

Tory disarray: a government agenda unravelling

Andrew

Gwynne MP, Labour's Campaigns and Elections Chair, commenting on the unravelling of the Tory Budget, said:

"The Tories are in a mess, riven by infighting and failure and disarray.

"They have embarrassed themselves over the Budget, they still have no answers on Brexit and they're fighting between themselves rather than fixing the problems.

"Theresa May says she has a plan and is sticking to it, but almost every day we see another promise broken or another change of heart. Flagship policies are being delayed or abandoned altogether while working people across this country bear the brunt of the Tories' incompetence.

"It is now clearer than ever that Theresa May cannot give Britain the change we need. Working people deserve better than Tory failure – only a Labour Government will stand up for them and their families."

Ends

Rebecca Long-Bailey responds to reports Toyota is to invest £240m in a UK plant at Burnaston

Rebecca Long-Bailey

MP, Labour's Shadow Business Secretary,

commenting on reports that Toyota is to invest in a UK plant at Burnaston, said:

"The

decision by Toyota to invest £240 million to upgrade its Burnaston plant is very welcome news. It is testament to the world-class workforce there whose excellence, hard work, and efficiency makes the UK car industry so strong.

“However, we should not be complacent. As the chief executive of Toyota Motor Europe warned; continued, predictable and uncomplicated tariff and impediment-free access will be important for future success. This is why the Government needs to secure tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market and Customs Union and re-enforce this with a coherent industrial strategy, which invests in the supply chain, R&D, infrastructure and skills. Only by doing this will the Government protect jobs in the UK car industry and ensure the continued success of this sector.”

[This Tory Government needs to recognise the value of the Serious Fraud Office – Nick Thomas-Symonds](#)

Nick

Thomas-Symonds MP, Labour’s Shadow Solicitor-General, commenting on the Government’s failure to guarantee the SFO’s (Serious Fraud Office) future as an independent entity, said:

“This Tory Government needs to recognise the value of the Serious Fraud Office and its importance to our international reputation for tackling cases of bribery and corruption.

“It would be a grave mistake to dispose of the SFO and its unique structure. Ministers must provide clarity on its future immediately.”

[Tory manifesto commitment on mixed sex wards in tatters as incidents rise 50% in a year](#)

Tory

manifesto commitment on mixed sex wards in tatters as incidents rise 50% in a year

Theresa

May has been accused of abandoning yet another Tory Manifesto commitment as new

figures reveal the number of NHS patients in mixed sex wards running 50% higher

than this time last year.

New

figures published by NHS England today show that hospitals breached mixed sex accommodation rules 1750 times during January and February this year –

compared

to 1164 in the same period last year

Mixed

sex accommodation breaches have gone through the roof since Theresa May took over last July – with 5618 in the 8 months since she became Prime Minister, compared with just 4259 in the whole of 2015.

Ending

mixed sex wards was a key pledge of David Cameron's Government in 2010 and the

2015 Conservative Manifesto included a promise to "continue to eliminate mixed

sex wards".

Labour

said today's figures showed that Theresa May's decision to restrain NHS spending was pushing hospitals to the brink.

Jonathan

Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, said:

"Tory

cuts to social care have seen hospital attendances rocket and now it seems Theresa May has given up on her manifesto promise to eliminate mixed sex wards.

Patients expect dignity and respect when they're being treated in hospital but

this Government is letting them down. The Government has overseen a catastrophic collapse of patient standards and this failure on mixed sex wards

is yet another sign that England's hospitals are at breaking point.

"The

Prime Minister needs to get a grip and explain what she is going to do to fix the crisis which she has created. Every day that goes by brings more news of patient care getting worse under this Government. Quite simply the Government's

policy of underfunding and mismanaging the NHS has left hospitals on the brink.”

Ends

Editors notes

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The [Conservative Manifesto 2015](#) (P37) said: “We will ensure that English hospitals and GP surgeries are the safest in the world, places where you are treated with dignity and respect. We will continue to eliminate mixed-sex wards.”

“Mixed sex wards virtually gone.” *Jeremy Hunt, Speech to Conservative Party Conference, 1 October 2013*

<http://www.ukpol.co.uk/jeremy-hunt-2013-conservative-party-conference-speech/>

“The number of hospital-acquired infections continues to go down and *mixed-sex* wards have been virtually eliminated.” *Jeremy Hunt, Hansard, 23 October 2012*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2012-10-23/debates/12102347000022/NHSCost?highlight=mixed%20sex#contribution-12102347000044>

“We said that we would sort out mixed-sex wards and hospital-acquired infections—promise delivered.”

David Cameron, Hansard, 18 March 2015, Column 756

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Mixed sex accommodation breaches available here:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/mixed-sex-accommodation/msa-data/>

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There were 1040 breaches in January and 710 in February – a 50% rise on the combined 1164 for the same two months last year.

We need protection from terrorism, but pointless laws serve no purpose – Diane Abbott

Diane Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, responding to comments from the new independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, said:

"This review is welcome. Max Hill makes some good points on removing laws that are never used. We need protection from terrorism, but pointless laws serve no purpose.

"He also highlights the fact certain communities, in particular Muslims, feel unfairly targeted. This will add to wider concerns around the Government's Prevent strategy, which should also be reviewed."