

**Rt Hon Harriet Harman KC MP**  
Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham  
Mother of the House of Commons

# **Parliamentary Annual Report 2022/2023**

**August 2023**



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## Introduction

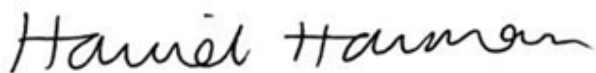
This year has, for me been dominated by:

- The continued struggles of my constituents to cope in the cost of living crisis
- The mounting pressure on public services particularly the NHS, schools and the council
- The serious lack of housing for local people
- Chairing the parliamentary inquiry into Boris Johnson misleading parliament over parties held in Downing Street during Covid lockdowns
- The diminishing confidence in the Metropolitan police in the face of allegations of misconduct

I have continued, with my dedicated team to help thousands of constituents with their problems.

I continue to work closely with:

- Southwark Councillors
- Southwark MPs, the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and Greater London Assembly member Marina Ahmad
- Local agencies, food banks and charities
- Tenants and Residents Associations and other community groups



## Helping constituents with their problems

A major part of my work as MP for Camberwell and Peckham is helping constituents with a wide range of problems and there has been a dramatic increase in my casework.

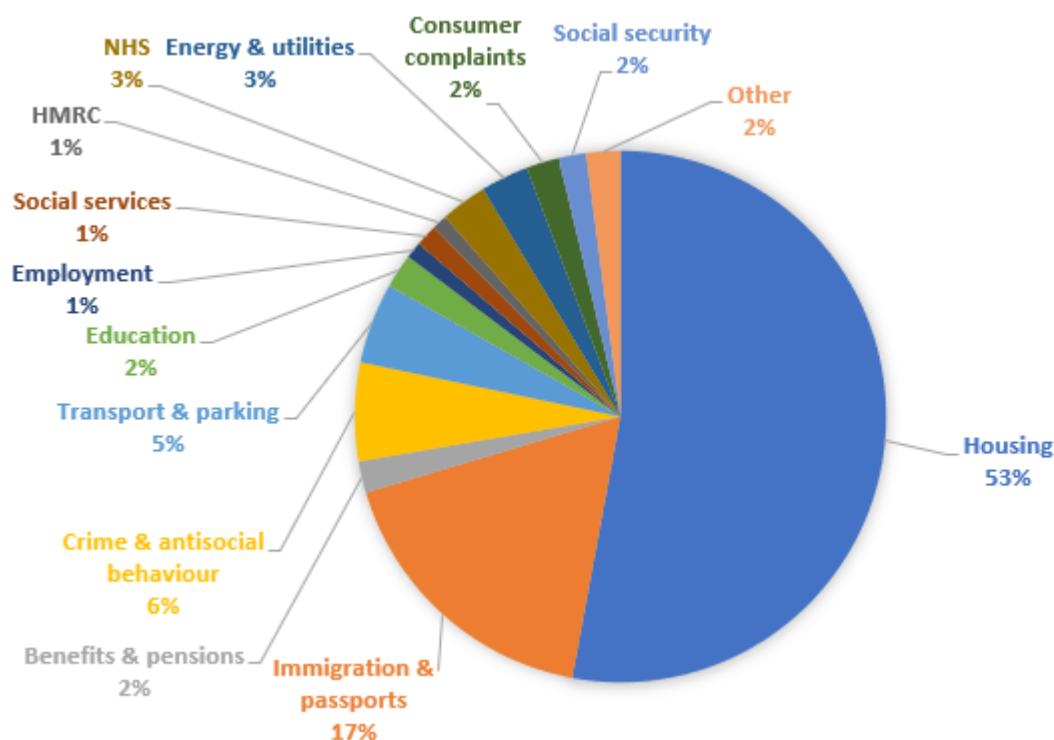
Between January 2022 and June 2023, I have, with my small but dedicated team, actioned **11,683** cases on behalf of people in Camberwell and Peckham.

In the first six months of 2023 I took action on **4,470** cases, a **35% increase** on the same six month period in 2022.

## Casework Issues

People seek my help for many different reasons including housing problems, immigration and visa problems and getting the benefits they're entitled to:

## Casework issues by category July 2022 to June 2023



Often, I am able to cut through red tape, challenge an injustice and make progress for a constituent. Here are some examples of people I've helped this year:

### Housing problems

- A Peckham man contacted me to ask for assistance after Southwark Council had made his kitchen unusable during repair work. The Council contractors had visited his property to try and fix his boiler but had disconnected his cooker and dismantled his kitchen cabinets in the process. I urgently asked the Council to carry out the necessary repairs as soon as possible. The Council confirmed that following my contact they had fixed the boiler and cabinets and reconnected his cooker and have paid my constituent £210 for the inconvenience.
- A single mother with two young children from Camberwell asked for my help because there had been black mould in their flat for over three years, causing serious physical and mental health problems for her and her young family. Peabody, her landlord had not responded to her request for help and she asked me for my assistance to move to a new property. I urgently wrote to Peabody Housing on her behalf asking for a full report and requesting that the family be moved to suitable alternative property. The family have now been rehoused.
- A woman in Peckham contacted me because she had no heating and water for six months. She had had problems with her boiler and whilst waiting for it to be fixed she had spent a great deal on electric heating. I wrote to Southwark Council to ask that contractors carry out the necessary repairs as soon as possible. Southwark Council contacted me to confirm that the repairs had been completed and that my constituent would be compensated £255.
- A woman from Camberwell contacted me because she had no heating or hot water in her property. The lack of heating had contributed to significant damp

and mould, particularly around the bedroom windows and it had started to affect the health of her family. I wrote to Southwark council to ask that contractors arrange for the heating and hot water to be fixed as a matter of urgency. The council subsequently contacted me to confirm that the repairs had been completed and that my constituent had been compensated £142.

- A Peckham resident wrote to tell me that she had filed a complaint against her landlord, Hexagon Housing Association, about the lack of heating and hot water at her property. The response to her complaint was overdue and I wrote to Hexagon to ask that the heating and hot water be restored as soon as possible. Hexagon replied stating that they had identified a fault in her boiler and confirmed that this had now been repaired and the tenant would be compensated. I shared this response with my constituent who confirmed that she has been compensated £910 by Hexagon.
- A Council tenant contact me after contractors employed by Southwark Council accidentally broke her toilet which then flooded her bathroom. This initial issue had been resolved but during the repairs process the contractors had failed to turn up for two scheduled appointments which my constituent had missed work for. She had raised this directly with the Council but had not received a satisfactory response and had not been compensated for the work that she had missed. I raised this with Southwark Council who responded stating that my constituent would be awarded £50 for each missed appointment.
- A woman from Peckham contacted me for assistance with her Southwark Council housing bidding account. The account had been suspended without notice, preventing her from bidding for a property, and she had been unable to resolve it with the Council. I wrote to Southwark Council to ask for a full report. The Council told me that my constituent's original account had been created when she had applied via the homelessness route due to her lease expiring. However, as the constituent had been able to negotiate a new lease on her property, the Council discharged the homelessness duty and a new housing application was made for rehousing my constituent as a private rented tenant, which is why the previous bidding account had been suspended. The Council have confirmed my constituent's new bidding number under the new application and she is now able to resume bidding. The Council have contacted her directly to explain the situation.
- A woman from Peckham contacted me regarding outstanding repairs at her property caused by a leak from the flat above in 2018. The leak had caused damage to the bathroom ceiling and the interior of the property, resulting in persistent damp and mould for the last five years. I urgently wrote to Hexagon Housing Association to ask that contractors carry out the necessary repairs as soon as possible. Hexagon contacted me to confirm that the repairs would be carried out urgently and that my constituent would be compensated £1,650.
- A Southwark Council tenant who was diagnosed with schizophrenia over 10 years ago wrote to me as he had recently learnt that he should be exempt from Council Tax payments due to his diagnosis but up until now he had been paying the full rate. He asked me to contact the Council to register his entitlement to a Severely Mentally Impaired exemption and to request that he be refunded for the previous payments that he had made in error. I wrote to Southwark Council on his behalf to ask them to confirm that he qualified for an exemption and to



reimburse him. The Council responded with confirmation that the constituent has been granted an exemption and they have credited him with an initial £566.88 on his account whilst they calculate the total reimbursement he is entitled to. I shared this response with my constituent, who confirmed that the Council had also contacted him to notify him of the change in his Council Tax status and the repayment he was entitled to.

- A single mother from Peckham Rye asked for my assistance with her housing situation. She and her teenage daughter were housed by Southwark Council in overcrowded accommodation that did not suit their needs and as a result her daughter's mental health was deteriorating, leading to suicidal thoughts. My constituent was bidding on band 3 and was finding it hard to place a successful bid so I wrote urgently to Southwark Council on her behalf and also raised the issue with the Southwark Council Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Refugees to ensure that my constituent's daughter was receiving the support she needed. I received a swift response confirming that the council were in touch with my constituent and her daughter was being given the appropriate mental health treatment. The family have now been moved to band 2 and my constituent's final position in the last bidding cycle was 2nd, meaning she should secure alternative suitable accommodation very soon.
- A man living in East Dulwich contacted me for assistance with his housing because his mother had recently had a stroke and their Southwark Council housing was no longer suitable for her. They had submitted the relevant medical documentation but their access to bidding had been paused while this was reviewed, which was taking longer than anticipated. I wrote to Southwark Council on their behalf to ask for a report into what support was available to this family and when they could expect their bidding to be reinstated. I received a response from the Council which confirmed that their bidding had been reinstated and as a result they had been able to place a successful bid for a suitable property in Bermondsey.
- A Camberwell woman wrote to me because she, her husband, and their 4 children had recently been relocated to temporary accommodation in Romford by Southwark Council. She raised concerns about the time it now takes for her children to travel to school and for her to travel to work in South London. Her husband, an imam, was also struggling to effectively meet the responsibilities at his mosque due to the distance. I wrote to Southwark Council to ask whether they could relocate my constituent and her family back to Camberwell or to nearby as soon as possible. The temporary accommodation team at Southwark offered the family a three-bedroom flat near East Street, which they have accepted.
- A single mother from Peckham contacted me because she and her new-born baby had been moved to temporary Council accommodation outside Southwark. This was far from the university where she is doing a teacher training course and far from her family and support system. I wrote to Southwark Council on her behalf to ask them to consider permanently rehousing her back in Southwark. As a result she has been offered suitable temporary accommodation in Southwark while awaiting an offer of permanent housing.

## **Immigration and visa problems**

- A Camberwell man originally from Australia asked for my help because he had lost his Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). He had applied for a replacement but had not yet received it from the Home Office and because he is in the UK on a Youth Mobility Visa he needed his card in order to work. I contacted the Home Office to ask for a replacement and the Home Office confirmed that following my contact a new BRP had been issued.
- I was contacted by a Camberwell constituent originally from Bolivia regarding an outstanding naturalisation certificate for her son which had been approved by the Home Office in September 2020 but had not been received. The family urgently needed to travel to Bolivia to visit her elderly and unwell parents but she couldn't apply for a passport for her son without his naturalization certificate. I urgently wrote to the Home Office to ask for an update on the progress of the naturalisation application. Following my inquiry the Home Office said that the certificate had been issued. My constituent confirmed she had received the certificate and that she has now been able to apply for a passport for her son.
- I was contacted by a Camberwell woman who asked for my help getting a refund from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). She had applied for a graduate visa and paid her Immigration Health Surcharge in November 2022, but after submitting the application realised she had made an error on her form. She quickly withdrew it and submitted a new application, but this meant she had made two separate application payments of £1,963. Upon withdrawal of the incorrect application UKVI told her that she would receive a refund within 28 days, but several months later she had still not received this. I wrote to UKVI to ask when my constituent would receive the refund. UKVI replied to tell me that the refund had now been processed. I shared this with my constituent who confirmed that she had now received the £1,963 refund.
- I was contacted by a constituent from the Philippines living in Walworth who was concerned that, 8 weeks after his new-born baby's biometrics appointment, he had yet to receive a response from the Home Office about his baby's Leave to Remain visa. My constituent needed to urgently travel back to the Philippines to see his mother, who is unwell and undergoing medical treatment, but was unable to do so until his baby received his visa. I urgently wrote to the Home Office to ask for a report and for clarification on when a decision was likely to be made. The Home Office replied confirming that my constituent's son's visa had been granted.
- A Liberian woman living in Walworth contacted me to ask for my help to resolve a problem with her and her son's immigration documents, which due to a Home Office error, had incorrect information about the conditions of their stay. Her status letter from the Home Office said that she was entitled to receive public funds, however her Biometric Resident Permit (BRP) said that she was not. This affected the financial support that she was able to access from Southwark Council. I wrote to the Home Office on her behalf to ask for the discrepancy between the documents to be corrected. As a result, the Home Office apologised for their error and confirmed that she was granted recourse to public funds. My constituent and her son have now been issued new BRP cards which reflect the correct conditions.

- I was contacted by a nurse working at King's College Hospital who had applied to extend his Worker Visa in June 2022 but had not yet received a decision. I wrote to UK Visas and Immigration on his behalf to request an update on the progress of his application. In response UKVI told me that his visa had been extended until September 2025 and his Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) had been issued. I shared this response with him who confirmed that he had received his BRP.
- An Egyptian woman from Camberwell with a European partner contacted me to ask for help as she had submitted a European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS) application in February 2022 but had not yet received a response from the Home Office. The woman urgently needed a decision on her application so that she could travel to Egypt to see her parents who are unwell. I quickly wrote to UK Visas and Immigration to ask that this case be expedited and received a response 6 days later confirming that a decision had been made on the constituent's application and that she would be notified. I shared this with her and she confirmed that she had received a positive decision and as a result she will now be able to travel to see her family for the first time in nine years.
- I was contacted by a man from Peckham following the unexpected death of his sister, asking for my help to enable his niece, who lives in Ghana, to travel to the UK for her mother's funeral. His niece had previously submitted an application for a visitor visa but the Home Office's Super Priority Service was not available when the application was made and so she was not going to receive the visa in time. I urgently wrote to the Home Office to ask for a report into the process of her application and to request that the application be expedited on compassionate grounds. After following up with the Home Office I was informed that the application had been expedited and that the family had been informed of the positive outcome. I shared this update with my constituent who confirmed that his niece had been granted a visit visa and would be able to attend her mother's funeral as a result.
- A Nunhead man requested my help with his wife's outstanding spousal visa application. He, his wife and their two children were in Ghana. His wife is pregnant and needed to see her midwife in the UK but she was unable to leave Ghana with him and their two children due to the delays in getting her visa. His wife's previous UK visa had expired earlier this year and she had submitted a spousal visa application in April 2022. Despite paying for the priority service the family had not received a decision on the application within the standard service time. I urgently wrote to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to ask for a report on the progress of the visa application and to find out how soon a decision would be made. My constituent's wife has now received her spousal visa.
- A woman from Denmark Hill asked for my assistance with her husband's immigration. Her husband, who was in Mauritius, was granted an entry clearance visa by the Home Office but when checking the documentation he noticed that his wife's surname had been spelt incorrectly on the visa. Following advice from a solicitor and from the Home Office, her husband's passport was returned to the Home Office to correct the error on the visa, yet after several weeks the passport had still not been returned to him and his visa hadn't been corrected. I wrote to the Home Office to ask them to clarify when her husband could expect his visa to be corrected and his documents returned to him. My



constituent's husband has now received his amended visa and had his passport returned.

- I was contacted by a constituent who had sponsored a successful Homes for Ukraine application for a Ukrainian woman earlier this year, but she had not received her Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) due to an administrative error. The constituent told me that his Ukrainian guest had been told by the Job Centre that her Universal Credit payments may be stopped if she was unable to provide a copy of her BRP. I urgently contacted the Home Office to ask when the individual could expect to receive her Biometric Residence Permit and received a response saying that it had now been produced and would be delivered soon. This response was shared with my constituent who confirmed that the BRP had been delivered and that her Universal Credit payments have not been affected and she is able to start looking for work.

### **Issues accessing benefits**

- I was contacted by a Peckham man who asked for my help with his Personal Independence Payment (PIP). His claim had been approved in September 2021 but he hadn't received it because the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) used the money to pay back a previous overpayment. The constituent had already been paying back the debt in instalments so I wrote to the DWP on his behalf to ask if he could receive the PIP that he was entitled to and continue repaying his debt in instalments. The DWP agreed to refund the full amount of the underpayment of £2,373.61 and for my constituent to continue his instalment repayments.
- I was contacted by a Peckham woman who had applied for Pension Credit from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in March 2022 but had yet to receive an outcome. She explained that she followed up via telephone in November 2022 and was told that they needed to provide further documentation, which she then sent but she still did not receive an outcome. I wrote to the DWP on her behalf and as a result she been awarded Pension Credit and the DWP will backdate her payments to March 2022, amounting to £10,020.
- A constituent from Peckham contacted me about problems he had with an application to his local Job Centre for a laptop while he was on a course funded by the Restart Scheme. Peckham Job Centre had written to tell him that he was not eligible for the funding but they provided him with no explanation. I wrote to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) asking why the application had been rejected. The DWP explained that Restart are an organisation contracted to support claimants, and so all funding requests need to be made to them rather than through the Job Centre. The DWP acknowledged that they had failed to direct my constituent back to Restart or inform him of any further support that was available to him. A Special Payment of £50 was issued to apologise for the distress and inconvenience that my constituent experienced.

### **Victims of crime and anti-social behaviour**

- I was contacted by two Peckham Rye constituents about the increase in crime and antisocial behaviour in their neighbourhood, including personal robberies and threats of violence. I wrote directly to Southwark Met Police Borough

Commander Seb Adjei-Addoh and he responded that he would be increasing foot patrols in the area and special units to help deal with this. The police invited my constituents to attend a "walk and talk" with them to highlight any particular areas of concern.

- A constituent contacted me to share his concerns about recurring criminal and anti-social behaviour taking place on Havil Street in Camberwell. I wrote to Southwark Council and the Police to ask whether they were aware of this problem and what action was being taken to reduce the anti-social behaviour. I received responses stating that a meeting had been held between the Council, the Police and other partner stakeholders to review the concerns being identified by the surrounding community. The Council also said that patrols had been increased by the Police and Community Wardens and that a CCTV unit had been installed in the area to help identify those committing crime and antisocial behaviour and to deter such acts in the future. I shared this response with my constituent, who confirmed that the level of anti-social behaviour had decreased within the area.

### **Other notable cases**

- I was contacted by the parent of a child at The Belham Primary School who told me that the school had closed its playground due to ongoing delays to repairs on Victorian drainpipes. The school had applied to the Department for Education (DfE) for funding for the repairs but the Government had still not approved the application. I wrote to the Minister for Schools asking why there had been a delay and urging them to grant the application so that urgent repairs could take place. I received a response from the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan MP, explaining that in this exceptional circumstance, due to the health and safety implications, the DfE had agreed to fund the replacement of the drainpipes without delay and that a funding approval letter would be sent to the school.
- A local business owner and Camberwell resident wrote to me for help with electric vehicle charging points in Southwark. Over the last few years he had electrified his company's fleet of vans but he was having ongoing problems as vehicle charging points across the borough were poorly maintained and often didn't work. I wrote to Southwark Council about his concerns. The Council informed me that they had liaised with Char.gy, the company responsible for maintenance of the charging points, who had confirmed that they had fixed all broken charging points and would ensure they are all properly maintained in future. My constituent confirmed that he had seen a flurry of repairs on the charging points and a major improvement to the service.
- I was contacted by a constituent from Camberwell who was waiting for a decision on an application he had made in 2022 to renew his Private Hire Vehicle driver's licence. The delay in the application meant he was unable to work and was extremely concerned that he would as a result be unable to afford future mortgage payments and payments owed to HMRC. I wrote to Transport for London (TfL) urging them to make a decision on this application and as a result TfL renewed the licence for a full three-year term. I shared this response with my constituent who is now able to work.

- A woman from Peckham asked for my help claiming a refund from HM Passport Office (HMPO). She had booked an urgent passport renewal appointment that she was told at the time of booking was flexible and could be changed at no cost. Due to illness she had to change the appointment. When she tried to rebook at a later date there were no urgent appointments available, meaning she was unable to get an urgent appointment despite having paid for one. She claimed a refund from HMPO but had not received any responses to her emails. I wrote to HMPO on her behalf and as a result my constituent received a refund of £147.
- I was contacted by the parents of children at 1st Place Nursey who had been informed at very short notice by Eat Work Art, the new owners of Cambridge House where the nursery is located, that the nursery was no longer able to use the premises. The closure of the nursery, with no alternative provision, was a huge worry for parents. I was told that the locks on the building had been changed overnight without warning, so the nursery were unable to access their normal space and the children had to be sent to other nursery sites that morning. I wrote urgently to Eat Work Art and to Southwark Council to demand a reversal of this decision, and 1st Place Nursery were able to regain access to their usual space the next working day. I have been assured that in future 1st Place Nursery will be able to continue to use the space in Cambridge House, now Cornerstone Studios, and I understand the nursery is working with lawyers to ensure that this remains the case.
- I was contacted by a Camberwell man who had amassed 17 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) from Transport for London (TfL) totalling £5,508 as he was unaware of the most recent expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). He had challenged the fines and was told by TfL that no further collection action would be taken. However, he then received a letter stating that his challenge had been rejected. He therefore asked to pay the fines by instalments, but this was also rejected and action was taken by a debt recovery service on behalf of TfL. I wrote to TfL on his behalf to ask what support was available to him as he was unable to pay the full amount all at once. As a gesture of goodwill due to my constituent's financial difficulties, TfL agreed to pause all enforcement action and to reduce the amount from £5,508 to £212.50, a reduction of £5,295.50. TfL also confirmed that they have installed over 600 ULEZ signs at the side of every road which enters the ULEZ to ensure that motorists are able to see clearly when they are entering the ULEZ zone. My constituent was satisfied with this resolution.
- A man from East Dulwich wrote to tell me that he and his neighbours had been experiencing an internet failure, affecting two streets between Peckham Rye and East Dulwich, for over five days. I urgently wrote to BT Openreach to ask what steps they were taking to restore internet for residents. BT Openreach explained that they had just repaired a major fault in the area and that the service had been restored to all residents. They had also contacted my constituent's service provider, Sky, who confirmed that the fault was resolved and that all services are now fully working.
- A man living near Old Kent Road contacted me as his 74-year-old wife had suffered a stroke earlier this year and she had been under the care of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability for over 3 months. He told me that her condition had been improving while under the hospital's care but that at short notice the

NHS funding had come to an end and she would have to leave the hospital the following week. He had been looking into local care homes but he couldn't find one that he felt would be able to provide the same level of care as the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability. I wrote to Southwark Council and the South East London Clinical Commissioning Group to ask what support was available for her. I received a response from Southwark Council which confirmed that his wife has now been placed at a suitable nursing home in Blackheath that is able to meet her needs and my constituent is content with this outcome.

## **Helping constituents get the money they are entitled to**

Between July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 my team and I helped get Camberwell and Peckham constituents **£33,282.37** in backdated disability benefits, written off rent arrears, heating and hot water refunds/compensation. What lies behind this sum is hardship and struggle for local people wrongly denied the money to which they are entitled.

- A woman from Nunhead asked for my help because she had been asked by Southwark Council, several months after her father's death in April 2022, to pay £1,044.25 in unpaid rent on his tenancy. My constituent was unable to pay this and I wrote to Southwark Council on her behalf. They explained that at the date of death there had been arrears of £59 on his account, so his rent account wasn't terminated immediately as it should have been. This caused £1,044.25 to accrue in arrears, which my constituent as his next of kin was being asked to pay. The Council apologised for this error and cancelled the debt in full.
- A constituent contacted me through her son to let me know that she had not received her Energy Bills Support Scheme vouchers for her prepayment meter. I urgently raised this with her supplier, Utilita Energy Limited, and received a prompt response explaining that her vouchers had been sent to her via post but that the delivery had been delayed by strikes. Following my enquiry, Utilita contacted my constituent directly to discuss the issue and they have promised to fit an updated smart meter so that discounts can be applied virtually and she will not have to rely on the post for future discount payments.
- I was contacted by a woman from Camberwell Green who was struggling to claim the compensation she was owed by Ryanair following a flight delay of more than 6 hours in April. She had been informed by Ryanair staff at the airport that she would be entitled to compensation but she had not received any response from the airline following her attempts to contact them. I wrote to Ryanair on her behalf to ask when she could expect to receive the compensation she was entitled to, and they have now paid the £207.90 compensation.
- A woman living near Old Kent Road wrote to me because she had a parking charge fine of £60 from CP Plus Parking for parking in Surrey Quays Shopping Centre, but that this was an error as she did not park her car within the Surrey Quays Shopping Centre on that day. She told me that she had attempted to contact CP Plus on several occasions to challenge the fine but had received no response. The fine then increased to £170. I wrote to CP Plus Parking and the British Parking Association about her concerns and to ask how she could appeal the fine. I received a report on the situation from both agencies which included

confirmation that CP Plus Parking had made the decision to cancel the Parking Charge Notice as a gesture of goodwill.

