



Harriet Harman MP

Parliamentary Newsletter April 2001

North Peckham Estate



It was right to re-develop the North Peckham and the other four estates as part of the "Peckham Partnership" and the new houses that have been built are lovely. But there are still problems - and lessons to be learnt for the future.

- All the remaining tenants in the blocks awaiting demolition must be offered transfers. You can't leave tenants in blocks that have become a building site.
- Tenants should be compensated for the cutting off of their water and heating during the building works.
- Better lighting and tough action to move squatters is a must for the half empty blocks awaiting demolition.

Before we start any other major estate redevelopment programmes in Southwark we must be sure that we've learned the lessons from the North Peckham.

Huge redevelopments take years. We must be sure that while the work is underway tenants don't suffer.

CRIME



Congratulations to Borough Commander Rod Jarman who has now got the job of leading the police in Southwark. Tackling crime is a major priority in Southwark. I look forward to working with Rod to make sure there are more police on the beat and that people in Southwark feel safer.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED...

I have recently set up my new website - check it out at www.harrietharman.labour.co.uk You can find out surgery times and contact details as well as downloading my latest papers.



Harriet's ADVICE SURGERIES

Tuesday 24th April 2001	6:00pm	Southwark Town Hall
Friday 4th May 2001	10:00am	Southwark Town Hall
Friday 11th May 2001	10:00am	Southwark Town Hall
Tuesday 22nd May 2001	6:00pm	Southwark Town Hall

or write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

or telephone my constituency office on 0207 219 4218, fax 0207 219 4877.



A Better Deal for Babies!!

I have been campaigning for years for a review of maternity pay and leave and a recognition that more help for families from government should come in the early years of a child's life. I very much welcome the recent budget in which Chancellor Gordon Brown outlined his decision to increase Maternity Pay from £60.40 per week to £100 per week and also extend it from 18 weeks to 26 weeks. I will continue to campaign for change that gives working mothers the choice to stay at home longer after their child is born and also to help mothers and fathers balance work and family responsibilities more easily.

Southwark Pensioners



I am proud of the Government's record on improving life for pensioners but there is still a lot more to be done. When I was Secretary of State for Social Security I introduced the Winter Fuel Payments for every pensioner, which is now £200. 26,400 pensioners in Southwark now receive this. In addition 7,300 Southwark pensioner families will benefit from the minimum income guarantee and 11,600 pensioners in Southwark are receiving free T.V licences. Southwark has a proud and strong pensioner movement and they have been influential in bringing about these changes.

SOUTHWARK PEOPLE STUDYING LIKE NEVER BEFORE



I recently obtained official figures that show there has been a massive increase in the number of Southwark people studying further education. In 1997 there were 17,562 people from Southwark studying further education. In 2000 this figure was 22,196 - a massive increase of 4,364 more Southwark people studying for further education qualifications. Qualifications are the key to prosperity and opportunity and It is fantastic news that more Southwark people are studying at higher levels than ever before.



Harriet Harman QC MP

Parliamentary Newsletter August 2001

General Election 2001

I am absolutely delighted to be back in Parliament and I am honoured that the majority of voters in Camberwell &



Peckham voted for me to be their Member of Parliament again. I will continue to work hard for the people of Camberwell & Peckham and I will continue to hold my regular advice surgeries at Southwark Town Hall. The dates and times for these are overleaf.

General Election Results June 2001

	voters	% of vote
Labour	17,473	69.7
Lib Dems	3,350	13.29
Tories	2,740	10.87
Other	1,541	6.14



I am also pleased to be back in Government as the Solicitor General and I am looking forward to helping reform the legal system in this country.

New Housing Minister Falconer to Visit the Aylesbury

Lord Falconer, the newly appointed Housing Minister has accepted my invitation to visit the Aylesbury Estate later this month. The visit will involve a walkabout on the estate with local residents, council officers, councillors and myself followed by a meeting in the local Access Centre. I have organised the visit to ensure local people have the opportunity to tell the Minister directly what they think of the new plans for the area and what they would like to see from the regeneration programme. If you have any comments about the Aylesbury I would be pleased to hear from you - so please write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or e-mail me at harmanh@parliament.uk



Questionnaire on Teacher Shortage



I have recently sent out a questionnaire to all heads of schools in Camberwell & Peckham concerning teacher recruitment and any specific problems headteachers experience when trying to recruit and retain good quality teachers. I will publish a report based on the answers and then present it to Estelle Morris, Secretary of State for Education.

