

Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP
Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham
Mother of the House of Commons

Coronavirus Crisis Report 2

17th April 2020



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Introduction

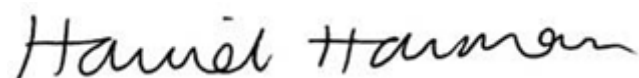
The virus continues to infect more people in Southwark and take more lives. We do not have a breakdown of the number of suspected infections or deaths by borough but we know that Southwark is amongst the highest. Everyone is so grateful to our NHS, careworkers, police and those workers in other essential services who are helping save lives, helping protect the vulnerable during lockdown and keeping essential services, like shops, open.

This is my second report during the COVID crisis in which I:

- share with you how I'm seeking to go about my work as MP during this coronavirus crisis,
- hear from you if you agree with how I'm approaching things and
- what further issues you think I should be addressing.

I, and my office team, continue to help constituents and to raise issues with the Government or with agencies if they do not appear to have them on their agenda. Where they are aware of problems but appear to be taking too long to solve them I am pressuring government to act more speedily.

I continue to support the public health guidance which the Government has issued.



Constituency problems – update:

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many new problems and made many existing problems worse. So there has been an increase in the number of constituents seeking my help. Those who are in overcrowded or unsuitable homes or who have troublesome neighbours feel it even more keenly when they are confined to those homes and their problems become more pressing. Those who already had financial problems are finding that the COVID-19 crisis only makes them worse. My casework team continue to deal with pre-existing problems as well as the new COVID-19 problems. I have taken action on behalf of **853** constituents since the beginning of March.

1,433 constituents have emailed me on policy issues since the beginning of March, the majority relating to COVID-19. Issues raised since my first COVID-19 report include:

- The importance of more government support for small businesses, agency staff and self-employed people.
- Complaints about the cut-off date of 28th February for the Job Retention Furlough Scheme.
- Concern about the lack of PPE and testing for NHS and social care staff.
- Support for frontline Marie Curie staff in hospices and their patients.
- The need to suspend No Recourse to Public Funds restriction for migrants.
- Issues of concern around social distancing which grocery shopping.
- The need to keep local parks and cemeteries open to the public.

- The need for grade mitigation for university students affected by COVID-19.
- The need for help for those living in private rented sector affected by COVID-19.
- The need for large-scale increases for Domestic Abuse refuges emergency funding.
- Government should collect and publish infection and death rate from COVID-19 by gender and ethnicity.
- COVID-19 outbreaks in immigration detention centres.
- The need for support for employees of the UK travel industry.
- The need to include people with Motor Neurone Disease on the Government's extremely vulnerable list.

Urgent Help Needed for Small Businesses

Small businesses from cafes, cleaners, dentists to childminders and many others suddenly find themselves with no income, but with rent, rates and other bills to pay. I welcomed the announcement of the Government scheme to help small businesses but it has been painfully slow to feed through to those on the ground who need help right now. Southwark Council have acted swiftly to set up a scheme to help small businesses and are getting money out to them fast. But the council needs more funds from the Government to enable them to continue to meet this need. I'm pressing the Government on this. The bottom line is that if we don't support small businesses now then they will fail and won't be there to open when lockdown ends. It takes years to plan and build up a business but just a few short weeks for it to fail. We need these small businesses and must protect them. I have written to the Chancellor to urge him to resolve the problems with the delivery of the Business Interruption Loans.

