

HARRIET HARMAN, M.P.

Member of Parliament for Peckham



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HARRIET HARMAN MP

JANUARY REPORT

1. HOUSING

The Government has agreed most of the funding for the vital and urgent works required at Wickway Court on the Gloucester Grove Estate. These works are necessary to prevent another tragic fire in the block, similar to the one last January. I have been pressing both the Council and the Department of the Environment to ensure that these works are carried out as soon as possible.

I held a social evening for representatives of Peckham tenants associations in the Jubilee Room of the House of Commons on 22nd January. The event was quite successful, attended by more than 70 people. I got tickets for most of the TA reps to visit the public gallery of the Commons to see the debate on the Government's economic policy.

On Wednesday 22nd January, I visited the Wyndham and Comber Estate with the Chair of the TA. The new West Camberwell Neighbourhood Office appears to have made a significant improvement in the running of the estate, and the numbers of squatters and empty properties have been reduced. However, a number of problems remain and I have taken up the following points with the Neighbourhood Office:

- * the need for window replacements in Lowell and Brantwood Houses
- * new lifts are needed in the five tower blocks, for which funding was allocated several years ago
- * the quality of the repairs service
- * flooding in the tower blocks because of damaged water tanks
- * poor lighting of the open spaces, particularly between Otterburn House and Lamps Court
- * the car-parking spaces outside Comber House have become overgrown, making it impossible to park cars in the designated spaces.

I have written to all TAs in support of the resolution put forward by Cllr Mike Gibson, calling on the Council to take further actions to deal with the number of unauthorised occupants in Council properties in the borough. Though some Neighbourhood Offices are dealing with this well, there are still problems with the Allocations Section in ensuring that voids are filled quickly.

On 21st January, I held a meeting with the organisers of the Southwark Day Centre, which is a project for the homeless in Southwark, providing them with a drop-in place to have a meal,

a bath, a medical check up and advice. They are raising funds to extend their services through a local and London-wide campaign.

2. SOUTHWARK CITY CHALLENGE

In my December report, I explained that I am fully supporting the City Challenge bid from Southwark Council, whose area is focused on the Old Kent Road, Burgess Park and the Peckham Task force area.

The bid was launched at a reception in the House of Commons on 28th January by Sally Keeble, Anna Wyatt, the Chief Executive of Southwark, and myself and the other two Southwark MPs. Over 50 people attended the reception.

3. LOCAL HEALTH MATTERS

On 5th February, I issued a press statement about the growing financial deficit at Guys Hospital, using information from a leaked Department of Health report which showed that the opted-out trust is heading for a £2m deficit. This is despite claims from the Government and the Guys' Chief Executive - made both in correspondence and in answer to my Parliamentary questions - that the Trust only has a £1.3m deficit and would eliminate it by the end of the financial year. In my press statement I said, "the Government is clearly incapable of telling the truth about Guy's. The right of local people to know what is happening in their local hospital has been sacrificed to the Government's desperate attempt to pretend that the NHS reforms are working."

I also issued a report on 23rd January which showed that the London Ambulance Service is failing to meet targets for response times to emergencies. This failure has led to a worrying growth in the number of serious complains against the service. I have referred to the Health Service Ombudsman one of these complaints in which a heart attack victim died after waiting over forty minutes for an ambulance to arrive.

In the last three months of last year in the south-east division of the LAS - which covers Peckham - just 70% of emergency calls were responded to within 14 minutes and just 18% were responded to within 7 minutes. The ORCAN standard (the performance target agreed by the LAS) states that 95% of calls must be responded to within 14 minutes and 50% within 7 minutes.

4. HEALTH CAMPAIGNING

The campaign against the Conservatives' attack of the NHS is continuing.

I took part in a Panorama BBC TV programme which exposed how the vast expansion of private residential care is limiting patient

choice and forcing people into financial difficulties because they have to go into homes that are run as businesses. The poor quality of care in certain homes was also highlighted.

On 10th February I published a report entitled "the Three-fold Tory Threat to the NHS". This report shows that the Tories are undermining the NHS in three ways:

- * underfunding
- * commercialising
- * privatising

In the report, I pointed out that since 1979, prescriptions have risen 1600%, that the number of private health subscribers has increased from 2.5m in 1978 to 7.2m in 1989.

I also have challenged Health Secretary William Waldegrave about the number of cancelled operations in the NHS, highlighting the case of Mr Fred Robson from Oxford who has had an urgent heart operation cancelled three times.

I visited Southampton General Hospital on 3rd February and gave a pledge that Labour would bring back into the NHS all those local hospitals in Dorset and Hampshire which have currently opted-out.

I spoke for Labour in the House of Commons on the Nurses Prescribing Bill. This measure allows nurses to prescribe certain medicines and drugs and has cross-party support.

5. OTHER VISITS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Apart from the above, I have undertaken the following:

- * Visit to Southwark Sixth Form Centre of 27th January to speak to A level 'Government and Politics' students about the role of the MP.
- * Tour of the House of Commons on 3rd February for some residents from Northfield House, Peckham Park Road.
- * Tour of the House of Commons on 18th January for local history group
- * Southwark Pensioners Action Group on 4th February.
- * I attended the public consultation meeting organised by Peckham Police on 22nd January to discuss the role of the police in the local community.
- * Visit to West Camberwell Neighbourhood Office to meet the Manager and staff
- * Peckham Labour Party Women's Evening on 15th January. This event was quite successful, attended by more than 30 women party members.
- * Meeting with petitioners from Pudsey, Yorkshire, to support their opposition to plans by their local hospital to opt-out.

6. CASEWORK

I have had some successes with recent cases:

- * The Home Office has agreed to grant refugee status to a Chilean exile who suffered severe beatings and torture under the Pinochet regime.
- * A constituent has been awarded over £400 in backdated payments on her disability allowance.
- * Another constituent has been given all the backdated payments on her attendance allowance.
- * A student at Middlesex Polytechnic has finally been given her grant by Lambeth Council (where she used to reside) to continue her studies.

7. OTHER LOCAL ISSUES

* Hummingbird Project: This group provides a creche, a drop-in and a summer playscheme for children. Southwark Social Services were looking at the possible withdrawal of its grant because of the Council's financial difficulties. There were protests to the Social Services Committee from users of the project and I wrote to all members of the Committee, stressing the need for childcare facilities in the borough. I am pleased that the Social Services Committee decided to give the project a full grant.

