

[Ian Lavery responds to the election of Jo Swinson as Liberal Democrat leader](#)

Ian Lavery MP, Labour Chair, responding to the election of Jo Swinson as new Liberal Democrat leader, said:

“Jo Swinson sat at the top table of the coalition government and voted for vicious attacks on the most vulnerable and tax cuts for the super-rich and big businesses.

“Austerity couldn’t have happened without Liberal Democrats – leading to shocking levels of child poverty, the tripling of tuition fees, a homelessness crisis and rising food bank use.

“Labour is the only party that can stop the Tories, and transform Britain so that it works for the many not the few”

[Unprecedented cuts Conservatives have made to defence since 2010 – Nia Griffith](#)

Nia Griffith MP, Labour’s Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to the Defence Select Committee’s report *‘Shifting the Goalposts? Defence Expenditure and the 2% Pledge: An Update’*, which shows that MoD spending has been cut by 25% since 2010, said:

“It is hypocrisy of the highest order for both candidates for the Conservative leadership to talk of boosting defence spending when they have consistently voted for budgets, which have slashed the MoD’s funds to what they are today.

“This report highlights the severe and unprecedented cuts that the Conservatives have made to defence since 2010. Instead of considering what is necessary for our defence and security needs, Conservative Ministers have delivered crippling austerity which has put unprecedented strain on the men and women of our Armed Forces.

“You cannot do security on the cheap. The next Labour government will ensure that our armed forces are properly equipped and resourced to respond to wide-ranging security challenges.”

[John McDonnell responds to pound falling](#)

John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor, commenting on the pound falling after Tory leadership contenders Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt said they were opposed to the backstop, said:

“The instability and uncertainty caused by the Conservative Party leadership contest have real-world consequences. The commitment of both contenders to a No Deal Brexit makes it even more important the Government put an end to playing games with people’s livelihoods and call a General Election now.”

[Unprecedented cuts Conservatives have made to defence since 2010 – Nia Griffith](#)

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[Tory failure to deliver affordable childcare has left many families out of pocket and out of work](#)

Commenting on the Coram Holiday Childcare Survey, showing that working parents face an £800 bill for summer holiday childcare, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary said:

"This report shows that holiday childcare costs continue to rise year after year under this Tory government. It is clear that they have failed to deliver affordable care for families across the country.

"This failure to provide free or affordable childcare to those who need it has left many parents not just out of pocket but often out of work, as employment just won't pay after the cost of care.

"The next Labour Government will invest in expanded and improved high-quality, affordable childcare, as part of our National Education Service."