

Working for Wansbeck



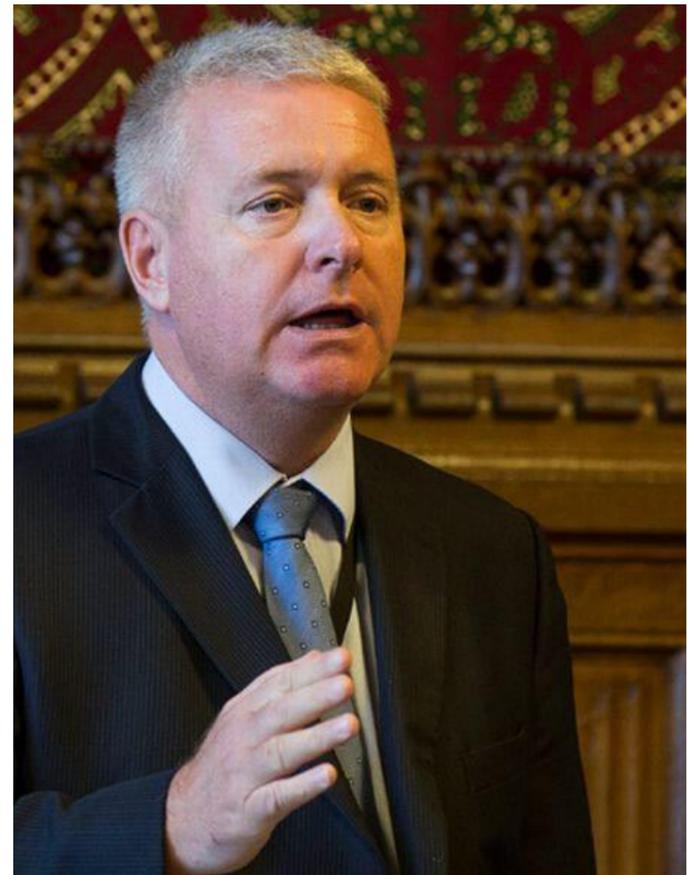
Ian Lavery MP - Wansbeck Constituency

Ian Lavery MP Parliamentary Update
17th March 2017

BROKEN PROMISES MEAN BUDGET BLUES

As the unelected Prime Minister of the Country, Theresa May stands on the mandate of David Cameron's Conservative Win at the last General Election, an election that was run on a series of manifesto pledges, agreed by the entire Tory Party. It would now appear that Theresa May's Government have decided to break several of these promises, making a mockery of our democracy. In last week's Budget Philip Hammond broke a 2015 Tory manifesto commitment not to increase National Insurance Contributions, in the process hitting low and middle earners with a £2 billion tax bill. He has since U-Turned on this decision, after the Labour Party have opposed the changes. This U Turn shows exactly how incompetent the Tories are and how willingly Philip Hammond was going to

throw millions of British citizens under the bus. This isn't the first commitment they have broken: They promised there would be no cuts to tax credits. However, Later that same year the Tories attempted billions of pounds worth of cuts to tax credits in the Summer Budget 2015. They then pledged to keep council taxes low but the Government have allowed a 5 per cent increase on council tax for the next two years. They then said 'We will work to eliminate child poverty' A statement contradicted by their own facts; as The Government abolished child poverty targets in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 and the IFS have forecast nearly a million more children will be pushed into poverty because of the Government's policies. And a further claim of protecting pensioner benefits has clearly been abandoned after

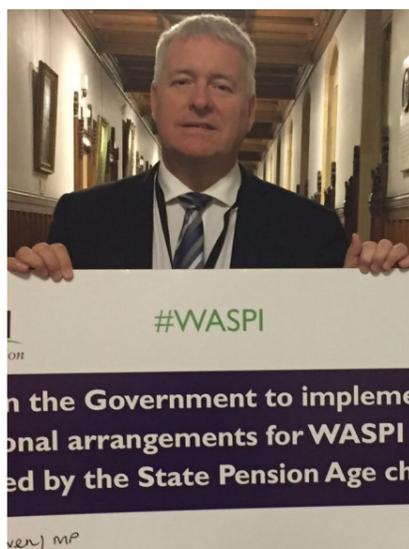


Ian speaks during a debate in Parliament

spending on pensioner benefits is falling in real terms next year. Over 3000 people in Wansbeck alone were due to be hit by this rise in NIC tax for the self employed. The Labour Party will continue holding the Tories to account for this incompetent budget.