* Benhill Road Humps: Last year, I supported calls for the Council to install road humps on Benhill Road, following the tragic death of a child run down by a speeding car. I am pleased that the Council has now installed these humps.

* Incontinent Laundry Service: I mentioned last month that I had taken up the issue of the Council failing to provide a proper incontinent laundry service to Southwark residents. Though I have now received an answer from the Council, I am not satisfied that alternative arrangements are being made to those who are no longer being supplied. I have taken up the question again with the Director of Social Services.

* Street Lighting: I have received several complaints about the lights in Southampton Way and St Giles Road being out of order. I have reported these complaints to the Director of Public Works and, in both cases, the lights have been repaired. I have also complained to the Council about the lights in Ethnard Road being defective.

* Aylesbury Playgroup: I have taken up the problems faced by the Aylesbury Playgroup which uses premises in Taplow House. For several months, the lighting has been out of order and the wiring is exposed. This problem is now urgent because the Children Act states that all playgroup premises must be registered as safe.

Harriet Harman MP

10th February 1992

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 1992

POST OFFICE

Just before Christmas the Post Office removed the post box outside the Love Walk Hostel for people with severe disabilities. This meant that the residents would have a long walk and at least one road to cross before reaching the nearest post box.

I am pleased to say that following protests by the manager of the Love Walk Hostel and myself, the post box has now been reinstated. The Post Office issued a full apology to the residents and gave them all a book of first-class stamps. A representative from the Post Office also attended the residents' Christmas Party.

BENHILL ROAD HUMPS

Last year, I took up with the Council the question of cars speeding down Benhill Road. Following the tragic death of a child run down in the road, pressure for action grew. I am pleased to say that the Council has installed road humps.

HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT

The Hummingbird project provides a creche, a drop-in and a summer playscheme for children. Southwark Social Services were looking at the possible withdrawal of its grant because of the Council's financial difficulties. There were protests to the Social Services Committee from users of the project and I wrote to all members of the Committee, stressing the need for childcare facilities in the borough. I am pleased that the Committee decided to give the project a full grant.

HOUSING

The Government has agreed most of the funding for the vital and urgent works required at Wickway Court on the Gloucester Grove Estate. These works are necessary to prevent another tragic fire in the block. I reported in my last update that I have written to the Council several times urging that these works be carried out as soon as possible.

In my last 'Update', I reported that I had written to the Housing Minister Sir George Young, in support of the estate action bid from Northfield House, which has remain unmodernised since the 1930s. The Government has not approved the bid. Indeed, Southwark has been treated badly over its Housing Investment Programme, which will create major problems for improvement works on estates.

* Over the last year, I have been taking up the numerous complaints I have received about cockroach infestation on estates. This is a terrible problem for the tenants who have to live with such infestation and I have made many representations about it, and liaised with tenants associations. I have recently received a reply from the Director of Housing which says that "the only effective solution for pharaoh ants and cockroaches is to organise a series of treatments in every flats in the blocks affected." The Director sets out the latest programme of treatment across the estates in the borough to be carried out by a range of contractors. I hope that this large programme will finally eradicate the infestation but I will continue to take up the issue.

* I held a social evening for representatives for Peckham Tenants Associations in the House of Commons on 22nd January. The event was quite a success, attended by more than 70 people. Most of the guests were able to visit the public gallery of the Commons to see the debate on the Government's economic policy.

* I am currently carrying out a series of estate walkabouts in the constituency. I have recently visited the Cossall Estate, the North Peckham, and the Wyndham and Comber.

* I am backing the fundraising efforts of the Southwark Day Centre, which is a project for the homeless in Southwark, providing them with a drop-in place to have a meal, a bath, a medical check up and advice. They are raising funds through a local and London-wide campaign.

SOUTHWARK CITY CHALLENGE

The Government has introduced a new form of funding for urban regeneration projects, called City Challenge. Under this scheme, the present Urban Programme will be reduced and certain local authorities will be invited to compete with each other to win grants from the Department of the Environment. Any City Challenge project must be geared towards the redevelopment of an area and be drawn up with the private sector.

I do not believe that City Challenge is a sensible way to allocate funds for inner-city regeneration because it is not based on need and does not encourage partnership between authorities.

But whilst City Challenge exists, Southwark has no alternative but to respond to the invitation to submit a bid and to fight hard for it to succeed. The Southwark bid is focused on the Old Kent Road, Burgess park and Peckham Task force area. I fully

support the bid and welcome its plans to complete Burgess Park and to improve the local housing stock.

The Southwark bid was officially launched at a highly successful reception in the House of Commons on 28th January at which myself and the other two Southwark MPs spoke in its support.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS REVIEW

I reported in my last update that I went to see the Education Minister Michael Fallon, along with angry parents, to express our opposition to plans by Southwark Council to reorganise the special schools in the borough into primaries and secondaries.

I regret to say that just before Christmas, Kenneth Clarke, the Education Secretary, approved the plans.

INCONTINENT LAUNDRY SERVICE

I am very concerned at the lack of a proper incontinent laundry service for people living in Southwark. The service broke down last February, and there have been problems over finding alternative suppliers since then. However, I am concerned about delays from the Council's Social Services Department in these negotiations and the failure to suitable alternative arrangements.

I have taken up this issue several times with the Council and I hope that the problem will soon be resolved.

STREET LIGHTING

Several Peckham residents have complained to me about the lights in Southampton Way and St Giles Road being out of order for some time. I have reported these complaints to the Council's Director of Public Works and in all cases, the lights have been repaired.

AYLESBURY PLAYGROUP

I have recently taken up the problems faced by the Aylesbury Playgroup which uses a room in Taplow House on the Aylesbury Estate. For several months, the lighting in the room has been defective and there has been bare wiring. The problem has now become urgent because the Children Act states that all playgroup premises must be registered as safe.

LOCAL HEALTH MATTERS

I continue to be concerned at the way the new opted-out Guys Hospital Trust is operating.

On 18th December, I called on the Chief Executive of Guys to investigate maternity services at the hospital, following

complaints by the Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority and a local GP. These complaints were:

- * that shortages of midwives mean that women are left to fend for themselves.
- * that standards of hygiene are falling. It is alleged that women have been advised by midwives to bring in their own cleaning materials to clean the bath before they use it to avoid the possibility of infection.

