



In 2018 my constituency priority is the NHS

Backing the “meaningful vote” amendment

The crucial EU Withdrawal Bill vote this month was the “meaningful vote” amendment. Since 2016 I have consistently voted for Parliament to have a say on the final deal. In the face of deep government divisions it would have been better from the start for them to face up to the fact that Parliament’s involvement will make a perilous situation better.

Last week, facing the prospect of a humiliating defeat on the ‘meaningful vote’, Theresa May was forced to enter negotiations with her backbenchers and offer a concession. But the amendment she put forward was not good enough and she’s gone back on her word to them. I voted for the amendment which would have ensured that if the PM’s withdrawal agreement is rejected by MPs - or no deal is reached at all - it would be for Parliament, not the Prime Minister, to decide the next steps. I am deeply disappointed that this was defeated by 320 votes to 303 votes. I and Labour MPs are working to protect the country as best we can and are seeking to enshrine in law a commitment to avoiding a hard border in Northern Ireland, to retain workers’ rights and environmental protections and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Demanding action on delays & overcrowding at local stations

Almost every day following the introduction of the new Thameslink Railway timetable people in Camberwell and Peckham have contacted me exasperated that the delays and cancellations have caused total upheaval in their lives. They’ve paid for their season tickets but they’ve been late for work, missed hospital appointments, their children have been late to school and they’ve suffered misery on their daily travel. Whilst the delays and disruption to people’s lives are of course totally unacceptable, even more important is that this has now become a matter of public safety.

And people’s frustration has only been worsened by mishandling by Govia Thameslink Railway.

The Government need to get a grip on the situation and ensure train operators are accountable.

Together with many other MPs, I am taking action to push them on this:

*I met Rail Minister, Jo Johnson MP, with Helen Hayes MP to protest delays. He told us there will be extra trains in July but the full new timetable would not be implemented until December at the earliest.

*I have written to Govia Thameslink Railway to ask what they are doing to fix the disruption and compensate passengers.

*I am campaigning with Helen Hayes MP, SE5 Forum, South London and Maudsley, King’s College Hospital, Camberwell College of Arts and Southwark Council to re-open Camberwell Station on the Thameslink Line.

This is urgently needed to alleviate pressure at neighbouring stations.

Helen and I delivered a petition of 2000 local people’s signatures in support to the Department for Transport on June 20th.

*I’ve met Network Rail to ask what steps they’re taking to keep people safe on platforms. I welcome their commitment that both Denmark Hill and Peckham Rye are being prioritised in the top 10 stations for redevelopment. I am demanding the Government now put in the money to back this up.



Defending rights of Windrush Generation wrongly detained



In my role as Chair of Parliament’s Select Committee on Human Rights I brought 2 of the Windrush Generation to the House of Commons to give evidence about why they were locked up when they had done nothing wrong and not been charged with any offence. I then summoned new Home Secretary, Sajid Javid MP, on 6th June to cross-examine him about why these people were detained when it was clear from their Home Office files that there was no legal right to detain them.

The Committee are calling on the Government to immediately and fully compensate them for their financial loss and emotional distress. This has been a shameful episode and one which should cause the government to rethink how the immigration system, whilst clearly maintaining firm borders, respects and uphold human rights. I have asked the Home Office to release to all of the Windrush Generation who were wrongfully detained, copies of their Home Office files and am asking what action the Government is taking to discipline or retrain immigration officials responsible for wrongful detention. We will shortly be publishing our report on this.

Crawford Estate Walkabout

All credit to Abu & Fred Kamara who chair the Crawford Estate tenants association and do fantastic work for the local community. I'm helping residents sort over-crowding & damp problems following my visit with Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE on June 19th.