COVID-19 Dashboard: Government support

Government Support Schemes	
Business Interruption Loan Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 3 April, the Government announced the scheme had only made loans to 983 businesses. This compares to around 76,000 in the first week of the Swiss scheme. On 15 April, UK Finance announced that 6,020 loans (from 28,460 formal applications) had been made as of April 13, worth £1.1 billion. The number of loans approved each day continues to rise, increasing from 240 on 2 April to 910 on 8 April BCC's survey reports only 2% of firms had received loans, with 9% turned down. Respondents reported cumbersome application processes, unresponsive lenders and high barriers to prove 'viability'.
Job retention scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMRC said that the new system was already in testing phase and would likely be operational by the end of April as planned. The BCC's survey found 66% of firms had furloughed staff and 37% of firms were planning to furlough between 75% and 100% of their staff. Based on the BCC's figures, the Resolution Foundation estimated the scheme could cost up to £40 billion over three months.
Self-employed income support scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFS notes that some self-employed workers will be better off than they were before the outbreak as a result of this scheme, as the grant is fixed at 80% of average profits. This includes those whose profits fall by less than 80%. The IFS estimate 2 million people with some self-employment income will not be covered by the scheme, whilst 675,000 people who get over half their income from self-employment will not be covered.
Business rates system support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anecdotal reports suggest money is starting to flow via local authorities. There has been some confusion about whether firms have to make proactive applications, as the Government initially said local authorities would contact firms. The BCC survey found 15% of respondents had received grants.
Covid Corporate Financing Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2 April 2020, the BoE had bought a total of £5.5bn of commercial paper from companies. There has been no transparency about which big businesses have accessed the facility.
Charities Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 8 April, the Government announced £750m of funding for the charity sector. While a welcome step the NCVO said that they "estimate charities stand to lose around £4bn in 12 weeks as a result of the crisis" and that the government's package "it will not be enough to prevent good charities around the country from closing their doors".

JRS due to be operational on 20 April

SEISS due to be operational early June

Helping the Self-Employed and people who do not qualify for the Job Retention Scheme

It was a great relief to employed people when the Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced that the Government would pay their employers 80% of their pay up to a limit of £2,500 per month. And then that he was establishing a similar scheme to help the self-employed. There are over 15,000 self-employed people in Camberwell and Peckham. They work in many different occupations, from creative industries, to dentists and hair stylists. But many of them are unable to benefit from either scheme

as they are newly self-employed and do not have the tax history to qualify for the self-employed scheme, or they are part employed and part self-employed.

Many constituents also contacted me to say they had been told they did not qualify for the Job Retention Scheme as you had to be employed before 28th February to be eligible.

Telling people that they can rely on Universal Credit when more than 130,000 people are queuing online simply isn't good enough, and there is a real risk that, without support people will feel they have to work, putting their and others' health at risk.

Along with a number of other MPs [I wrote to the Chancellor to ask him to address the gaps in economic support](#) the Government has made available in the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure no one is left behind, including:

- The lack of support for those self-employed people currently ineligible for the Self-employment Income Support Scheme.
- To urge him to allow people to file their 2019/20 returns early and get support based on this.
- The need for acceleration of the Job Retention Scheme and the barriers presented by the arbitrary qualification date of 28th February.

I am pleased that the Chancellor listened to concerns and announced on 16th April that he is extending the cut-off date for the Job Retention Scheme to 19th March. This means 100s more people in Camberwell and Peckham will be able to get furloughed and a minimum of 80% of their salary.



Harriet Harman ✓ @HarrietHarman · 15 Apr

This is good move from @RishiSunak. But problems for small businesses getting the practical help they need now. More £ to councils would help. They can ensure £ gets quickly where needed. They know small biz in their area @lb_southwark



Laura Kuenssberg ✓ @bbclaurak · 15 Apr

Treasury has just extended the furlough scheme to cover more people at risk of losing their jobs
[gov.uk/government/new...](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/treasury-extends-furlough-scheme)

I have also written to the Chancellor to raise the particular issue of the [lack of financial support for self-employed dentists](#) and to urge him to work with the British Dental Association to ensure these vital health services can survive this crisis.

Chancellor must close gaps in financial support that leave pregnant women and new parents vulnerable during COVID19:

Pregnant women have been classed as vulnerable by the Government and told to self-isolate for twelve weeks. But they should not, as a result of this, lose out on financial support and government support schemes must not discriminate against women

who've taken maternity leave in last 3 years. Read my letter to Chancellor Rishi Sunak urging him to change his scheme [here](#).