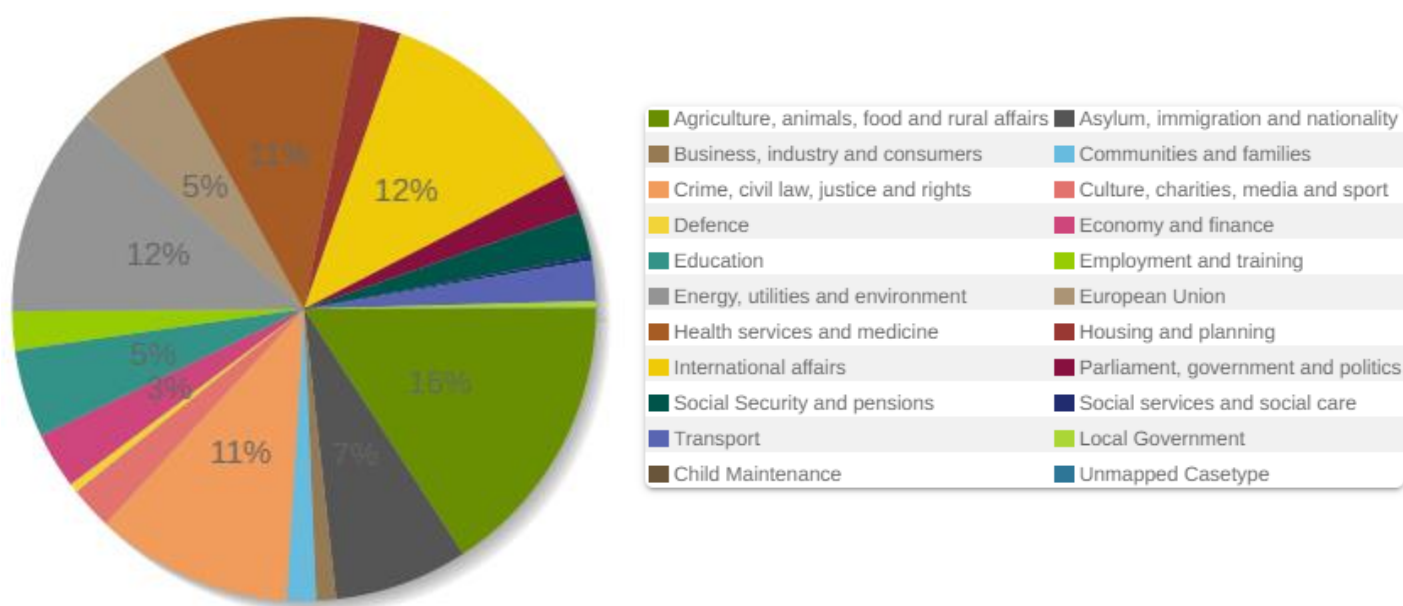
## Representations from constituents in Camberwell and Peckham

The letters and emails I have received from constituents over the past year cover a wide range of issues. In 2022 I received **7,672** policy enquiries, and in the first half of 2023 I have received **3,341** policy enquiries.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the top 5 issues that people contacted me about were:

- Animal welfare
- Israel-Palestine conflict
- Safe routes for asylum seekers
- The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023
- Banning conversion therapy

### Policy representations by category July 2022 to June 2023



## Camberwell and Peckham matters

### Supporting the family of Chris Kaba to demand answers from the Met Police

On the night of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 Chris Kaba was shot and killed by armed Metropolitan Police officers in Streatham. He was 24 and soon to become a father. There was no firearm found on him or in the car he was driving.

Chris' parents are my constituents and I continue to offer them support at what is an unimaginably difficult time as they demand the answers that they are entitled to from the Met Police about why their unarmed son was shot.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) announced that it was opening a homicide investigation into Chris' death. On that day I wrote to the new Met Commissioner Mark Rowley asking him to keep me updated on all developments, and I wrote to the head of the IOPC asking if they would provide me with a timeline for their investigation. I was dismayed to be told that the investigation was expected to take up to 9 months.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September in a press release with Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, the MP for Streatham where the shooting occurred, I called for the Met Police to immediately suspend the officer who shot Chris from all activity. It was incomprehensible that he was not suspended sooner. On 13<sup>th</sup> September the Met finally announced that the officer was suspended.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September I attended a vigil with Chris' family to mark one week since he had been killed.

It is right that the family have also been shown the officers' bodycam footage, although it took the Met too long to do this.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the IOPC announced that they had referred a file of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) following the conclusion of their investigation. The CPS have now charged the officer who shot Chris with murder. I continue to monitor the situation and support the family.



Nads White. ✓  
@Nadine\_Writes

NEW: South London MPs, incl [@BellRibeiroAddy](#) and [@HarrietHarman](#) have called for suspension of the [@metpoliceuk](#) officer who fatally shot Chris Kaba, 24, on Monday. The officer remains on duty almost a week after the incident. [#JusticeForChrisKaba](#)



6:30 PM · Sep 11, 2022 · Twitter for Android

## **Saving Camberwell and Peckham's bus routes from cuts**

In July 2022 Transport for London (TfL) announced a consultation on major proposed cuts to bus services in Camberwell and Peckham. The cuts were unjustified and would have hit the most vulnerable hardest.

Working with other Southwark MPs, Southwark Council, trade unions and local people I campaigned against the proposed cuts. On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan announced that the proposed cuts to bus routes in Camberwell and Peckham will not go ahead. This is a huge success after months of campaigning.



I am very pleased that Sadiq Khan has listened to the many residents of Camberwell and Peckham who submitted responses to TfL's consultation objecting to these cuts in the strongest terms.

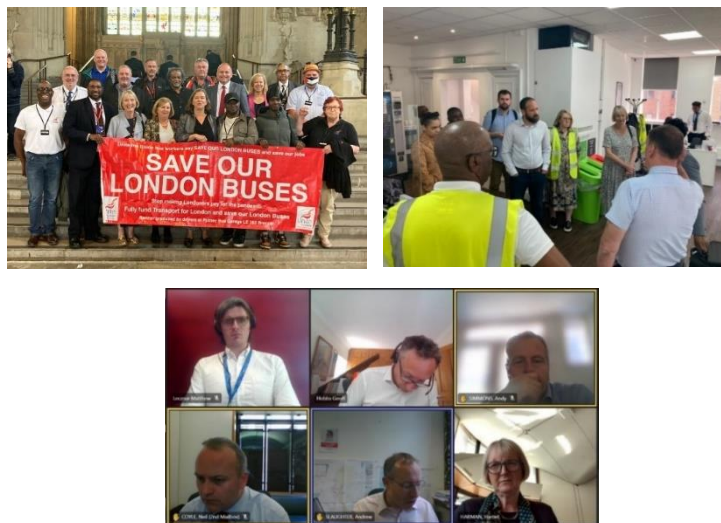
Thank you to everyone who contacted me directly about their concerns. I included your testimonies in my formal response to the consultation, which you can read below and [here](#).



## My submission to the Transport for London Central London Bus Review

# “Stop the bus cuts in Camberwell and Peckham”

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022



Proposals to withdraw the **12**, **45** and **78** bus routes and change the routes of the **56**, **141**, **171** and **388** would hit my constituents in Camberwell and Peckham hard and I am totally opposed to them. I have consulted widely with my constituents to hear their views and they too are universally against these proposals.

*“I am horrified at the proposals to remove the 12 bus. [It] is an absolute lifeline – it’s total insanity to even consider removing it”* **Constituent of Camberwell and Peckham**

*“At rush hours there are times that I cannot even get on the existing buses because they are so full... This shows a total disregard for poorer citizens, the elderly and disabled.”* **Constituent of Camberwell and Peckham**

London boroughs are not equal when it comes to transport and some are more capable of absorbing these cuts than others. TfL must withdraw these plans and go back to the drawing board. They should start their plans from the consideration of doing nothing to widen inequality.

**25% of the bus cuts being proposed across London fall in Southwark, just one London borough out of 32 served by TfL.**

Buses are most important in areas where there is low income, high crime, high levels of disability, low car ownership and no public transport alternatives.



Southwark has a higher percentage of BAME residents and a higher percentage of people on low incomes than the London average. And even whilst the number of journeys on buses fell due to the pandemic, the routes that run through Southwark, such as the **12**, remain in use well above the average for both central London routes and all bus routes across the capital. If these cuts to Southwark were to go ahead, they would hit hardest those who can least afford it.

People in Camberwell and Peckham need the buses. Most don't have cars or can't afford the petrol to drive to work, which would anyway be bad for pollution and jams. There is no underground in Camberwell and Peckham for people to use as an alternative. And the overground trains are too expensive for many people and already badly overcrowded.

TfL's proposals would mean fewer buses, longer waits at bus stops and people having to change buses. Axing the **12** would mean a third of those who currently use it would have to take 2 buses, needing to change more often. The proposals ignored the problems this will cause for people in the local communities that rely on those buses, particularly women and girls, those with disabilities, the elderly, and those on low incomes.

*“Many residents cannot afford the train so the bus their only option.”*  
**Constituent of Camberwell and Peckham**

*“We have no direct access to a tube station and although there are a couple of train stations we can use, these are a more expensive method of travelling and, for women travelling alone at night, not always the safest method. I encourage my 18-year-old daughters to take the bus at night.”* **Constituent of Camberwell and Peckham**

An elderly person who can do a journey on one bus might not be able to cope with getting on and off two buses. For a young woman or girl, having to change and wait

*"I am extremely concerned by the reduction in night bus provision. Across Southwark this means there will be a significant increase in the walk required for interchanging different bus stops. As a woman I find this unacceptable. The no 12 bus is essential for safety"* **Constituent of Camberwell and Peckham**

at a bus stop alone in the dark could make them unsafe. For a disabled person, getting on a crowded bus might feel impossible.

I recognise the need to cut buses is a direct result of the Government's refusal to fund TfL sufficiently. However TfL need to choose the least harmful way to make

these cuts not inflict them on those who can least afford them. They have come up

*"The withdrawal of these services and the requirement to change makes journeys less safe and far more stressful... If you are disabled, travelling with baggage/shopping, small children, elderly or with anxiety or impaired skills these changes have a far more detrimental impact."* **Constituent of Camberwell and Peckham**

with the wrong answer because they started from the wrong place.

TfL acknowledge in their "impact statement" that cuts to buses hit hardest at the elderly, women and girls, those with disabilities and those on low incomes. Yet they still plan to go ahead with plans which will make inequality worse. It makes no sense that they plan to hit Southwark so hard.

**TfL should withdraw these plans and start again with a map of London showing the concentrations of low-income people and make sure the cuts avoid those areas**

*"If the proposals go through, Southwark will lose some of our bus routes altogether, making travel more difficult for many people.*

*Buses are very important for Southwark which, unlike many boroughs, doesn't have many tube stations. Buses are a cheaper and convenient way to get around our borough, to and from work, and to the West End and other places that people like to shop, visit, and go out in. The council objects to the proposals, and will be meeting with Transport for London and others to express our views on behalf of residents."* **Southwark Council**

I have had a number of meetings to hear from those who would be hit by these proposals. On 29<sup>th</sup> June I attended a meeting with trade union bus members from across London to hear directly from them about how these awful cuts will affect their livelihoods and the communities they serve. On 15<sup>th</sup> July at Camberwell Bus Garage along with Cllr Kieron Williams and Neil Coyle MP I met local bus drivers and employees at the country's biggest driver training centre to hear more about how these cuts will affect the livelihoods and professions of those working at the garage. I have gathered the views of Tenant and Residents' Associations along the routes affected to include in this response.

**TfL should scrap their current proposals and start again focusing on a position of social equality.**

**It is not about taking into account equality and those most vulnerable at the end of the process. They should be at the centre from the start.**

## **Annex 1: Letter to Secretary of State Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP**

RT, HON. HARRIET HARMAN Q.C. M.P.  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CAMBERWELL AND PECKHAM  
MOTHER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

[transportsecretary@dfi.gov.uk](mailto:transportsecretary@dfi.gov.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Grant,

**Re: Cuts to Southwark's bus routes**

We are writing to you regarding Transport for London's (TfL) consultation on proposed changes to bus routes in central London, a disproportionate number of which are planned for the borough of Southwark.

During the pandemic Londoners took the right decision to stay at home to protect others, as directed by the Government. As a result of the reduction in passengers, TfL lost around 90% of its income from fares. This loss of income has led directly to its current emergency funding issues and is no different to the situation faced by private train companies across the UK. In every case the Government has bailed rail companies out with no strings attached, with the exception of TfL.

Instead, the Government has refused to reach a long-term and sustainable funding agreement with TfL. The Government's punitive conditions for financial support has forced TfL to look at cutting 4% of its bus network, and 25% of the bus routes that are proposed to be stopped altogether are in Southwark. These changes will disproportionately affect women, ethnic minorities, older people and those on low income, all at a time when people are already facing a catastrophic cost of living crisis. Southwark is poorly served by other modes of transport such as the London Underground, and at a time when we should be encouraging people to take public transport, rather than more polluting forms of transport, it is completely counter-intuitive to be forcing a reduction in coverage of bus routes in London.



Hitting those who can least afford it hardest is not what "levelling up" should look like. In light of this, we are asking that the Government stop holding our constituents to ransom and negotiate a long term and sustainable funding deal with TfL that puts equality and people's livelihoods first.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Harriet Harman QC MP

Helen Hayes MP

Neil Coyle MP

## Annex 2: Letter to Mayor of London Sadiq Khan

RT. HON. HARRIET HARMAN Q.C. M.P.  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CAMBERWELL AND PECKHAM  
MOTHER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sadiq Khan  
Mayor of London  
City Hall  
Kamal Chumchie Way  
London  
E16 1ZE

CC: Andy Byford

[mayor@london.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@london.gov.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Dear Sadiq,

I am writing to you regarding the impact assessments for Transport for London's (TfL) consultation on proposed changes to bus routes in central London, to ask what action you have taken to avoid discrimination against already-disadvantaged groups.

The impact assessments for the proposed changes to bus routes in my constituency note that the changes will have "a greater negative impact" on women, disabled people, minority ethnic groups, older people and those on low incomes. Women may face greater safety concerns because of the need to change buses, particularly at night, and pregnant women or those with babies will find this even more difficult. Passengers may have to pay more for their journeys if they have to purchase multiple tickets, and this will put a financial strain on people at the same time as a catastrophic cost-of-living crisis. And the impact assessments also note that the changes "could also reduce access to key medical centres", which would have a disproportionate impact on older residents.

In light of the information provided by the impact assessments, what proposals did TfL consider which would have avoided discriminating against those who already face disadvantages, and will they publish any such proposals?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Harriet Harman QC MP

## Annex 3:

**Statement**  
**Harriet Harman MP, Camberwell and Peckham**  
**Southwark Bus Cuts Meeting**  
**Thursday 28 July 2022, 19.00**  
**The Green, 5 Nunhead Green, London, SE15 3QQ**

*I am totally opposed to these proposals. They would mean fewer buses, longer waits at bus stops and needing to change more often. I don't think Transport for London (TfL) has begun to take into account the problems this will cause for people in the local communities that rely on those buses, particularly women and girls, those with disabilities, the elderly, and those on low incomes.*

*25% of the bus cuts they are proposing across London fall in Southwark, just one London borough out of 32 served by TfL. And people here need the buses. Most people don't have cars or can't afford the petrol to drive to work. And anyway that's bad for pollution and jams. We don't have a tube in Camberwell and Peckham for people to use as an alternative.*

*The cuts will mean people having to change buses or "more interchanges" as TfL put it. An elderly person who can do one journey might not be able to do two. For a young woman or girl on her own, waiting at a bus stop in the dark could make them unsafe. For a disabled person, getting on a crowded bus might feel impossible.*

*The cuts are a direct result of the Government's refusal to fund TfL sufficiently. During the pandemic Londoners took the right decision to stay at home to protect others. As a result, TfL lost around 90% of its income from fares. This loss of income has led directly to its current emergency funding issues and is no different to the situation faced by private train companies across the UK. In every case the Government has bailed rail companies out with no strings attached, with the exception of TfL.*

*However, in view of the fact TfL are forced to cut, they should be making these cuts in a way which is least harmful to those who will be worst hit. I've spoken to TfL and I'm working with Southwark's two other MPs Helen Hayes and Neil Coyle on this. I've said to TfL that they should completely redo their planned cuts. They should start with a map of London showing the greatest concentrations of low income people and make sure the cuts avoid those areas. TfL acknowledge in their "impact statement" that cuts to buses hit hardest at the elderly, women and girls, those with disabilities and those on low incomes. So it makes no sense that they plan to hit Southwark so hard.*

*I have had a number of meetings to hear from those affected by these proposals. On 29<sup>th</sup> June I attended a meeting with Unite representatives from across London to hear directly from them about how these awful cuts will affect their livelihoods and the communities they serve, and on 15<sup>th</sup> July I visited Camberwell Bus Garage along with Cllr Kieron Williams and Neil Coyle MP to hear more about how these cuts will affect the livelihoods and professions of those working at the garage.*

### **PUBLIC MEETING SOUTHWARK BUS CUTS**

BECAUSE OF A LACK OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING,  
TFL ARE PROPOSING BUS CUTS IN SOUTHWARK

COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY

SPEAKERS TBC

28TH JULY, 7PM  
THE GREEN  
NUNHEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE  
5 NUNHEAD GREEN  
SE15 3QQ





*I will be submitting a response to the TfL consultation. I have contacted Tenant and Residents' Associations along the routes affected to get their views so that I can include them in my response. I hope everyone who is affected by these proposed changes will respond to the consultation, or get in contact with me directly and I will include your views in my submission.*

*I assure you I will continue to insist TfL look again at these proposals and I will continue to object to them in the strongest terms.*

#### **Annex 4: Article in Southwark News – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022**



*The Government is not giving Transport for London (TfL) enough funds to run the transport system that London needs. So TfL have worked out that they have to cut 4% from their budget for buses. They've published proposals that they have put out for [consultation](#) and I will be strongly objecting to them on behalf of people of Camberwell and Peckham.*

*They plan to withdraw the 12, 45 and 78 routes and change the routes of the 59, 148, 171 and 388. It would mean fewer buses, longer waits at bus stops and needing to change more often.*

*25% of the London Bus cuts they are proposing fall in Southwark, just one London borough out of 32 served by TfL. And people here need the buses. Most people don't have cars or can't afford the petrol to drive to work. We don't have a tube in Camberwell and Peckham for people to use as an alternative. And though many people here, especially young people, cycle, jumping on a bike is not possible for a mum with a couple of kids, a frail elderly person or a wheelchair user.*

*The cuts will mean people having to change buses or "more interchanges" as TfL put it. For an elderly person who can do one journey might not be able to do two. For a young woman or girl on her own waiting at a bus stop in the dark could make them feel unsafe. For a disabled person, getting on a crowded bus might feel impossible.*

*TfL don't want to make these cuts. They know we need more buses, not fewer. But in view of the fact they feel forced to cut, they should make those cuts in a way which is least harmful to those who will be worst hit. I've spoken to TfL and I'm working with Southwark's two other MPs Helen Hayes and Neil Coyle on this. I've said to TfL that they should completely redo their planned cuts. They should start with a map showing the greatest concentrations of low income and make sure the cuts avoid those areas. TfL acknowledge in their "impact statement" that any cuts to buses hit hardest at the elderly, women and girls, those with disabilities and those on low incomes. So it makes no sense that they plan to hit Southwark so hard.*

*Please get in touch with me to give me your views about the buses in your area that you use so I can include what you say in my strong protests to TfL. You can email me at [harriet.harman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:harriet.harman.mp@parliament.uk).*

*TfL have tough choices to make. But they shouldn't make life tougher for those who can least afford it.*

## **Writing to the New Home Secretary on Behalf of Local Food Banks**

This year, local food banks have witnessed an increase in the number of asylum seekers using their services. These asylum seekers are being housed in local hotels or Home Office temporary accommodation. In September 2022, along with my South London colleagues Helen Hayes MP, Florence Eshalomi MP, Ellie Reeves MP and Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP I wrote to the new Home Secretary, Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP, asking what her department is doing to improve the standards of asylum accommodation in our local communities to ensure that they don't need to make use of food banks.

The Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Home Office  
Direct Communications Unit  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: ZA65099

15 September 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

We are writing to you following your appointment as Home Secretary on behalf of local food banks in South East London.

We have recently met with Trussell Trust food banks who are seeing surging demand from asylum seekers staying in local hotels or Home Office temporary accommodation.

Asylum seekers report that the food in hotels is of poor quality and often served at inappropriate times. This includes frequently being served cold pasta or sandwiches for dinner. They often do not have any access to basic cooking facilities to prepare alternative food. This would be unappealing for a short term, but many asylum seekers are being left in hotels for months.

Our local food banks are also concerned about the lack of any basic dignity afforded to asylum seekers staying in hotels. They tell us that the hotels are failing to provide basic toiletries including sanitary products. Staff do not have the appropriate training to work with vulnerable asylum seekers, for example one volunteer reports that staff entered an asylum seeker's room without their knowledge to confiscate a fan. Food banks report that they have received unclear guidance from hotel staff with some informing them that the Home Office does not allow them to deliver food parcels. It would be very helpful if you could clarify the current guidance for food banks.

The food banks are extremely concerned by this level of need. Some are receiving up to 50 requests for a food parcel a week. They are working hard to support as many people as possible but are struggling at a time of rising food poverty in the wider community due to the cost of living and due to the work they are already doing to support Ukrainian refugees.

We share their concerns about the poor service of food and support asylum seekers are receiving in local hotels. The Home Office is spending a huge amount of taxpayer funding on hotels and it is clear that basic standards are not being enforced.

We would be grateful if you could set out what your department is doing to improve the standards in initial asylum accommodation and to review the performance of substandard private sector providers.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Hayes MP

Florence Eshalomi MP

Harriet Harman MP

Ellie Reeves MP

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP

## **The Government Must Take Action on the Cost of Living**

10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

*Whilst the Conservative Party is bogged down in internal political crisis, the Government is not functioning and people in Camberwell and Peckham, already struggling with the very real cost of living crisis, face even higher bills. But even though the Government is in crisis, they must take action to ensure people are not left anxious and unable to pay their bills.*

*The cost of living crisis is hitting people with soaring inflation, petrol and food increases and above all rocketing energy costs. Latest figures show that consumers already owe £1.3bn to energy suppliers, and this is before bills are expected to jump by over 80% in the Autumn. Households are projected to face annual energy bills of up to £4,200 next January. And inflation hits the poorest families in the UK hardest, because they spend more of their total budget on gas and electricity than the better off.*

*The crisis therefore hits particularly hard in Camberwell and Peckham where more people are on tight budgets. We have a higher percentage of people on low incomes than the regional average and the constituency is in the top 15% nationally for the proportion of people relying on Universal Credit. People just aren't able to afford sudden price increases for things that are essential to their daily lives. And this crisis will not only hit individuals and their families but also the local economy in Camberwell and Peckham, as local people will have far less money in their pockets to spend in shops and in the local community.*

*In light of these price increases it is even more scandalous energy company profits and their payouts to shareholders and bonuses to top executives have soared. BP announced its profits had tripled to £6.9bn between April and June this year, and that it would be handing out £4bn to shareholders as a result. The BP Chief Executive took home £4.5m in 2021 alone. These profits show Labour was right to repeatedly call for a windfall tax on energy companies, something which the Government only reluctantly did after a U-turn following political pressure from the Opposition, and it shows how totally wrong it is that the Government has given big tax cuts to oil companies. Labour would abolish these tax cuts and use the money to help insulate people's homes to help them cut their energy costs.*

*In the face of this looming crisis, the Government has done nothing to assure people that they will get the support they need to afford the basics this Autumn. That is why I strongly back calls from Labour former Prime Minister Gordon Brown for an emergency budget before the UK hits a "financial timebomb". Only this can stop millions being pushed into poverty and debt when energy prices rise again in October. I also strongly agree with Labour leader Keir Starmer that the Government should cut VAT on gas and electricity bills now. Taxes on low income people should also never have been raised and the Government should scrap their National Insurance tax increase, which they promised in their manifesto they wouldn't do but which came into effect in April this year, just when people could least afford it and hitting hardest those who can least afford it.*

*The Labour Party is putting forward workable policies which would make a difference to people's lives right away when they need Government support most. So far neither of the two candidates to be the next Tory leader and Prime Minister has put forward a credible and clear plan to help those most in need and the current Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, is rejecting calls to get a grip of the situation. But a crisis in the Conservative Party and a crisis in Government cannot mean that people are left without support in the face of mounting debt and a struggle to afford the basics for themselves and their families. The Prime Minister and the leadership candidates must act now before it is too late.*

## **Pressing for more support for people on Communal Heat Networks**

At least 17,000 homes in Southwark are served by communal heat networks. Communal heat networks buy gas wholesale and then distribute it to residents and because communal heat networks are not regulated by Ofgem residents are not protected by the energy price cap. This means that, at a time when global gas prices are soaring, these costs get passed directly onto the consumer.

The majority of residents in the UK on heat networks live in social housing, and the majority of those in social housing are over the age of 55, which means that these price rises often disproportionately hit the elderly and those on low incomes. Southwark Council has negotiated competitive gas prices for its bulk purchasing for many years and it is also absorbing some of the financial shock caused by energy price spikes, so council tenants in Southwark are protected from the worst of the price rises. But the Government should have acted far sooner and it is unacceptable that many heat network customers have been left without protection.

I back calls from Labour for far greater regulation of the heat network system so that customers are properly protected and do not see unsustainable price rises. I want there to be a new regulatory regime for heat networks, including bringing heat networks onto the price cap system if possible.

People in Camberwell and Peckham on communal heat networks have already faced huge increases in their bills. The wholesale price of gas has increased over 200% in the past year and is forecast to continue to rise.

I have been contacted directly by over 40 constituents who are on communal heat networks and who are concerned about unsustainable rises in their energy bills. One constituent told me that their bill was due to increase by 776% and another said that their bill had already increased from £87.53 last year to £630.25 this year.

One constituent said that the bill rises will:  
*make heating and hot water unaffordable for many residents and families and we remain exposed to even worse potential rises the year after.*

Another said:  
*This 400% rise is going to make heating and hot water unaffordable for many of our residents, who are on low or fixed incomes. It is distressing news, especially as we face job losses, wage stagnation and other rises in the costs of living.*

In September 2022 I wrote to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on behalf of my constituents demanding that people on heat networks be included in the Government's plan to freeze energy prices.

