



News from the constituency

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Report from Sharon Hodgson MP



the Government where it is right to and challenging them where we see and hear problems from our constituents.

Justice Questions – Virtual Hybrid Parliament

Union sources have been reporting that some prison governors have been attempting to go back to ‘business as usual’, despite Coronavirus remaining a significant threat. This is not only dangerous for staff and their families, but also for the prisoners themselves.

During justice questions, I asked the Secretary of State, Robert Buckland MP whether he condemned this behaviour and agreed that all governors should be following official guidance. You can view that question, and the response here: <https://bit.ly/3alLuVS>

This was my first contribution in the House of Commons chamber since the ‘virtual hybrid Parliament’ was introduced, and it worked really well. I want to say a huge thanks to all the staff who have worked tirelessly to make it possible.

At a time when there are very important questions to be asked about the Government’s handling of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is more important than ever that as MPs, we can hold Government to account whilst ensuring we adhere to the national guidelines.

New Shadow Front Bench role appointment

I’m honoured to have been appointed Shadow Minister for Veterans in Keir Starmer’s new team. I look forward to working with organisations, such as the Royal British Legion and Forces charities, for better services for Veterans.

Casework

Coronavirus is affecting every aspect of society, the economy, and our daily lives. My team and I are handling more casework than ever, and we’re doing our utmost to help where possible and provide timely and accurate responses to queries. If you, or any other constituent, is experiencing a problem due to the pandemic, whether it be with employment, benefits, healthcare, education, or anything else – please do make sure to contact me via: sharon.hodgson.mp@parliament.uk

I’m also using every opportunity I have, to raise these issues directly with the Government, so the more information and examples I have, the better.

Sharon takes part in her first ‘virtual hybrid Parliament’ session, for Justice Questions, 27th April. Excellent work by all involved.

Coronavirus Update

I know that this is a very difficult time for everyone, and that this Coronavirus pandemic is changing all our lives in ways we could not have imagined at the start of this year.

However, there are now some encouraging signs that the lockdown is helping in the fight against this virus, and it is crucial it is kept in place for the immediate future, so we can save lives and protect livelihoods. I urge you all to continue following the advice as we move forward.

Of course, we all want the government’s strategy to work, but it is becoming increasingly clear that there is a gap between the government’s promises and delivery. When it comes to testing, PPE and social care the government has made grand claims, but the reality at the frontline is very different. Too many frontline workers are doing their jobs without adequate protection, and too many have lost their lives. We must never forget the sacrifice that they made to keep others in society safe.

The government has a responsibility to plan for the future, and the British public deserve to be part of an adult conversation about the next stages in this crisis. I and my Labour colleagues will continue to play a role in supporting