CORONAVIRUS: PREGNANT WOMEN AND NEW PARENTS VULNERABLE TO GAPS IN COVID-19 FINANCIAL SUPPORT, SAYS HARRIET HARMAN

KATHERINE JOHNSTON 11 April 2020 **POLITICS** **HEALTH** **CORONAVIRUS**

Will self-employed parents who have taken leave in the last three years be eligible for the income support scheme?



Harriet Harman

Harriet Harman has called on the chancellor to close gaps in financial support that leave pregnant women and new parents vulnerable during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Crime Falls and Police Help with “Social Distancing”

The situation in respect of crime and policing has radically changed due to the COVID-19 lockdown. There has been a steep fall in burglaries and robberies. And the police are being required to help inform people about the social distancing rules and protect people from the small minority who are breaching them.

At the outset of the lockdown local police numbers were down due to illness and self-isolation but the numbers are now back up again and boosted by Special Constables. And Southwark Police are expecting to be bolstered by some of the retired officers that the Met have brought back to help in the crisis. The local police report that most people are very compliant with the new guidelines and the calls they get are from the public complaining about those who are breaching them and thereby putting other at risk. Elderly and vulnerable people need to be able to get out of their flats for their hour of fresh air and exercise and it is deeply unfair if they are deterred by gatherings of people having BBQs or playing sport.

I am grateful to have regular updates with Borough Commander Wingrove and the Southwark Police team. I am backing the police in their calls for Personal Protective Equipment and for making available testing for those officers who’ve been assaulted by way of people spitting or coughing on them.

Update on constituents stranded overseas

57 constituents have now contacted me stranded in 18 countries, with their flights to return home cancelled. They found it hard to get through to the British consular officials and when they did were simply told to contact their airline. They found that either there were no flights, or they were offered tickets at exorbitant prices, for

example 2 constituents stranded in New Zealand were offered tickets costing over £5,000.

Name	Current Location	Date FCO Contacted	Response Received?	Constituent Details	Home?
Ms A	France (Prev Morocco)	17/03/2020	24/03/2020	Contacted me 17/3/20 - Woman on holiday	
Mr B	Vietnam	24/03/2020	25/03/2020	Mother contacted me 24/3/20 - 22 y/o man travelling in Vietnam	
Ms C	Cape Verde	20/03/2020	No - Enq withdrawn	Partner contacted me 18/3/20 - 29 y/o woman on holiday with friend	Yes - arrived 21/03/2020
Mr D	New Zealand	25/03/2020	09/04/2020	Contacted me 25/3/20 - 37 y/o male with MS - on holiday with Mr E	
Mr E	New Zealand	25/03/2020	09/04/2020	Contacted me 25/3/20 - 41 y/o man - on holiday with Mr D	
Ms F	New Zealand	25/03/2020	No - Enq withdrawn	Contacted me 23/3/20 - 63 y/o solo female traveller - visiting New Zealand to perform as comedian	Yes - arrived 03/04/2020
Ms G	Peru	23/03/2020	No - Enq withdrawn	Father contacted me 20/2/20 - 27 y/o woman on holiday with friend	Yes - arrived 31/03/2020
Ms H	New Zealand	25/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Contacted me 24/3/20 - 65 y/o woman on holiday with partner Ms I	
Ms I	New Zealand	25/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Contacted me 24/3/20 - 62 y/o woman on holiday with partner Ms H	
Mr J	Jamaica	25/03/2020	No - Enq withdrawn	Wife contacted me 24/3/20 - 61 y/o man visiting family	Yes - arrived 01/04/2020
Mr K	New Zealand	25/03/2020 (renewed)	No	Father contacted me 24/3/20 - 25 y/o man on holiday with girlfriend	
Ms L	Argentina	25/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Contacted me 24/3/20 - 60 y/o woman & recently retired GP travelling with partner Mr M	
Mr M	Argentina	25/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Contacted me 24/3/20 - 55 y/o man travelling with partner Ms L	
Ms N	New Zealand	25/03/2020	No - Enq withdrawn	Contacted me 24/3/20 - 25 y/o female social worker travelling with partner Mr O	Yes - arrived 07/04/2020
Mr O	New Zealand	25/03/2020	No - Enq withdrawn	Contacted me 24/3/20 - 26 y/o male doctor travelling with partner Ms N	Yes - arrived 07/04/2020
Ms P	Ghana	25/03/2020	02/04/2020	Contacted me 25/3/20 - 45 y/o woman travelling with 21-mth-old son, Master Q	Yes - arrived 30/03/2020