Following my letter, I was reassured to see that people on communal heat networks were included in the Government's policy. However, clearly the promised Government support has not materialised for many of my constituents, meaning that they are still facing huge rises in their bills. This failure to provide timely support despite it having been announced is yet another failing by the Government and I have asked a number of further questions of the Government to press for the promised support to get to my constituents and hundreds of thousands of others. You can read these [here](#).

## **Are leaseholders getting the support the government has given on energy bills?**

11<sup>th</sup> February 2023



This winter too many people in Southwark have faced desperately hard decisions between food and heating in the face of soaring energy bills. A UK survey showed almost a quarter of adults planned to keep the heating off this winter and as many Southwark residents are on low incomes it means that here that figure is even

higher. This Government is insisting that they'll let energy companies put up prices again in April and end their energy support for businesses.

And even the Government Energy Bills Relief Scheme is not working properly for many people in Southwark. In particular those who live in flats and get their heat from a communal boiler. They have got almost none of the Government's promised financial support. Many on communal boilers have seen their bills go up a staggering 900%, more than 4.5 times the already crippling rise in the prices for people not on those systems. The problem is that while the Government has given some financial help to Housing Associations, constituents tell me that Housing Associations are not passing on that help to the leaseholders that are actually paying the bills.

I'm pressing the Government to ensure that the help reaches those leaseholders who are entitled to it. I have written to the Hyde Housing Association but have yet to receive a reply.

And while people struggle with bills the Government is standing by while the energy companies make huge profits because of the energy price increases caused by Putin's attack on Ukraine. On 2<sup>nd</sup> February Shell announced its highest profits in 115 years, reaching \$39.9bn, double their profits the previous year. And Shell is not the only one.

Everyone faces an increase of 40% in their energy bills in April. The Government should put in a proper windfall tax on the energy companies and backdate it to 2022. Though they made profits of \$39.9bn Shell paid only \$134m in tax, 0.3% of their total profits.

The problem is that the Prime Minister is too weak to stand up for the British people. Labour would stop energy prices going up in April. It cannot be right that companies make unexpected windfall profits from the effects of an illegal war in Ukraine. It will need Labour in Government to sort out this unfair mess, to tackle the cost of living



crisis now, deliver a long term plan to cut bills for good and make Britain a clean energy superpower.



## Remembrance Day 2022

On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 as Mother of the House of Commons I attended the annual opening of the Speaker's Constituency Garden of Remembrance. I placed a Remembrance stake on behalf of Camberwell and Peckham, in memory of all those who have fallen for this country.



On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> I attended the Southwark Borough Remembrance Sunday service at Borough and I, alongside the Mayor of Southwark Sunil Chopra and the Leader of the Council Cllr Kieron Williams laid a wreath at the war memorial. My thanks go to all those who organised this year's ceremony.

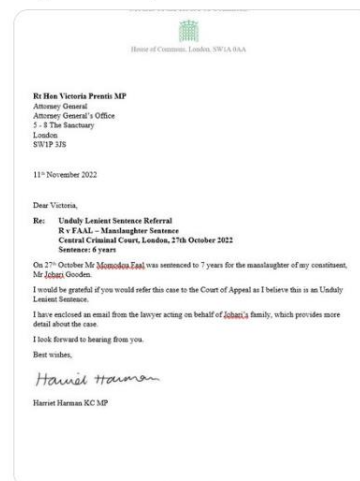
## Protesting about the lenient sentence on the killer of Jobari Gooden

On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 I wrote to the Attorney General on behalf of the mother of my constituent Jobari Gooden who was tragically killed in Peckham Rye in December 2021. His killer was convicted but sentenced to only 7 years in prison. I agreed with Jobari's family that this was not justice and I wrote to the Attorney General to request that she refer the sentence to the Court of Appeal as a Unduly Lenient. It is very disappointing that the Government has refused to do so.



Harriet Harman [@HarrietHarman](#) · Nov 17

I'm dismayed that the sentence for killer of my consti Jobari Gooden was only 7 years. I have asked [@attorneygeneral](#) to refer the sentence to Court of Appeal as an Unduly Lenient Sentence.



## Speaking at Southwark Labour Conference 2022

I was pleased to speak at Southwark Labour Conference on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Clubland. Huge congratulations to Miatta Fahnbulleh who has been selected by local members to be the Prospective

Parliamentary Candidate for Camberwell and Peckham at the next election. I am sure she will be a brilliant representative for Camberwell and Peckham and I am proud to have her as my successor.





5 December 2022

*Last week ambulance workers joined nurses in voting for strike action this Christmas. And I really do understand why our NHS staff have voted for industrial action. They feel desperate. And they have been forced into this action by the Government.*

*When the Conservatives are in government our public services are eroded. Not only does this lead to people suffering, but the Conservatives use the crisis they have caused in public services as a pretext to attack them. Rather than address the legitimate concerns of those striking, they seek to clamp down on the right to unionisation and strike action. And rather than actually fix the issues facing our NHS and social care, they argue that the solution is more privatisation.*

*One of the major issues which is causing problems for people and the NHS is the Government's failure on social care. Nationally there are 400,000 "late discharges" from NHS hospitals every month. These are people who don't need any more medical treatment, are well enough to leave but for whom there isn't the social care available to enable them to be discharged. Here in King's College Hospital 100 out of the 900 beds are occupied by people waiting to leave hospital. So that means 11% of hospital beds are occupied by people who should be being taken care of by help at home or by a care home.*

*The delay in discharges is a symptom of a much wider systemic problem. Some people are unable to be discharged because they require help to adapt their home, like installation of handrails or a stairlift. Others are waiting for suitable new housing. But many of the longest delays are while people wait for the complex funding arrangements to be in place to enable them to go into a nursing home.*

*This situation prevents beds being used for people who need treatment and prevents people being moved into hospital from ambulances which in turn means ambulances are not able to go out to collect people who need them in an emergency. In the worst cases people with potential heart attacks or strokes now face a one hour and 40-minute average wait.*

*But also it's bad for the people who remain stuck in hospital. People are more comfortable when they are at home or in a care home. It's easier for their friends and family to visit them. A hospital bed is not the right place for anyone who is not having medical treatment. Their recovery will be hampered the longer they are kept in a hospital bed rather than in their community with their friends and family around them.*

*The starting point for our NHS should be delivering fast, safe and successful outcomes for patients. That means ensuring the NHS has sufficient funding. Overall we spend less per head on healthcare than countries like France, Australia and Germany. But it's also about how we spend the money. We spend more on in-patient care costs than other countries. Late diagnoses and struggling to see a GP promptly mean people end up needing to seek emergency care rather than preventing their condition from worsening. We need more investment but also to focus that spending on areas like primary care, mental health and diagnostics. This will mean faster care and better outcomes. We also need to invest in our NHS workforce, who do so much for patients*

on a daily basis. That is why Labour has committed to spending £1.6bn to fund the expansion of our NHS staff if we were in government.

If the Government cared about improving people's health it would support the staff who feel they have no other option than to go on strike. The Royal College of Nursing has never taken strike action before. But they feel forced into it by the Government. Through underfunding and undervaluing our NHS the Government has created this problem. We need urgent action to improve our NHS and that will only happen with a Labour government.



## Opening of the new roof terrace at Persepolis, Peckham

I was honoured to be asked by Sally Butcher, owner of Persepolis on Peckham High Street, to cut the ribbon of her restaurant's new roof terrace on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Sally also launched her great new cookbook "Veganistan".



## Christmas visit to Camberwell Royal Mail delivery office

On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 I was pleased to make my annual visit to the Camberwell Royal Mail delivery office to thank the postal workers for their dedicated work over the last year.



## Christmas 2022 catch-ups with local Labour members in Peckham Rye, Champion Hill, Goose Green and Dulwich and West Norwood CLP







## Attending the vigil for Kalabe Legesse

On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023 I attended the vigil for Kalabe Legesse, who was fatally stabbed in Peckham on 30<sup>th</sup> December. It was a shocking crime and my deepest sympathies are with his family. I continue to work closely with the local police on this and other issues relating to safety in the local community.

## Visiting local hotel housing asylum seekers



On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 along with Cllr Jasmine Ali, Southwark Council Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Refugees and council officers, I visited a hotel in Camberwell and Peckham which has been taken over by the Home Office to provide housing for asylum seekers. I met with representatives from Clearsprings Ready Homes who manage the facility on behalf of the Home Office and members of the hotel staff to discuss how they provide housing for a diverse range of individuals and families, and to discuss the support available to residents while they are awaiting a decision on their



asylum applications.

The hotel was providing housing for 441 people, of whom there were:

- 87 single males,
- 33 single females, and
- 110 Families of 2-7 people, including 5 pregnant women.

I am grateful to Southwark Council, Clearsprings Ready Homes, the local schools and GPs services and the local community, who have warmly welcomed and supported the asylum seekers who live in my constituency. But a hotel room is not suitable for long term family housing. One resident told me:

*"we do not have the conditions for a full-fledged family and marital life or to cook our usual and familiar food. My son, who goes to school, doesn't even have a chair and desk to do his homework. We eat on the floor because there is no table or chairs."*

No family should have to live in a hotel bedroom for months with no ability to cook for themselves, barred from working and with very little money.

I hope to visit the hotel again to meet with more residents to discuss what further support they need and I continue to press the Home Office to speed up the decision

making on residents' cases so that they and their children can settle in a home of their own and they can start to work.

## Calling on Housing Associations with properties in Southwark to identify and tackle the problem of mould

In 2022 a coroner determined that the tragic death of two year old Awaab Ishak was caused by exposure to black mould in his home. In February 2023 I wrote to the 8 major Housing Associations in Southwark to ask what they are doing to find out whether any of their housing stock has dangerous black mould, and what plans they have to ensure that it is fixed. I also asked for further information on any helplines that residents can use to contact their Housing Association.

I continue to be in close contact with Southwark Council to monitor the situation in Council-owned housing stock in my constituency.

## ULEZ – 'It is a big expansion of a radical policy but I fully back it'

11<sup>th</sup> March 2023

*Camberwell and Peckham is sandwiched between outer London, where hundreds of thousands of people live, and central London, where hundreds of thousands of people work.*

*We are a densely populated area with crowded housing and shopping areas. We are also a young area with many families with young children. 28% of households in Camberwell and Peckham have at least one young child.*

*Southwark has long suffered with being a through-route for people driving into central London. This clogs up the streets local people need to drive through, cycle on and walk beside, leads to air pollution which causes ill health (particularly in children), makes it more dangerous for cyclists and causes more injuries through traffic accidents.*

*So our area had much to gain from the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan's pioneering initiative launched in April 2019 to bring in an Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to limit the number of cars, vans and lorries using Southwark as a through-route to central London.*

*This has been a highly controversial policy. To deter polluting vehicles from driving in the ULEZ, cars and small vans are charged a daily rate of £12.50, with big vans and lorries charged £100. The charges apply to vehicles that don't meet emissions standards, 24 hours a day for every day including weekends. The only day exempt from the ULEZ is Christmas Day. But it is working. The Mayor is now planning to*

**Rt Hon Harriet Harman KC MP**  
Member of Parliament for Camberwell & Peckham  
Mother of the House of Commons



House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Patrick Franco  
Chief Executive Officer  
Notting Hill Genesis  
Bruce Kenrick House  
2 Killick Street  
London  
N1 9FL

15<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Patrick,

Re: Mould in Notting Hill Genesis housing stock in Southwark

Everyone was shocked by the tragic death of Awaab Ishak, who died as a direct result of black mould in the flat that he lived in. I would appreciate it if you could tell me whether you have done an audit on all Notting Hill Genesis-owned social housing properties in Southwark to see which are unfit due to mould; and what plans do you have and how long will it take to make those properties compliant with regulations?

I would also appreciate if you could confirm whether you have a dedicated line that residents can use to report issues of mould and damp.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Harriet Harman KC MP



*increase the areas covered by ULEZ charging, due to come into force on August 2023. It is a big expansion of a radical policy but I fully back it.*

*A recent report carried out by City Hall and academically peer reviewed has shown that the ULEZ has already cut the levels of harmful pollution in central London by almost half. In inner London, the pollution level is now 21% lower than it would have been had the Mayor not introduced the ULEZ. And there are 74,000 fewer polluting vehicles in the ULEZ than there were before its expansion.*

*This means that all children in Camberwell and Peckham are benefitting from cleaner air thanks to the Mayor's policy.*

*The ULEZ is also contributing to the UK's carbon reduction targets. It is estimated that since the ULEZ was brought into effect, CO2 emissions from vehicles across London have been cut by 800,000 tonnes compared with what the amount would have been without the ULEZ, moving London closer to becoming Net Zero by 2030.*

*But there is more to do. London as a whole still fails to meet the World Health Organisation's air quality guidelines. Around 4,000 Londoners die prematurely every year due to polluted air and 500,000 Londoners live with asthma and are therefore more vulnerable to the effects of toxic air.*

*The lesson here is that it's important to identify what the problem is, consider plans which will make a practical difference, consult on them before introducing them and review their impact. That is exactly what the mayor of London has done with the ULEZ and I support his policy.*

### **Emergency "Gold Group" meeting with Southwark police after fall from height in Rye Hill**

On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Southwark police convened an emergency MP and community stakeholder meeting to update us on the death of a man in Peckham following interaction with the police.

The incident has been referred to the Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC). The IOPC said:

*We have begun an independent investigation into an incident involving Metropolitan Police Service officers on Wednesday April 12 in south-east London, where a man was seriously injured and later died in hospital after falling from a balcony.*

*We were advised that MPS officers attended an address in Peckham at around 2am following a report of a man threatening to jump from a balcony on a residential building. We have established that officers were present for over an hour and attempted to persuade the man to come inside from the balcony.*





## Inquiry begins after man falls to his death in London police Taser incident

Met officers had been called to a block of flats in Peckham amid reports the man was threatening to jump



*The man has then been Tasered while on the balcony and he has fallen several floors to the ground.*

*The man was transported to hospital with life-threatening injuries and died later the same day.*

*Our investigation is in its initial stages and we have secured officers' body-worn footage as we begin gathering evidence.*

I continue to follow this IOPC investigation closely.

## RIP Coral Newell

On 12<sup>th</sup> May it was announced that Coral Newell, a former councillor, Bermondsey community campaigner and Freeman of the London Borough of Southwark, had died and on 15<sup>th</sup> June I attended her funeral. Coral was an incredible woman, activist, feisty, joyful, brave and determined. She was a massive support for me and gave unfiltered, good advice. Coral will be sorely missed.



Harriet Harman  @HarrietHarman · Jun 15  
RIP Coral Ann Newell 1936 - 2023



## Meeting with Prof. Clive Kay, CEO of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 I met with Professor Clive Kay, the Chief Executive of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. I had requested a meeting to urgently discuss the trust's plans to provide an alternative nursery following the announcement that the current staff nursery at Mapother House will be closing in December 2023. They have worked hard to find a viable solution.

We also discussed the problem of bed occupancy by people who are medically fit for discharge, waiting times and recent industrial action.

## Visiting Peckham Pantry

On the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 I was contacted by Chris Price, the Chief Executive of charity Pecan which runs the Peckham Pantry, a community food bank, after the Pantry had suddenly had their electricity supply cut off by E.ON Energy UK. As a result



of having no power for their fridges Peckham Pantry had to turn people away during the day, and Chris asked for my urgent help to restore the electricity. I wrote directly to the CEO of E.ON, Chris Norbury, demanding an explanation for why they had cut off the power to a small not-for-profit community food bank and asking them to restore the power forthwith. The CEO responded to me that evening, explaining that there had been confusion about which company had been supplying power to Peckham Pantry, and electricity was restored to Peckham Pantry the following day. E.ON also made a donation to Pecan, amounting in total to £33,000, including a £5,000 online donation, the writing off outstanding energy debt, adding credit to E.ON's account and providing £10,000 of vouchers that local households can use on their pre-payment meters.



Following the resolution of this issue, on 13th July I visited Peckham Pantry along with the E.ON CEO to meet with Chris Price and the manager of Peckham Pantry Temi Okudiya, to hear more about the important work that Peckham Pantry and Pecan are doing to support local residents facing the cost of living crisis.



We also discussed ways that E.ON can engage with local organisations, such as Pecan, to help protect people from increased energy costs and the cost of living crisis. The Pantry team pointed out to E.ON that the energy vouchers they provided for service users were only valid for individuals with pre-payment meters and therefore many Pantry Members with smart meters have been unable to use the vouchers. E.ON confirmed

that they will look into this issue to ensure that this helpful support is available to all Pantry users, regardless of the type of energy meter that they use.

## RIP Rohan Trotman

My deepest sympathies to the family of 27 year old Rohan Trotman who was stabbed to death on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in Nunhead. Anyone with any information should call 101 quoting CAD 7706/25Jun. They can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



## 2021 census data released for Camberwell and Peckham

New data from the 2021 census has been released for Camberwell and Peckham. You can view all the data for Camberwell and Peckham [here](#).

### Camberwell and Peckham

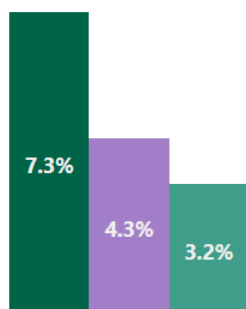
London

Population: **131,131** Density: **11,503 / sq. km** Area: **11.4 sq. km (16th smallest)**

Main land use: **86% built up areas, and 14% green areas or leisure facilities**

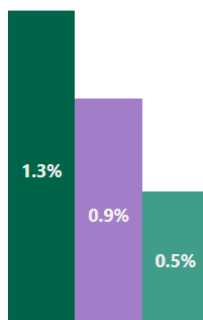
#### Proportion of 16+ year olds with a LGB+ sexual orientation

● Constituency ● Region / nation ● England & Wales



#### Proportion of people aged 16+ with a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth

● Constituency ● Region / nation ● England & Wales



### Sexual orientation and gender identity

7.3% of people in Camberwell and Peckham have a LGB+ orientation. This is over twice as high as the national rate, which is 3.2%

1.3% of people said they had a gender identity different to the sex they were registered with at birth, almost three times as high as the national rate, which is 0.5%

### Disability

At the 2021 census 18,221 people in Camberwell and Peckham, 14% of the population, were classed as disabled. This was higher than the London rate (13%), although lower than the national rate (18%). 28% of households in Peckham had at least one disabled person.

Limit on activities	Constituency	Region/Nation	England & Wales
No long-term conditions	80.2%	81.5%	75.7%
Day-to-day activities limited a little	8.1%	7.5%	10.0%
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	6.0%	5.7%	7.5%
Condition does not limit day-to-day activities	5.7%	5.2%	6.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Country of birth

The census data shows that Camberwell and Peckham has a much higher percentage of its population born outside of the UK than the national average. 29.8% of people in the constituency were born outside of the UK and the EU, compared to 10.7% nationally, and of that 29.8%, the largest group was people born in Africa, which was 13.3% of people in the constituency.

### Country of birth: detailed breakdown

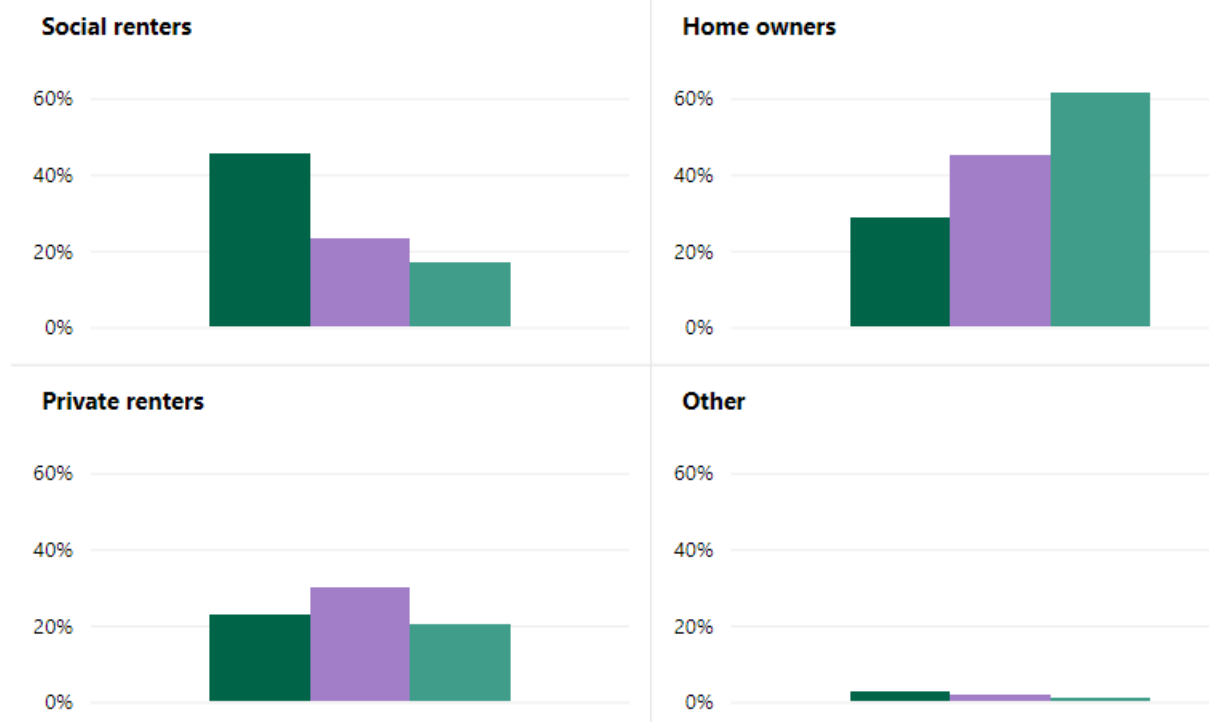
Area of birth	Constituency (%)	Region/Nation (%)	England and Wales (%)
<b>UK</b>	<b>61.4%</b>	<b>59.4%</b>	<b>83.2%</b>
UK	61.4%	59.4%	83.2%
<b>European Union</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
EU14 countries	6.3%	6.6%	2.7%
EU8 countries	1.5%	2.9%	2.1%
EU2 countries	0.6%	2.8%	1.2%
Other EU countries	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%
<b>Rest of world</b>	<b>29.8%</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
Australasia and others	0.8%	0.7%	0.3%
European, non-EU countries	1.2%	2.8%	0.8%
Middle East and Asia	5.4%	13.0%	5.6%
Africa	13.3%	7.1%	2.7%
The Americas and the Caribbean	9.1%	4.2%	1.3%
British Overseas Territories	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%

## Housing

29% of households in Camberwell and Peckham owned their own home, significantly lower than the London (45%) and national (62%) rates. In comparison, 23% of households rented from a private landlord, and 46% rented from a social landlord, almost three times as high as the national rate of 17%.

### Proportion of households by tenure (%)

● Constituency ● Region/nation ● England and Wales



## Privileges Committee

### Chairing the Committee of Privileges Inquiry into Boris Johnson MP

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 the House of Commons passed a motion calling for the then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson to be referred to the Committee of Privileges to investigate whether he had misled Parliament over the No.10 “partygate” allegations. Just before the motion was passed, the chair of the Privileges Committee, Chris Bryant MP, recused himself from any potential investigation into Boris Johnson due to comments he had made previously on social media.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 a motion to appoint me to the Committee was approved unanimously by the House of Commons. The members of the Committee then elected me as chair for the inquiry into Boris Johnson’s conduct.

The members of the Privileges Committee were four Conservatives, Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Alberto Costa MP, Andy Carter MP and Sir Charles Walker MP, one Scottish National Party, Allan Dorans MP, and myself and Yvonne Fovargue MP from the Labour Party. The remit of our inquiry was to look into whether Boris Johnson MP committed a contempt of Parliament in his statements relating to parties in Downing Street. You can read more about the committee’s work [here](#).



Our inquiry did not start until the conclusion of the investigation by Sue Gray. Her final report was published on 25<sup>th</sup> May, and on 30<sup>th</sup> June the Committee officially published its call for evidence, which you can read about [here](#). We wrote to Boris Johnson MP, and Simon Case the Cabinet Secretary, requesting a list of evidence, which you see [here](#).

On 21<sup>st</sup> July, the Committee published its first report on the procedures that the Committee would follow. This set out the Committee’s process, including for taking evidence anonymously, the definition of “contempt” and the Committee’s procedure for considering evidence. The procedures and processes set out in this report underpinned how the Committee conducted its inquiry. You can read the report [here](#).

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September, the Government published legal advice from Lord Pannick KC relating to how the Committee was handling the inquiry. The Committee subsequently published its response to this advice, rejecting the criticisms by Lord Pannick KC and outlining its position on the points that the Government’s advice raised. You can read the Committee’s response [here](#).

During the course of our inquiry the committee met over 30 times and considered thousands of pages of evidence. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 we published our interim report which you can read [here](#). On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March we held our oral evidence session with Boris Johnson MP, which you can view [here](#).



