The true scale of the secret Tory plan for cuts and closures across the NHS has been revealed by the Health Service Journal — Ashworth

Jonathan Ashworth, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary,

responding to leaked reports in the Health Service Journal said:

"With 48 hours to go until

the General Election the true scale of the secret Tory plan for cuts and closures across the NHS has been revealed by the Health Service Journal.

"We now know if the Tories are re-elected on Thursday we'll see hospital wards closed, waiting times growing,

treatments rationed and staff cut.

"The fact that NHS bosses have

described this as the 'most extreme and difficult NHS finance process they had

experienced' and would 'challenge the value basis of the NHS' will make chilling reading for patients and their families who deserve the very best levels of care.

"Every single day the Tories are

in power hospitals are being left to crumble, staff are being let down, waiting

lists are growing and patients are being denied the care they need and deserve.

"Let's be clear: these new, secret

Tory plans will only be stopped by electing a Labour Government on Thursday.

"The NHS cannot survive five

more years of a Tory government. That is why, Labour will pledge to bring the health service back from the brink with a multi-billion pound rescue package. The British people deserve nothing less."

Ends

Notes to editors

'Exclusive:

New national savings drive will 'challenge the values' of NHS leaders' [www.hsj.co.uk/topics/finance-and-efficiency/exclusive-new-national-savings-drive-will-challenge-the-values-of-nhs-

leaders/7018461.article?blocktitle=News&contentID=15303]