I have also criticised Guy's Trust and the Government for refusing to provide vital information about the performance of the opted-out hospital. I had asked some basic questions to compare what was happening before Guys became a trust with what has happened since. I have not yet been given answers. I feel that the public is entitled to know the financial situation of their local hospital.

LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE

The London Ambulance Service is failing to meet targets for response times to emergencies. This failure has led to a worrying growth in the number of serious complaints against the service. I have referred to the Health Service Ombudsman one of these complaints, in which a heart attack victim died after waiting over forty minutes for an ambulance to arrive.

In the last three months of last year in the south-east division of the LAS - which covers Peckham - just 70% of emergency calls were responded to within 14 minutes and just 18% were responded to within 7 minutes. The ORCAN standard (the performance target agreed by the LAS) states that 95% of calls must be responded to within 14 minutes and 50% within 7 minutes..

TOURS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I have given several tours recently of the Houses of Parliament to local community groups, such as tenants associations, students and school pupils. If you would like a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster, please contact my office at the House of Commons.

SURGERY TIMES

Below I set out a reminder of my surgery times:

2nd Friday of the month, 2pm to 3.30pm, at the Camden Tenants Hall, Camden Square, SE5

3rd Thursday of the month, 5.30pm to 7.30pm, at the Southwark Town Hall

4th Thursday of the month, 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Thurlow Lodge Tenants Hall, Thurlow Street, SE17

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**REPORT ON THE GENERAL ELECTION
1992**

A GOOD RESULT IN PECKHAM.

We had an excellent result in Peckham. I would like to thank all of you who worked so hard during the campaign. I would like to pay a special tribute to Jeremy Fraser who was really excellent as agent and who deserves all of our thanks. Also thanks must go to deputy agent, Linda Bailey and the eight ward organisers who ensured that the local Peckham campaign was so effective and smooth.

A TERRIBLE DEFEAT FOR LABOUR

It has been difficult for all of us in the Labour Party to face up to the scale of our defeat in the 1992 General Election.

Not only did the Tories win their fourth consecutive victory, which has not happened since the 1820s. They also held their share of the vote at 42%, whilst Labour only increased its share from 32% to 35%.

Though the Tories have an overall majority of only 21, they still have 65 seats more than Labour. At the next election we have not only to win 65 more seats but also to win more seats from the Tories to make up for the Labour seats that we will lose as a result of the boundary changes. If the Tories give Scotland some form of devolved government and thereby reduce the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster our difficulties will be even worse.

It will be important to analyse with no false optimism the reason for our defeat. In the last three elections we had an easier explanation for defeat, such as the 'Winter of Discontent', the leadership of Michael Foot, a divided party, unpopular policy, the charisma of Mrs Thatcher, the Lawson boom. In this election we had a united party, a coherent, realistic programme, a powerful leader, and we were fighting against the Tories. John Major, hardly a brilliant performer, in the grip of a recession since the 1930s, with the Poll Tax still a major issue.

Labour did have some spectacular gains, particularly in London. But though we made seat gains on swings of over 6%, nationally the swing was only 2% away from the Conservatives. To place any hope in the claim that Labour nearly won because there are now 19 Tory seats with majorities of less than 1000 is refuse to recognise the scale of the problem we face.

I set out these grim realities because it is only if we recognise the scale of the problem that we will be in the right frame of mind to contemplate the changes we need to make in order to win next time.

66+6=9+9
CHER LOVES
SCOT BECH
Putting kisses again





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Labour did have some spectacular gains, particularly in London. . But though we made seat gains on swings of over 6%, nationally the swing was only 2% away from the Conservatives. To place any hope in the claim that Labour nearly won because there are now 19 Tory seats with majorities of less than 1000 is refuse to recognise the scale of the problem we face.

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WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

Over the next weeks and months we need a sober and thorough-going discussion about how we need to change in order to win next time. There is no automatic law that dictates that because we have lost 4 times we will win the fifth time. We need to discuss the issues with no scapegoats and no sacred cows.

I set out below some of the issues which need to be addressed (not necessarily in this order of priority)

* Redistribution. I beleive that we must remain a party that is committed to a fairer and more equal society, but we should reconsider how we bring that redistribution about. That involves looking at tax, the National Insurance system, the balance between benefits and services etc.

* Party Organisation. In some seats we won with a swing of 6% while in neighbouring seats we lost with a swing of less than 2%. The role of the Regions and Walworth Road will need to be reconsidered.

* Trade Union involvement in the party; selection of leader and deputy leader, selection of Parliamentary candidates, conference decisions.

* Economic Policy. Where we are going on this? How far we are accepting the market?

* What lies at the heart of our being unable to make inroads into the bedrock Tory vote. This vote is clearly "soft" but was prepared to come out for the Tories to stop Labour.

* The gender gap. Why we remain so much more behind in the womens vote than the mens vote, particularly among the over 60's.

* Constitutional issues and electoral reform.

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REPORT
MAY 1992

1. Health Services

(i) London

Now that the election is safely out of the way, the Government is pushing through cuts in the NHS in London. We all know that the plain facts are

- * people have to wait too long to get into hospital,
- * they even have to wait when they are an emergency,
- * they are discharged home too early
- * there is inadequate nursing care for people who are ill but who are living at home.
- * the specialist services London provides are overstretched

The Government is putting up a smokescreen of bogus arguments about the health service in London. They are saying that London is "overprovided" with hospital beds, that people no longer want to come into London for treatment and that services are being reduced in London but are being re-provided outside London. None of this is true.

I have protested about the cuts in Parliament (on June 5th) and in the media. The cuts will

- * make waiting lists longer
- * threaten the future of medical research and education
- * threaten specialist services such as the Elisabeth Garret Anderson for Women.

I will be taking part in a House of Commons debate on this on June 18th

(ii) Waiting lists

The figures for the waiting lists for April have just come out. The figures show an increase in the numbers of people waiting. There is not only an increase in the number of people waiting up to a year and between 1-2 years, but also waiting over 2 years. With the General Election out of the way the Government are turning their back on all those waiting for NHS treatment. The promise in the Patients Charter, which was put through everyone's letter box has already been broken.

(iii) Dentistry

The Government is clearly trying to push dentistry out of the NHS. I have been campaigning on this nationally and have written to all our dentists locally. If anyone wants a copy of the briefing paper I have produced on Dental Health and the NHS please let me know.