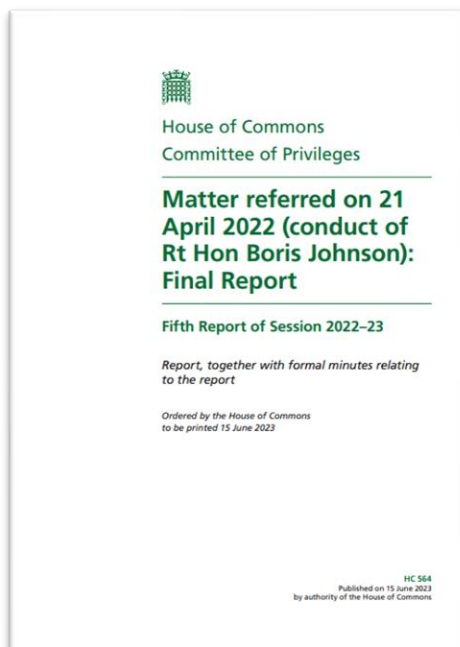
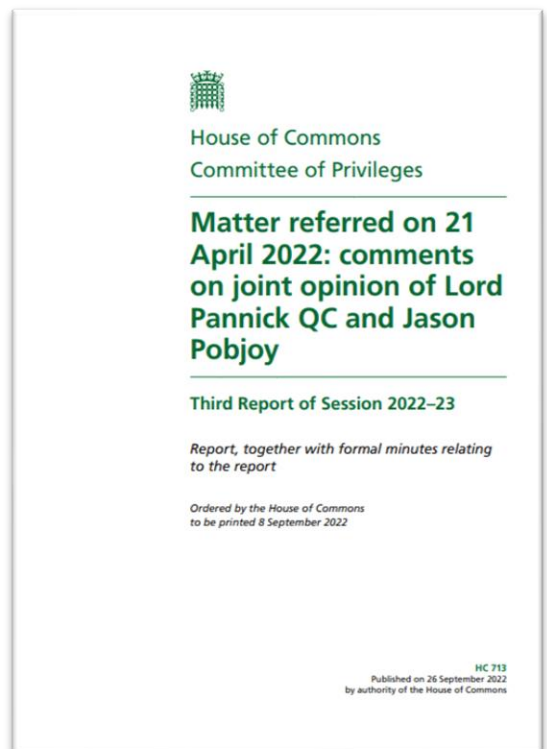
The Committee was required to send a copy of this report to Boris Johnson two weeks before it was due to be published, which we did on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June. On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June having read the report Boris Johnson decided to resign as an MP.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the committee published its final report in its investigation into whether former Prime Minister Boris Johnson MP misled Parliament when he said that there were no parties in No. 10 during lockdown and that no rules or guidance were broken. You can read the report [here](#).

The committee found that Boris Johnson:

- Deliberately misled the House of Commons
- Deliberately misled the committee
- Breached the committee's confidence
- Impugned the committee and thereby undermined the democratic process of the House of Commons
- Was complicit in the campaign of abuse and attempted intimidation of the committee

And recommended if he were still a Member of Parliament, he should have been suspended from the House of Commons for 90 days. The committee also recommended that he not be entitled to a former Member's pass.



On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June the House of Commons debated the committee's report and voted overwhelmingly to endorse its conclusions and recommended sanctions. I spoke in that debate, and you can watch my contribution in full [here](#) and read it below.

*It is a privilege to follow the serious and important speech of the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), every word of which I agreed with.*

*The evidence on which our conclusions are based is fully set out in the report. I want to place on record the great debt of gratitude that I believe the House owes to the Clerks of the House, to Speaker's Counsel and to Sir Ernest Ryder. The quality of their work and their dedication to the House is extraordinary. They are public servants of quite remarkable calibre.*

*The evidence shows that, on a matter that could hardly have been of more importance, Mr Johnson deliberately misled the House, not just once but on numerous occasions. The evidence shows that he denied what was true, asserted what was not true, obfuscated and deceived. It is clear that he knew the rules and guidance: as Prime Minister, he was telling the country about them nearly every day. He knew that there were gatherings: he was there. He knew that the*



*gatherings breached the rules and the guidance. Yet he told the House that the rules and the guidance were followed in No. 10 "at all times".*

*Misleading the House is not a technicality but a matter of great importance. Our democracy is based on people electing us to scrutinise the Government, and, on behalf of the people we represent, we have to hold the Government to account. We cannot do that if Ministers are not truthful. Ministers must be truthful; if they are not, we cannot do our job. It is as simple and as fundamental as that. The House asked the Privileges Committee to inquire into the allegations that Mr Johnson, who was then Prime Minister, misled the House. That is the mechanism—the only mechanism—that the House has to protect itself in the face of a Minister misleading it. We undertook the inquiry, scrupulously sticking to the rules and processes laid down by this House under Standing Orders, and following the precedents of this House.*

**Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg**

*I wonder whether the right hon. and learned Lady could say something of her own position in relation to the precedent set by a judicial Committee of the House of Lords, when a decision in which Lord Hoffmann was involved was set aside not because he was biased, but because of the perception of bias. In relation to her famous tweets, how does she think she met the Hoffmann test?*

**Ms Harman**

*I am happy to answer the right hon. Gentleman. I was appointed by this House in the expectation that I would chair the Committee, with no one speaking against it. After the tweets were brought to light and highlighted, as I am concerned about the perception of fairness on the Committee—I agree that perception matters—I made it my business to find out whether it would mean that the Government would not have confidence in me if I continued to chair the Committee. I actually said, "I will be more than happy to step aside, because perception matters and I do not want to do this if the Government do not have confidence in me. I need the whole House to have confidence in the work that it has mandated." I was assured that I should continue the work that the House had mandated, and with the appointment that the House had put me into, and so I did just that.*

*Our report was based on two things: the evidence and our keen awareness of the seriousness of misleading the House. The Committee was unanimous that a sanction that would trigger the Recall of MPs Act was justified in the light of our conclusion that Mr Johnson deliberately misled the House and the Committee. We then felt it necessary to increase the sanction to 90 days to reflect the seriousness of his breaching of the confidence of the Committee, his impugning of the Committee, thereby undermining the democratic process of the House, and his complicity in a campaign of abuse, attempting to intimidate the Committee, to stop us from carrying out our work and to discredit it.*

*Like the right hon. Member for Maidenhead, with whom I share a great deal—including, it turns out, a necklace—I thank every member of the Privileges Committee. Over the course of the past year, they have considered thousands of pages of evidence and participated in more than 30 meetings to do the job that the House asked them to do with outstanding dedication and commitment, particularly the Conservative members of the Committee, who have also had to be extraordinarily resilient. They have had to withstand a campaign of threats, intimidation and harassment designed to challenge the legitimacy of the inquiry, to drive them off the Committee and thereby to frustrate the intention of the House that the inquiry should*

*be carried out. Yet through all that, they have not given in to the intimidation. They have been unflinching in their duty to the House, and we owe them a huge amount.*

*We need Members to be prepared to serve on the Privileges Committee. They must be free to base their judgments on the evidence, free from pressure one way or the other. If the House wants its rights to be protected in the future, it must act to stop intimidation of members of the Privileges Committee.*

*Attacks by hon. Members on other hon. Members designed to pre-empt the Committee's findings frustrate the will of the House, erode public confidence and thereby undermine our democracy. They may themselves be contempt of the House, because they are attempts to impede the functioning of the House. We will make a further report to the House on that shortly, inviting consideration of what could be done to prevent it from happening in the future.*

*None of that is a threat to the free speech of Members. Members can engage in the process throughout: they can speak and vote against a referral to the Privileges Committee; they can speak and vote against the appointment of any member of the Privileges Committee; they can bring to the House proposals for changes to the procedure; and they can speak about a report's conclusions, but what they must not do is interfere with the work the House has mandated.*

*The report does not create a chilling effect on what Ministers say at the Dispatch Box. If Ministers make a mistake, which inevitably happens, and inadvertently say something that is misleading, they are expected to correct it at the earliest opportunity, and that is done routinely. Inadvertent misleading, promptly corrected, is not an issue; it is the system working. The House understands it if Ministers decline to answer, for example, on matters of national security or market sensitivity.*

*Too many members of the public already think that we are dishonest, but hitherto I have found in my 40 years in this House that most Ministers, in all Governments, are at pains to tell the truth. The sanction in the report reinforces and upholds Ministers' high standards and shows the public that that is the case.*

### **Sir William Cash**

*The right hon. and learned Lady has referred to the wording "misleads", which was in the original motion on 21 April 2022. That is not the wording of the resolution of 1997, which still pertains today and quite explicitly uses the words "knowingly misleads". Does she not accept that there is a huge difference? That decision was made unanimously by the House and it is still in existence and still pertains.*

### **Ms Harman**

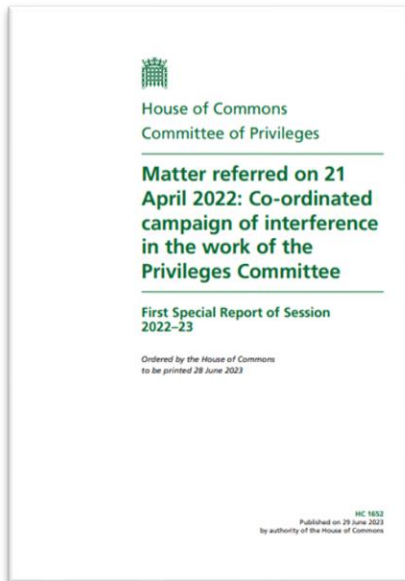
*I think the Committee found on the evidence that Mr Johnson knowingly and deliberately intended to mislead the House.*

*Because he was Prime Minister, Mr Johnson's dishonesty, if left unchecked, would have contaminated the whole of Government, allowing misleading to become commonplace and thus eroding the standards that are essential for the health of our democracy. Far from undermining Ministers, the report does precisely the opposite.*

*I want to say something about the press. This episode has shown that wrongdoing has not gone undiscovered and attempts to cover it up have failed, but it would have been undiscovered had not the press doggedly investigated. Many journalists played their*

*part, and Isb want in particular to mention Pippa Crerar and Paul Brand. Democracy needs a free press.*

*The House sent this inquiry to the Privileges Committee without a Division. It unanimously endorsed the membership of the Committee. We have done the work we were asked to do. This is the moment for the House, on behalf of the people of this country, to assert its right to say loud and clear: "Government will be accountable. Ministers will be honest. There is no impunity for wrongdoing. Even if you are the Prime Minister—especially if you are the Prime Minister—you must tell the truth to Parliament." I urge all Members to support the motion.*



The motion was approved with no votes against.

On 29<sup>th</sup> June the Privileges Committee published its special report on a "Co-ordinated campaign of interference in the work of the Privileges Committee". The report made it clear that it is not acceptable for Members of Parliament, fearing an outcome that they do not want, to level criticisms at the Committee so that in the event that the conclusion is the one that they do not want, they will have undermined the inquiry's outcome by undermining confidence in the Committee.

We must make sure that, if the House ever again mandates the Privileges Committee to undertake an inquiry into a Member, that there will be Members who are willing to serve on the Committee, and that the Committee and its processes are protected while an inquiry is underway so that the

Committee is able to undertake its work in the way that the House wants.

You can read the special report [here](#) and watch the debate on the report [here](#).

## **Why I chose to spend twelve months looking into whether Boris Johnson misled the House of Commons**



1<sup>st</sup> July 2023

*Much of what an MP does is very much out and about in the public and usually involved in things that are very much about people's immediate concerns, like the cost of living crisis or the shortage of housing.*

*But sometimes as an MP you get called upon to do something which takes place behind the scenes but is nonetheless very important for our democracy. And that's why a year ago I agreed to take up the chair of Parliament's Committee of Privileges to conduct the inquiry into whether Boris Johnson misled the House of Commons when he said that all Covid-19 rules were complied with in No.10.*

*Misleading the House is not a technicality but a matter of great importance. Our democracy is based on people electing us to scrutinise the Government, and, on behalf of the people we represent, we have to hold the Government to account. We cannot do that if Ministers are not truthful. Ministers must be truthful; if they are not, we cannot do our job. It is as simple and as fundamental as that.*

*Over the course of the last 12 months the Committee of Privileges conducted an inquiry, looking at thousands of pages of Government emails, diary entries and photographs.*

*The members of the Privileges Committee are four Conservatives, Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Alberto Costa MP, Andy Carter MP and Sir Charles Walker MP, one Scottish National Party, Allan Dorans MP, and myself and Yvonne Fovargue MP from the Labour Party.*

*On 15<sup>th</sup> June we published our report which found that Johnson:*

- 1. Deliberately misled the House of Commons*
- 2. Deliberately misled the committee*
- 3. Breached the committee's confidence*
- 4. Impugned the committee and thereby undermined the democratic process of the House of Commons*
- 5. Was complicit in the campaign of abuse and attempted intimidation of the committee*

*We sent the draft report to Johnson for his comments and he immediately resigned from Parliament rather than face the penalty we proposed, which was that he be suspended from the House of Commons for 90 days which would have triggered a by-election in his constituency of Uxbridge and South Ruislip. The Committee also recommended that he not be allowed the pass which allows former members to come into the House of Commons.*

*During the course of the inquiry Johnson's supporters mounted a campaign of vilification and harassment against members of the Committee and were particularly threatening to the Conservative members. So we are producing a further report condemning what was a concerted attempt to undermine and halt the work of the Committee.*

*On 19<sup>th</sup> June the House of Commons backed our report into Johnson with 354 MPs voting for and only 7 against.*

*It's taken a year of work but I think it's more than justified to have spent the time and effort it required to carry out the inquiry. It is about protecting our democracy. Because even if you are the Prime Minister—especially if you are the Prime Minister—you must tell the truth to Parliament.*

## **Campaigning against race discrimination and for equality**

### **My statement: Black History Month 2022, 'A Seat at the Table' Exhibition**

*I would like to congratulate and thank the organisers of this event and the exhibition "A Seat at the Table", The Southwark Black Parents Forum. The history of Southwark is made by all the people who live there and it is so important, and overdue, to recognise the contribution of African and Caribbean communities to our public life.*

*Today is also the launch of Southwark Council's Southwark Together civic leadership programme, a programme that I whole-heartedly endorse and I send my congratulations to Cllrs Stephanie Cryan and Natasha Ennin for their work on this.*

*The involvement of black people in our political life is not just morally right but it is a democratic imperative. Representation matters and local people deserve political representatives who understand their communities and their backgrounds.*

*In 2008 I published a report titled "The Peckham Pioneers: The Black Women Councillors in Camberwell and Peckham", hearing about the careers and celebrating the achievements of Cllrs Dora Dixon-Fyle, Althea Smith, Mary Foulkes and Sandra Rhule. Back then, Camberwell and Peckham had 8 Councillors from ethnic minority backgrounds. We now have 10, 7 of which are women, and Black History Month gives us an opportunity to focus on the contribution to our communities, and to our public life, of black people throughout Southwark.*

ESTABLISHED 1865  
**southlondonpress** LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Mercury **The new Metropolitan  
Commissioner must eradicate  
racism from the force**

3 January 2023

*In the wake of the resignation of Cressida Dick, London now has a new Metropolitan Police Commissioner.*

*Sir Mark Rowley, who has taken up the UK's top policing job, has an impressive track record and said he is determined to bring about change.*

*Everyone in London is entitled to a police service in which they can trust and who will help keep them safe, so I will give him every support.*

*Certainly he has a big task.*

*I do not think it's a matter of restoring trust in the police. There has not been, since I have been MP over the last 40 years, a golden age of trust in the police to which we need to return.*

*What is happening now is long overdue recognition of what has long been the case, that there is a lack of trust in the police particularly among the black community.*

*In the past, complaints about racism in the police were brushed aside. Then they were characterised as "anti-police" when they were nothing of the sort. At last now the intention is to tackle it.*

*From the Scarman Report on the Brixton Riots in 1981, to the Macpherson Report on the murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993 there have been numerous moments when change has been promised.*

*Yet it has never materialised and so cynicism has grown.*

*This time there really must be change not just good intentions.*



*Firstly, there needs to be a thorough-going vetting of all existing Met officers. Those who have committed disciplinary offences with any aspect of racism should be dismissed.*

*The Met say that restrictive rules laid down by Parliament prevent them dismissing officers who are not fit to be in the police.*

*Along with other London Labour MPs I have assured Sir Mark Rowley that if he drafts new rules which enable him to effectively manage the force to keep the necessary high standards, we will introduce them into Parliament.*

*Over the years Met Police leaders have complained about restrictive management rules but have never been specific about what changes they need.*

*As soon as they do that we will make the necessary changes in Parliament. It is not good enough for them to bemoan their hands being tied.*

*They need to specify the take action which we, the Mayor and the Home Secretary are more than willing to take.*

*Sir Mark Rowley has said there are hundreds of officers who can't do their job because their previous actions have shown them to be unfit to be in contact with the public yet they remain in the police.*

*Until such time as the Met have rid the force of racists they won't command the confidence of the black community.*

*However many community meetings the police hold, it won't work if black people's everyday experience of the police is discriminatory.*

*Secondly, the black community need to be able to see black officers in our local force. One third of Camberwell and Peckham people are black (compared to 4 per cent nationally).*

*They are entitled to a diverse force so the Met should have a specific policy of deploying black officers into Camberwell and Peckham.*

*Finally the Met need to establish an independent process to benchmark and publish annually the views of the black community to measure whether the actions they have taken are working to engender trust in the Met in the black community.*

*Black people are entitled to be protected, not subjected to discrimination.*

*They are entitled to a police service they can trust.*

*And it's Sir Mark Rowley's job to deliver that.*

## **Pressing the Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade to take action to root out misogyny and racism**

On 6<sup>th</sup> December along with London MP colleagues I met with the Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade, Andy Roe, to press him on his plans to reform the LFB following



the shocking findings of Nazir Afzal OBE in his Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade.

The review found misogyny, racism and bullying through the LFB and Nazir Afzal OBE described the organisation as "institutionally misogynist and racist". This is not new. In 1985 I supported a woman fire fighter who had been forced to watch masturbation and had urine thrown on her by colleagues.

I was very impressed with Commissioner Andy Roe's plans

to reform the LFB, including the dismissal of any officer found to have been involved in misogyny, racism or bullying. The LFB is also introducing an External Complaints Service while they improve their internal processes to give fire fighters more confidence in the complaints process.

I will continue to monitor the LFB's progress in rooting out misogyny and racism and strongly support the Commissioner's work so far.



## Fighting for women's rights locally and nationally

### Demanding that the Home Secretary reform the Metropolitan Police

After the tragic murder of Sarah Everard in 2021 I wrote to the then-Home Secretary outlining my proposals for the reform of the Metropolitan Police. This included that all serving officers against whom there is an allegation of violence against women should be suspended, and a reform of the vetting process of new recruits. 15 months later, in January 2023, we learnt about the atrocious and repeated crimes committed by David Carrick, who served as a police officer for 20 years without being suspended despite repeated allegations of sexual violence.

On January 17<sup>th</sup> I spoke in an Urgent Question to the Home Secretary about the Metropolitan Police's response to the horrific crimes committed by David Carrick. I demanded that the Home Secretary bring in without delay new Regulations to change the rules on dismissals in the police and to allow the Met Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, to sack officers who need to be removed from policing. I also demanded that the Met take action against the senior officers who enabled Carrick's crimes by ignoring the allegations against him.

My questions to the Home Secretary are below, and you can watch it [here](#).

*I thank the Home Secretary for her statement. I completely agree with the very strong questioning put by the shadow Home Secretary, and I also agree with what was said by the former Home Secretary and the current Chair of the Select Committee.*

Harriet Harman  @HarrietHarman · Jan 17  
 Home Sec @SuellaBraverman must bring forward draft Regs to change rules which prevent @metpoliceuk Commissioner & Chief Constables sacking officers. All parties would back this. Why only reviews/inaction? My question in Parl 🇬🇧 1/2



0:30 3,595 views

5 33 103 9,952

Harriet Harman  @HarrietHarman · Jan 17  
 .@metpoliceuk must take action on senior officers in management roles whose failures on Carrick enabled his crimes to continue 2/2



737 views 0:03 / 1:21

5 8 27 2,755

*I have two questions. The first is about timing. As hon. Members have said, successive Metropolitan Police Commissioners have complained that the regulations this House has put in place in statutory instruments prevent them from sacking officers who they know are unfit to be in the Metropolitan police, so that puts a responsibility on us to change those regulations. Can I suggest that the Home Secretary, in consultation with the Metropolitan police, brings forward draft regulations, and let us consult not in the overall generality of a review, but on those specific draft regulations? We will be 100% behind her when she brings to the House changed regulations, so that the Metropolitan police are able to manage the force in the way we all want to see them manage it.*

*The second point about Sir Mark Rowley and the response to the Carrick situation is that this is not just about change in the future, but about dealing*

*with the individuals who are currently in senior and management positions in the Met who seemed to think it was all right for Carrick to be given extra responsibilities and to be promoted. The management suitability of those officers really ought to be examined by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and we need a bit of transparency about that. Will the Home Secretary urge the commissioner, whom we all support in his determination to change the culture, to publish transparently what tracking he has gone through of when Carrick was looked at and nothing was done, because all of those senior officers have colluded? Will she also look through all of the officers, at horizontal level, who were part of the banter and the immediate culture of this officer, and who did nothing to report him and therefore were colluding in the perpetration of these atrocious crimes?*

## **How Men Who Kill Their Partners Are Getting Away With a 'Fifty Shades Defence'**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2023, by Alex Lloyd, Fabulous Magazine

Natalie Connolly's death was a painful and violent one. The mum of one was found lying in a pool of blood at the bottom of the stairs in her home, having suffered more than 40 injuries.

These included horrific internal damage inflicted with a bottle of carpet cleaner, plus her face had been sprayed with bleach. A post-mortem showed the 26 year old died from acute alcohol intoxication and blunt force injuries.

Yet the man responsible for leaving Natalie's eight-year-old daughter to grow up without a mum, her multimillionaire boyfriend John Broadhurst, who was 38 at the time of Natalie's death, was jailed for only three years and eight months.

The reason? Because he claimed that Natalie had wanted this mistreatment as part of consensual rough sex.

At a trial in December 2018, prosecutors tried to prove Broadhurst had murdered his girlfriend two years earlier at their home in Kinver, Staffordshire, during an angry assault, but later downgraded the charge to manslaughter by gross negligence, to which he pleaded guilty.

Natalie's grieving twin sister Gemma Andrews and her father Alan Andrews said listening to his lurid claims only exacerbated their pain. When Broadhurst was released in October 2020 after serving a mere 22 months, Gemma said the justice system had failed her family. She told *The Sun* at the time: "It makes me feel physically sick. Nat wasn't the person she was made out to be. He killed my sister and put us all through hell as he tried to blame her for her own death."

Sadly, this case of a man implicating his victim in her fate isn't an isolated one. Two women a year in Britain were killed or injured during "rough sex" in 1996. Twenty years later, this figure was 20, with the use of the defence of a sex game gone wrong leaping tenfold since 2000.

When British backpacker Grace Millane was killed by a man she met on Tinder while in New Zealand in December 2018, his insistence on blaming the 22 year old for her own death meant details of her intimate life were broadcast around the world.

While Jesse Kempson was eventually found guilty of Grace's murder and jailed for 17 years, then later convicted of a further two sex attacks on women, the damage had already been done.

Grace's cousin, Hannah O'Callaghan, says their family has been changed forever by both their loss and the fallout from the trial. "Grace was a fun, family-orientated free spirit with a caring, loving nature," the 40-year-old mum from Essex tells *Fabulous*.

"She had a passion for art and we enjoyed lots of laughter and jokes at family gatherings. She was more like a younger sister to me than a cousin. All of our lives have changed completely. Her loss to us hasn't eased over the last four years. She's missed as much today as the day she died."

Like Natalie's family, Grace's loved ones felt their grief was compounded by the way her killer portrayed her during his trial. "The coverage was particularly difficult as it was so public," explains Hannah. "At times, it felt like Grace was the one on trial and she wasn't able to defend herself. You cannot consent to your own murder."

Another woman to die in shocking circumstances was Sophie Moss. She was tragically killed after receiving sustained pressure to her neck by her lover Sam Pybus at her home in Darlington, County Durham, in February 2021. He was jailed for four years and eight months after pleading guilty to the manslaughter of the mum of two. Sophie's older brother James told the court that her death felt like he'd lost a part of himself, while their father struggled to understand due to his dementia.



"She was joyous, vibrant, funny, talented and fearless – unless she saw a spider," he said. "She was considerate, generous and loved animals, and we cared deeply for each other."

Her ex-partner, who is raising their two sons, said it took him five weeks to break the horrifying news that their mother was dead – and that Pybus would "most likely be free" before they start asking the first awkward questions. "Our sons have been given a life sentence of grief and emptiness. The youngest often asks: 'Can I FaceTime Mummy in heaven?'" he said.

Tellingly, Pybus' ex-wife Louise Hewitt dubbed his lenient punishment "victim blaming" after the sentencing. In an article, she also said: "The lack of respect for women in the crime and sentencing of this case is appalling and exemplifies the danger of misogyny that permeates our society more than ever. Men in particular need to start questioning why they get a kick out of strangling a woman. Because, knowing Sam, his act was not about what Sophie wanted."

Outcry over cases like these spurred MPs, spearheaded by Labour's Harriet Harman, and campaigners to demand a change in the law to mean the rough sex defence could no longer be used. The new Domestic Abuse Act says that a person is unable to consent to the infliction of harm that results in injury or death, for the purposes of obtaining sexual gratification. The legislation is a step forward, and perpetrators of non-fatal strangulation could now face up to five years in prison under the legislation

But Newbury MP Laura Farris wants to take things further. She is calling for those convicted of sexually motivated manslaughter to receive a minimum of 12 years' incarceration – sentences are currently, on average, much lower. Last year, she introduced a Private Members Bill in Parliament that would amend sentencing guidelines for judges.

Without the change in legislation, cases like the manslaughters of Natalie Connolly and Sophie Moss will continue to be viewed as lesser offences with lower sentencing guidelines.