WASPI WOMEN FIGHT ON

The Latest developments in the fight against state pension inequality came this week as thousands of WASPI (Women against state pension inequality) Women descended on London from all over the country to demonstrate in Parliament Square against the Government's inaction to help their campaign. I was thrilled to see how many people turned up from all over the UK to show their support and solidarity for the WASPI women and their ongoing fight for justice. Members from the Northumberland WASPI group travelled down and did a fantastic job in representing all those in our area who have faced this inequality. I will continue to support the WASPI campaign alongside my Labour Party colleagues in Westminster.



Ian supporting the UNISON call for the Government to back WASPI

Help for Constituents

I am always happy to help constituents with casework or concerns that they have but there are some cases I cannot intervene with (e.g. Legal disputes / court rulings etc.). What I can do is help with matters that relate to central government. This includes many issues and concerns with different departments and my helpful and friendly staff will try to direct you to the best place to contact if unable to assist directly. If you would like to see one of my caseworkers regarding your concern, they will be happy to make an appointment. Contact: 01670 852494 to speak to the team.

Tory Brexit Begins

It is deeply disappointing that the Prime Minister chose to ignore Labour's amendments to the Brexit bill this week, and that so few Tory MP's were willing to do the right thing. Labour's amendments would have given much needed certainty for the 3 million EU nationals living in the UK. But it's clear the Prime Minister is more obsessed with getting a clean Bill rather than considering the merits of

these amendments. By doing so, she is putting pride ahead of principle. It is not the right way to approach such a vital issue and sets a worrying precedent for the negotiations ahead. Neither of Labour's amendments would have delayed the triggering of Article 50 and would have moved us towards a proper and fair Brexit, rather than the Tory shambles it risks becoming.



Brexit must happen, but it must be fair

Miners Demand Justice



Ian joins the march to call for the Government to hold an inquiry into Orgreave.

This week saw another important demonstration take place in Parliament, one that is very close to my own heart. It has been nearly 33 years since the so called 'Battle of Orgreave' during the 1984 Miners' Strike. A day that is seen as a representation of the injustice Miners faced during the strikes at the hand of police brutality and misconduct, coupled with the persecution from a vicious conservative

government under Margaret Thatcher. I joined the Orgreave Truth & Justice campaign as they marched in London to demand an independent inquiry into Orgreave and in this, they have my full support. The Miners Strike left a mark on me as a young pitman, as it did many others in our area. We must never forget the crimes that were committed and Truth and Justice must prevail.

'Breathing Space' For Children of Family Debt



I am backing calls for a new scheme to help thousands of families in debt. In Wansbeck alone too many families with children are living with problem debt. The data shows that children in low-income families with multiple debts are

more likely to suffer from mental health problems than equivalent families with fewer debts. I am calling for parliament to support the Children's Society in their efforts to introduce a 'Breathing Space' of 12 months for families who seek assistance with debt. I support this Campaign. Find more info at: www.childrensociety.org.uk

Fight Against School Cuts Continues



Last week I visited Northumberland Church of England Academy High School in Ashington to launch my Campaign against the Government's School Cuts. I was joined by Mike McDonald from the National Union of

Teachers and we discussed the effect these cuts will have in real terms on our schools and our children's education. With absolutely no reassurance in the Budget last week for the funding of our schools, however - the Government instead put funds towards selective education and its pet project of grammar schools, a true waste of money.

Disability Confidence for Employers

Over 3000 businesses have now signed up to a scheme developed by Employers and Disabled People in order to make workplaces as accessible as possible. The Disability Confident scheme could improve many Wansbeck residents' lives. I will be keeping Wansbeck residents updated on this scheme helping to bring more equality to the workplace.



Council raises concern about NHS

Northumberland County Council representatives alongside constituents have been raising concerns with my office regarding NHS funding and the desperate situation in our hospitals. With the desperately needed funding and required provision being ignored in last weeks budget the government are failing every citizen in this country. Wansbeck continues to face an NHS crisis.



Grants Awarded to Wansbeck

The People's Health Trust has been investing in various projects across the constituency by awarding grants to various groups including; The Carers Trust, North Seaton Colliery Community Project, Wansbeck Golden Age Forum and the Full Circle Food Project amongst others. These grants amount to more than £130,000 which will directly benefit people in our area.



Free Guides for Pensioners

This week, I have been made aware of various free Guides for Pensioners which have been made available by Independent Age. Older people in Wansbeck can get the free guides which range in topic from finances, health, loneliness and much more. You can visit www.independantage.org and download the guides or contact 0800 319 6789 to place an order over the phone and get more advice from this well established charity.



Constituency Contact



Call the team: 01670 852494



www.ianlavery.org.uk



7 Esther Court
Ashington NE63 8AP



ian.lavery.mp@parliament.uk



@IanLaveryMP
[Facebook.com/IanLaveryMP](https://www.facebook.com/IanLaveryMP)