2. Education

(i) Together with Tessa Jowell, MP for Dulwich, I'm taking up the question of the problems caused by the Local Management of Schools. I am conducting a survey of all heads in schools in Peckham to co-ordinate the information about how they are being affected. I will be taking the matters arising up with Southwark Council, and with the Government.

(ii) I am looking into the problem of illness affecting a large number of children and staff at John Ruskin School. It is not yet clear whether the problem is in the food, water or something else.

3. Surgeries

Most of the people who come to my surgeries are either elderly, women with young children or people who are unemployed. For all of them, an evening surgery is less convenient than an afternoon or morning surgery. So I have changed the times of my surgery so that each month I now have 2 surgeries in the morning and one in the evening. One of the monthly surgeries will be at Peckham Town Hall, one on the Camden Estate and one on the Aylesbury, at Thurlow Lodge TA Hall.

Following discussions with the Chief Whip, Cllr Ian Wingfield, I plan to involve Southwark Labour Councillors in my surgeries so that in the run up to the Council elections they can build up their case work.

4. Electoral Registration

I remain concerned about the low level of registration in Southwark. We need everyone possible on the register to ensure that we have 3 Parliamentary seats at the next General Election. If Southwark were reduced to 2 seats, the Peckham Constituency would be divided with 4 wards going into Bermondsey and 4 into Dulwich. The electoral roll in Bermondsey has increased, presumably because the Liberals have been putting people on through canvassing. We need to do the same in Peckham. A glance through the register shows the number of dwellings that do not appear on the register. Many of these are occupied, but the tenants are not entitled to vote if they are not on the register, and our roll is too low. There needs to be concerted action from both the Council and the Peckham party.

5. Leadership of the Labour Party.

I am supporting John Smith and Margaret Becket for leader and deputy leader. John Smith is clearly the candidate that an overwhelming majority of the party would support. For the deputy, I think it is important to seize the chance of putting a woman in one of the top leadership positions of the party.

6. The Parliamentary Labour Party.

With many new women members of the PLP, I have been actively engaged in setting up the new women's committee of the PLP which is chaired by Dawn Primrolo MP for Bristol East.

I have also been engaged in forging a new and hopefully more dynamic role for the London Group of Labour MP,s. There are now 12 new Labour MP's in London, bringing the London Labour Group to 35 (compared to the Tories 48) With good organisation and strategy we can re-seize the political initiative in London.

After July, when the leadership will be in place, with a new shadow cabinet elected and the front bench portfolios reshuffled, there will be much clearer sense of political purpose in the PLP.

8. Southwark Pan African Organisation

I met the Management Committee of the Southwark Pan-African Organisation on 4th June. This committee has been recently elected and has taken steps to ensure that financial and staffing problems have been sorted out so that a better service can be delivered to the African community, but they are concerned at proposals to cut their funding. I have written to the Council, making the following points:

- * the need for the Management Committee to receive full information about their funding position.
- * the need for an effective African organisation in Southwark which can deliver a range of services to the community.
- * the work done by this new Committee in tackling longstanding problems in the organisation.

7. Visits

- * I attended a magnificent concert at Walworth Methodist Church.
- * On 13th June I will be speaking in Southwark Cathedral about the ordination of women.
- * On 14th June I will be attending the London Regional Labour Party AGM
- * I attended the open day of St Mary's playgroup in Nunhead.

Harriet Harman MP
June 10th 1992



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REPORT

JUNE 1992

1. Surgeries

As you know I have 3 surgeries a month. At the last surgery on the Camden Estate there were 50 people waiting to see me. Both myself and my assistant take down the details of peoples' problems, but with only 2 of us, there is too long a wait. As people have often spend many hours waiting in Housing Offices and Benefit Offices, it's not fair to make them wait too long to see me !

I am therefore urgently appealing to Party Members to help at the surgery. It only involves you giving one morning or afternoon a month. You don't need any expertise in casework. All you need is to listen carefully and be sympathetic and take readable notes. You don't need to take any paperwork away with you as I take up all the cases.

Please help. Constituency casework is very important and I need to be able to provide a good service and show that we in the Labour Party can work as a team.

If you can help, or you know someone who can, please ring Katherine on 219.4218.

2. Electoral Registration

As I mentioned in my May Report we need to add to the names on the electoral register to ensure that no-one is denied a vote because they are not on the register. I suspect that those not registered are more likely to be our supporters than Tory or Liberal. This is particularly important in the run up to the council election which will be hard fought.

Cllr Jeremy Fraser (my agent) has been working on this. And Bronwyn McKenna, the Chair of the relevant council committee is helping get it sorted out.

3. National Executive Committee

I am very grateful to Peckham Labour Party for nominating me for the constituency section of the National Executive Committee. But I have decided not to stand this year. Firstly, I think it would be taking on too much as I am standing for the Shadow Cabinet. If I got on the Shadow Cabinet and the NEC at the same time it would not give me enough time for my constituency work. Secondly I am hoping that Gordon Brown and Tony Blair will get on the constituency section for the first time. If I stand for the first time at the same time as they stand for the first time, I may split their vote.

* appointments to the local District Health Authorities not being representative of the local community.

7. Thames Water

I was angered to discover in the Thames Water Annual report which I received last week, that this former public utility has made a donation of £50,000 to the Conservative Party. I think this is a scandal because all the customers have been forced to make a compulsory donation to the Tories without even being asked. I have written to the Chairman of Thames Water and to Sir Norman Fowler, asking that the donation be returned. I have also tabled an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons, condemning the action by this privatised monopoly.

8. Local activities

* The Peckham Labour Party Jumble sale raised over £200. Congratulations to all those who helped make it so successful. Another one is planned for September.

* I attended the last meeting of the Penrose Tenants Association on 16th June.

* I opened the new GPs surgery at Manor Place on 24th June.

* I visited the Open Day of the Eveline Coyle Day Centre in Grange Walk for people with learning disabilities.

* I met representatives of the Justice for Ivan Fergus Campaign on 1st July to discuss further action to ensure that the appeal is heard as soon as possible. I have written again to the Lord Chancellor and tabled a Parliamentary Question about the case.

* I attended the reception for the Southwark Day Centre on 2nd July, which was part of a fundraising exercise to expand the services that the Day Centre offers to the homeless.

* I wrote to the Transport Minister, Steve Norris, expressing my concern about the introduction of red routes along the Peckham Road, Camberwell New Road and Old Kent Road, following a meeting with London MPs and Friends of the Earth on 29th June.