Master Q	Ghana	25/03/2020	02/04/2020	Mother contacted me 25/3/20 - 21-mth-old boy travelling with mother, Ms P	Yes - arrived 30/03/2020
Ms R	Nigeria	25/03/2020 (renewed)	09/04/2020	25/3/20 - Cllr Hargrove contacted on behalf of const - 53 y/o woman attending mother's funeral	
Ms S	New Zealand	26/03/2020	No - Enq withdrawn	Contacted me 25/3/20 - female solo traveller - arrived home in UK 29/3/20 flight via USA	Yes - arrived 29/03/2020
Mr T	Uganda	26/03/2020 (renewed)	09/04/2020	Mother contacted me 26/3/20 - 22 y/o male travelling solo for study	Booked on flight 24/4/20
Mr U	New Zealand	26/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Case referred to me 26/3/20 - 31 y/o male on holiday with his partner	
Mr V	New Zealand	26/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Contacted me 26/3/20 - on holiday with French partner	
Ms W	Australia	26/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Case referred to me 26/3/20 - solo female traveller	
Master X	Nigeria	26/03/2020 (renewed)	09/04/2020	Father contacted me 23/3/20 - 15 y/o boy attending school in Nigeria	
Ms Y	India	27/03/2020 (renewed)	09/04/2020	Contacted me 27/3/20 - solo female traveller visiting family	
Mr Z	India	27/03/2020	05/04/2020	Contacted me 27/3/20 - male traveller visiting family of a friend	
Ms A	Honduras	27/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Contacted me 25/3/20 - 34 y/o woman travelling with partner Mr B	
Mr B	Honduras	27/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Contacted me 25/3/20 - 33 y/o man travelling with partner Ms A	
Mr C	Peru	30/03/2020 (renewed)	08/04/2020	Contacted me 24/3/20 - male solo traveller on holiday	
Ms D	India	30/03/2020	09/04/2020	Contacted me 30/3/20 - 51 y/o woman with breast cancer travelling alone	
Mr E	New Zealand	03/04/2020	08/04/2020	Contacted me 30/3/20 - Man travelling with wife and 2 young daughters	
Mrs F	New Zealand	03/04/2020	08/04/2020	Husband contacted me 30/3/20 - Woman travelling with husband and 2 young daughters	
Miss G	New Zealand	03/04/2020	08/04/2020	Father contacted me 30/3/20 - Girl travelling with mother, father and sister	
Miss H	New Zealand	03/04/2020	08/04/2020	Father contacted me 30/3/20 - Girl travelling with mother, father and sister	

Ms I	Algeria	03/04/2020	08/04/2020	Contacted me 30/3/20 - 31 y/o woman travelling with 7 month old daughter	
Miss J	Algeria	03/04/2020	08/04/2020	Mother contacted me 30/3/20 - 7 month old travelling with mother	
Ms K	Sierra Leone	03/04/2020	08/04/2020	Husband contacted 2/4/20 - Sierra Leonean national travelling with British daughter	
Miss L	Sierra Leone	03/04/2020	08/04/2020	Father contacted 2/4/20 - British girl travelling with Sierra Leonean mother	
Mr M	Sierra Leone	07/04/2020	09/04/2020	Contacted me 2/4/20 - Man travelling in Sierra Leone to attend funeral	
Ms N	India	07/04/2020	09/04/2020	Case referred 7/4/20 - Woman who was studying in India prior to lockdown	
Mr O	Nigeria	08/04/2020	No	Contacted me 5/4/20 - Travelling in Nigeria to visit family with 19 month old daughter	
Ms P	Australia	08/04/2020	09/04/2020	Contacted me 6/4/20 - 25 y/o woman on working holiday in Australia	
Ms Q	New Zealand	16/04/2020	No	Contacted me 8/4/20 - 37 y/o woman visiting family in NZ with husband and 3 year old son	Booked on flight 21/5/20
Mr R	New Zealand	16/04/2020	No	Wife contacted me 8/4/20 - 46 y/o man visiting wife's family in NZ with wife and 3 year old son	Booked on flight 21/5/20
Mr S	New Zealand	16/04/2020	No	Mother contacted me 8/4/20 - 3 year old boy visiting mother's family in NZ with mother and father	Booked on flight 21/5/20
Ms T	Thailand	16/04/2020	No	Mother contacted me 15/4/20 - 22 year old woman travelling in Thailand - currently stranded on an Island	

