



# Merry Christmas

**Harriet Harman MP for Camberwell and Peckham**

**Parliamentary Report— November/December 2017**



## **Resignation of Lord Kerslake as Chair of King's College Hospital**

On 12<sup>th</sup> December I asked the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, to come to Parliament and make an urgent statement on the resignation of Lord Kerslake as the Chair of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The problem at King's is not the leadership, any more than it is the growing number of patients or the dedicated staff. The problem at King's is that there is not enough money. The Government shows no recognition of the fact that over the past two years, King's has already cut £80 million, double the average rate that other hospitals have had to cut, and taken on an ailing trust to help out the wider NHS. King's is now being told that it has to make even further cuts. How can it keep its A&E waiting times down, prevent waiting lists from growing and continue to meet cancer targets if it is forced to go on to make further cuts?

The Government must face up to the fact that problems caused by lack of money are simply not going to be solved by blaming the leadership. King's is an amazing hospital and a specialist world centre of research, which is also there for local people. It was there after the Grenfell Tower fire and the terrorist incidents we have had in London. It is not too much to ask the Government to recognise the reality of the situation and pull back from imposing further cuts, which will make patients suffer. No amount of changing the faces at the top will make that difference. It is the Government's responsibility.

You do not improve an organisation by cutting it to the bone. King's should get the money it needs; it's not about bailing it out or doing it a favour, it's about providing it with the right level of resources for a world-class major teaching hospital which is also at the heart of a diverse community. [Read the full debate here.](#)



## **Government must do more to combat toxic Brexit issue**

Last week 11 Tory MPs voted against their whip and with Labour MPs for Dominic Grieve's amendment 7 to the EU Withdrawal Bill, to ensure Parliament gets a vote on the final terms of the Brexit deal and I was pleased the amendment passed by [309 votes to 305 votes](#). People did not vote to take power from Brussels just to give it to Ministers without any accountability. The Government has no idea what they're doing and they want to muddle through behind closed doors when actually it would be better for them to face up to the fact that Parliament's involvement will make a perilous situation better. This is all unprecedented, no country has left the EU before, no country has ever turned its back on its largest trading bloc.

Yet following the vote, the Tory MPs who voted against the government and their staff have received multiple death threats. We have here a toxic triangle—made up of the divisiveness of the Brexit issue, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Daily Mail* identifying certain Members as targets on their front pages and framing the attack on them and—facilitated by social media—the mob following. When MPs in other countries are threatened with violence because of how they vote, we call that tyranny, and we call that fascism, but that is what is happening here.



In Parliament on 18<sup>th</sup> December I asked the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, what action the Government is taking to combat the divisiveness of the Brexit issue. As well as rightly commending the bravery of her Conservative colleagues for facing such abuse, the Home Secretary must be brave herself and call in the editors of the *Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph*. We have more contentious votes ahead of us, and there are people out there who are vulnerable to being incited to violence. Barely 18 months ago, our colleague Jo Cox was killed. The safety of MPs is at stake here, and so, too, is our democracy. You can [watch the statement](#) or [read the full debate here](#).



### Christmas Visit to Camberwell delivery office

It was great to meet the Camberwell post office team last week to thank them for all their hard work to ensure Christmas cards and presents are delivered to loved ones in time for Christmas, and for their great work all year round.

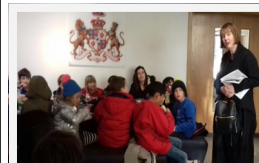
### Livesey Campaigning

Thanks to Cllrs Livingstone, Situ & Hargrove for campaigning in Livesey Ward and to local members who joined us in November. It's vital that Labour is out knocking on people's doors, showing an interest in their lives, listening to their concerns and picking up issues which need to be acted on.

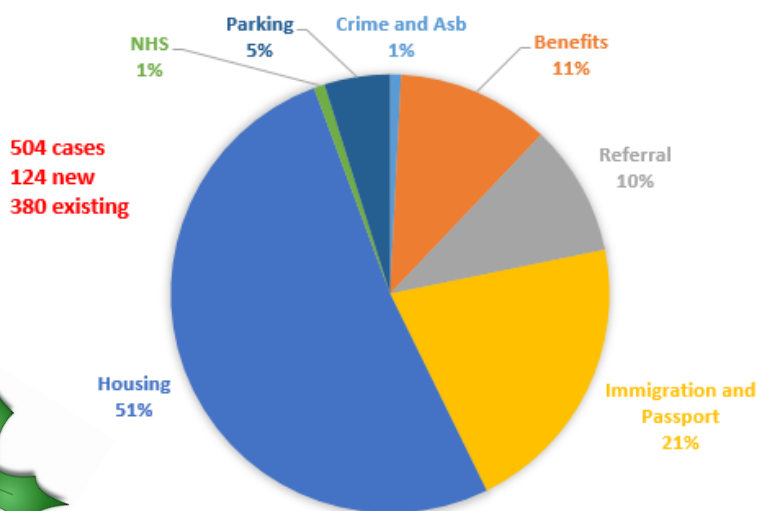


### School Visits

I was pleased to welcome lively, enthusiastic students from Charter School & Ivydale Primary to Parliament this month!



### NEW CASES - NOVEMBER



### Walk the MET

I went out with The Lane Police team in Peckham town centre on 14<sup>th</sup> December and to hear from local people & business owners about their concerns. The police are working hard & do a good job to protect the local community despite deep Tory cuts.



### New Zebra Crossing for Ivydale Primary School

A mother of 2 young children from Nunhead contacted me because she was concerned that there was no zebra crossing outside the new Ivydale Primary School site which opened in September 2017. She feared that drivers would not know to slow down and an accident could happen. I supported the parents & the school in their request and pressed Southwark Council for a zebra crossing and they have agreed to do this.

### Helping constituents with their problems

An older woman who suffers from osteoarthritis and is eligible for a Warm Home Discount contacted me because British Gas told her the discount may not arrive until the end of January and she was worried about how she would afford to heat her home. I contacted British Gas and they sent her heating vouchers to use until the discount comes through.

A single mother from Camberwell with a 13 year old autistic son asked for my help finding more suitable care and education for him after he was asked to leave his residential care home and ended up spending the night in police custody. I've asked Southwark Children's Services and South London & Maudsley NHS Trust to help find the boy a place in a residential school or the support he needs to settle back in at home.



A woman suffering from heart and lung disease came to see me because she had 4 leaks in her flat and was concerned about the impact on her health from the poor condition of her home. I've written to Southwark Council to ask them to repair the leaks urgently.

A woman with a young family from Nunhead contacted me for help because she needed to move because she was in danger from domestic violence. The council had turned down her application for a home exchange as one of her rooms was too small to be classed a room. I've asked Southwark Council to reconsider their decision given the risks to the family's safety.

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