people forced to sleep rough on our streets is spiralling – John Healey

John Healey MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, commenting on the latest rough sleeping statistics released today, said:

"It is a national scandal that in England in the 21st century the number of people forced to sleep rough on our streets is spiralling upwards – and this is only the tip of the iceberg.

"These figures are a terrible reminder of the consequences of Conservative Ministers' seven years of failure on housing.

"The number of people sleeping rough fell under Labour but has more than doubled since 2010, and has risen every year under the Conservatives.

"This is a direct result of decisions made by Conservative Ministers: a steep drop in investment for affordable homes, crude cuts to housing benefit, reduced funding for homelessness services, and a refusal to help private renters.

"Ministers' long-promised housing white paper will fall at the first hurdle if it does not set out how they will end the national shame of rough sleeping, as Labour has committed to do."