Those stranded face uncertainty about running out of money and how they'll get healthcare if they need it. I am continuing to contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of each of my constituents asking them to help them return home and I have written [to the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab](#), setting out the problems for each of my constituents who'd contacted me and asking for his help. So far 13 constituents have been repatriated. I am pressing the FCO every day to get the remaining constituents home.

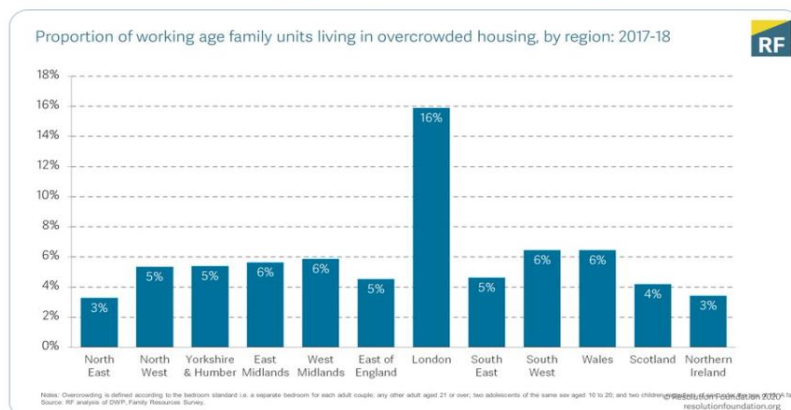
Road Closures and Park Sharing

Our streets and our parks are public assets. We need to ensure that they are fully

used by those who need them most. Camberwell and Peckham is the constituency with the highest density of families living in social housing flats. You can't keep social distance of 2 metres on narrow pavements. Closing side roads except for access would provide extra areas for pedestrian exercise, taking the pressure of the parks, and make the roads safer. The dramatic fall in cars on the road has seen some drivers going at huge speeds. The danger is that as people step off the pavement to socially distance, and reassured that there is little traffic, they will be hit by a speeding car. At my request the council is looking into the possibility of this. People who don't have gardens and who have young children and who live in flats really need our parks. So do the elderly who live in flats on their own and who need to go out not just to get some fresh air and exercise but because they are less likely to have the full gamut of social media to help them deal with the lockdown. I've pressed the council to introduce a rota of the parks prioritising our estates. And I've asked them to urge people with gardens to use the roads when for their daily exercise but to leave our public green spaces to those who don't have the benefit of their own private green spaces.



Living in lockdown - 16 per cent of families in London live in overcrowded accommodation. That's almost three times as much as any other region or nation across the UK - though overcrowding still a big issue in other cities within regions, such as Birmingham.



Read my Southwark News article [here](#) and listen to my LBC interview [here](#).

VIEW FROM WESTMINSTER: ROTA FOR PARKS WOULD HELP FAMILIES WITHOUT GARDENS OF THEIR OWN

KATHERINE JOHNSTON 23 April 2020

'What about advising those who live in houses with gardens not to use the parks? They can use their own gardens and walk on the streets' says the Camberwell and Peckham MP



Harriet Harman

In the face of this unprecedented Coronavirus crisis the government is rightly telling people to stay home to prevent the spread of the virus, to protect our NHS and to save lives, writes Harriet Harman...