"When I read the list of injuries inflicted on Natalie, I found it hard to believe she was still 'up for it'," Laura says. "For the families, this line of argument sullies the memories. And the last act the perpetrator inflicts on the victim – who is deceased and can't say what happened – is to make her look like a 'slag' who invited her own death. I've gone for a starting point of 12 years and I know my constituents think it is too short, but it will show that society does not tolerate this."

The MP believes the problem reflects the growth of a harmful violent culture that insists women "want this".



Natalie Connolly's twin sister Gemma Andrews

**'The defence  
of a sex game  
gone wrong has  
risen tenfold'**





Alex Lloyd @alexlloydjourn - Jan 15

Incredibly proud to see this @Fabulousmag report out today, on tougher sentencing for sexually-motivated manslaughter. Thanks to Hannah O'Callaghan for speaking so movingly about her late cousin Grace Millane, and to @fionamacmac @Wecantconsentto @Laura\_Farris @HarrietHarman



1

4

33

1,912



"The truth is, a lot of women are in abusive relationships where they feel they have no choice or they are forced into these situations," Laura explains. "I'm 44 and this wasn't something I had to live with growing up. Now I hear about young women who tell campaigners that choking is fashionable and they feel obliged to do it. It even gets called 'breath play'." So widespread is this misogynistic trend that research conducted by BBC Radio 5 Live and ComRes in 2019 found a shocking 38% of women aged 18 to 39 have been subjected to unwanted slapping, spitting, choking or gagging in consensual sex.

Fiona Mackenzie founded the We

Can't Consent To This campaign in 2018 in response to Natalie's death and the increasing normalisation of violence against women. Fiona was working at Aberdeen University when the case of Mandy McDonald – a Scottish mum who was killed in January 2000 by her husband, who used rough sex as his defence – made headlines not only in Scotland, but across the rest of the UK. This tragic story stuck with Fiona, and when she later came across Natalie's case, she started a project to see how many women the rough sex defence affected. Although she was a crucial voice in outlawing the defence, she still feels much more needs to be done.

"The government changing the law is just the start of this and it needs to work in practice," she says. "The criminal justice system is designed around men and men's violence. There is very little understanding of domestic violence and abuse or coercive control.



Harriet Harman and Laura Farris are campaigning for a change in sentencing

"We also need to work on the fact that a generation raised on violent porn are immersed in the idea that a woman crying during sex is normal. It is unacceptable as a society for young women to be told that – and for young boys to be coached to carry out sexual violence when they are just children."

MP Harriet Harman is also backing the new bill, after she spearheaded the movement to get the rough sex defence outlawed, but nevertheless believes prosecutors need to be bolder and push for murder convictions, and not settle for manslaughter.

"Ultimately, even if [the bill] is passed, it is still men getting off the hook," she says. "It should be treated for what it is – murder – and lead to a life sentence. There has to be absolutely zero tolerance in the justice system and the end of the culture of excuses. Because if the heart of this is a law which lets men get away with murder, it is difficult to make the argument that violence against women is never justified and that men must take responsibility for it – not seek to put the responsibility on her."

Grace Millane's mum Gillian and cousin Hannah set up the charity Love Grace in memory of the 22 year old. They fund-raise to donate handbags containing toiletries to women fleeing domestic violence who seek help at refuges.

And Hannah agrees that the bill absolutely needs to pass, saying: "Men simply must not be allowed to use this defence as an excuse to kill women, knowing they can get a lesser sentence. It will also mean families won't have to sit and listen while the victim is being re-victimised – and that no other family will have to go through what we have."

## Speaking at the Fawcett Society's "A House for Everyone" event



On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 I spoke on a panel along with parliamentary colleagues at a Fawcett Society event to launch their new report, "A House for Everyone: A case for modernising Parliament".

Based on surveys and interviews with MPs, the report found that 69% of women in Parliament have witnessed sexist behaviour in the past 5 years, and only 37% of women felt that Parliament was an inclusive environment for them.

It shows clearly that we have a long way to go to make Parliament a place where women can work on equal terms with men. I strongly endorse the

recommendations made in the final report, which you can read in full [here](#).

## Interviewing international women MPs

While parliaments around the world are still male-dominated there are now women MPs in every parliament in the world. Despite very different contexts, our objectives for progressive change for women in our respective countries are so similar. In 2018 I held a conference for Women MPs of the World in the chamber of the House of Commons. Out of that 2018 conference arose an idea for a new project interviewing women MPs from Parliaments all over the world.



Over the past year I have been interviewing these women MPs to hear why they had decided to enter politics, how they got selected to stand for parliament and elected, and what they hope to achieve. I continue to conduct these interviews and so far I have interviewed:

- Australia: Tanya Plibersek MP
- Barbados: Santia Bradshaw MP
- Somalia: Fawzia Yusuf H Adam MP
- Nepal: Asha Kumari MP
- Jamaica: Tamika Davis MP
- Sierra Leone: Hajaratu Faith Samura MP
- The Bahamas: Patricia Ann Deveaux MP,
- Nigeria: Betty Apiafi MP
- Mauritius: Teenah Jutton MP
- Saudi Arabia: Dr Aliaa Al Dahlawi MP
- Malaysia: Fuziah Salleh MP
- Canada: Ruby Sahota MP
- Mexico: Cynthia Lopez Castro MP
- New Zealand: Jan Logie MP
- Indonesia: Luluk Nur Hamidah MP
- Germany: Beate Walter-Rosenheimer MP
- The Maldives: Rozaina Adam MP
- The Gambia: Fatoumatta N’Jai

## Remembering Dolet Hill, Tanysha Ofori-Akuffo and Samantha Drummonds

On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Joshua Jacques killed my constituents Dolet Hill, Tanysha Ofori-Akuffo and Samantha Drummonds, as well as Denton Burke.

Dolet, Tanysha and Samantha are three of the over hundred women who have been killed by men over the past year.

**Harriet Harman** @HarrietHarman · Mar 9

Such a powerful speech by @jessphillips in #IWD2023 debate. RIP Dolet Hill, Tanysha Ofori-Akuffo & Samantha Drummonds, my constits are 3 of 100+ women killed by men in past year. The list never any shorter. We desperately need action to end epidemic of male violence against women

**Jess Phillips MP** @jessphillips · Mar 9

We need deeds not words to stop the avoidable killings of women by men. It was an honour to read their names in front of bereaved families. Every year it is overwhelming.

9:23 411.1K views st year I read the list of killed women.

10 25 144 16.5K



MP Rozaina Adam  
@Roxeyna

It was such an honour meeting Hon. @HarrietHarman, mother of the house of the @HouseofCommons, a role model for us female politicians! Looking forward to reading the book she is working on!



7:55 PM · Jul 17, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Each year in the debate in Parliament to mark International Women’s Day my colleague Jess Phillips MP reads out all of the names of those women killed by male violence, and each year the list does not get any shorter. Tragically, this year the list included Dolet, Tanysha and Samantha.

There is an epidemic of male violence against women and the shocking number of dead women is a stark reminder that the Government has not done anywhere near enough to end it. You can watch Jess’ speech in Parliament [here](#).

## International Women's Day 2023

10<sup>th</sup> March 2023



*International Women's Day on Wednesday was time to celebrate what women have achieved and what they contribute but also to reflect on the oppression and inequality they still suffer.*

*When I first became an MP 40 years ago most women gave up work when they had their children and when they went back to work it was usually only part-time.*

*Men were paid much more than women and did not expect to play much of a role in the daily care of their children.*

*Domestic violence against women was often justified on the basis that "she provoked him", or "she brought it on herself".*

*Women who had been raped were frequently blamed for wearing revealing clothes or being out late at night.*

*Men were in charge of every area of public and private life from the workplace to the home.*

*And politics was male-dominated with 97 per cent of MPs men and only three per cent women.*

*Much has changed for the better.*

*Now most women work and the pay gap has narrowed, from 27.2 per cent in 1981 to 12.3 per cent now.*

*Though men don't yet share the childcare and housework they certainly do more than they did.*

*Now 27 per cent of UK High Court judges are women, compared to three per cent 40 years ago.*

*And 225 of the 650 MPs in Parliament are women, an all-time high of 35 per cent, and there are women in nearly every parliament around the world.*

*Although the scourge of male violence against women persists, all political parties are now committed to tackling it and numerous laws have been passed to that end.*

*There is widespread recognition of the prevalence of domestic violence and a consensus that it is abhorrent that women should be beaten in their own home, often in front of their terrified children.*

*But one dreadful problem which remains to be dealt with is that men get away with rape, and they even get away with murder when the victim is a woman and they say they killed her by mistake in "rough sex gone wrong".*

*The conviction rate for all rape cases that go to trial is an unacceptably low 7.2 per cent, and for domestic abuse cases it is even worse at 2.1 per cent.*

*The Government is bringing in a Bill to protect victims.*

*The Victims Bill is a welcome initiative but it needs some measures added to it.*

*I will be bringing forward some changes which would restrict the use of a woman's sexual history by the defendant in rape trials and in trials for sexually-motivated homicide.*

*This would end the problem of these trials turning into a trial of the victim rather than the defendant and prevent men from dragging a woman's reputation through the mud to try and protest their own innocence.*

*This is not a party politics issue.*

*There should be no reason for the Conservative Government to block it.*



*The shadow of rape and the murder of women hangs over this International Women's Day.*

*But we can take steps to deter men and ensure justice for women.*

### **International Women's Day event with Fleur Anderson MP**

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 I spoke at an event hosted by Fleur Anderson MP. I addressed over 200 women from Fleur's constituency who were there to celebrate International Women's Day. I have confidence that with women like Fleur in the House of Commons, Labour's agenda on equality and

women's rights will be carried forwards by women deeply committed to making positive changes.

### **Time to give the Equality and Human Rights Commission powers to tackle the gender pay gap**

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 it was announced that the UK gender pay gap had widened by 2.4%, and is now 14.4%. According to a new report by PwC, women's employment losses from Covid-19 were worse than men's, and the increasing cost of childcare is partly responsible for the increase in the gender pay gap.

Labour has committed in its New Deal for Working People to close the gender pay gap by cracking down on unfair and low pay, removing the barriers that face women at work and increasing transparency across the board on pay rates. I also want to see the Equality and Human Rights Commission given powers to set targets for sectors





and organisations to close their gender pay gap, and to impose fines if those targets are not met. There is no point in just wringing our hands as the pay gap gets wider.



### HARRIET HARMAN MP

■ Labour MP for Camberwell and Peckham and  
Chair of the Committee of Privileges

**H**arriet Harman was elected to Parliament in 1982. Since being elected, she has fought 10 elections, witnessed nine Prime Ministers, and served under eight Labour leaders. In 2022, Harman said that after 40 years in Parliament, she intends to step down at the next election.

Harman has achieved an enormous amount in the last four decades. Even before entering the House, she was an active campaigner to increase the number of women in politics.

It is worth remembering that when joining Parliament in 1982, Harman was one of only 10 female Labour MPs. In a Parliament that was 97% men, Harman set up the first parliamentary Labour Party Women's Group. She is currently the female MP with the longest continuous service, making her "the Mother of the House".

The steps that Harman was taking 40 years ago created the foundation for better gender representation in the House of Commons

across all parties. That is a hugely positive thing for our democracy.

But before Harman steps down, she has another critical duty to perform.

As Chair of the Committee of Privileges, Harman is leading the group tasked with deciding whether Boris Johnson misled Parliament over lockdown breaches in Downing Street. The Committee is expected to publish its findings at some point in early 2023.

Even though Boris Johnson has stood down, the recommendations of the Committee will still mark an important political moment for the nation. It will put the scandals of Partygate back on the front pages and create a level of discomfort for the current Prime Minister who was found to have breached lockdown laws himself.

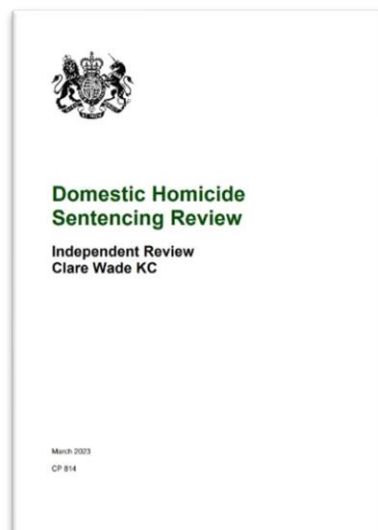
As a true pioneer who has challenged the status quo for 40 years, it could turn out to be a fitting ending to Harman's lifetime of political service. 🇬🇧

## Women in Westminster: The 100

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 I attended the annual reception for the Women in Westminster: The 100, hosted by Dods, as one of their 100 women. The list was made up of women from Parliament, the Civil Service, journalism, public affairs and the media. We heard speeches from the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, the Deputy Speaker of the house of Commons, Dame Eleanor Laing MP, and the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Dame Meg Hillier MP. The evening was an opportunity to celebrate all of the impressive achievements of women in Westminster over the past year.

## Changing sentencing for rough sex "gone wrong" killings

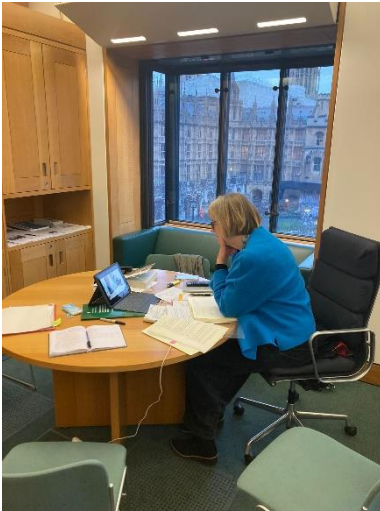
On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the Government published the independent Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review undertaken by Clare Wade KC. I was very pleased that the review recognised the problem of deplorably low sentences for men who kill their partners during sex, and has recommended that sentencing for this crime should be increased to a starting point of 12 years' custody. But ultimately it is my view that this is murder not manslaughter. Rough sex "gone wrong" should not be a defence and the sentence should be life.



## Baroness Casey Review reveals shocking failures of the Metropolitan Police and need for reform

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 Baroness Casey published her review into the Metropolitan Police which was commissioned after the horrific murder of Sarah Everard in March 2021. The final report details how racism, misogyny and homophobia is rampant within the Metropolitan Police and contains harrowing stories of abuse within the organisation.

*Women in Westminster: The 100 by Dods*



Whilst the details are shocking, they are not surprising. Time and again the Met has been shown to be incapable of stamping out discrimination. It is no surprise that women have no trust in the police. And I do not think it's a matter of restoring that trust. There has not been, since I have been MP over the last 40 years, a golden age of trust in the police to which we need to return.

Sir Mark Rowley, the new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has vowed to reform the police. And as a London MP I will be holding him to account on that promise. Until such time as the Met have rid the force of racists and misogynists they won't command the confidence of local communities.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March I met with Sir Mark Rowley and other London Labour MPs to press him on his work reforming the Met. I asked what progress he was making on changing the rules for disciplinary processes in the Met, and demanded that the Met start treating indecent exposure and flashing as a serious crime that has a high chance of leading to even worse sexual offences, as we saw in the case of Wayne Couzens.

Particularly in light of Baroness Casey's review I welcomed the appointment of Sebastian Adjei-Addoh as Detective Chief Superintendent of Southwark Borough Command.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May I met the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Mark Rowley, at Peckham Police station, along with Seb Adjei-Addoh, Helen Hayes MP, Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Florence Eshalomi MP and Leader of Southwark Council Kieron Williams.

I explained to the Commissioner that he had our full support and good will for his planned reforms, but that our constituents need to see change now, not a long list of objectives and strategies for future change.

The Commissioner reiterated his need for a change in the legislation that governs police dismissals and misconduct to allow him to sack officers guilty of crimes. I assured him that MPs stand ready to make these changes as soon as the legislation is brought forward.

If Sir Mark Rowley is to achieve his objective of reforming the Met and gaining the trust of Londoners, he will have to recognise the depths of distrust and show evidence that he is changing the police for the better.



8<sup>th</sup> April 2023

*The Casey Review into the Metropolitan Police was shocking in its findings that the Met is institutionally racist, misogynistic and homophobic.*

*But though shocking these findings should not be a surprise to anyone as there has been plenty of evidence over many years suggesting exactly that. And though particular events, such as the Sarah Everard murder and the conviction of David Carrick, have severely further undermined confidence, it is not a question of "restoring" trust in the police. There was no trust to be restored so trust needs to be built from the ground up.*

*Over a period of many years I've argued for strong disciplinary procedures to exclude from the force those who are unfit to serve. I hope now that at long last the Met and the Home Office will take action. It is madness for the police force to be paying officers who they can't use but can't sack. But as well as a new disciplinary framework the Met themselves will have to devote the necessary resources to investigating misconduct and bring the right attitude of zero tolerance. As well as blocking those who are unsuitable from getting into the force and getting rid of those who commit misconduct once they are in, the Met needs to engage in a major exercise to protect and support their current BAME, LGBT and women officers. Trust in the public will not be created while officers in the Met are themselves being subjected to discrimination and harassment from their colleagues.*

*I want to back Sir Mark Rowley in this vital task but it's disappointing that he refused to accept the Casey Review's finding that the Met is institutionally flawed. It's hard to exert the necessary momentum to achieve structural change if you won't accept that it is systemic and institutionalised.*

*Everyone, literally, in the Met needs to look at what they are actively doing to play a part in this positive transformation. That needs to happen at the same time as recognising the incredible work that does go on in the Met, like bringing to justice the killer of my constituent Jobari Gooden.*

*My constituents' son Chris Kaba was killed by a single gunshot fired by a Met officer in September last year and this has now been investigated by the Independent Office for Police Conduct and referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for decision about whether there should be a homicide charge against the officer. The investigation is complete so all that remains is for the CPS to decide whether there is sufficient evidence to make it more likely than not that there would be a conviction. They need to do that swiftly. The family's torment will only be further drawn out while they wait for the outcome of the next stage in this process.*

*This is an important time for our new Borough Commander to be taking up his post. I will give commander Seb Adjei-Addoh my wholehearted support in bringing about the change that is needed.*

*The Casey Review and the recent report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services finding misogyny, racism and homophobia in fire brigades around the country are not some quirky "wokery".*

*Everyone who works in our police and fire services must treat all those who depend on their service with equal diligence and professionalism. All those who work in those crucial services deserve to know that they will not be discriminated against and harassed. And we all want those services to command the respect and confidence which should be afforded to those who are doing a difficult job on our behalf.*

*The Casey Review must mark the beginning of major and lasting change. If not now, when?*

## **New Bill to reform Met Police standards**

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 I published a Bill drafted by Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, to reform the regulations governing police conduct and dismissal. The Police Reform (Performance and Disciplinary) Bill has the support of Members of Parliament from Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats and you can view it [here](#).

The current procedures for disciplining and dismissing police officers are not fit for purpose. The shortcomings in existing police procedures and regulations have been highlighted by, amongst others, Baroness Casey of Blackstock, the College of Policing Chief Constable Andy Marsh and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, Sir Mark Rowley.

In her review, Baroness Casey recommended that the Government should expedite work to provide the Commissioner with new powers to support his efforts to rapidly reform and clean up the Metropolitan Police. The changes this Bill would introduce address the concerns of the Casey review and the requests by Sir Mark Rowley for increased powers.

The Bill would introduce reforms to enable the Met Commissioner to:

- Dismiss a serving officer who is convicted of a serious criminal offence (all indictable and either-way offences + violence and Domestic Abuse if summary only)
- Suspend an officer charged with a serious criminal offence (offences as above)
- Dismiss a serving officer who fails vetting (strengthen and streamline current provisions – learning from MPS existing work)
- Give Chief Constables the power to reopen misconduct investigations
- Dismiss an officer whilst in their probation period (including for misconduct)
- Introduce a Duty of Candour, which would require an officer to proactively report any wrongdoing (by self or others)
- Provide Chief Constables the right of appeal to a Police Appeals Tribunal following a misconduct hearing when the sanction is inadequate
- Reduce the performance process to a two stage process, from the current three stage + three appeals





- Strengthen the pension forfeiture rules so that a criminal offence does not have to be committed 'in connection' with their service in order for an officer to lose their pension
- Create a 'duty to handover' to obtain relevant information from an officer's personal phone during a misconduct investigation

Sadiq Khan and I have written to the Home Secretary urging her to back the Bill. You can read our letter [here](#). The Bill stands ready to be made into law, to give police chiefs in England and Wales the powers they need and have explicitly asked for, so that they can start to build public trust in the police.



## **My 90-year-old constituent was put in a spit hood and threatened with a Taser, I want police reform now**

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

*It seems like every week brings a new report of worrying action by Met Police officers.*

*This week I have been helping the family of an elderly woman with dementia who was handcuffed, put in a spit hood and threatened with a taser.*

*My constituent is 90 years old and there were eight met officers in the flat during the incident.*

*On 9th May Met Police officers were called to her neighbour's flat where my constituent was. Eight police officers came and during the incident my constituent was threatened with a taser, which is known as "issuing a red dot challenge", handcuffed and had a spit hood pulled over her head before being put in an ambulance and taken to King's College Hospital.*

*The family have made a complaint to the Independent Office for Police Conduct and they are investigating. I hope they do so promptly.*

*We also heard news recently that an elderly woman in Australia died after being tasered by police.*

*When tasers were first introduced I don't think any of us thought that they would be used on elderly women suffering from dementia. And I think what we need now is proper guidance on not using tasers on the elderly.*

*This case is also a reminder that the Government has still not brought forwards its proposals to reform the Met police and ensure that police chiefs have the powers they need to manage and discipline officers appropriately.*

*That is why, along with the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, I have published the Police Reform (Performance and Disciplinary) Bill. This Bill will reform the regulations governing Metropolitan Police conduct and dismissal and has the support of Members of Parliament from The Labour Party, but also, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats. I hope to introduce it before parliament breaks up for the summer.*

*The rules and procedures for police management and discipline are laid down in law. So, if there is a problem, it is Parliament's job to change them.*



*The deficiencies in the current police procedures and regulations were starkly laid out in the recent report by Baroness Louise Casey, and at a recent meeting with him the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, Sir Mark Rowley, has said they need to be changed to enable him to manage the Met properly.*

*My Bill would introduce reforms to enable the Met Commissioner to dismiss a serving officer who is convicted of a serious criminal, to suspend an officer charged with a serious criminal offence and dismiss a serving officer who fails vetting without having to go through three layers of appeal processes.*

*It would also introduce a Duty of Candour, requiring an officer to proactively report any wrongdoing, whether by themselves or by others. This would end the cover- up culture in which leads officers protecting their colleagues even when they know they have acted inappropriately.*

*The demand for reform of the Met is not new. For 20 years police chiefs have been complaining that they lack the necessary powers to discipline officers, in Parliament we've complained about police misconduct, but we have failed to give police chiefs the powers they need.*

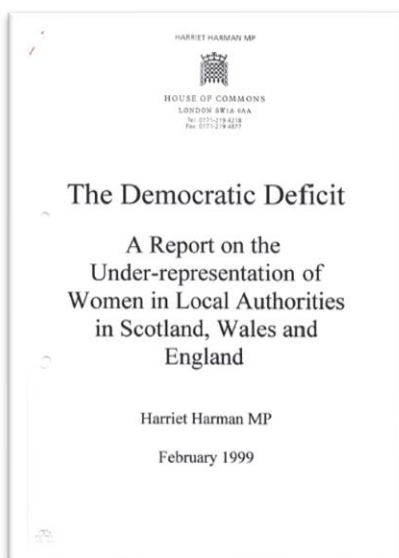
*The Home Office have carried out countless reviews, consultations and inquiries. Now it is time for action.*

*It's time for Parliament to do its job, so that the Met Commissioner can do his job of cleaning up the Met and giving Londoners the police force it deserves.*

## **We need to fix the democratic deficit in Local Councils**

**Men dominate 95% of local authorities in Britain, data shows**

Only 18 of 382 councils have minimum gender representation parity, say equality charities



Analysis by Fawcett Society and Democracy Club and reported in The Guardian has shown that men dominate 95% of local authorities in Britain and only 33% of local councillors are women. Labour has the best proportion of councillors who are women, with 47%, but this is still not enough.

Progress has been unacceptably slow. In 1999, I published a report on the under-representation of women in Local Authorities, which found that only 27% of councillors are women. This means that in 24 years, the total of women councillors has increased by a mere 6%.

This matters because women are still not fully represented in our local democracy. Yet they are active in their local communities, as governors of local schools, as members of PTAs, and in tenants and residents associations. They are the majority of those employed in Council services, and the biggest users of those services.

Women are still being held back from making the step into democratic politics and until this changes there will remain a democratic deficit.

## Attending Camberwell roundtable on male violence against women and girls

On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 I attended a roundtable at St Giles Trust in Camberwell with Keir Starmer MP, Yvette Cooper MP the Shadow Home Secretary, Jess Phillips MP the Shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Safeguarding, and a number of campaigners and experts to discuss approaches to ending the epidemic of male violence against women and girls.

It was an opportunity to hear first hand the impact of male violence, including from Emily Attack who spoke about her experience of cyberflashing, and Georgia Harrison whose ex-boyfriend was recently jailed for 21 months for sharing a private video of them having sex.

At the roundtable Keir reiterated Labour's commitment to halving incidents of violence against women and girls. The awful statistics for rape prosecutions show that this Government is incapable of protecting women and ensuring that they receive justice. Only 2.5% of reported rapes end up in a charge, the lowest rate on record. And recently the conviction rate of cases that go to trial has decreased from 69.1% to 61.9%. Labour has published its Green Paper on ending violence against women and girls.

You Retweeted

Alimatu Dimonekene MBE  
@TheAlima

I was please to have been invited to a roundtable meeting today at the St Giles Centre with @Keir\_Starmer MP (Opposition Leader) and a number of other Labour front bench politicians on Violence Against Women and Girls.

