



In 2019 my constituency priority is the NHS

A Bleak Week

This week Honda announced it's to close its Swindon car plant, following on Nissan cancelling investment in the North East and Jaguar Land Rover cutting jobs in the West Midlands. And this week we will be voting again on Brexit. The most immediate concern is to ensure that we do not have the disaster of a No Deal Brexit on March 29th. Also this week 8 Labour MPs left the Party and now sit as independents. I'm saddened that they felt they had to leave. I agree with Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell that the Party needs to engage in a "mammoth listening exercise" and with Deputy Leader Tom Watson that time is short for Labour to acknowledge the scale of the problem of anti-Semitism and to confront it but that those who've left have drawn the wrong conclusion to a serious question. Labour only succeeds when it is a broad church and we should all stick with the party and strive for that.

End the cruelty of indefinite detention

The decision to detain an immigrant is made behind closed doors by the Home Office. And detention can be indefinite. With no independence, scrutiny or accountability mistakes get made - as we saw with terrible consequences in the Windrush cases. So it is vital lessons are learned and the [Windrush injustices](#) are not inflicted on any of the 3m EU nationals who are now to be subject to our immigration laws. The [Joint Committee on Human Rights](#) which I chair, is seeking to amend the new Immigration Bill to make the detention decision independent of the home office and to limit detention to 28 days. [Watch my speech](#).



Backing #SaveOurNurseries campaign

Nurseries are vital for a child's development, especially if families are in a small flat, for disabled children and to enable parents, particularly mums, to train and work. On 5th February I presented petitions from 250 parents & teachers at The Grove Nursery, Ann Bernadt & Nell Gwynn nurseries in the House of Commons as part of a [National Day of Action to oppose Tory nursery funding cuts](#), organised by Lucy Powell MP & the APPG on Nurseries.



Opposing cuts to local midwives

King's Community Midwives are a wonderful service, highly valued by people in Camberwell & Peckham & invaluable to the safety of new babies & mothers. [I've written to King's College Hospital Chief Executive](#), Peter Herring, to oppose the proposal to cut 24 posts from the midwife team.



Heating & Hot Water Issues Aylesbury Estate

100s of residents on the Aylesbury Estate have been subject to repeated loss of heating and hot water. Cllrs Lauder, Fleming & Buck have been working with Cllr Stef Cryan, Southwark Housing lead, to get the services restored and compensation paid for the cost and inconvenience. I'm working with them and the T&RAs on this. There is also a problem on Barset, Brimington, Brandon and Wyndham & Comber estates. It's intolerable in the 21st century to be without basic services and is a particular problem for the elderly, families with young children and those on low incomes.



At last Parliament has #babyleave!

So pleased that on 28th January MPs agreed to introduce [proxy voting](#) for Members who've had a baby or adopted a child. And that the very next day [Tulip Siddiq became the first MP to vote by proxy](#)—at home with her lovely new son Gabriel!

Threats to MPs are a threat to democracy

Once constituents have elected an MP to work for them, that MP must be able to do so without threat or hindrance—it is a democratic imperative that MPs are safe and available to the public. The Police, Crown Prosecution Service and Parliament all urgently need to sort their response to the rising death threats and abuse MPs are reporting [after Brexit](#). Parliament's Human Rights Committee, which I chair, is conducting an [inquiry](#) into how we balance the right to free speech and protest, and the right of MPs to get on with their job for constituents. [We've heard first-hand evidence](#) from John Cryer, Chair of the PLP; Graham Brady, Chair of the 1922 Committee; Vicky Ford and Julie Elliott, Chair and Vice Chair of Parliament's Women's Caucus and Lisa Cameron MP. They told us some MPs have been bullied into changing how they vote, others forced to move house. We're calling on Twitter and [Facebook to give evidence](#) as many of the threats and intimidation are mobilised online. Our committee will shortly be making robust proposals for wide-ranging action.