However for many families in Camberwell and Peckham this is much harder than it is for others. Camberwell and Peckham has, of all the constituencies in the country, the highest number of families living in council or housing association flats. It is

Care homes cannot be left behind in our battle against Coronavirus

There are 8 residential homes care in Camberwell and Peckham and I've contacted them all to tell them how much we value their work and to offer to take up any of their concerns. I was dismayed to hear that staff feel that they don't have the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) they need to protect the elderly people they help, or keep themselves and their families safe, that there are shortages of staff as people have to self-isolate and that the Government is not properly focused on them. Care workers are on the frontline in the COVID-19 crisis. They must be made a priority for PPE and testing and treated the same as other health workers. See my letter to Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock [here](#) and my South London Press article [here](#).

southlondonpress

On 14th April the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, announced the Government will now be including care home deaths in daily figures and published a social care plan. While this is welcome, it is long overdue and there is much more to do.

Southwark has one of the highest rates of infection in the country. Yet only 6 tests a day are being carried out on health and care workers here. This is woeful. The Government must sort this out now. NHS care workers and police and other essential service workers are putting themselves on the line for us



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · 1h

. @lb_southwark suspected of having one of the highest infection levels in the country. Yet only 6 tests a day! This is woeful. Govt must sort now. NHS, careworkers, police (being deliberately coughed on!) & other essential service workers putting themselves on the line 4 us.



Jane Townson @drjanetownson · 16 Apr

Testing careworkers for COVID19 - this is the current reality - doesn't scratch the surface. Not sure how many careworkers own cars either, especially in cities. Need more labs testing & a more practical way of administering. @ukhca

importance: high

Dear Provider

Southwark are currently able to offer COVID-19 testing slots for a total of **6 key workers** (from across health and social care), between 16h00-16h30 daily. This is likely to increase over the coming weeks.

Supporting local hospitals

King's has been in the front line of caring for patients with Coronavirus and I asked the Chief Executive Dr Clive Kay about their preparedness for it when we met on 11th February. Everyone is hugely grateful to them for their dedication and commitment and concerned that, as they strive to give the best possible care, they are themselves able to stay safe. King's was among the first hospitals to report they were caring for patients with COVID-19 and amongst the first to have to report deaths including the youngest COVID-19 patient Ismail Mohamed Abdulwahab aged only 13.



Harriet Harman ✓ @HarrietHarman · 42s

Reassuring response from @KingsCollegeNHS that our precious @NHSuk staff are getting the #COVID19 Personal Protective Equipment they need. We cannot thank them enough. The least we can do is keep them safe. #PPE @helenhayes_ @coyleneil @peterjohn6

I remain concerned that the nurses, doctors, nurses and all the staff at King's must have the PPE they need and am in regular contact with nurses. King's Chief Executive, Dr Clive Kay, has assured me that they and all the staff have all the PPE they need.

The Chair of the Maudsley Hospital, Norman Lamb, has assured me their staff have the PPE they need.

I will continue to monitor this and raise any shortages or distribution problems with the Health Secretary.

Pressing for more help for people with Motor Neurone Disease

People with Motor Neurone Disease must be included on the Government's extremely vulnerable person list and supported properly throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

[Read my letter to Health Secretary, Matt Hancock.](#)



MND Campaigns
@mndcampaigns

Thank you @HarrietHarman for your support to #GetMNDOnTheList



Harriet Harman ✓ @HarrietHarman · 19h

People with Motor Neurone Disease must be included on govt's extremely vulnerable person list & supported properly through #COVID19 - My letter to @MattHancock @mndassoc @Rob7Burrow

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Estate boiler breakdowns: People going without heating and hot water

Since the lockdown began Camberwell and Peckham residents have reported heating and hot water breakdowns at Castlemead, Venice Court, Carlton Grove, Staveley Close, Holderness House, Bath Close, Wendover and Aylesbury Estates. Particularly at a time when hygiene and washing our hands is of the utmost importance it is vital that repairs are done as quickly as possible. I raised this directly with the Leader of the Council, Peter John, and am assured the council are dealing with this as a matter of priority.