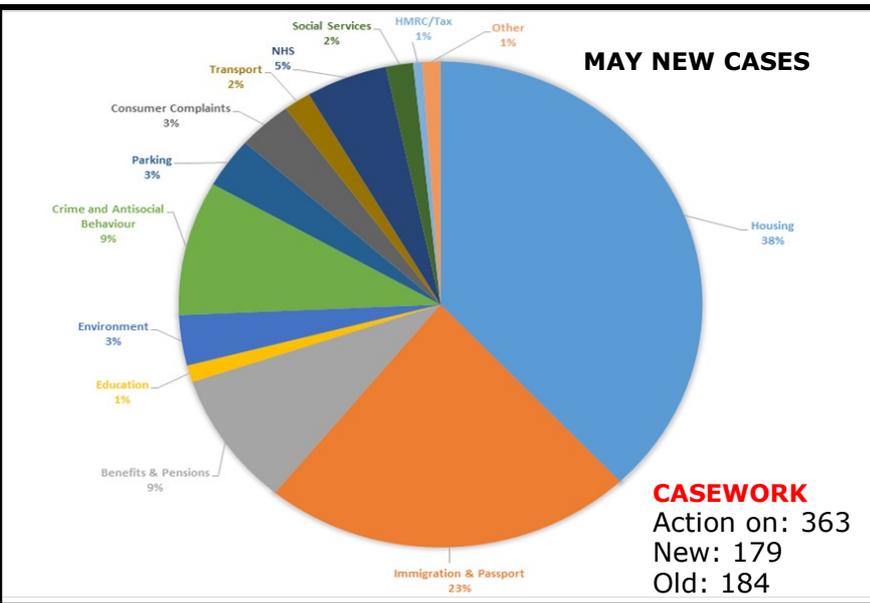
Lewisham East By-Election campaigning

Congratulations to our new Lewisham East MP Janet Daby - elected with 50.2% of the vote on June 14th! Looking forward to working together in Parliament to hold the Tories to account.



Opening Ivydale Primary's magnificent new building

Great to hear from students at Ivydale about why they love their new school. Congrats to teachers, parents, Hawkins Brown architects and Southwark Council on the award-winning design!



Policy issues update

In May 804 Camberwell & Peckham residents wrote to me about policy issues. The top 3 concerns raised were:

1. Take action on the killing of Palestinians on the Gaza border by the Israeli Defence Force – Labour are calling for a full independently led investigation.
2. Call for more funding for the NHS. I have made this my 2018 constituency priority and am upping the demand on government.
3. Ban live exports of animals for slaughter – I am backing this call. You can find out more on the ['Policy Issues'](#) & [Letters to Ministers](#) pages on my website.

Helping constituents with their problems

*The family of a Peckham man, originally from Nigeria came to see me as he has not been seen or heard from since September 2017. They have serious concerns for his safety and believe that his disappearance from his family home in Nigeria is because of his involvement with a political organisation and may be linked to Nigerian state actors. I have contacted the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Nigerian High Commissioner to the UK and I am awaiting responses.

*A homeless man with a history of heart problems contacted me because his homelessness application, submitted in January 2018 is still being considered by Southwark Council six months on and he feels his unsuitable living conditions are impacting his recovery. He was offered a room in a multiple occupancy property while his application is being considered but he gets little sleep due to noise, he is unable to prepare healthy meals in the communal kitchen as advised to by his GP and has no space for a chair to sit down to stop his blood pressure dropping. I've written to Southwark Council to ask for the consideration of his application to be completed as soon as possible.

*A mother from Dulwich came to see me as her daughter, who has learning disabilities and schizophrenia owes £9,000 in overpaid Universal Credit and is at risk of being evicted from a supported housing complex in Peckham. The arrears accumulated because the house manager failed to inform the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) the accommodation was supported living and the DWP failed to rectify the issue when they became aware of the mistake in July 2017. I have written to the DWP and the Revenue and Benefit Department of Southwark Council and asked that the overpayment be waived as it was caused by no fault of her own and she was eligible for her housing costs to be covered during this period.



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