Protecting children whose mothers are in Prison

Most children with a dad in prison can stay at home with their mother, but only 5% of children whose mums go to prison stay in the family home. The Human Rights Committee is [hearing heart-breaking evidence from mums who've been in prison](#), often for non-violent offences, and from the children separated from their mothers, on the impact and disruption going into care, or moving home and school has had on their lives. [Our committee will shortly be reporting and making recommendations](#) to the Government about how we make sure that fewer mothers go to prison and the courts properly take children into account when sentencing.

Go Fizz Free for February!



Great to welcome Southwark Council's [#FizzFreeFeb](#) launch to Parliament on 29th January. Vital campaign to tackle child obesity and improve health. Thanks to Southwark Cabinet Member for Public Health, Cllr Evelyn Akoto for leading on this!

Old Kent Road Campaigning

Great turn out for a chilly Old Kent Road campaigning session on 9th February! Lots of concern about Brexit from residents and lots of support for local councillors Evelyn Akoto, Michael Situ and Richard Livingstone. Thanks to everyone who came out.



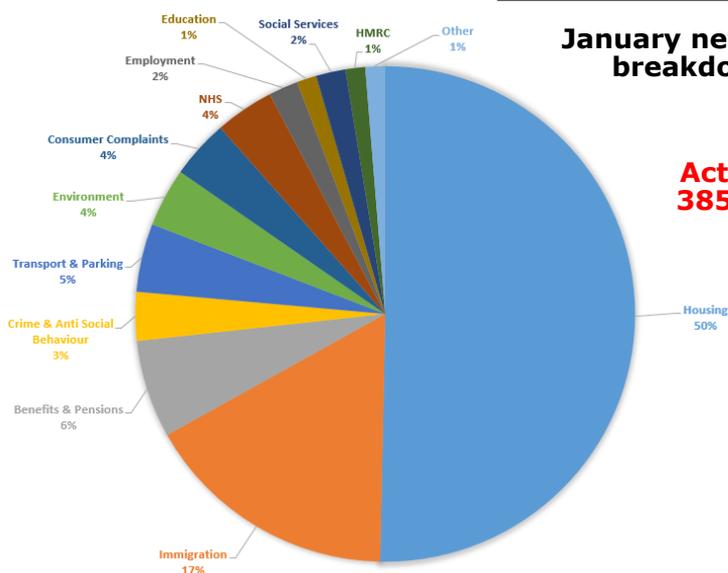
Congrats to new CLP Chair Izzie Niven



Great to catch up with Izzie and CLP Secretary Dave Lewis last Week!

January new case breakdown

Action on 385 cases



Policy issues update

In January **1,046** Camberwell & Peckham residents wrote to me about policy issues. The top 3 concerns raised were:

1. Vote against Theresa May's Brexit deal.
 2. Hold government to account to make sure no one is left worse off after Universal Credit.
 3. [Sign Early Day Motion 1829 to ban trophy hunting imports](#)—I've added my name in support.
- Read more about my position on policy issues & letters to Ministers on my [website](#).

Helping constituents with their problems

A Camberwell woman with cancer contacted me because she was made homeless after the council repossessed her landlord's flat while she was in hospital following complications post-surgery. Unbeknownst to her the flat had been illegally sublet. I urgently contacted Cllr Steph Cryan and my constituent was placed in emergency accommodation within 2 hours.

A Windrush Generation pensioner who submitted her first British passport application contacted me as she needed to travel to the US to visit her dying mother and she wanted her application expedited. I made urgent enquiries with HM Passport Office and her passport was issued in 48 hours. Her mother passed away before she could fly out but she was able to attend the funeral.

An asylum seeker from Camberwell, originally from Guinea, came to see me with her foster carer in January 2019 as she was at risk of becoming homeless and losing her job, unless UKVI issued her indefinite leave to remain before her 25th birthday in February. I wrote to UKVI and her indefinite leave to remain was issued shortly afterwards.

A Brimington Estate resident contacted me concerning an abandoned caravan that had been blocking a much needed parking space for 2½ years and had not been removed despite numerous requests to the council. I contacted the council and it was removed shortly afterwards. (14 days).



Contact
Harriet

Post
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Email
harmanh@parliament.uk
Online
www.harrietharman.org

Phone
0207 219
4218



@HarrietHarman

