

## Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Report — January 2016

### Student Maintenance Grants

The Government has forced through legislation to abolish Student Maintenance Grants. The Conservative Government is giving tax cuts to millionaires at the same time as piling more debts onto poor students. These plans will take up to £3,387 from 5,980 students in Southwark and 500,000 nationally every year.

The Government know that grants are essential to levelling the playing field of education, but have forced these changes through anyway. I voted against the abolition of maintenance grants and will continue to back students, universities and colleges and everyone campaigning to get the government to change their mind.

### Calling for review of Southwark Council's reimbursement & compensation policy for loss of heating & hot water for estate residents

My constituents have been experiencing repeated problems with their heating and hot water services this winter. I have written to Councillor Richard Livingstone, Cabinet Member for Housing at Southwark Council, asking him to review the Council's reimbursement and compensation policy to ensure that the process for affected residents is straightforward, fair and efficient. This is a major problem; nearly 4000 properties have been affected in Camberwell and Peckham in the last 18 months. The compensation process is taking too long. It has taken nearly a year for all residents on the Gloucester Grove and North Peckham Estates to receive their agreed compensation. I look forward to hearing from Southwark Council on my concerns.

### Power to the People' at St John's & St Clement's CofE Primary School



Earlier this month, St John's & St Clement's Year 5 pupils invited me to hear about their book fundraising project, Better Books, which was a part of the all school topic 'Power to the

People'. Their aim was to have better resources in their classrooms. Good news—they reached their fundraising total!

### Bedroom Tax

Labour's Equality Act has brought justice for hard hit families affected by the bedroom tax. The Court of Appeal has ruled the Government's tax is unlawful and discriminatory. 3,233 families in Southwark are currently affected by the bedroom tax. This ruling doesn't end the bedroom tax for all, but it will be a welcome relief for some of Southwark's most needy families.

### Faraday By-election

Congratulations to Samantha Jury-Dada our new Faraday Labour councillor and thanks to all those who helped get her elected.

The result was:

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Labour  | 1,072 |
| Lib Dem | 255   |
| Green   | 138   |
| Cons    | 117   |



Turnout 22.8%



These are just some of my activities. For further information about my work in the constituency please see my website

[www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org)

### Branch Meetings

This month I have enjoyed meeting and talking to local members at:

- Camberwell Green & Brunswick Park Branch Meeting
- South Camberwell Branch Meeting
- Peckham Branch AGM

### Nunhead Reservoir

There is growing local interest in whether this site, owned by Thames Water, could become public. Open spaces are at a premium in our crowded city. Thames Water has a duty to be a good corporate citizen whilst also protecting public health and safety. I have written to Martin Baggs, CEO of Thames Water, to ask why Nunhead Reservoir isn't open to the public and if this is a possibility for the future. I have also asked to meet with them and local councillors on site to discuss this issue further.

### Deadline for postal votes is 19th April

If you want to vote by post in the London Mayoral and London Assembly elections on May 5th 2016 the last day to register is Tuesday 19th April 2016. You can download the form [here](#).

### Joint Committee on Human Rights Update

This month the Committee and I have:

- Visited Edinburgh and raised our concern with the Justice Secretary that the voices of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland be heard in the Government's consultation on the Human Rights Act.
- Continued to work on our inquiry on the Governments' use of drones for targeted killing.
- Met with Nils Muiznieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

For more information on the work on the Joint Committee on Human Rights click [here](#).

### Recently I have voted:

- Against the Governments plans to cut in-work benefits.
- Against the Government's planned abolition of Student Maintenance Grants.
- Against the inclusion of 'poppers' in the Psychoactive Substances Bill.
- Against the Government's plans to include supported housing in housing benefit cuts.

But Labour lost all these votes because we are in opposition - we must win the next election to be able to make positive change!

**CONTACT  
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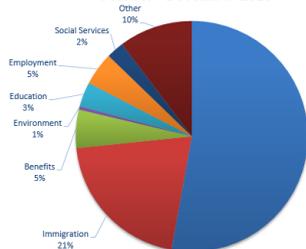
**BY EMAIL:**  
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**MY ADVICE SURGERIES ARE AT  
Walworth Methodist Church 'Clubland'  
54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EW**

### Surgery Dates in February

- Tuesday 9th at 5pm
- Friday 26th at 9am

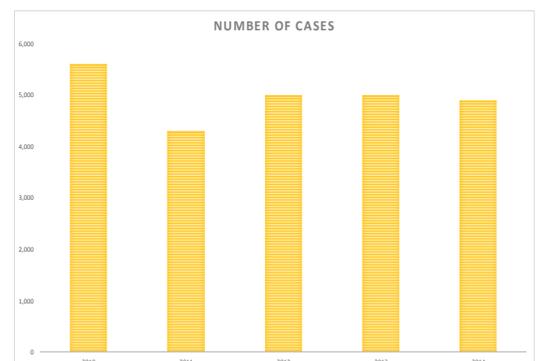
Camberwell & Peckham casework  
October - December 2015



### Casework Update January 2016

Since my last report in December 2015:

- Action on 376
- Including 164 new cases
- 2 advice surgeries
- Attended by 94 people
- Average reply time: 11 working days



Getting to Clubland: Bus Routes: 468, 148, 171, 45, 68, 176, 12



@HarrietHarman