* I attended the meeting of the Tustin Tenants Association on 7th June.

Amongst other recent events, I have addressed the annual dinner of the Overseas Doctors Association, and a combined meeting of Newham Labour parties, held to discuss the Leadership contest.

Harriet Harman MP

7th July 1992

4. Building Peckham Labour Party.

I have had some useful meetings with Karl Milner, the full time organister for Southwark, and the Peckham officers. We have embarked on a programme of producing leaflets thanking people for voting Labour, letters thanking those who put up posters, letters to households who are not on the Register and letters to selective streets telling people about my surgeries. We are hoping to meet regularly at Herbert Morrison House on Wednesday at 12 midday to stuff envelopes etc. The launch of this initiative will be on Wednesday 15th July at Midday. If anyone can help, I very much look forward to seeing you there. I am sure this will help us build support for Labour in Peckham and make more members.

5. Southwark Council

I attended the Local Government Committee meeting on July 4th to discuss the General Election and the forthcoming council issues.

I set out the objectives that I beleive the Labour councillors should work towards.

- * Ensuring that we return a Labour Council at the next elections.
- * Ensuring that the task of improving services is the top priority.
- * Having a multi-racial group to represent our multi-racial community.
- * Having a high standard of integrity in the Labour Group so that the people in Southwark can be certain that their representatives are taking seriously the fact that they hold public office.

6. Health

(i) The Government has now recognised that family planning clinics are important in the reduction of the number of unplanned pregnancies and in the fight against sexually transmitted diseases. But in the last 6 years in London, half of all District Health Authorities have cut family planning clinics. I have called on the Government to ensure that cash shortages do not cause any further cuts.

(ii) The Kings Fund have produced a report on London health services calling for the improvement of GP services, the setting up of local health clinics and the closure of 15 hospitals. Whilst I welcomed the recognition of the shortcomings in primary and community care, I warned that the Kings Fund Report will play into the hands of the Government who will close the hospitals without improving community services.

(iii) South London Labour MP's met with our CHC's and agreed to

- * take up the issue of security for patients at local hospitals
- * threat to accountability posed by the amalagamation and reducing of CHC's
- * delays in London Ambulance Service

HARRIET HARMAN, M.P.

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HARRIET HARMAN MP

SEPTEMBER 1992

1. THE ECONOMY

I am pleased that I shall be able to play a central role in attacking the Government's mishandling of the economy in my new position as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, having been elected to the Shadow Cabinet at the end of July. I would like to thank all party members who sent messages of support or congratulations.

The recession continues to deepen with no sign of a recovery starting even next year. Meanwhile the Government refuses to accept its responsibility for the recession, doing nothing about rising unemployment, increasing bankruptcies, and growing repossessions. I am pressing the government to introduce emergency measures to reduce the fear of unemployment, to revive the housing market and to encourage investment in industry.

Yesterday, a further signal was received of the worsening recession with the publication of results from George Wimpey, the large construction company. Their balance has fallen from £200,000 to £7.2m in the red. I issued a press statement warning of the depth of the recession in the construction industry which is having a disastrous effect on other jobs.

Much of the current argument over devaluation and the ERM is irrelevant to the real issue of the underlying problems of the British economy - inadequate training, low investment, poor regional development, short-term interests of the City - which has made it impossible for Britain to compete effectively with other highly skilled, well-rewarded, well-equipped companies in economies like Germany, Japan and Sweden.

My first engagement in my new position was fortunately in Peckham a visit with Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, to the MARI Computer Training Centre on the Aylesbury Estate on 30th July. The visit received extensive press coverage and the facilities at the centre are excellent. Many more such centres are needed, particularly in the inner-cities, if unemployment is to be effectively tackled.

As Shadow Chief Secretary, my two busiest times of the Parliamentary timetable will be immediately after Party Conference, dealing with the Autumn Statement and the public spending round. Then in the early spring there will be the budget followed by the Finance Bill, whose sessions last right through the night.

2. LOCAL LABOUR PARTY

I have met CLP officers to discuss local Labour party campaigns over the coming months.

As you will have seen from the recent member's newsletter, there is a regular session every Monday at 12 noon at Herbert Morrison House to carry out campaigning work, such as stuffing and addressing envelopes, labelling envelopes and checking names on the electoral register. These sessions have been held throughout the summer and already much has been achieved including:

- * sending out letters to everyone who put up a Labour poster in the General Election, encouraging them to join the party.
- * sending out letters to all the gaps on the electoral register as part of our election drive.
- * writing to electors across the constituency on a systematic basis with a personalised letter, highlighting local issues in each street or area.

Please drop in to help out at any one of these campaigning sessions on Mondays. You will be very welcome and it's a good chance for a chat and a cup of tea with other party members.

Other campaigning initiatives we will be undertaking include:

- * writing to young electors and young relatives of party members, encouraging them to join the Labour Party.
- * holding a social for women members next February, similar to the last two women members' socials held in the House of Commons.
- * holding a social for new party members early next year.
- * writing to women electors in the constituency, encouraging them to join the party.

3. SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

I had a meeting with Joyce Gould about her investigation on behalf of the NEC into Southwark Council. She is presently still gathering information for her report but she explained that she was concerned to:

- * improve the relationship between the Labour Group and the local Labour Party
- * provide better support within the structure of the local authority to Councillors
- * set out clear procedures for the claiming of expenses, the appointment of officers, and making grants to voluntary groups.
- * encourage party members to seek selection for the Council elections in 1994
- * ensure that every councillor is fully aware of the responsibilities of their role as an elected representative
- * encourage councillors to be involved in my surgeries in order to build up their casework.

4. ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

I have continued to press the Council to deal with the large numbers of gaps on the register and the low levels of registration in many parts of the borough. Research shows that the population of Southwark has increased by at least 20,000 over the last ten years (the number of dwellings has increased by 9700 since 1982) which means that reduction in the number of electors is not the result of a falling population but of a failure to ensure that all those eligible to vote are actually put on the register.

5. LOCAL EVENTS

Over the summer I have taken part in the following local activities:

- * Tustin TA meeting
- * Opening of new GPs' surgery on Camberwell Green
- * Campaigning meetings in Parliament against the introduction of Red Routes across London, including the Peckham Road and the Old Kent Road.
- * Opening of Livsey Lodge hostel for the homeless.
- * Launch of Southwark Council's Charter Against Racism in Schools.
- * Visit of the Tustin TA to the House of Commons.
- * Prize Giving at Warwick Park School
- * Meeting with representatives of the Burgess Park Action Group.