The roundtable brought together senior representatives from national support and advocacy organisations, police representatives, representatives from health and housing services and leaders who work to address attitudes among men.

Sir Keir who I was also fortunate to have worked with whilst he was at the Crown Prosecution Service on the Serious Crime Bill looking at FGM and it's many offences said to the experts ....  
"Hearing people's stories today was a reminder of how much work we have to do to tackle violence against women and girls."

"My Labour government will halve levels of violence against women and girls in a decade and support victims to get the justice the deserve. "

Also at the meeting was @SophieKLinden Deputy Mayor of Policing, @YvetteCooperMP Shadow Home Secretary, @jessphillips MP and @HarrietHarman MP who sadly will be leaving her role as MP for Peckham. A huge supporter of the community. I know the candidate @Miatsf who takes over has big shoes to fill. But in great hands.

Also at the meeting we're several other leading voices.



## British Library event – Feminism in Politics: Past, Present and Future



On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 I was pleased to join a panel to discuss women's political representation in British politics. Alongside Helen Pankhurst, Charlene White and Joeli Brearley, I discussed why we have still not achieved the equal political representation of women in the UK, what the barriers are to women's participation and what we can do to change that.

It was great to say hi to a former constituent who had originally asked me for help with an issue back in 1997. She still has the letter that I wrote to her!



## Stopping women from being imprisoned for procuring their own abortions

No woman should be jailed for her own abortion. Yet in a recent case, Carla Foster, who induced a late-term abortion, was sentenced to 14 months in jail. This prison sentence was halved and suspended by the Court of Appeal, which commented that it was “a case that calls for compassion, not punishment.”



Harriet Harman  
@HarrietHarman

Now we need Sentencing Guidelines to ensure no woman ever again sent to prison for own abortion. And new CPS guidance that “not in public interest” to prosecute such cases.



We need to stop women being imprisoned for procuring their own abortions. On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 I wrote to the Sentencing Council and asked them to implement draft Sentencing Guidelines that I have written that would ensure that no woman faces more than a community order in these cases.

I also wrote to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Max Hill KC, asking him to publish guidance for Crown Prosecutors on the “public interest” test for prosecution. It seems to me that it would very rarely, if ever, be in the interest to imprison a woman for carrying out an abortion and guidance should clarify this. You can

read my letter [here](#).

There remains an issue with the substantive law, and that is an issue that Parliament must sort. Until then, we can stop women being sent to prison for procuring their own abortion by implementing Sentencing Guidelines and stopping prosecutions.

## Becoming Chair of the Fawcett Society

On June 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 I was pleased to be announced as the new Chair of the Fawcett Society. The Fawcett Society is the UK’s leading charity campaigning for gender equality and women’s rights and I am looking forward to working with them as they fight for women’s equality.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June the Fawcett Society won a big victory for women’s rights with its case against The Sun and Jeremy Clarkson’s article about Meghan Markle. Following a complaint filed with the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) by the Fawcett Society, the watchdog ruled that the piece was sexist. This is a milestone for women’s rights.





## Tribute to Glenda Jackson

House Magazine, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023



*Long before I met Glenda Jackson when she was a Labour activist and then a parliamentary candidate, I was, along with most women of my generation, in awe of her. We'd all seen Women in Love. She was the icon as a woman in the public eye and as a stunningly talented actress. She was completely different from the stereotypical actress star at the time. She radiated a sense of independence and spoke out fearlessly. She was her own woman, beholden to no-one and certainly not there at the behest of men. And that was as thrilling as it was unusual in those days.*

*That was at the time when in Labour politics, women were demanding their place in Parliament and Labour was establishing itself as the party of the arts and culture. At that time New Labour, under Tony Blair's leadership, was rapidly gaining ground and one of our pledges (inherited from when Neil Kinnock was leader) was a massive boost for the arts with tax credits for films and significant funding for the Arts Council. Glenda, who was highly political and firmly on the left, exemplified the new strand of*



Harriet Harman  
@HarrietHarman

Glenda Jackson left an Oscar-winning acting career to join the quest to get Labour into govt. She brought stardust to the PLP. As passionate and unique in her politics as she was in her acting, she was a huge figure who made an immense contribution! RIP



3:25 PM · Jun 15, 2023 · 42.9K Views

*feminism in the party, Labour's strong identification with the artistic community and our big ambition for the future of the arts.*

*She was also part of New Labour's reach beyond our traditional heartlands and our appeal to the progressive "cultural intelligentsia". She was strongly Labour and strongly on the left of the party. So she was the perfect candidate to fight the North London constituency of Hampstead and Highgate. It had areas of great wealth but also real poverty and had been held by the Tories for many years. It was a huge and symbolic moment for us when, in 1992, she took the seat for Labour from the Tories, narrowly beating their candidate Oliver Letwin.*

*Her constituents were thrilled with her, both those whose struggle she spoke up about and those in the better off areas.*

*As one of only 13% women in the Parliamentary Labour Party at the time and with London still dominated by the Tories she never was, nor sought to be, an "insider" in parliament. She was an outstanding and independent figure.*

*She brought every bit as much passion to her politics as she did to her acting and was a star in the PLP as we grew in strength and then swept into government in 1997. And she later became a transport minister.*

*Having seen her sensational acting in the role of Bernarda in the tv broadcast of The House of Bernarda Alba I once asked her why, with such a unique talent, she wanted to give it all up and come into parliament. She said she felt that there were too few*

*acting roles for older women (she was 55 when she was first elected to Parliament) so she felt her work would soon dry up.*

*But when, in 2015, she retired from Parliament at the age of 78, she confounded her own prediction and blazed a new trail for older actresses starring as King Lear at the Old Vic and winning a Tony Award in 2018 for her performance in *Three Tall Women*. She showed that despite the ageism and sexism prevalent in the theatre and film industries, her extraordinary talent meant she would once again be a star of stage and screen.*

*She was tough and outspoken but her absolute soft spot was for her beloved son Dan Hodges of whom she was so proud. No doubt he was hugely proud of her - as we all were.*

### **RIP Margaret McDonagh**

On June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 it was announced that Margaret McDonagh had sadly died of brain cancer. Margaret was the first woman to be General Secretary of the Labour Party and the youngest person ever to hold the post, and she played a key role in Labour's 1997 election victory. She was an incredible woman who was part of Labour's progressive history and she will be deeply missed by all those who knew her.



**Harriet Harman** @HarrietHarman · Jun 24

Such a huge loss to her beloved family and friends. Margaret played a key role in getting @UKLabour into govt and sustaining that govt. An incredible woman who was part of our progressive history. All my sympathy with @Siobhain\_Mc



**Tracey Paul** @TraceyPaul · Jun 24

Dear Friends @Siobhain\_Mc has asked me to let you know that her wonderful, brilliant, brave sister Margaret McDonagh died this morning surrounded by people that loved her.



## **In Parliament**

### **RIP Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II**

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the Queen died at Balmoral at the age of 96.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September I and 320 other members of the House of Commons paid tribute to the Queen in the House of Commons chamber. You can read my tribute below and watch the video [here](#).

### **Ms Harriet Harman (Camberwell and Peckham) (Lab)**

*Thank you, Mr Speaker. What an excellent speech from the right hon. Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), which I am sure will have resonated in every Member of this House and, indeed, everyone in this country. It was a brilliant speech.*



Queen Elizabeth II

21 April 1926 - 8 September 2022

[Translate Tweet](#)



*I am grateful for the opportunity to pay my tribute to the Queen, on my own behalf but also on behalf of my constituents, particularly those who, coming from Commonwealth countries in Africa and the Caribbean, held the Queen in such high regard.*

*We are a constitutional monarchy, and for we MPs, the Queen was ever present in the interwoven relationship between the monarch and her Parliament. She underpinned our democratic system for over 70 years—underpinning it but never intervening in it. She was always salient but never meddled. She avoided controversy not by staying in the background—far from it; she performed her role to the utmost—but by respecting the boundaries. She carried out her duties and gave us her full commitment for*

*us to carry out ours. When many denigrated, she always respected and supported Parliament. We should be very grateful for that.*

*Between her Ministers—not just Prime Ministers—there was regular contact. After Labour won the election in 1997, I went up to the Palace, where she appointed me, like the other new Secretaries of State, to the Privy Council and bestowed on me the seals of office. They are actual seals, which are given to you and you take back to your Department to be locked in a safe. When, just a year later, I was sacked and the seals were taken out of the safe and back to Buckingham Palace, my diary was empty and my phone stopped ringing, my office was astonished to get a call from the Palace. No one else wanted to have anything to do with me, but the Queen wanted to see me. I was invited to take tea with the Queen, for her to thank me for my service as Secretary of State.*



Harriet Harman [@HarrietHarman](#) · Sep 9

Today I paid tribute to the Queen in the House of Commons 🇬🇧 Tomorrow I will attend the Accession Council to "proclaim" the new Sovereign 1/3



*My point is that the relationship between our Queen and Parliament, and our Queen and Government, was never just on paper, but was always active and always encouraging. She radiated British values of duty, patriotism, internationalism, charity*

*and service. But while she embodied British values, she never intervened in politics, and that is constitutional alchemy—nothing less.*

*It is evident that everyone, even those who do not agree with the hereditary principle of the monarchy, cannot but marvel at her personal qualities; and I want to marvel at how she could do all this flawlessly, not just over so many decades, but as a woman starting her reign in what was emphatically then a man's world. We have to remember what attitudes were at the time. The order of the day was that men were in charge and women were subservient. The man was head of the household, and the role of a woman was to get married, have his children and support him. In the 1950s, when she was crowned, I was a child, and I remember my mother warning me that people thought men knew more than women; that men's views were valuable, while women's were to be disregarded.*



*It was in that atmosphere that she stepped up, as a 25-year-old married woman with two children, to take her place at the head of this nation and play a huge role on the world stage. What determination and courage that must have taken. The Prime Ministers she dealt with were mostly men, and mostly twice her age. Things were very different then; huge change has taken place during her reign. Things were very different when, six years ago, she threw open Buckingham Palace for us to celebrate the 70th anniversary of*

*the BBC's "Woman's Hour", and to celebrate how much women had achieved.*

*As Sir Tony Blair said, she was the matriarch of this nation: a matriarch for us on the world stage, and a matriarch too at home, in her own family. As well as being our monarch, she was the mother of four children and had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and it is to her family that I extend my deepest sympathies for their loss and condolences for their grief, which we all share.*

### **Attending the Accession Council and swearing the oath to King Charles III**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023, in my role as a Privy Councillor and Mother of the House, I attended the Accession Council. The Accession Council is where a formal proclamation of the death of the monarch and of the accession to the throne of the heir is made.

I also swore a new oath to the King in the House of Commons, being the third MP to do so after the Speaker of the House and the Father of the House.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September in my role as Mother of the House I was in Westminster Hall for the presentation of Addresses of condolences to the King.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September I was in attendance for the arrival of the coffin at Westminster Hall. Along with my colleagues I paid my respects to the Queen.



I also attended the Queen's funeral on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, along with leaders from around the world.



## House Magazine

12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

*No one will forget where they were when they heard the news that the Queen had died. And all of us MPs have been reflecting on not just what she meant to the country but what she meant to Parliament and to our constituents over her reign of 70 years.*

*Over two days, 321 Members spoke in the tributes to our late Queen and most included accounts of how she visited their constituency, to open a swimming pool or a new hospital or to visit a scout group or support a local charity. She truly must have been the woman who knew this country better than anyone, having visited every corner of England, Scotland and Wales continuously over so many decades.*

*We were Her Majesty's Parliament and ministers were in Her Majesty's government. She was woven into the fabric of our democracy, the rock on which our Parliament is based. There was a great deal of ceremony in the role, with the Queen presiding over the state opening and the bills we vote on not becoming law until she signed them with royal assent. But there was also, behind the scenes, the very real and practical*



*support that she was constant in giving to Parliament. There have frequently been times when Parliament has been criticised but the Queen was a stoic, unconditional supporter of her Parliament.*



*In our tributes, former prime ministers told of the support she gave them in her weekly audiences but it went far beyond that. She would also make the official appointment of her secretaries of state, inviting us to Buckingham Palace and giving us her seals of office. But when we left office (in my case after being sacked), she also invited us to the Palace for a one-to-one audience and a cup of tea. That custom was not publicised but was done in a completely private and supportive way. Alongside what she did in public, it was the things that she did in private which mattered so much.*

*I certainly felt so proud as, along with all members of the Commons and the Lords, I sat in the magnificence of Westminster Hall as the Speaker and the Lords Speaker gave our condolences and welcomed the new monarch, King Charles III. I could not help but admire the extraordinary level of organisation which made such a complex and difficult occasion happen flawlessly!*

*So now the King is our new constitutional monarch who will walk the important line of underpinning our democracy while never intervening in it.*

*And while we lose our Queen, we have a new Queen Consort, Camilla, who has already won the admiration of so many women's organisations as over the years she has championed women's causes from the battle against osteoporosis to tackling domestic violence.*

*When Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne, she was a woman presiding over a Parliament of 608 men and only 17 women. The prime ministers she dealt with then were all men, twice her age. Things have transformed over the 70 years of her reign. The last official duty the Queen performed was to appoint her new woman Prime Minister and after her death, less than a week later, the Accession Council was presided over by a woman Lord President of the Council, Penny Mordaunt.*

*With the Queen's death there is a sombre atmosphere of mourning and sympathy for her family. But there is also a national marvelling at how remarkable her reign was and a recognition of how much support we must give to her successor King Charles as*

*he follows her remarkable legacy to create a monarchy for the modern age, bringing the best of the past into a new era.*

## **Southwark News**

13<sup>th</sup> September 2022



*The new king has been "proclaimed" up and down the country from St James's Palace, to St Giles' Cathedral in Scotland, to here in Southwark Cathedral. These proclamations combine expressing condolences to the royal family on the death of Queen Elizabeth II with offering support to the new King Charles III. No one will forget where they were when they heard the news that the Queen had died. Her reign meant many different things to different people and as I spoke a tribute to her in the House of Commons I had in the forefront of my mind those many of my constituents from Commonwealth countries in Africa and the Caribbean with which the Queen had been so closely connected during her reign of over 70 years.*

*She knew Southwark well having visited it many times. In fact she had visited every part of the country during the decades she was on the throne, to open a swimming pool or a new hospital or to visit a scout group or support a local charity. She truly must have been the woman who knew this country better than anyone else.*

*As MPs we sat in "Her Majesty's Parliament" and ministers were in "Her Majesty's government". She was woven into the fabric of our democracy, the rock on which our Parliament is based. There was much of ceremony in her role, with the Queen presiding over Parliament's state opening and the bills we vote on becoming law only when she signed them with "the royal assent". But there was also, behind the scenes, the very real and practical support that she was constant in giving to Parliament.*

*There have been many times when Parliament has been criticised but the Queen was a stoic, unconditional supporter of her Parliament. Former Prime Ministers have spoken about the support she gave them in her weekly audiences but it went far beyond that. She would also conduct the official appointment of her Secretaries of State, inviting us to Buckingham Palace and giving us her seals of office. But when we left office (in my case after being sacked in 1998), she also invited us to the Palace for a one-to-one audience, and a cup of tea. That custom was not publicised but was done in a completely private and supportive way. And it was what she did in private which mattered so much.*

*I felt proud as, along with all members of the Commons and the Lords, I sat in the magnificent Westminster Hall as the Speaker gave our condolences and welcomed the new monarch, King Charles III who now, as our new constitutional monarch, will walk the important line of underpinning our democracy while never intervening in it.*

*And we have a new Queen Consort, Camilla, who has already won the admiration of so many women's organisations as over the years she has championed women's causes from the battle against osteoporosis to tackling domestic violence.*



*When she ascended the throne, The Queen was a woman presiding over a parliament of 608 men and only 17 women. The Prime Ministers she dealt with then were all men, twice her age. Things have transformed for women over the 70 years of her reign. But there is also a national marvelling at how remarkable was her reign and a recognition of how much support we must give to her successor to King Charles as he follows her remarkable legacy to create a monarchy for the modern age bringing the best of the past into a new era.*

## **Attending the Coronation of King Charles III**



On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 in my role as Mother of the House, I, along with the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Father of the House, welcomed the King to Parliament ahead of his coronation.

I attended the coronation on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. 39% of my constituents were born outside the UK, many of whom were born in the Commonwealth, and in the coronation they saw not only their countries of birth represented by the leaders in attendance, but also by the diverse performers and leaders that were part of the coronation ceremony. Pretty Yende, a South African soprano, was the first African to sing solo at a British coronation. The Ascension Choir performed 'O Sing Praises' and was the first gospel choir to perform at a coronation. And as part of the ceremony, faith leaders and representatives were seated in the Cathedral, many of whom represent religious communities in my constituency, including Baha'is, Sikhs, Shia and Sunni Muslims, Buddhists and Jews.

The coronation also saw Penny Mordaunt be the first woman to perform the role Lord President of the Privy Council, responsible for carrying the sword of state and giving the jewelled sword of offering to the King.

## **South London Press**

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

**southlondonpress** LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Mercury

*It's impossible to know from one day to the next who will be the Chancellor or even who will be the Prime Minister.*

*The Government has sunk into political chaos because they have plunged the country into economic chaos. And the impact will be felt by everyone in my constituency of Camberwell and Peckham.*

*To get elected to be the leader of the Conservative Party and become Prime Minister, Liz Truss promised to cut taxes, particularly for the richest people in the country, and to pay for it out of money that the Government would borrow.*

*When Labour was in Government we stuck to the rule that we would only borrow to invest, for example in transport, housing, and infrastructure like school and hospital buildings, water and energy.*

*We kept strictly to the rule that, while we would borrow to invest, any day-to-day spending would have to be paid for out of taxes, with those who are richest paying the most.*

*The reason for this is that when the Government has to borrow, those who are lending need to have confidence that there is a plan, and it all adds up.*

*Liz Truss won the leadership offering a set of promises which simply were never going to work. As was inevitable, the international financial markets recognised that her plans in her mini budget were never going to work.*

*With the Government setting out to borrow 10s of billions of pounds with no idea how it would be paid back.*

*So, they put up the interest rate for Government borrowing which set off a chain of further actions.*

*Banks and building societies cancelled many of their mortgage offers and put-up interest rates for borrowers.*

*This snatched the prospect of those who were on the brink of buying their first home and sent a dark cloud over families who already have a mortgage.*

*Many of those who wanted to buy a home found they couldn't and those who wanted to sell couldn't either.*

*Inflation which has already been going up was turbo charged with food prices and transport costs surging in the same way we've seen with energy bills.*

*All this was caused by the Government and they are never going to be able to solve it. The Conservative party which prides itself in being the party of the "free market" has fallen foul of the markets and they will never be trusted with the economy again.*

*Independent research in Camberwell and Peckham backs up what my constituents are telling me. Almost 70 per cent are cutting back on their essential groceries.*

*64 per cent are worried about not being able to pay energy bills and half are worried about not being able to afford to pay their rent.*

*As many as 36 per cent are worried they'll need to use a food bank and nearly half are worried about being made homeless.*

*And the insecurity has reached older people too, with 53 per cent worried about the future of their pension. That hits local businesses too as people have less money to spend.*

*Now the new chancellor is threatening to "solve" the problem that they have caused with massive cuts to public services including the NHS, schools and local councils.*

*And the fear is now that they will update benefits only in line with earnings which is only half the level of inflation which are the prices people actually face.*

*The reality is that people face a really hard and worrying time ahead. Fuel bills have surged because of Putin's dreadful invasion of Ukraine but the Conservatives' reckless economic plans have made it even worse.*

*The best and most effective way to deal with these problems and put people's minds to rest is to have a new, Labour, government.*

*Our leader, Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves who would be our chancellor are ready. What we need now is a General Election.*

*It is selfish for the Conservatives to cling to power when they are clearly not up to the job.*

## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my Election to Parliament**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 I marked my 40th anniversary as MP for Camberwell and Peckham. There hasn't been a single day when I haven't felt it was a huge privilege and never faltered in my belief in the fundamental importance of Parliament as the very anchor of our democracy, especially so in this time of government chaos and instability. As the Government lurches from crisis to crisis, wreaking terrible havoc on our economy and people's living standards, Parliament speaking up for the realities that people face is crucial.

The first phase of my time in Parliament from 1982 to 1997 was 15 years long years of Labour being in the wilderness of opposition. And I spent those years being completely dedicated to getting Labour into government. Which we did. And we need to again. I'm very encouraged by what Keir Starmer and his team are doing and optimistic as I see them growing in confidence and authority and looking like a government in waiting, the government we wish we already had. Though we can't be complacent.

I came into Parliament as part of that generation of women who looked at society, the subordination of women, who couldn't accept it and resolved to change it. And we did.

We changed parliament going from only 3% in 1982 to 35% now which changed not just the face of Parliament but the political agenda. Women's representation spread to the Tory benches too. And women forced their way into all the places that were previously men-only zones, into the media, into the law.

But for all the progress there's still far to go.

Women are still outnumbered 2:1 by men in Parliament. In every sector, men still earn more! Childcare is still a nightmare and male violence against women remains at terrible levels.

Because there's still a long way to go I look to the new generation of women to lead this agenda forward and I will be cheering them on!

But there are new allies at hand with the arrival in Parliament of "new man". Men who I call the sons of the Women's Movement, who were brought up by feminist mothers of my generation to support women's equality.

One person who was at my side for every day of these past years was Jack. His phenomenal political qualities and confidence in me propelled me into Parliament and sustained me. He's so missed.

I owe a great deal to the 40 years' worth of young men and women who've worked in my parliamentary and constituency office. They've helped literally thousands of my constituents. Last month alone my small team took action on no fewer than 715 cases.

Some people still living in Camberwell and Peckham were Labour party members 40 years ago and selected me to be their MP. I'm always grateful to them. But many weren't even born when I was first an MP. There's a new cadre of young people in public service. Southwark councillors seem to get younger every day.

I'm standing down at the next election but there is an outstanding list of men and women from whom my successor will be chosen. So I'm totally confident that whoever it is will blaze a trail and have my 100% backing!

I'll continue to work hard for my constituents and for Parliament every day till the next election which for the sake of the country we need as soon as possible but may well not be till 2024.

But in the meantime I reflect that it's been such an incredible thing to be an MP, in government, end up as Mother of the House, to be part of the great movement which is Labour and to play my part in the feminist tide which has fundamentally changed this country for the better.



## **Women's Equality - 40 Years Ago and Today**





## Great progress but still far to go

One of the driving forces which propelled me into Parliament in 1982 was the Women's Movement. We had clear demands which couldn't be met unless we got into Parliament and into government. They included:

- tackling male violence against women
- women having an equal role in decision-making
- economic equality

Since then great progress has been made.

All parties are committed to tackling male violence against women and numerous laws have been passed to that end.

The pay gap between men and women has narrowed and women have broken into what were hitherto men-only areas.

But the scourge of male violence against women persists, many important spheres remain male-dominated and women remain responsible for most of the family care for children and older relatives.

So while we have made a great deal of progress, there is much further to go. In 40 years we have progressed:

- From 3% women MPs to 35%
- From 3% women High court judges to 27%
- From 5% women cabinet ministers to 26%
- From 0% FTSE women CEOs to 8%
- The pay gap between men and women has fallen from 37% to 15%

But:

- Men still outnumber women at least 2:1 in positions of power
- Women still running the home and caring for children means they are not "having it all" but doing it all!

## Public office

### Proportion of women in various political and judicial offices

Most recent figures compared with figures most proximate to 1982

Office	Data proximate to 1982				Most recent data			
	Total number of office holders	Number of female office holders	% female	Year	Total number of office holders	Number of female office holders	% female	Year
Member of Parliament	632	21	3%	1982	650	225	35%	2022
Peer	967	53	5%	1982	757	219	29%	2022
Cabinet Minister	22	1	5%	1982	23	6	26%	2022
Local councillor	-	-	19%	1985	16,195	6,622	41%	2022
High Court judge	75	2	3%	1978	97	26	27%	2019

Women Mayors

2002: 14%

2022: 20%

Women Council leaders

2022: 17%

### University Vice Chancellors

1995: 6%

2022: 33%

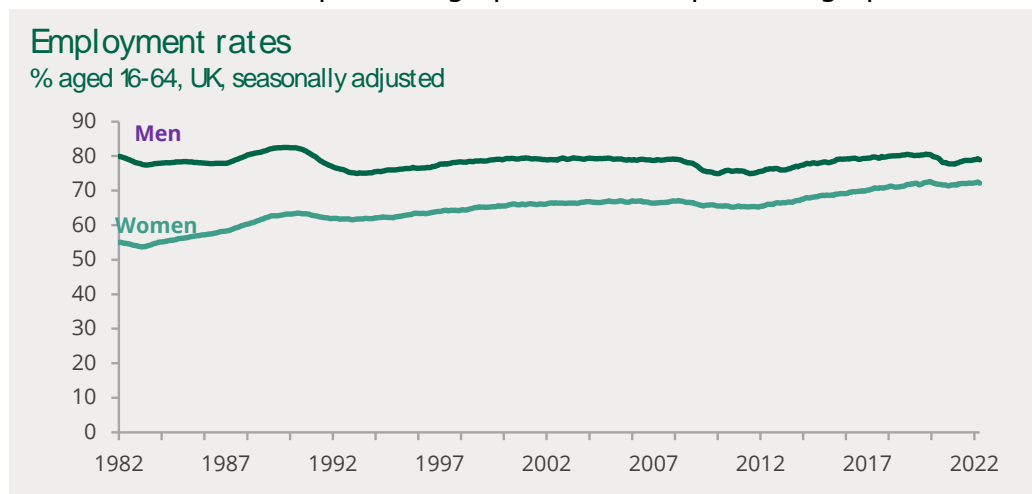
### CEOs of FTSE 100 Companies

1982: 0%

2021: 8%

### Women in the workforce

The difference between the employment rates for men and women over this period has fallen from 24.7 percentage points to 6.7 percentage points.



