

## [This latest report from the PAC shows how the Tories have run a rigged economy – John McDonnell](#)

**John**

**McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor**, commenting on the Public Affairs Committee (PAC)

report on HMRC's tax collection efforts from high net worth individuals, which

shows that the very wealthy are receiving preferential treatment, said:

"This latest report from the PAC shows how the Tories have run a rigged economy

where the super-rich pay less and less in tax while earnings for average working households are still below their level of a decade ago. It's a national

disgrace that the amount lost in tax from a super-rich elite under the Tories would be enough to help end the crisis in social care.

"Labour will call time on the super-rich tax-dodgers and give HMRC the legal and staff resources it needs to close the tax avoidance loopholes and scams. We'll stop the Tories using the excuse of Brexit to turn Britain into a

tax haven off the coast of Europe, and build an economy that leaves no-one and

no community behind."

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## [Over £5million investment for Morryston redevelopment work](#)

Vaughan Gething said:

Some of the oldest parts of the hospital date from the WW2 era and others are over 30 years old. The accommodation to be demolished no longer meets modern building standards and guidance.

This funding is in addition to the £142.539m that has already been funded to improve schemes under the HealthVison Swansea programme at Morryston.

Mr Gething made the announcement on a visit to the Haemostasis Biomedical Research Unit on the site.

£5.11 million will be used to demolish obsolete buildings on the site,

develop a new on-site crèche and provide new IT infrastructure at the hospital.

“This investment is part of wider modernisation plans for Morriston; it will make the site safer and create space for future healthcare developments as Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board plan for the future of healthcare on the site.”

Sian Harrop-Griffiths, Director of Strategy at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board said:

“We are extremely pleased that Welsh Government has provided funding to support the next phase of the development of the Morriston Hospital site. This funding will enable the demolition of a large number of outdated buildings now that the services previously provided from there have been relocated in modern, fit for purpose accommodation on site.

“This will also enable space to be made available for some temporary car parking whilst the design and development of a new multi-storey car park on the site are being undertaken, and plans for this are well advanced.”

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## [It is beyond belief that our Prime Minister is bartering away our health service in her desperation for post-Brexit trade deals – Ashworth](#)

**Jonathan**

**Ashworth, Labour’s Shadow Health Secretary**, commenting on reports that the Prime Minister has refused to exclude health services from a possible trade deal with the US, said:

“It is beyond belief that our Prime Minister is bartering away our health service in her desperation for post-Brexit trade deals. Labour is committed to the NHS both free at the point of use and free at the point of delivery. Theresa May has presided over the worst winter for the NHS in years and she must not now

be allowed to sell off the NHS to big US healthcare corporations.

"Labour will oppose any attempt to sell off our health service. The Prime Minister needs to urgently confirm that a rushed trade deal with President Trump will not be a Trojan horse for NHS privatisation. The British people did not vote for Theresa May to use our NHS as a bargaining chip with Donald Trump."

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## [News story: Defence Secretary marks Australia Day](#)

The UK and Australia share an important Defence relationship, Sir Michael said as he addressed guests at an Australia Day reception at the Australian High Commission in London.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

The bonds that bind Britain and Australia are deeper than those of any alliance of necessity or pact of mutual interest; we are family.

A century ago we fought shoulder-to-shoulder at the Battle of Passchendaele. In the present time our bond is ever more relevant as we fight modern evils; flying wing-tip to wing-tip in Iraq and Syria to hit Daesh hard, training the Afghan Army in Kabul together and sharing crucial intelligence – all things that make us both safer and more secure at home.

But our bonds are those of mutual prosperity too. Backed by a rising Defence budget, Britain will also continue to open up new possibilities in trade and innovation with Australia as the UK steps up as Global Britain.

Later this year the Defence Secretary will attend the annual Australia-UK Ministerial Meeting, to discuss foreign, defence and security policy, alongside the Foreign Secretary and their Australian counterparts.

In future, the UK will take part in a variety of joint operations and Defence Engagement with Australia. In 2018 a Royal Navy frigate will visit the Asia Pacific and participate in an annual Five Power Defence Arrangements Exercise.

Australia will also host the 2018 Invictus Games for wounded, injured and sick military personnel and veterans, in Sydney.

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## News story: Defence Secretary marks Australia Day

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