Harriet Harman MP

9th September 1992

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HARRIET HARMAN

September 1992

1. LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

* I attended this year's Labour Party conference in Blackpool. Party members were in an optimistic but serious mood, partly because of the shambles over the Government's economic policies and partly because of the brilliant performance by John Smith in the House of Commons the week before. However, there are still many vital issues to be addressed in the coming months about the structure and direction of the Party if Labour is to win the next election.

* I spoke at the fringe meeting of the Labour Finance and Industry Group on 30th September, setting out the disastrous consequences of cuts in public spending and setting out Labour's priorities.

2. ECONOMIC CRISIS

* I warned that public borrowing figures published on 16th September showed that the PSBR is running at double its size last year as the Government has to pay for the costs of the recession, particularly through increased social security for job losses.

* On 16th September I warned of the growing economic crisis in London, publishing figures which showed soaring unemployment, collapsing businesses, and the relentless decline of manufacturing.

* On 18th September, I pointed out that the £500m the Government had squandered trying to prop up the £ on Black Wednesday could have spent on an employment programme which would have created:

- 50,000 places on Youth Training
- 10,000 extra offers of Enterprise Allowance
- 150,000 temporary jobs

It subsequently appeared that £1 billion was wasted, not £500 million.

* On 25th September, I pointed out that Norman Lamont and John Major's threats to cut public spending will break Conservative manifesto commitments, such as support for students, extending the Jubilee line, expanding the hospital building programme and road building programme.

* On 5th October, I warned that the 50th birthday celebrations for Oxfam had been marred by the a double blow to our Aid efforts. The devaluation of the pound has hit their purchasing

power overseas, and the Aid budget is now threatened by cuts in public spending.

3. PUBLIC SPENDING

Labour will be campaigning against public spending cuts because

- * Before the election The Tories promised that they would protect spending

- * Cuts will hit vital services already starved of resources

- * Cuts will prolong the recession

- * Cuts will undermine our long term competitiveness (for example cuts in training and transport)

The first target will be a public sector pay freeze which will be making the workers in public services suffer a drop in living standards to pay for the Government's incompetence. This is nothing less than an incomes policy.

Capital programmes and the social security budget will also be targets.

We will be campaigning inside and outside parliament against the cuts.

4. LOCAL VISITS

My recent local visits and meetings have included the following:

- * Harris Street Neighbourhood Forum on 14th September. I gave advice about alternative sources of funding to carry out improvements on the Elmington estate, particularly to make the flats more secure. The estate is also interested in starting a local playgroup.

- * On 21st September I visited the Crawford Estate TA to speak about competitive tendering and housing management. The greatest problem with the Government's proposals to extend CCT is that tenants have no say in who runs their estate. They will not be consulted during the tendering process.

- * Local Southwark and Lambeth MPs recently met Community Health Councils to discuss a range of local issues such as

- merger of the Camberwell, West Lambeth and North Southwark CHCs.

- the Kings Fund report which proposes the closure of 15 hospitals in London.

- the report on the disastrous position in the Accident and Emergency Wing of Kings College Hospital which has been suppressed.

- * On 6th October, I attended a seminar on the North Peckham Estate about employment, training and economic regeneration initiatives on the North Peckham estate. The seminar showed starkly how the deep recession is destroying all hope of job opportunities particularly young people, in Peckham.

5. LOCAL CASEWORK

The huge number of cases from my surgeries, through the post and telephone continues to grow, as more and more people are hit by unemployment, bankruptcies, homelessness, cuts in local authority spending - especially in social services and housing.

Amongst the many individual cases, I have also taken up the following issues:

- * cockroach infestation on estates across the constituency. Almost one in four of the complaints I currently deal with are about cockroaches. One mother told me that the only word her two year old child knows is "cockroach."

- * I have raised with the Chair of Housing the question of funding for major works on the Aylesbury Estate and we may have a meeting soon with the Housing Minister to argue the case for more funds.

- * Housing Associations policies. I have received many complaints from black people who are worried about moving to Rotherhithe because of National Front and BNP activity there. I have raised this with the Council.

- * I have taken up complaints about the arrangements for the refuse collection service in the borough.

I often have more than 60 people at my surgeries and I am grateful for the assistance given by party members. I would remind members that my surgery times were reorganised after the election. The new surgery times are as follows:

First Monday of the month, 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Camden Tenants Hall, Camden Square, SE15

Third Tuesday of the month, 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5

Fourth Monday of the month, 10am to 12 noon at the Thurlow Lodge Tenants Hall, Thurlow Street, Albany Road, SE17

I would like to take the opportunity once again to place on record my thanks to those party members who help regularly at my surgeries, particularly Ros Tabor, David Barrass, Di and Charlie Robinson. I am still trying, so far without success, to involve councillors in my surgeries. Most of those who come to my surgeries are complaining about the council.

If you are able to assist at any of the above surgeries your help would be greatly appreciated.

Harriet Harman MP

7th October 1992



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REPORT
OCTOBER 1992

1. St George's Church

St George's Church on Wells Way is an historic building and an important landmark in Burgess Park. It has been derelict and was fast heading towards being beyond repair. I worked with the local action group, English Heritage, the Church Commissioners, the Housing Corporation and numerous other organisations to press forward with plans to restore the church and turn it into housing for single homeless. On 3rd November I officially opened the starting of work on the Church. The saving of the church and the provision of housing for the homeless on this site is a great triumph for community action, and I was very glad to be part of it.

2. The Economy

As Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury and part of the Treasury team, I have been very involved in our campaign in the run up to the Autumn Statement on 12th November.

We have launched our Programme for National Recovery, urging that the Government increase public spending to get us out of recession, cut interest rates, develop a strategy for industry, act to end unemployment and do not freeze public sector pay.

After the Autumn Statement we will be analysing the plans for each department and looking at the outlook for growth in the economy and unemployment.

We are opposing public sector pay freezes on the grounds that it is unfair to penalise people who work in the public sector; that it is wrong to have a rigid, inflexible approach to pay for all public sector workers; that it will not assist in the solution of our economic problems because it will take demand out of the economy by taking money out of people's pockets which they would otherwise spend.

