

# We need concrete measures now to improve mental health and restore safety in our prisons – Yasmin Qureshi

**Labour's Shadow Justice Minister, Yasmin Qureshi MP**, responding to The Royal College of Psychiatrists' warning that psychiatric care in prisons is at breaking point, **said:**

"Prison suicides in 2016 were at the highest level ever recorded. Incidents of self-harm are also on the increase. This is hardly surprising given that the psychiatrists who work in prisons feel unable to do their job. Poor mental health, combined with a lack of prison staff, is endangering inmates, officers, and healthcare professionals. Friday's fire at Guys Marsh attests to the acute nature of the crisis.

"The Justice Secretary must recognise that there is nothing in the Prisons and Courts Bill to deal with this worsening situation. We need concrete measures now to improve mental health and restore safety in our prisons."