### Gender Pay Gap

Mean gender pay gap

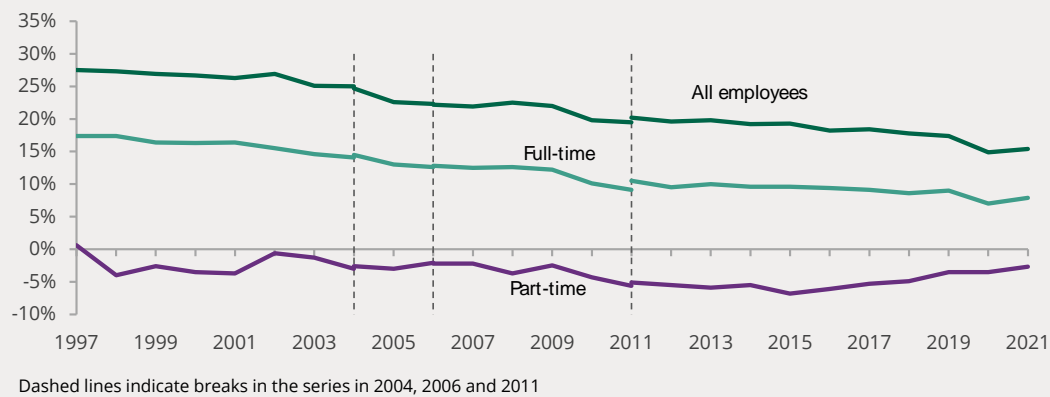
1981: 27.2%

2021: 12.3%

The median gender pay gap for full-time employees has been gradually decreasing since 1997.

## The gender pay gap has decreased over the past twenty years

% difference in median hourly pay excluding overtime for men and women employees



## Trade Union General Secretaries

1989: 3 General Secretaries (221,000 members covered)

2012: 15 General Secretaries (750,000 members covered)

## Homicides of women

**Table 1: The number of female victims aged 16 and over for homicide in England and Wales<sup>2</sup> since the year ending March 2015**

Apr '14 to Mar '15	Apr '15 to Mar '16	Apr '16 to Mar '17	Apr '17 to Mar '18	Apr '18 to Mar '19	Apr '19 to Mar '20	Apr '20 to Mar '21
162	152	151	181	189	167	153

Source: Homicide Index, Home Office

## Home Responsibilities

### Average hours of care for family members per week (2012)

<b>Women</b>	22.7
<b>Men</b>	10.4

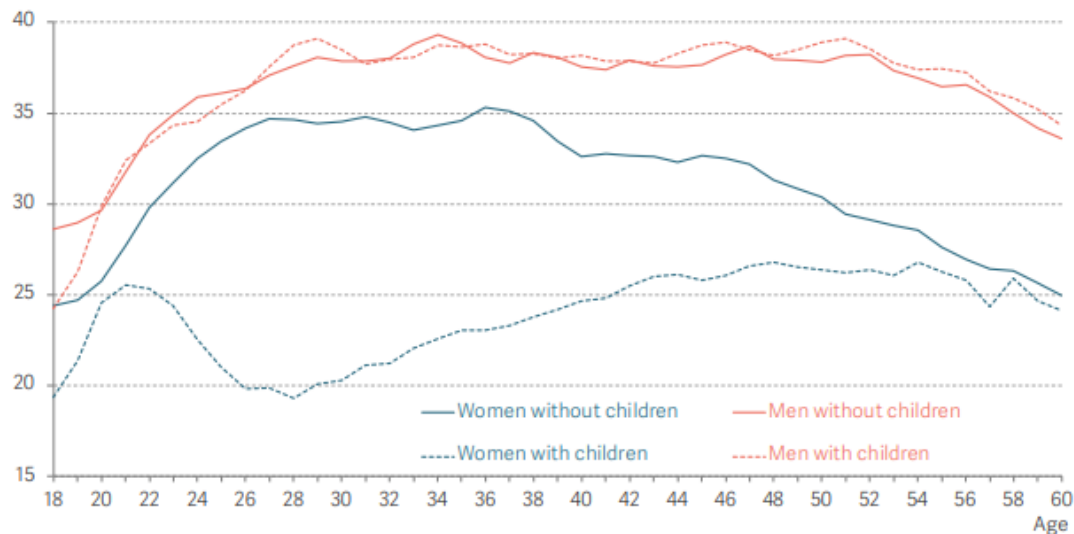
### Average hours of housework per week

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Women</b>	14	13.3
<b>Men</b>	7.8	8.3

(From the British Social Attitudes Survey)

**FIGURE 4: The presence of children changes women's working hours a lot, but on average has no effect on men's**

Average actual weekly working hours by sex, age and presence of children in household: UK, 2018



NOTES: Includes all workers including those working no actual hours in reference week. Lines show three-year moving averages. Hours refer to main jobs only, for employed and self-employed workers.  
SOURCE: RF analysis of ONS, Labour Force Survey

(From The Resolution Foundation)

## Catching up with Scottish Colleagues

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 I met with my Scottish Labour colleagues Anas Sarwar MSP and Jackie Baillie MSP when they were in London. Labour is the only party that stands for progressive policies and the Union and they are doing great work to build support across Scotland ahead of the next General Election.



## Demanding that the new Prime Minister Take Action on the Crisis in NHS Dentistry

In September 2022 I signed a letter with Sir Peter Bottomley MP, the Father of the House, and 59 other MPs, to the then-Prime Minister Liz Truss demanding that she stick to her campaign promises to make solving the crisis in NHS dentistry one of her priorities.

*Dear Prime Minister,*

### Action on NHS dentistry

*We were pleased to see you recognize the crisis in NHS dentistry during the leadership campaign, and pledge that action to improve access to NHS dental services would be one of your three key priorities in the first 90 days of your premiership.*



Research conducted last month by the BBC revealed that 9 in 10 dental practices in England are not able to accept new NHS patients. There isn't a single dentist in Norfolk taking on new patients on the NHS, with a third of the country in the same position. As our mailbags can attest, lack of access to dental services is an urgent problem felt in every corner of the country.

Data shows millions of our constituents are left with no options. Some resort to DIY dentistry, while many others put further needless pressure on other parts of the NHS – our GPs and A&Es – which are not equipped to help them. This is now clearly part of the wider cost of living crisis.

Those who can afford to access help privately will do so, while those who can't, will be forced to do without. As dentists across the country are increasingly reducing their NHS commitment or quitting the service altogether, this problem will only get worse and inequalities will continue to widen unless urgent and decisive action is taken.



BDA @TheBDA · 49m

Today we saw little evidence government is ready to honour its pledges on NHS dentistry.

This isn't a partisan issue.

Underfunding and failed contracts can be fixed, but we need real leadership across Whitehall.

Millions of patients need these promises to be kept.



\*\*\* We welcome the package of changes to the NHS dental contract announced before the summer, and the legislation laid earlier this week to streamline the process of recognizing the qualifications of overseas dentists who want to come and work in the UK. However, these measures alone will not represent a silver bullet for the millions of desperate people across England who are unable to secure the help they need. Action to train and bring in more dentists from abroad can be part of the solution, but unless we address the reasons behind the

endemic and growing recruitment and retention issues which plague the sector, we will likely continue to lose NHS dentists faster than we can possibly replace them.

The key driver of the exodus of dentists from the NHS we are facing is the failed, target-based contract. Both main parties committed to reforming this system ahead of the 2010 elections, and for the past decade work has been underway to develop a new way of working in NHS dentistry. We urge you to make it a priority to deliver this desperately needed reform as soon as possible.

NHS dental budget has also not kept pace with inflation and population growth in recent years, and in the face of this unprecedented crisis it is crucial that appropriate resources are in place to underpin the reform and assure long-term sustainability of the service our constituents rely on.

*The Kings Fund say that the system is on 'life support' and the British Dental Association warn it is facing a "slow death". We fear that failure to take swift and meaningful action now would mean the end of NHS dentistry as we know it. We hope you deliver on your campaign pledges, and act with urgency and ambition to bring forward the change millions of our constituents desperately need.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Sir Peter Bottomley MP*

*Harriet Harman MP*

## **Fighting the Arts Council England decision to reduce funding to key cultural institutions**

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Arts Council England (ACE), the organisation that oversees the disbursement of government funding to arts institutions, announced that there would be big cuts for arts funding in London. This included slashing the funding for the English National Opera, one of the UK's flagship opera houses, and forcing it to move out of London.

This was nothing less than cultural vandalism. Government funding for the arts is 46% lower now than it was in 2005, and 70% of the recent cuts by Arts Council England fall within London. These reductions mean that organisations like the English National Opera, the Welsh National Opera, and Glyndebourne have all lost money and will be reducing their national tours as a result. This in turn affects local theatres who no longer benefit from performances by these world class opera companies.

When you reduce funding for the arts you make them more exclusive, not less. These cuts, falsely claimed to be "levelling up", will have a detrimental impact on arts throughout England.

After a relentless campaign by parliamentarians, unions, and the English National Opera, I was relieved that in July 2023 ACE announced that it had more than doubled the amount of money that the English National Opera will receive over the next three years.

During the campaign against the cuts there has been strong cross-party support for ACE to reconsider its decision and I spoke in a Westminster Hall debate on this issue on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. You can watch my speech [here](#) and read it below.

Westminster Hall 22<sup>nd</sup> November

*With everybody incredibly anxious about what is going to happen to energy bills, with food prices soaring and with the*



Harriet Harman ✓  
@HarrietHarman

MPs from all parties protest closure of @E\_N\_O @cj\_dinenage @KeeleyMP @KevinBrennanMP @neill\_bob @FloEshalomi @margarethodge. "Cultural vandalism" to close excellent @E\_N\_O. Why @ace\_national must u-turn. My speech 1/2 🗨️



9:24 PM · Nov 22, 2022 · Twitter Web App

*NHS and public services struggling, it might seem an odd time to be raising the issue of funding for the arts, but it is absolutely right for us to do so. As well as helping drive our economy, as the hon. Member for Gosport said, our culture and arts are central to how we define ourselves individually and as a nation.*

*We must not allow public policy to drive the cultural impoverishment of this country, but unless the Government step in to stop that or the Arts Council can be persuaded to think again, that is exactly what is going to happen with the closure of the English National Opera at the Coliseum. We cannot stand by while the ENO, which is artistically excellent, economically vital and culturally important, is closed and, with that, see the end of the social engagement and widening access that is central to the ENO's mission.*

*The Arts Council has removed all funding from the ENO at the Coliseum, meaning that, as the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Sir Robert Neill) rightly said, 300 skilled artists, dedicated professionals and other employees will be thrown out of work. The Arts Council spin was that the ENO was to be relocated as part of levelling up. The Guardian said that the ENO*

*"is to relocate outside London"*

*and the BBC said:*

*"English National Opera to leave London as arts funding gets levelled up".*

*The briefing was that the ENO was going to Manchester—not only was that a bolt out of the blue to the ENO, but it was the first time Manchester had heard of it, and it was not what they wanted. The Arts Council is closing the ENO with a tremendous cultural loss and nothing to show for it up north.*

*What the Arts Council proposes to do is completely wrong, but the way it has gone about it—with no consultation and, frankly, misleading spin—is shameful. It should think again. Yes, times have changed and times are hard, but difficult decisions should be made carefully, not with a wrecking ball. I am backing the ENO's call for three things: a strategic review of opera as a whole; that the Arts Council should agree realistic funds for the ENO for a period of four years; and that the Arts Council should agree a period of five years to consult on a new model, based on the ENO retaining its Coliseum base but increasing still further its fundraising and work outside London.*

*As has been said, the ENO has effective leadership; I pay tribute to that and it is also fully acknowledged by the Arts Council. It has a dedicated company of employees who deserve better than to be thrown out of work in April next year. The ENO means a great deal to many, as emails from my constituents can attest. I thank all those who have contacted me and assure them that the ENO will have my full support.*

*Surely Sir Nicholas Serota does not want his legacy to be the closure of the ENO; if he goes ahead with the closure, that will be the only thing everybody will remember about him and his tenure at the Arts Council. The decision to close the ENO is wrong, and the best thing to do with a wrong decision is to change it. The Government have been quite active on that front in the past, with U-turns here and there—this would be one U-turn that would be universally welcomed. I welcome the Minister to his role and I hope to hear in public, or even in private—whatever is necessary—that he will step in, and that the ENO will not be closed.*

I also wrote to the Secretaries of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pressing them on the ACE funding decision and the impact it will have on "levelling up".

On 5<sup>th</sup> December I spoke in an adjournment debate in the House of Commons on this issue which you can watch [here](#).

On 8<sup>th</sup> December, together with my colleagues Dame Margaret Hodge MP and Sir Bob Neill MP I wrote to ask the Public Accounts Committee to investigate the way in which Arts Council England have spent public money without any consultation and with no evidence underpinning their decision.



Dear Meg,

### **Re: Arts Council England funding decisions**

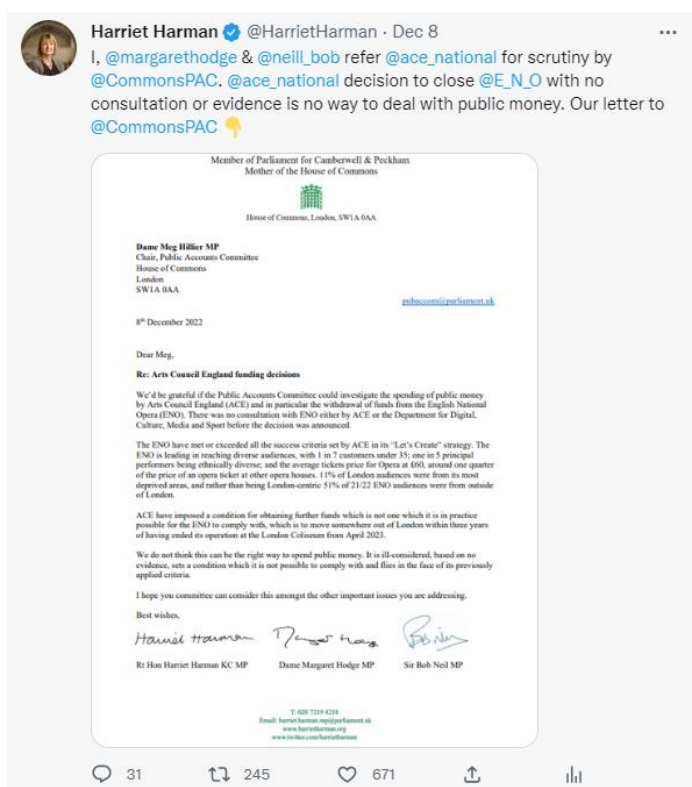
*We'd be grateful if the Public Accounts Committee could investigate the spending of public money by Arts Council England (ACE) and in particular the withdrawal of funds from the English National Opera (ENO). There was no consultation with ENO either by ACE or the Department for Digital, Culture, Media*

*and Sport before the decision was announced.*

*The ENO have met or exceeded all the success criteria set by ACE in its "Let's Create" strategy. The ENO is leading in reaching diverse audiences, with 1 in 7 customers under 35; one in 5 principal performers being ethnically diverse; and the average tickets price for Opera at £60, around one quarter of the price of an opera ticket at other opera houses. 11% of London audiences were from its most deprived areas, and rather than being London-centric 51% of 21/22 ENO audiences were from outside of London.*

*ACE have imposed a condition for obtaining further funds which is not one which it is in practice possible for the ENO to comply with, which is to move somewhere out of London within three years of having ended its operation at the London Coliseum from April 2023.*

*We do not think this can be the right way to spend public money. It is ill-considered, based on no evidence, sets a*





*condition which it is not possible to comply with and flies in the face of its previously applied criteria.*

*I hope your committee can consider this amongst the other important issues you are addressing.*

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 I spoke in a further debate on the funding decisions made by Arts Council England. You can read my speech below or watch it [here](#).

*I congratulate the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Sir Robert Neill) on securing this debate. I back absolutely every word he said, and I join him in urging Arts Council England to rethink this funding round, which has no strategy, has had no consultation, is thoroughly destructive, and importantly makes the crucial art form of opera more elitist, rather than less.*

*As a result of losing a third of its funding, Welsh National Opera has cancelled its 2023 tour to Liverpool. That is more elitist, not less. ENO's core mission is to make opera accessible, bringing the art form to younger and more diverse audiences. The threat to ENO makes it harder to do that work. Because the Britten Sinfonia has lost its annual grant of £500,000, it will not be able to do its education and outreach work in the east of England. Because Glyndebourne has had its grant cut by 50%, it has announced that it will not be able to tour in 2023. When funding is reduced for opera, it is made more exclusive, not less. Public funding is the key way to open up opera to all. The funding cuts make opera more for the elites, not less.*

*One further consequence of Arts Council England's decision, which I am sure is unintentional, is the effect on regional theatres, which I know my hon. Friends will mention. Peter Wilson, who ran the Norwich Theatre Royal, wrote a letter to Nicholas Serota and Darren Henley at Arts Council England, which said that there are "people who stay loyal to their local theatres, providing the bedrock of serious support because of the regular appearance of challenging first class productions provided by Glyndebourne and WNO...Without them, NTR could not have flourished...And without their support theatres' Friends lists, their ability to raise refurbishment and restoration funds, and their reputations will diminish. Theatres need high quality mixed programming; first class opera is a crucial part of the mix...Once started, a downward spiral in audiences is inevitable. You cannot possibly want that."*

*What he is saying is that the decisions about these opera companies will make unviable and change vital regional theatres.*

*Peter Wilson continues:*



NEW. [#Conservative](#) MP [@neill\\_bob](#) leads passionate Commons debate about [#levellingup](#) cut to [@E\\_N\\_O](#) - [onlondon.co.uk/tory-bob-neill...](#) Report by [@CharlesWright57](#). [@HarrietHarman](#) [@rgclondoncomms](#) [@londonsoc](#) [@londoncouncils](#)



[onlondon.co.uk](#)

Tory Bob Neill leads passionate Commons debate about government funding c...  
London MPs, with support from outside the capital, are continuing their fight against November's decision by Arts Council England (ACE) to remove all ...

*"Glyndebourne, WNO and ENO have high cultural ambitions that deserve to be shared as widely as possible. To emasculate them—to destroy existing 'skills, knowledge and networks' so wantonly...will not just make those ambitions unavailable in the near future; it will probably ensure that they will never again be part of the national cultural fabric of which I have been so proud for 50 years."*

*Does the Minister know whether Arts Council England considered the effect on regional theatres of what they are doing to these opera companies? Did it even consult regional theatres, which are dealing with the consequences of all this? This is a very well attended debate, with people from different regions and parties. None of us is whipped to be here. None of us has not got other things to do. All the Members sitting here are those who are committed to the arts. If I was Arts Council England looking at this, I would recognise that I had gone seriously wrong. If the Members who are the backbone of championing public policy on the arts are in Westminster Hall complaining about the Arts Council, it should recognise that it has got things wrong and think again. To say from behind its hands, "Well, we've been told by wicked Secretaries of State and DCMS that we have to do this", is something that I do not accept for one moment. The Arts Council is an independent body, for goodness' sake—the key is in the name, "independent"—and if people take on responsibility for an independent body, they have a duty to that body to act independently. If they are told what to do by somebody whose business it is not, they should tell them to shove off, or threaten to resign. That is the way it is supposed to be.*

*The Arts Council has to recognise the scale of the problem. However, we are a forgiving group of people, because we love the arts, and therefore if the Arts Council sees sense, we will not complain about it; we will congratulate it. Really, it should read the writing on the wall. As Peter Wilson writes to Nick Serota and Darren Henley, "I've bumped into you both over 25 years...It's plain that your lives and careers have been dedicated to making the best art available as widely as possible throughout the UK."*

*I say to both of them, keep faith with that. Change your mind. We all believe in redemption; it is not too late.*

## **Continuing to demand the UK Government act to secure visa-free EU touring for UK musicians**

I continue to press Ministers to sort the crisis that faces UK musicians trying to tour in the EU following Brexit. This includes working with MPs across parties who share my concern, and asking repeated questions of the Government to find out what action it is taking, which you can view [here](#).

I also signed this letter along with other MPs to the new Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

*Dear Secretary of State*

**UNLOCKING THE UK-EU DEADLOCK: TIME FOR ACTION TO GET TOURING PROFESSIONALS AND ARTISTS BACK ON TOUR**

*As the new Secretary of State, we are writing to you in the hope that you will want to do everything you can to get creative artists and professionals back on tour and unlock the deadlock created by the failure to secure an exemption in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) for those UK nationals who rely on touring for a living.*

*The UK's cultural economy is being severely impacted. Touring professionals now face a mountain of bureaucracy alongside confusing, burdensome, and costly procedures in each EU country they visit on tour. Additionally, the '90/180 day' rule, which limits the time UK citizens have access to the Schengen area, continues to put real jobs and real lives at stake. Please read Steve Barney's letter which sets out the true story of what is happening to UK creatives and artists who do go on tour.*



*Right now, tours are still stuck on British soil, leaving countless careers on hold. UK passport holders are simply being turned down or not offered the roles in the first place. The impact on our lives and our ability to earn and pay tax in an industry that brings pleasure to millions of people is under pressure like never before. We believe it is not impossible for you as the new Secretary of State to unlock the deadlock and find a solution that will truly get this world leading industry back to what it does best.*

*Our UK-EU Summit in the House of Lords, attended by Parliamentarians from across the House including Lord Clement-Jones CBE, Lord German, Baroness Bull, Earl of Clancarty, Lord Berkeley, Lord Wallace, Baroness Bonham Carter, Kevin Brennan MP, Tommy Shepherd MP and Christina Rees MP highlighted how creative touring has been affected by the TCA, which, in its current form, roundly fails the UK's world-leading creative industries.*

*We want you to fight our corner and ultimately return to the negotiating table to talk through an exemption. Without this, many jobs and livelihoods will be lost, as well as income for crew, haulage, and production. We hope that you will now take the urgent action needed to resolve the problems created by the TCA and re-engage with your counterparts across Europe to reach a resolution which supports this vital part of our economy.*

*We believe that the UK must open the door to negotiation, work to unlock the deadlock and get touring working.*

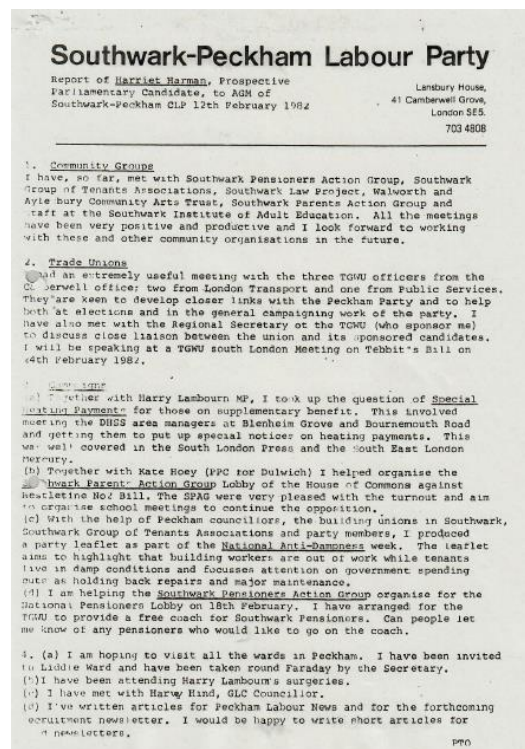
*We look forward to your urgent reply and hope that you will be keen to meet with representatives and supporters of Carry On Touring to explain why the Government's position is untenable. We very much hope that you will listen and act.*



## Speaking to Labour's newly selected Parliamentary Candidates

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 I spoke to a group of newly selected Labour Parliamentary Candidates in seats that we hope to win at the next general election. Showing them some of the reports I wrote as a Parliamentary Candidate back in 1982, I encouraged them to make sure they are as visible as possible and stressed the

importance of them working to ensure that we remain a united party and supporting the work that Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves are doing in the run up to the next election. The single most important thing for their prospective constituents is a Labour Government and that is what they need to be working towards.



## Opposing the Government's 'sacking nurses' Bill

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 I voted against the Government's Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill.

The Government's failed approach has led to the worst strikes in decades. At every stage they've sought to collapse talks and thrown in last minute spanners. Now with this new 'sacking nurses' Bill, they've gone from clapping nurses to sacking them.



The Labour Party @UKLabour · Jan 16

13 years of Tory neglect has left our NHS in crisis, with 7.2 million people on the waiting list.

Rishi Sunak's solution? Sack nurses who go on strike.



The Bill is unworkable and impractical - the Transport Secretary admits it won't work, the Education Secretary doesn't want it, and it will put intolerable burdens on employers.

This isn't about public safety - the Bill doesn't mention safety once. We all want minimum standards of service and staffing in the NHS and on our railways but Ministers are failing to provide it at all.



This is about the Prime Minister playing politics with yet another sticking plaster, distracting from the Conservative's economic mess and NHS staffing shortages. You can't legislate your way out of 13 years of failure.

I strongly oppose this fundamental attack on working people's freedoms on the principle. And Labour will repeal it.

In power, we'll end the Tories' strikes chaos with a new partnership of cooperation between trade unions, employers and Government - meaning issues are resolved before strikes.