3. Peckham Bus Garage

A busman from Peckham bus garage came to see me concerned about plans that if they do not accept a 7% pay cut the 63 bus route will be cut and with it 550 jobs which would result in the closure of Peckham Bus Garage. I've contacted the TGWU and taken the matter up with the Management in order to establish the facts of the case. It is blackmail to ask workers to take a cut in their living standards or else accept redundancies and service cuts.

4. Southwark Day Centre

I attended the launch of the fundraising for the new Southwark Day Centre. It currently operates out of the crypt of St George's Church but it is intended to build on a new site to provide a whole range of services for the homeless including health care.

5. Community Health Councils

It has been proposed that now the 3 District Health authorities (Camberwell, Lewisham and North Southwark and West Lambeth) are merged into one Commissioning Agency for the purpose of "buying" services for local people, that the CHCs should also be merged. I believe that it is important to have strong representation at the level at which decisions are being made, and that there should be an effective and locally accessible avenue for complaints and through which people can put their views. It is also important that the merger is not an excuse to cut resources from the patients' watchdog. If anyone wants a copy of my representations to the Regional Health Authority will they please let me know.

6. Asylum Bill

I issued a press statement setting out why I voted against the Asylum Bill. It is important at a time of rising racism in the rest of Europe that we stand firm against it. I pointed out that what Labour wants is a fair system to distinguish between those who are fleeing persecution and those who aren't, and that there must be an appeal system for those who are refused leave to enter as visitors. I have had a number of cases at my surgery of people who have been refused leave to enter to attend family weddings or funerals. A right of appeal is essential. I attended and spoke at the lobby against the Asylum Bill.

7. Channel Tunnel Rail Link

I met with Peckham Against the Rail Link (PEARL) to discuss the continuing uncertainty of how the Government will deal with freight and passengers coming out of the Channel Tunnel. It is important to ensure that services for local people are not squeezed off the track by Chunnel passenger trains, and that people living near the track are not disturbed by massive increases in the amount of freight carried on existing track.

8. Surgeries

My surgeries continue to be packed with local people concerned about housing, benefits and immigration. One case of interest that I am taking up is that of a woman who is in a 4 bedroom house on the Brimington Estate. She only needs a one bedroom flat, wants to move so that her expenses will be cut down, and

there is an empty one-bed flat on her estate. However she can't get a move because she is in arrears. The irony is that she will be able to clear the arrears quicker if she is in a smaller home and she would be freeing a 4 bedroom house for a family who are overcrowded.

I remain extremely grateful to those Party members who help out with both the publicity sessions for the surgeries every Monday lunchtime, and the actual events themselves.

9. "Questiontime"

I appeared on the TV programme Questiontime. I had flu at the time. People may have noticed a lot of coughing on the programme. It was me! And they might have noticed that for part of the programme I was not on camera. That is because for part of the programme I was outside coughing! (I'm better now!)

10. Red Routes Proposal

The Government are considering the extension of the Red Routes scheme to include the Southwark roads of Camberwell Church Street and the Old Kent Road. Consequently I am consulting with the inhabitants and businesses which dwell along each of these routes to determine their reaction. I shall then make a more informed representation on their behalf to the Government.

11. Some other engagements

- *I spoke at the UN service at St Giles Church,
- *I attended the Remembrance Day Service at Walworth Town Hall
- I spoke at the miners rally in Hyde Park on 21st October and was glad to meet some Peckham Party Members there. I went on the miners march on Sunday 25th and collected signatures on our petition at Camberwell.
- *I went to the new Crime Shop on Camden Estate
- *I popped into the Police Committee meeting

Harriet Harman
9th November 1992



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REPORT
NOVEMBER 1992

1. The Economy

The Government sought to give the impression that the Autumn Statement was a "mini budget" that would bring recovery and stimulate the economy. But close examination of the statement shows

- * that unemployment will continue to rise
- * that local authorities still cannot use the £5bn accumulated capital receipts for building new council homes.
- * The Department of Employment, The Department of Transport, The Department of Trade and Industry will all receive less than they were promised.
- * The Department of Health is to receive £700 less than was originally planned.
- * Public Sector pay is being frozen at between 0-1.5%.

As part of the Treasury Team I am continuing to highlight the rising tide of unemployment and the Government's refusal to set up an employment action programme or develop an industry strategy which would rebuild our manufacturing base.

In the new year we will be initiating the debate about the "new economics" which Labour will be developing.

* I spoke in the debate on the Autumn Statement. If anyone wants a copy of the Hansard report of the debate please let me know.

* I took part in the Southwark Cathedral Service for National Recovery on 9th December

2. Post Office

I am very concerned about the threat to post office jobs in Southwark. The Post Office is one of Southwark's largest employers (after the NHS and the Council) employing 500 at the MLO at Borough High Street and 250 at the Delivery Office in Mandela Way.

A Feasibility Study has been produced for the London Post Office Management which proposes the closure of the MLO in Southwark and the consequent loss of the Mandela Way jobs.

I have tabled questions to the President of the Board of Trade, Michael Heseltine, who has parliamentary responsibility for the Post Office, am liaising with the UCW and have protested to the Post Office Management.

3. Contruction Safety

I attended a lobby of the House of Commons on safety in the construction industry. There is no doubt that the level of unemployment in the construction industry means that construction workers feel less able to speak up and demand higher standards of safety on their site because they will be sacked and there will be hundreds of other workers willing to take their place. With high unemployment, it becomes even more difficult to maintain, let alone improve, the very low standards of safety for construction workers.

4. Housing

* I attended the opening of accomodation for young people leaving care or coming out of custody at Carefree, Benhill Road. It is very important that young people coming out of care continue to get support and having somewhere to live for up to six months while they get a new home, training and benefits sorted out is very important. Carefree is supported financially by Southwark Council, but the finances for the accomodation was raised from charitable trusts.

* I attended a meeting at the Brimmington Estate to revive the tenants association.

* I also attended a meeting to revive the Tenants Association on the Ledbury Estate.

* I spoke at the lobby of Parliament organised by the National Council of Churches about the housing shortage. There was particular anger about the fact that councils have not been allowed to use their capital receipts to build new homes or renovate flats that are in disrepair.

