

Jeremy Corbyn makes frontbench appointments

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, has made the following appointments to Labour's frontbench team:

Shadow Minister for Pensions – Jack Dromey MP

Shadow Minister for Labour – Laura Pidcock MP

Shadow Minister for Planning – Roberta Blackman-Woods MP

Shadow Minister for Social Care and Mental Health – Paula Sherriff MP

Shadow Minister for Buses – Matt Rodda MP

Shadow Minister for the Treasury – Clive Lewis MP

Shadow Minister for the Treasury – Lyn Brown MP

Shadow Minister for Fire – Karen Lee MP

Shadow Minister for International Trade – Judith Cummins MP

Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office – Chris Matheson MP

Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office – Laura Smith MP

Shadow Minister for International Development – Dan Carden MP

Shadow Minister for International Development – Preet Gill MP

On making the appointments, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

“I am pleased to make these appointments to strengthen Labour's frontbench team, which is now a Government in waiting.

“I look forward to working with them in their new roles holding the Government to account, developing policy to transform our country and, with their Shadow Secretary of States, preparing to form a Government that will deliver for the many not the few.”

[Jonathan Ashworth responds to the news that Calais Hospital is advertising for NHS patients](#)

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, responding to the news that Calais Hospital is advertising for NHS patients, said:

"This is very worrying and shows that the NHS clearly isn't 'better prepared' for winter than ever before and that Theresa May really has lost control.

"Under the Tories, 14,000 hospital beds have been cut and we have 100,000 vacancies, which has left services facing unprecedented strains despite the heroic efforts of our brilliant staff.

"Patients deserve more than being forced to cross the Channel for their care."

[The consequences of deep Tory cuts to HMRC risk undermining efforts to tackle tax avoidance – Dowd](#)

Peter Dowd MP, Labour's Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, responding to reports that HMRC is struggling to deal with the growing number of cases of tax avoidance, said:

"The consequences of deep Tory cuts to HMRC are being felt, and risk undermining its efforts to tackle tax avoidance and evasion.

"Labour has consistently said that only a fully resourced and funded HMRC will be able to effectively tackle the scourge of tax evasion and its huge cost to the taxpayer. These latest revelations only further confirm some of our worst fears."

[The plan published today simply fails](#)

to match the scale of the environmental problems we face – Hayman

Sue Hayman MP, Labour's Shadow Environment Secretary, commenting following the PM's speech, said:

"The Government has missed a crucial opportunity to make significant progress on the environment with this insubstantial, weak and long overdue 25 year plan.

"The plan published today simply fails to match the scale of the environmental problems we face. The lack of ambition and concrete measures is a cause for alarm in light of Britain leaving the European Union when the UK will no longer be subject to environmental protections and targets.

"As usual with this Tory government, this provides for very little concrete action. The Prime Minister's speech and the plan itself contain very little new material, mostly repeating and repackaging existing policies and previous announcements."

Today's stats reveal a relentlessly bleak picture for patients – Ashworth

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, responding to the latest NHS performance data,

said:

"Today's stats reveal a relentlessly bleak picture for patients at the start of the NHS's 70th Birthday. Eight years of severe austerity has left our health service woefully underfunded, understaffed and unprepared for the rise in demand as the cold period hits.

"Since the Tories took control of our NHS, there has been a staggering 400% increase in trolley waits and a 234% rise in patients waiting longer than four hours in A&E.

"December's A&E performance is the worst on record, with just 85.1% of patients being seen within four hours. This is a substantial performance decline and raises serious questions as to whether the Government can meet its pledge of meeting the 95% A&E target by their promised deadline of March

2018.

“Over the past few weeks we’ve heard the appalling human stories arising from the worst winter crisis on record. Enough is enough.

“Today NHS Providers has rightly warned that the funding settlement for the NHS is simply inadequate to provide the standards of patient care expected. The Government must listen. Only Labour will put in place a long term plan for the NHS giving it the funding needed for the future.”