## Supporting Ukrainians in their fight against Putin's illegal invasion

It was a privilege to hear from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on 8<sup>th</sup> February. He spoke to assembled parliamentarians in Westminster Hall and gave a historic address thanking the UK for its solidarity with Ukraine and asking for more military equipment to support the Ukrainian defence against Putin,

including fighter jets.

Along with the Chairs other Parliamentary select committees I also signed a letter written by Chris Bryant MP to the German Defence Minister, Boris Pistorius, urging him to allow German-made Leopard 2 tanks to be sent to the Ukrainian government. You can read the full letter [here](#).



Chris Bryant  
@Rhondabryant

Backbench MPs from four main parties including many select committee chairs and I have written to the German Defence Minister asking him to allow German-made Leopard 2 tanks to get to Ukraine at a moment of urgency

## Commemorating Holocaust memorial day



I signed the House of Commons book of commitment to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. We must never forget the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust.

## Labour no longer in EHRC special measures on antisemitism

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) announced that the Labour party is no longer in special measures, following its investigation into antisemitism in the party.



Under Keir Starmer's leadership, the Labour party has torn antisemitism out by the roots. The job is not yet finished but we are heading in the right direction. Keir Starmer has written about this and you can read his article [here](#).

## Writing to the Health Secretary with concern about the pressures facing community pharmacies

Along with MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum in December 2022 I wrote to the Health Secretary, Steve Barclay MP, about the challenges faced by community pharmacies. There's a shortage of pharmacists, increasing staff costs and rapidly rising medicine prices. Since 2015 there has been a 30% real terms funding cut. The Government must support medical services to stay open and to continue providing vital medical support to local communities. You can read more about it [here](#).

The letter I signed:

*As Members of Parliament, we want to raise with you our deep and growing concern over the unprecedented pressures facing the community pharmacy sector in England, and the risks that this poses to patient care and safety, if left unchecked.*

 Community Pharmacy England  
@PharmacyEngland

MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum have signed letters to the Health Secretary, @SteveBarclay, raising their growing concern about the pressures facing England's community pharmacies and the risks this poses to patient care and safety.



psnc.org.uk  
39 MPs and Peers call for pharmacy intervention  
39 MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum have signed letters to the Health Secretary, Steve Barclay MP, raising their growing concern about the ...



*Community pharmacies have the potential to do more to support and deliver clinical services to patients, building on the agility that they demonstrated during the pandemic. But many pharmacies in our constituencies are currently operating at a loss. This stems from a DHSC and NHS funding arrangement which is no longer fit for purpose, but which provides pharmacies with 90% or more of their income. This funding has reduced by 30% in real terms since 2015. The impact of this is already causing pharmacies to cut back services and reduce their opening hours.*

*We fear that if these pressures are left unaddressed, we could see a large number*

*of unplanned and permanent pharmacy closures in the near future. This would run the risk of our constituents being unable access their prescription medications and other pharmacy services which they rely upon. Those pharmacies which remain will not have sufficient resources to take on all the patients displaced by closures which could endanger some of the most vulnerable people in society and place further pressure on the primary care network.*

*To prevent this from happening, we call for your urgent consideration of three measures:*

1. A short-term financial injection of at least £400 million to stabilise the position and enable pharmacies to keep their doors open.
2. A commitment to working with the sector to create a fair and fit for purpose future funding model that ensures sustainability and properly funds pharmacies for what they do. This must enable us to build positively the contributions that pharmacies can make.
3. A fairly funded Pharmacy First service. With adequate funding, we believe this could alleviate wider pressures in the primary care system and the NHS.



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Jan 24  
Supporting @RhonddaBryant as he argues for equal marriage in Church of England.



PARLY @PARLYapp · Jan 24



Here is @AndrewSelous answering the UQ on same sex marriage and the C of E  
[twitter.com/PARLYapp/statu...](https://twitter.com/PARLYapp/status...)

## Supporting equal marriage in the Church of England

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 I supported Chris Bryant MP and colleagues on both sides of the house arguing in favour of the Church of England changing its rules to allow priests to perform gay marriages. Currently only prayers of blessing for gay couples are allowed by the Church.

Colleagues such as Ben Bradshaw MP, Chris Bryant MP, Andrew Selous MP and Cat Smith MP all spoke in favour of change, which I am strongly supportive of. Despite deeply held views on both sides of the argument, the debate was held in a very respectful way with both sides



Ben Bradshaw @BenBradshaw

Delighted and touched by the overwhelming support from MP colleagues from all parties for my Ten Minute Rule Bill on Equal Marriage in the @ChurchofEngland. Here's the draft Bill and link to my speech - [parliamentlive.tv/event/index/9f...](https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/9f...)

listening to each other and putting forwards their opinions. It was an example of how debates in the House of Commons should be conducted.

I was also pleased to add my name to the Ten Minute Rule Bill sponsored by my colleague Ben Bradshaw MP that proposed to enable clergy in the Church of England to conduct same sex marriages. This came after the Church of England did not vote to allow its members to conduct same sex marriages at a vote in February.

The Bill was always unlikely to become law but was an important opportunity to send a message to the Church of England about what Parliament thinks on this matter.

This Bill had the strong support of the clergy of St Peter's Walworth.

Same Sex Marriage (Church of England): Motion for leave to bring in a Bill (Standing Order No. 23)

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a

Bill to enable clergy of the Church of England to conduct same sex marriages on Church of England premises in certain circumstances; and for connected purposes

That: Mr Ben Bradshaw  
Sir Peter Bottomley  
Caroline Nokes  
Iain Stewart  
Sir Robert Buckland  
Daisy Cooper  
Caroline Lucas  
Ms Harriet Harman  
Dame Diana Johnson  
Hilary Benn  
Dame Margaret Beckett  
Sir Chris Bryant





## Visit to Parliament by St Peter's Church of England School

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 I met students from St Peter's Church of England School when they came to Parliament's education centre to learn about Parliament and MPs. The children asked insightful questions and I was pleased to see that there are several budding politicians among them.

## Attending the Commonwealth Day flag raising ceremony



13th March 2023 was Commonwealth Day. Commonwealth Day is an annual celebration observed by people all over the Commonwealth, a voluntary association of 54 countries home to 2.4 billion people. I was pleased to be able to celebrate the day by attending the parliamentary flag raising ceremony along with my parliamentary colleagues and ambassadors from across the Commonwealth.



## Voting against the Tory budget and against a tax cut for the richest 1%

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the Chancellor announced the Government's budget.

This Budget was a chance for the Government to unlock Britain's promise and potential. But instead they decided to continue papering over the cracks of 13 years of economic failure.

The only surprise was a handout for the richest 1% and their pension pots, which Labour voted against.

Growth was downgraded in this Tory Budget, but Labour will not allow the UK to keep bumping along this path of managed decline.

With Keir's mission to secure the highest sustained growth in the G7, Labour will create good jobs and productivity growth across every part of our country.

Where the government has thrown in the towel, Labour will build a better Britain.



## RIP Betty Boothroyd who died 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023



Betty Boothroyd was a remarkable woman, an outstanding parliamentarian, a national icon.

She became an MP in 1973 in a Commons where 630 of the 650 MPs were men. She got elected to the speaker's chair 19 years later by a Commons that was 90% men.

She was utterly determined, running for parliament on four occasions before, on the fifth, she got elected. She not only got into parliament, she made her voice heard. This was no mean feat at a time when there was not the remotest sense in the Commons that women's voices *should* be heard. Far from it: women were to be excluded and if they got into parliament, they were

marginalised. It was despite this, by sheer grit and force of personality, that she became speaker; she defied the culture of her time that said women were to be seen, but not heard.

Not only was she the first woman to have ever been speaker, but – having been a Tiller Girl and being from a working-class Yorkshire family – she defied all traditional expectations of what a senior MP should be. She did that by being utterly professional, having a breathtaking energy – and always being more briefed than anyone else in the room.

Her parliamentary ascent was not due to her being a wheeler-dealer behind closed doors, nor to her schmoozing her way up the greasy pole – although she did enjoy a drink and a smoke in the bar. She did it through her extraordinary personal qualities and profound commitment to politics and parliament.

She ruled parliament with a rod of iron. I was in awe, but also in fear of her as she held us to the same high standards as she held herself. With her in the chair, I lived in terror of making a mistake. She made us the best we could be because she wanted parliament to be the best it could be. There may well be another woman speaker, but there will never be another Betty Boothroyd.



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Feb 27

Betty Boothroyd was a remarkable woman. For her, as a woman to get to chair the over-whelmingly male Commons she had to be tough, professional, authoritative and indomitable. Betty was all those things. And she showed us women how to do it! RIP Betty



Sir Lindsay Hoyle @CommonsSpeaker · Feb 27

I'm very saddened to hear of the passing of my friend the Rt Hon. Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons 1992 - 2000.

I'd like to offer my heartfelt condolences, on behalf of the House, to Betty's family and loved ones.

'Not only was Betty Boothroyd an inspiring woman, but she was also an inspirational politician, and someone I was proud to call my friend.

'To be the first woman Speaker was truly ground-breaking and Betty certainly broke that glass ceiling with panache.

'She was from Yorkshire, and I am from Lancashire – so there was always that friendly rivalry between us. But from my point of view, it was heartening to hear a Northern voice speaking from the Chair.

'She stuck by the rules, had a no-nonsense style, but any reprimands she did issue were done with good humour and charm.

'Betty was one of a kind. A sharp, witty and formidable woman – and I will miss her.'

ALT



The Speaker



## Visit to Parliament by The Charter School North Dulwich

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 35 pupils from the Charter School North Dulwich came to take part in a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a workshop about law-making and the process of an Act of Parliament.

The pupils showed a strong interest in their local community and asked many questions about personal safety issues, in particular muggings and theft of personal mobile phones. They shared personal stories and identified particular local areas where they feel there needs to be a greater police presence to improve their safety before and after school.

## Opposing the Illegal Migration Bill

28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

*New figures show that Southwark is one of the most diverse boroughs in the country. According to data from the 2021 Census, 25% of Southwark residents reported their ethnic group as "Black, Black British, Caribbean or Africa", well above the London average of 14% and the UK average of 4%. And Southwark has a very high proportion of residents who were born outside the UK, with 13% of people born in Europe and 27% born outside Europe and the UK. Of these, 11% of Southwark residents were born in Africa, substantially higher than the London and UK averages. The country where the highest number of residents were born was Nigeria, with 4% of residents born there.*



*This diversity is one of Southwark's strengths. Those who have come here from abroad contribute significantly to our local communities. But it also means that many residents have at some point had to go through the Home Office's processes for immigration or asylum, processes which are expensive, frustrating and often dysfunctional.*

*The problems caused by the Government's immigration policies are evident in the daily stories I hear from people who come to me for help. Immigration and asylum problems are consistently the second most common concern that constituents contact me about, after housing. The system is opaque and applications often take far longer than they are supposed to. The process is particularly difficult if you don't speak English.*

*One constituent from Ethiopia who, along with his wife and two young children, is seeking asylum, made his application a year and four months ago and yet still hasn't even been called for an asylum interview. Another constituent from Eritrea who submitted an asylum application in June 2021, almost two years ago, has still not been called for an interview. And one of my constituent's wife, who is Ghanaian, recently submitted an application to visit her husband in the UK, and was refused on the grounds that she did not have adequate funds to support herself whilst she was in*

*the country, despite my constituent being in full time employment and his wife being a landlady.*

*Many of the people who come to the UK are desperate and vulnerable, fleeing persecution and warfare. And yet this week the Government has undermined them and left them without protection, passing its Illegal Migration Bill through the House of Commons on 26<sup>th</sup> April, which I voted against.*

### **Labour voted for:**

- ✓ **A new cross-border police unit** to tackle gangs
- ✓ **A new deal with Europe** on returns and controlled legal routes
- ✓ **Consultation with local councils** on local asylum accommodation and hotels
- ✓ **The removal and return** of terror suspects
- ✓ **Fast-track** decisions and returns to safe countries
- ✓ **Safe legal routes** for children with family in UK



### **TORY MPs VOTED AGAINST THIS**

*The Government claims that this Bill will stop people risking their lives by trying to get to the UK in boats across the channel but in reality it will make the chaos and danger in the channel worse. It will not stop the criminal gangs or dangerous crossings. It makes it easier for those gangs. It will not return everyone who shouldn't be here to their country. In fact it makes it harder for the UK to get return agreements with other countries. And most importantly for those of my constituents waiting years just to be interviewed by the Home Office, the Bill will not clear the asylum backlog and it will mean tens of thousands more people marooned for years in asylum accommodation and hotels.*

*Instead of the Government's Bill, Labour want to see action to stop the gangs and to prevent these dangerous boat crossings. We voted for the establishment of a new cross-border police unit, for decisions to be fast-track and the prompt returning of those who shouldn't be here. We want new agreements with France and other countries on returns, on family reunions and on reforming resettlement. This would clear the backlog, end hotel use and be fair, humane and effective.*

*During 13 years of government the Tories have broken the asylum and immigration system. Only Labour will rebuild our border security and restore a properly functioning, credible and humane asylum and immigration system.*

## **Mental Health Awareness week**

15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

ESTABLISHED 1865  
**southlondonpress**  
LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Mercury

*This is Mental Health Awareness Week. And our mental health services are in crisis.*

*Across England, 1.2 million people are waiting for mental health treatment. Whether you get help when you need it depends on where you live. The situation is so bad that two-fifths of patients waiting for mental health treatment end up in a crisis, needing emergency or crisis services, before they get treatment. And one in ten patients end up in A&E. The length of time children have to wait for mental health services have been described as "agonising" by the Young Minds charity. In some parts of the country vulnerable children are waiting almost three years to get the mental health care they need.*

*For people in Camberwell and Peckham, waiting times are even worse than the national average. In South East London Clinical Commissioning Group, which covers*



*Camberwell and Peckham, the time people have to wait for mental health care exceeds the national average for the time it takes people to access their first treatment. Nationally the average wait to get your first treatment following referral was 20.9 days. For people in Camberwell and Peckham the average waits were 22.8 days.*

*And while people suffer from the lack of mental health services, their inability to get the help they need hits other services too. When people can't get mental health care they often end up in crisis and the police get called out. When I met Sir Mark Rowley the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police this week at Peckham Police Station he told me that 40% of the incidents attended to by Met Police response units were mental health-related.*

*Police officers called out to go to mental health incidents often end up taking the person to A&E for treatment and then have to stay with them in hospital until they get seen by a doctor. This means that police officers are not able to be out on the streets carrying out their frontline policing roles. It means that A&E services are occupied by people who should have been seen long before it got to that point. And it also means a suffering person has to wait in A&E which is not the right place for them and where they wouldn't need to be if they had been treated before they had a crisis.*

*This is not a new problem caused by pressure on services arising from the Covid-19 legacy. It is the result of failures by the Tory Government. Even before Covid-19, in 2018, a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary reported "grave concerns" about police officers having to attend so many mental health-related incidents. The report blamed our broken mental health system.*



*Like so many of our services which have deteriorated under the Tories, a Labour government will have to fix this. Labour will focus on prevention, guaranteeing NHS treatment in a month for anyone who needs it, recruiting thousands of mental health professionals and putting mental health support in every secondary school. And unlike the Tories, a Labour government will guarantee a fair share of health funding for mental health.*



*One in four adults, and one in ten children, experience some form of mental illness. Ensuring they receive quality care and treatment is the least we can do to help their suffering and will be a priority for a Labour government.*

## Remembering Jo Cox

June 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 marked the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic murder of Jo Cox. On 21<sup>st</sup> June I attended the Great Parliamentary Get Together, hosted by Jo's



sister Kim Leadbeater MP. Inspired by Jo and her message of unity, twice a year the Jo Cox Foundation encourages people to come together in their communities and make new connections. In June, on the weekend closest to Jo's birthday, these community events bring to life her 'more in common' message. It was a privilege to hear speeches at the event from Kim, the leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer MP, former Prime Minister Theresa May MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves MP and former MP Seema Kennedy.



## Debate on the definition of "sex" in the Equality Act 2010

On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 MPs debated two petitions:

- Update the Equality Act to make clear the characteristic "sex" is biological sex
- Commit to not amending the Equality Act's definition of sex

Camberwell and Peckham had the 7<sup>th</sup> highest number of people of all constituencies signing the petition against amending the Equality Act's definition of sex.

I am proud of the way in which the Equality Act, which I brought in, has strengthened people's protections from disadvantage and discrimination, and we must not weaken its protections for people with protected characteristics. It is not necessary to amend the Equality Act.


I am proud of the work done by Labour that has taken Britain forward, such as better maternity and paternity leave, same-sex civil partnerships and the minimum wage. I want to build on that further by acting on the gender pay gap and maternity discrimination.

## Congratulations to Margaret Beckett MP on her 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

A huge congratulations to my colleague Margaret Beckett on 40 years as MP for Derby South. She has been a massive champion for her constituency in that time, and for decades has been a backbone of the Labour party. She was the first woman



President of the Board of Trade, the first woman Foreign Secretary and she introduced the first ever UK statutory minimum wage. She represents so much that is fundamental to our principles in the Labour party and has never stopped making us proud.

 **Harriet Harman** @HarrietHarman · Jul 13  
Such a pleasure to be with you all!  
♥ Wentworths of Walworth

 **John Wentworth** @johnpwentworth · Jul 13  
Wonderful evening with the fantastic @HarrietHarman & @SteveReedMP at Westow House event @CPUNLabour



## Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood Labour Party

It was great to join local Labour Party members at the Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood branch fundraiser for an in-conversation event with the local MP Steve Reed on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023. We discussed my time in politics, my work in Government, what the Labour Party needs to do to get into power and what it

needs to do to stay there.

It was great to catch up with friends and colleagues from the trade unions, Greater London Assembly, local Lambeth councillors and the Mayor's office, as well as some former constituents of Camberwell and Peckham.



## Chairing Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights



### Returning to the chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights



**UK Parliament Human Rights Com...** @HumanRights... · Jun 23 ...  
We welcome back @HarrietHarman as Chair of @HumanRightsCtte after temporarily stepping down to chair the @HoCPrivileges inquiry into the conduct of Rt Hon Boris Johnson. We thank @joannaccherry for all her work as Chair of JCHR in the interim. Joanna remains a member of JCHR.

14 14 72 18.7K

Following the conclusion of the Privileges Committee inquiry into Boris Johnson, I am pleased to have returned to my role as chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July I chaired a public evidence session on proposals for a "Hillsborough Law", a proposed law that would rectify many of the problems that families affected by the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 faced during the investigations and inquiries that followed. You can view the evidence session [here](#).

### "Committee Corridor" podcast on call for an apology to mothers and children affected by forced adoption

On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022, the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I chair, published its report into the experiences of mothers and children who were affected by forced adoption in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. This included the recommendation for the Government to apologise to all those mothers whose babies were taken from them

and to the children who were thereby separated from their mothers. You can read the report in full [here](#).

The right to family life is one of the most fundamental of human rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights. There could hardly be a more dreadful breach of those rights than forcibly taking a newborn baby from its mother. And yet for thousands of women in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, that is precisely what happened.

In February 2023 I spoke to the Committee Corridor podcast about the Committee's inquiry and our call for the Government to provide an apology. You can listen to the podcast [here](#).



## In local news

**southlondonpress** LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Mercury

'The Government has sunk into political chaos'

'London now has a new Metropolitan Police Commissioner.'

'International Women's Day 2023'

'This is Mental Health Awareness Week. And our mental health services are in crisis.'

'No woman should be jailed for procuring her own abortion.'

**Southwark News**

'After 40 years in office I look to the new generation of women to lead ... and I will be cheering them on!'

'Are leaseholders getting the support the government has given on energy bills?'

'ULEZ is a big expansion of a radical policy but I fully back it'

'It's not about restoring trust in the police – there was no trust'

'Why I voted against the Illegal Migration Bill'

'My 90-year-old constituent was put in a spit hood and threatened with a Taser, I want police reform now'

'Why I chose to spend twelve months looking into whether Boris Johnson misled the House of Commons'



## Attending Southwark Mayor-making and Civic Awards

I was pleased to attend Southwark Cathedral on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to add my congratulations to all those who received Civic Awards for outstanding contributions to the local community, particularly Camberwell and Peckham constituent Lisa Pearson, Director of the charity Let The Youth Live, and Sally Causer, Executive Director of the Southwark Law Centre.

My congratulations also to the new Southwark Cabinet and to Michael Situ and Naima Ali on their appointments as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Southwark.



**Harriet Harman** @HarrietHarman · May 20

Congrats to new Southwark mayor @michaelsitu & all civic award recipients & good wishes to @lb\_southwark in efforts for progress & equality



## Leader and Cabinet Member portfolios

- [Councillor Kieron Williams - Leader of the Council](#)
- [Councillor Jasmine Ali - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees](#)
- [Councillor Evelyn Akoto - Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Councillor Stephanie Cryan - Cabinet Member for Communities, Democracy and Finance](#)
- [Councillor Helen Dennis - Cabinet Member for New Homes and Sustainable Development](#)
- [Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle - Cabinet Member for Community Safety](#)
- [Councillor James McAsh - Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Clean Air and Streets](#)
- [Councillor Darren Merrill - Cabinet Member for Council Homes](#)
- [Councillor Catherine Rose - Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Leisure and Parks](#)
- [Councillor Martin Seaton - Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Business](#)

## Deputy Cabinet Members

- [Councillor Natasha Ennin - Deputy Cabinet Member for Equalities](#)
- [Councillor Emily Hickson - Deputy Cabinet Member for Green Finance](#)
- [Councillor Portia Mwangangye - Deputy Cabinet Member for Young People](#)
- [Councillor Leo Pollak - Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing Allocations](#)



## **A note of thanks!**

I'd like to thank my excellent casework team Rachel, Ellen and Phoebe who deal with every problem of each of my constituents who ask for my help promptly in a caring and professional manner.

My thanks to our local Councillors in Camberwell and Peckham.

It has been an honour to serve alongside my fellow MPs on the Privileges Committee and I thank them and the Commons Clerks of the Committee.

## **Help and Support**

### **Concerned about British nationals who need assistance in Ukraine?**

Consular support is still available to British nationals through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office helpline (open 24 hours, 7 days a week) on:

**+380 44 490 3660** (from Ukraine)

**+44 (0) 1908 516666** (from the UK)

**[Click here for UK Government advice about the situation in Ukraine.](#)**

### **Concerned about non-British family members in Ukraine?**

The British Government has announced that British nationals and people of any nationality settled in the UK will be supported to bring family members to the UK. This includes immediate family members (under Family Migration visas) as well as parents, grandparents, adult children and siblings (under the Ukraine Family Scheme).

To check your eligibility and begin the application call the helpline (open 24 hours, 7 days a week) on:

From Ukraine: **+44 808 164 8810** – select option 1

From the UK: **0808 164 8810** if you are in the UK – select option 1

**[Find further information on UK Government guidance support to Ukrainian nationals and their families.](#)**

### **Concerned as a Ukrainian national in the UK?**

The Home Office has agreed some temporary concessions to support Ukrainian nationals currently in the UK who are now unable to return when their existing visa expires.

If you are in the UK and need assistance, contact UKVI on:

**0808 164 8810** – select option 2

Monday to Thursday (excluding bank holidays), 9am to 4:45pm.  
Friday (excluding bank holidays), 9am to 4:30pm.

**Find further information on UK Government guidance support to Ukrainian nationals and their families.**

**Need legal advice?**

The Ukraine Advice Project UK offers free legal advice on UK immigration, visas and asylum by qualified legal advisors for Ukrainians affected by the crisis.

Send details of your circumstances and the advice you need to:  
[ukraine@freemovement.org.uk](mailto:ukraine@freemovement.org.uk)

Find further information from **Ukraine Advice Project UK**

Support and resources for British and non-British nationals who have been affected by the situation in Afghanistan from August 2021. Please click on link to information and advice:

- **Support for British and non-British nationals in Afghanistan**
- **Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme**
- **Afghanistan - Foreign travel advice**
- **Support for veterans**

**Southwark Council:**

- [General information on Coronavirus](#)
- [Financial support for residents](#)
- [Food access](#)
- [Coronavirus housing advice](#)
- [Covid-19: Support and information for businesses and employers](#)
- [Southwark COVID-19 community grants](#)
- [Voluntary sector help and advice on Coronavirus](#)

**Bereavement support:**

- The government has published a [bereavement support leaflet](#) to help those who have lost a loved one. The leaflet shares information to help bereaved families, friends, or next of kin make important decisions, sets out what to expect next, and signposts the extra help and support that is available.

**Citizens Advice – Benefit advice:**

- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/coronavirus-check-what-benefits-you-can-get/>

**Government business advice:**

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>
- Government's Business Support Helpline on 0300 456 3565, Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm.

#### **HMRC:**

- [Helpline for businesses and self-employed people who are concerned about their tax](#) due to COVID-19.
- 08000 241222, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

#### **Domestic violence help and support:**

- [Solace Women's Aid](#) - Advice Line - 0808 802 5565
- Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm. Additional 6pm - 8pm on Tuesdays.
- Email: [advice@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:advice@solacewomensaid.org)

#### **Mental health help and support:**

- [Lambeth and Southwark Mind](#) - 07871 940 763 - 8am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
- [Samaritans](#) - 116 123 - 24/7
- [The Nest](#) - 020 8138 1805

#### **Legal advice**

- [Southwark Law Centre](#)
- [Citizens Advice Southwark](#) has resumed drop-in sessions from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm 5 days a week at:
  - Peckham - 97 Peckham High Street, SE15 5RS
  - Bermondsey - 8 Market Place, Southwark Park Road, SE16 3UQ
  - Walworth - 6-8 Westmoreland Road, Walworth, SE17 2AY



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