



In 2019 my constituency priority is the NHS

UK Parliament becomes first in world to declare Climate Emergency

We're all hearing about the catastrophic effects of global warming and doing what we can to recycle, use reusable bags and coffee cups and worrying about supermarkets using so much plastic packaging. Southwark Council has already worked to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 37% since 2010. But while we step up our own efforts locally, what is really urgent now is that the Government must take decisive action. In response to people reducing food waste in their homes, to [the leadership the 16 year old Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg, has shown](#) and to the thousands of Extinction Rebellion protesters marching and writing to their MPs, the Government must set clear, measurable targets to move away from harmful energy sources like burning coal and gas. And use tax breaks to make clean energy more affordable for people to use, like onshore wind farms, solar panels and electric cars. Labour are leading the charge in Parliament to halt climate change. This month we brought forward a motion to make [the UK Parliament the first in the world to formally recognise the climate emergency](#). I backed the motion and was pleased to see it pass unanimously. It is time for the Government to wake up and act with the urgency that the science demands.



Improving #AutismAwareness

Powerful and useful autism training session for MPs - helping us as we push forward for children & families with autism. My office will do the training too. Thanks to the National Autistic Society & the [All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism](#), which I have joined.



Rape victims must not be made to hand over their phones

There is a [serious problem of under-reporting rape](#). Victims feel vilified in court. So new police forms demanding full access to their phones will only make this worse. One victim told me police demanded all her texts, emails & social media even though she was attacked by total stranger - "I lie awake at night...I feel as if I'm the one on trial". I raised these concerns in Parliament & with new Director of Public Prosecutions, Max Hill QC, and I'm working with new Victims' Commissioner, Vera Baird & Labour women MPs to demand the CPS & Police withdraw these intrusive forms. Listen to my [BBC Radio 4 interview](#) & read my Harper's Bazaar [article](#).



Launching new cross-party group on immigration detention

Most people don't realise that every year over 24,000 people are locked up in immigration detention. Accused of no crime, they're treated worse than criminals. I've joined new APPG on Immigration Detention chaired by SNP Alison Thewliss MP to protect migrants' rights.



Domestic violence refuges recognised as public service at last

Ever since the first women's refuge, Chiswick Women's Aid, was created in 1971 by Erin Pizzey, women's refuges have been precarious financially, existing hand to mouth from year to year. The Government announcement of a new legal duty on councils to fund refuges is a very important moment as it marks the point at which domestic violence is recognised as not an optional issue but a national public policy imperative. Women in and outside the House of Commons have campaigned for decades for this. Now the Government must put their money where their mouth is and give councils the money they need to support women & children fleeing domestic violence. [My speech in Parliament](#).



100,000 people demand end to indefinite immigration detention

Great to work with Windrush victims, MPs from all parties, Amnesty & Liberty to deliver a petition with over 100,000 signatures to the Home Secretary calling for [a 28 day time limit on immigration detention](#).



Social media companies must do more to tackle threats online

Being part of an angry mob in the street is a crime. But not if the mob is online. Threats to MPs on social media aim to silence them & undermine democracy. As chair of the Human Rights Committee I pressed Facebook & Twitter on their slow response to taking down abuse. Like football clubs pay towards matchday policing, social media companies should help pay the costs of policing the threats & [abuse that thrive on their platforms](#).



Improving care for people with dementia

People with dementia face 15% higher care costs in old age. On average their care will cost £100,000. Not many people can afford this. The social care system is failing them. With 60 MPs I have written to the Health Secretary, to demand the Government step up and [create a new £2.4 billion Dementia Fund](#).

Anti-Semitism

At the last meeting of the General Committee of our CLP, the issue of anti-Semitism in the Labour Party was raised. I undertook to send to all of you a link to the speech that our Shadow Cabinet member, Barry Gardiner MP, made in the House of Commons in February. [I fully support what he says in this speech](#) which represents my views too.

Policy issues update

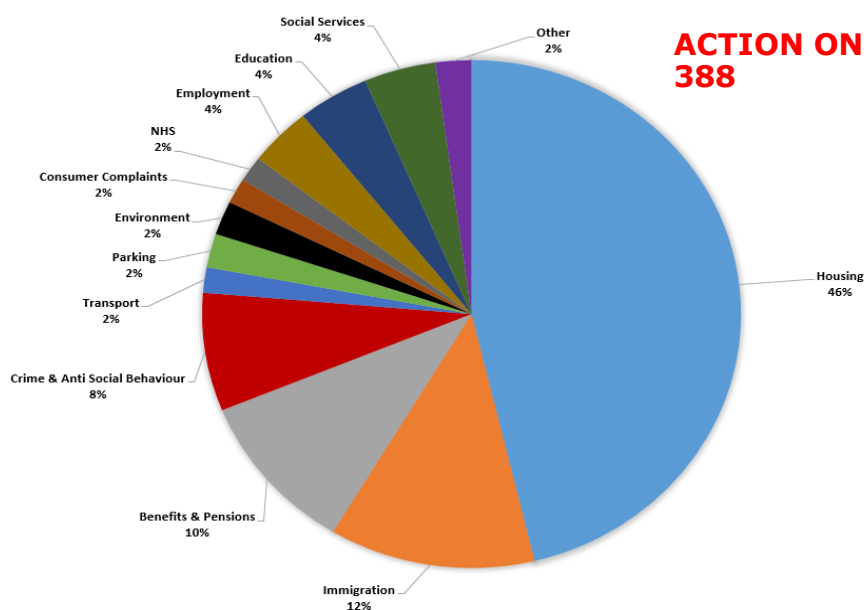
In April 846 Camberwell & Peckham residents wrote to me about policy issues.

The top 3 concerns raised were:

1. Declare a Climate Change Emergency. I backed the Labour frontbench motion on this.
2. Support for a second Brexit Referendum. I backed this in the indicative votes.
3. Proportional representation for parliamentary elections.

Read more about my position on policy issues & letters to Ministers on my [website](#).

APRIL 2019 NEW CASE BREAKDOWN



ACTION ON 388

Helping constituents with their problems

Kidney Care UK contacted me on behalf of a Camberwell man with renal failure whose hopes of receiving a kidney from his sister were hampered as her UK visa expired before the scheduled surgery date. His sister had to return home to Algeria and apply again. I asked the Immigration Minister to expedite the application and her visa was issued in 15 days. She is now in the UK and the transplant will take place at the end of this month.

[Perennial](#), the charity that supports people who work in gardening and horticulture, contacted me on behalf of a severely disabled woman who asked the DWP if she could receive Severe Disability Payment (SDP) in July 2018 and had not heard back. I wrote to the DWP and they backdated her claim for SDP and credited £14,500.05 into her account.

The mother of a young man who was fatally stabbed outside their home in Camberwell last summer contacted me because she wanted to move home following the tragic loss of her son. I wrote to the council to ask them to help rehouse her and they have made her application a priority.

A Peckham woman originally from Ghana contacted me because she had applied for further leave to remain in the UK in November 2018 and she had not heard back. Her husband had provided his British passport as evidence for her application and he needed it back urgently to travel. I made enquiries with the Home Office and she was granted Leave to Remain until September 2021 and her husband's passport returned.



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