

Today's rise in trade deficit shows this country is falling far behind its potential under the Tories – Barry Gardiner

Barry

Gardiner MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, commenting on today's ONS figures, said:

"Today's

rise in the trade deficit shows yet again that after seven years of economic failure under the Tories, this country is falling far behind its potential.

"The

rise in the deficit with non-EU countries is particularly concerning given the failure of this government to offer serious proposals for Britain's trading relationships with the rest of the world, post-Brexit. Tory fantasies about future trade deals are meaningless without delivering the investment and industrial strategy needed in this country for future export success.

"Only

Labour will deliver the investment and industrial strategy needed to create good, secure jobs and build an economy that works for the many, not the few."

This is yet further evidence that you cannot trust a word a Tory Prime Minister says – Peter Dowd

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Dowd MP, Labour's Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, commenting on reports from the NAO that the £200m in Libor fines the Tories pledged to fund apprenticeships with has failed to materialise, said:

"This

is yet further evidence that you cannot trust a word a Tory Prime Minister says. David Cameron made a clear promise in 2015 but today's NAO report has been unable to prove a single promised apprenticeship was in fact created. If

he does intend to deliver on David Cameron's pledge, Philip Hammond must now tell us how the £200m allocated to these specific apprenticeships will be raised and how he intends to meet the growing £3bn blackhole in the nation's finances.

[Accident victims with serious injuries must receive the compensation they deserve – Burgon](#)

Richard Burgon MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary,

commenting on the announcement that the Government will change the way compensation pay-outs are calculated, said:

"This proposal by the Government must be scrutinised very closely.

"Accident victims with serious injuries must receive the compensation they deserve to live their lives to the fullest and there will be real concerns that such victims are set to lose out.

"The Government claims that this move could see motorists benefit from lower car insurance premiums. Ministers must ensure any savings to the motor insurance industry that result from these proposals are passed on to hard-pressed motorists rather than lining the pockets of executives."

[This is a major u-turn on a misguided policy from a Government with no solution to the workforce crisis in the NHS – Madders](#)

Justin Madders MP, Labour's Shadow Health Minister, commenting on news

that the Government have abandoned the sale of NHS Professionals, said:

“This is a major u-turn on a misguided policy from a Government with no solution to the workforce crisis in the NHS. Ministers tried to push through a sale behind closed doors but have been forced to abandon their plans in the face of wide opposition from NHS staff and patients.

“This is an effective and successful public body which saves the taxpayer around £70m a year on the Government’s own estimates, by ensuring hospitals don’t have to rely on expensive private staffing agencies.

“At a time when the Government says it wants to cut back the use of temporary workers it is staggering that proposals for a sale got this far. Ministers have major questions to answer about why they tried to sell off this successful public body and how much money has been wasted in this process which could have been spent on patient care instead.”

[Seven years of Tory failure has left people struggling to afford basic necessities – Dowd](#)

Peter

Dowd MP, Labour’s Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, commenting on TUC research which has revealed one in eight workers skip meals to make ends meet, said:

“This is yet further devastating evidence of the consequences of seven years of the Conservatives’ mismanagement of our economy which has left many people struggling to afford basic necessities.

“While the Conservatives are running an economy rigged for an elite few and failing to tackle tax avoidance, Labour will stand up for the many and put more money in people’s pockets by introducing a £10 an hour Real Living Wage, scrapping the public sector pay cap and reducing household bills by bringing key public services and utilities back into public hands.”