Protection for dedicated postal workers

On behalf of everyone in Camberwell and Peckham, I've thanked our local postal workers who are continuing to work throughout the crisis particularly as they are putting themselves in contact with the public on a daily basis and there is a big increase in deliveries ordered online and information letters from the Government. I've called for them to have the protection they need to keep them safe and together with [over 90 MPs I have written to Royal Mail CEO, Rico Back](#), to ask him to express our gratitude.

↻ Harriet Harman Retweeted



The CWU @CWUnews · 6 Apr

Thank you to the 93 MPs who have written to Royal Mail CEO Rico Back calling for greater protection for postal workers and temporary changes to the service to keep our members safe.

Please contact your MP and ask them to do the same.

Exit Strategy: The Government Must Publish Now

Keir Starmer, Labour's leader, has called for the Government to now publish their exit strategy for after lockdown. This is essential. If the Government publish their strategy they will be able to hear from people whether their proposals are workable and sufficient. If they don't publish and consult on their exit strategy there is a danger that they will get it wrong. And people need to know what the exit strategy is so that they can make their plans for after the lockdown. Currently everyone is in the dark. I don't accept the argument that if there is a discussion of measures post lockdown it will undermine lockdown. People can understand that that would be a discussion for future plans but the lockdown is still very much needed now.

Human Rights in the COVID-19 Crisis

I strongly support the police helping with the social distancing which is vital to protect our NHS and save lives. But there are reports from around the country of the police overstepping the mark and being heavy-handed.

As chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, I will be holding an evidence session asking questions of the Justice Secretary, Robert Buckland, who is the Cabinet Minister responsible for human rights. We will be asking him about the Government's actions to respect human rights in the COVID-19. As well as scrutinising the police compliance with human rights we will be investigating:



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · 9 Apr

Police have vital role in enforcing law. But arrest only for breach of criminal law and stop and search only pursuant to legal powers. I've asked to see guidance to police officers @HumanRightsCtte



Mirror Breaking News @MirrorBreaking_ · 9 Apr

Police chief issues lockdown warning and says shopping trolleys may be searched [mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/b...](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/b...)



- The human rights and privacy implications of the tracking apps which are being considered for after lockdown.
- The lack of protection for children with autism detained in residential institutions with their parents now not able to visit them and without inspections.
- The need to release from prison women convicted of non-violent crimes. Their children are banned from visiting them because of COVID and have lost their right to family life.

Working differently!

I and my staff team are continuing to work remotely. I'm enormously grateful to Clare Gosbee, Rachel Smethers, Chloe Wright and Papa Okyere-Asiedu, who are diligently continuing to help my constituents, supporting my work as an MP and as chair of the Human Rights Committee. I am also grateful to Bea Forrester who has temporarily rejoined the team to work remotely as a caseworker. They have overcome any and all technology issues and made their homes into their offices to continue their work.



Southwark Council

Council employees continue to provide much-needed services in very difficult circumstances. I've expressed my gratitude to all the council employees, local councillors and Council Leader Peter John for their continuing work.

Coronavirus Help and Support

Southwark Council:

- [General information on Coronavirus](#)
- [Covid-19: What can you do to help](#)
- [Financial support for residents](#)
- [Food access](#)
- [Coronavirus housing advice](#)
- [Covid-19: Support and information for businesses and employers](#)
- [Southwark COVID-19 community grants](#)
- [Voluntary sector help and advice on Coronavirus](#)

- [Impact on council services](#)
- [Advice on potential coronavirus related scams](#)

Citizens Advice – Benefit advice:

- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/coronavirus-check-what-benefits-you-can-get/>

Government business advice:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>
- Government's Business Support Helpline on 0300 456 3565, Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm.

HMRC:

- [helpline for businesses and self-employed people who are concerned about their tax](#) due to COVID-19.
- 08000 241222, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Domestic violence help and support:

- Solace Advice Line - 0808 802 5565
- Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm. Additional 6pm - 8pm on Tuesdays.
- Email: advice@solacewomensaid.org
- Website: <https://www.together-uk.org/southwark-wellbeing-hub/the-directory/9453/solace-advocacy-and-support-services-sass/>

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