5. Business in Southwark.

I attended 2 iniatives promoted by Southwark council to help businesses run by ethnic minority communities get off the ground. At the launch of the Ethnic Business Directory I made a speech about the dangers of racism, growing in this country and in the rest of Europe. I also attended to give certificates for young black women who had attended a course run by Elephant Enterprises and sponsored by Southwark Council.

6. I attended a parliamentary lobby on behalf of the 999 Emergency Telephone Operators. While currently there are up to 2,000 operators available to take emergency calls from 70 exchanges located across the country, Oftel are proposing this figure be cut to the bone with a reduction to only 150 operators in just 3 emergency centres. All London centres are to shut. While Oftel suggest the new service will be more "cost effective", UCW research shows that at busy times there will be people waiting to have emergency calls answered.

7. I am writing a book which will be published by Random House

next June. It's about women and work, women and politics.....
and women and men!

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWINGTON WARD FOR ORGANISING AN EXCELLENT
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL.

As usual I will be attending the People Care Association party
on Christmas Day in Dulwich Baths.

Harriet Harman MP
8th December 1992



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REPORT
DECEMBER 1992

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL PECKHAM LABOUR PARTY MEMBERS.

Our key tasks this year, as we leave the devastating 1992 election defeat behind us, will be to:

- * build the membership and vitality of the Peckham Labour Party.
- * work towards the council elections next year.

I look forward to working closely with the Peckham Labour Party on these important tasks.

1. The State of the Economy

As we enter a new year it is worth taking stock of the economic costs of the Conservative's recession.

- * Unemployment, 2.9 million, has risen for 32 consecutive months.
- * Manufacturing investment has fallen by 18% between the first nine months of 1989 and the first nine months of 1992 (according to Government statistics).
- * Despite the severe recession, the balance of payments deficit for the first 11 months of 1992 was £10.3bn.
- * Businesses are going bust at the rate of about 250 a day.
- * More than 46,000 families were issued with repossession orders in the first nine months of 1992.

We intend to focus political attention on the budget, and demand a budget for jobs.

We will be launching the campaign the week of the 18th January. A special edition of Labour Party News will go to all party members throughout the country suggesting local campaigns and tying local activities in with our national activities. We will also be working with the Trade Unions both nationally and regionally.

2. London Policy Forum

London has been particularly badly hit by the recession. In order to develop a package of policies which can pull London out of recession the London Labour Party has convened a series of

working groups.

I have been appointed Chair of the Economy Working Party of the London Policy forum. The first meeting this was held in December 1992.

3. English Heritage

There are proposals to break up the expertise of English Heritage's London Division and hand over responsibility for over 90% of Grade Two listed buildings to London local authorities. London Boroughs do not have the conservation specialists, or the resources to take on this further burden.

I am working with local conservation groups (Peckham and Camberwell Societies) and will be raising this matter with the Heritage Select Committee.

4. Rail Privatisation

Having persistently under-invested in our transport infrastructure the Tories now want to resort to their old chestnut of "selling off the family silver". Even though the idea of selling off British Rail has met with an almost uniformly hostile response, John Major intends to press ahead.

I voted against, and will continue to oppose, this attempt by the Government to wash its hands of any responsibility for creating a modern transport network.

5. Peckham Labour Party

The Labour Party always needs more active members. I write to all new members to welcome them to the Peckham Party.

I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking the Peckham Labour party officers, particularly Chair, Kevin Williamson, Secretary Mick Larkin, Vice Chairs Linda Bailey and Bernie Gibbons and Treasurer, Alan Watson for all the hard work they have done over the past year. Being officers in the aftermath of a General Election defeat is demanding because it involves taking the party forward at a time when members are demoralised. Our officers have done just that, and we are all in their debt.

6. Surgeries

It is very important all my constituents are able to attend my surgeries to raise their concerns with me. In addition to running morning surgeries as well as an evening one I have also

- * produced a new poster outlining my surgery times. This has been sent to voluntary organisations, doctor's surgeries, councillors, Tenants Associations and libraries. Can members let me know if they want further copies to put up in their local library or Tenants Hall.

- * organised a special surgery for the Brandon Estate on Monday February 8th. I'm hoping to do it jointly with the Newington Councillors.

7. Monday Club

The Monday Club of volunteers who help me with weekly mailings is to be changed to Friday lunchtimes. We will start the mail out of a new information leaflet I have produced to let my constituents know where they can get advice.

8. Vic Watson

Congratulations to Vic Watson on being awarded an MBE. Despite my usually jaded view of these awards I feel that in this case it was completely justified. I am proud of working with Vic, and I am sure that we all send Vic our best wishes on his MBE.

9. Boundaries

Thanks to the Labour Party and Southwark Council we have made inroads into the under-registration in Southwark. We need people to be on the electoral register in order to enable them to vote for us not only in General Elections but also in council elections and European elections. Also if there is under-registration, the Boundary Commission which is considering the allocation of seats at present could merge 2 constituencies into 1. Southwark now has enough people on the register to entitle us to 3 seats. But Lambeth have allowed their register to run down and the danger now is that the Boundary Commission will, for Parliamentary purposes merge the 6 seats in Lambeth and Southwark into 5. That would threaten the constituency of Peckham and I am liaising with the other Labour MP's in Lambeth and Southwark, and the London Labour Party to try and make efforts to ensure that Lambeth redress their under-representation.

10. The Labour Club

I'm liaising with The National HQ of the Labour party about the future of the Club. The future of the club clearly has a crucial impact on the Peckham Labour Party finances. I've also conveyed the thanks of the Peckham Labour Party to the Transport and General Workers Union who, as they sponsor me, pay a cheque for £650 per year which I give straight away to the Peckham Labour Party Treasurer.

11. Clinton Economics

Many in the Labour Party have been keen to learn from the victory of Bill Clinton over the previous incumbent right wing administration. A series of meetings have been held to pool the experiences and ideas of Labour's politicians with key Clinton strategists. I have attended a series of T&G sponsored meetings discussing similarities between the British and American experience (as well as the obvious differences).

12. Closure of Sainsburys in Rye Lane

The local economic decline of parts of Peckham will be accelerated by the closure of Sainsburys. Not only will this take jobs out of Peckham, but it will mean less shoppers using the Rye Lane area. The suggestions for regenerating Rye Lane become, therefore even more important.

13. Among other engagements I attended

- * A reception for the local computer firm MARI
- * A festive get together for pensioners at the Hour Glass Pub on the Aylesbury Estate.

Harriet Harman MP
January 12th 1993