Harriet's ADVICE SURGERIES

Tuesday 24th July 2001	6:00pm	Southwark Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB
Friday 3rd August 2001	10:00am	
Friday 10 August 2001	10:00am	
Tuesday 21st August 2001	6:00pm	
		Tel: 0207 525 5000
Friday 7th September 2001	10:00am	
Friday 14th September 2001	10:00am	
Tuesday 25th September 2001	6:00pm	

or write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
or telephone my constituency office on 0207 219 4218, fax 0207 219 4877.



Camberwell CREDIT UNION



Many of you will be aware that since August last year Camberwell Credit Union has had a Section 19 order placed on it by the Financial Services Authority, which has prevented members from withdrawing their savings. There was a real prospect that members would only receive as little as 20p for every £ they had saved such was the plight of the credit union. Since this time I have been working extremely hard with the FSA, Southwark Council, Southwark Credit Union, Association of British Credit Unions, PriceWaterhouse Coopers, the British Bankers Association and others to ensure that all members savings are safeguarded and they receive back their full investment. Things are looking very positive and with help in the form of loans, donations and expert advice a Transfer of Engagement will be taking place with Southwark Credit Union, which will ensure all members do not lose any savings. Southwark Credit Union is a well run organisation and the transfer of Camberwell Credit Union member's savings will be overseen by the FSA and the Rescue Group, which I chair. The Government have now introduced legislation that will come into effect in July 2002 which will automatically safeguard members savings in credit unions and prevent this from ever happening again.

If you require any further information on Camberwell Credit Union or would like to know more about Credit Unions in general please do not hesitate to call my assistant Alun on 0207 219 4218.

Caroline Gardens Chapel

Following a meeting I had with tenants of Caroline Gardens I have written to the council to ask that the residents are given an eleven year lease so they can restore the Chapel and use it for community events and meetings. Unfortunately at the moment the Chapel which is of great local, historical and heritage value is deteriorating and is need of urgent attention. The cost of any repairs will be funded by charitable organisations such as the lottery. If you would like to help in anyway or you know of any other local buildings we should restore please do get in touch and let me know.





Harriet Harman QC MP

Parliamentary Newsletter December 2001

New Solicitor General Role....

Many of you will know as well as being MP for Camberwell and Peckham I am also the new Solicitor General to the Government. Since I was appointed many of my constituents have asked me what this involves so I thought it would be useful to outline my new responsibilities...thankfully this doesn't involve wearing the wig too often!!!

As Solicitor General I, together with Attorney General Lord Goldsmith QC, am one of the Government's two Law Officers. The Law Officers

- decide on whether to prosecute in serious cases such as Official Secrets.
- advise the Government on whether what they are doing, or any planned legislation is compliant with our international and Human Rights obligations.
- are accountable for the Crown Prosecution Service which (like the District Attorneys in the USA) takes suspects to court after the police have investigated.



As Solicitor General I want to ensure that we are **fair, independent** and **accountable**. I am also determined to ensure that we make the law more representative of women and ethnic minorities. Women now regard themselves as equal and we live in a multiracial community – so an overwhelmingly white, male legal profession looks out of date and is clearly missing out on the talents of many women and black people.



Southwark Credit Union

Members Savings Saved!

After several months of hard work by a rescue group which I chaired I am pleased to announce that Southwark Credit Union has successfully completed the rescue of Camberwell Credit Union, which has ensured that all Camberwell Member's savings are safe. I celebrated the good news with members at the launch in October. I wish Lucky and his team at Southwark Credit Union every success for the future and I am sure it will grow from strength to strength and SCU will continue to benefit the people of Southwark.



ADVICE SURGERY TIMETABLE

Tuesday 27 th November 2001	6:00pm	Southwark Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB
Friday 7 th December 2001	10:00am	
Friday 14 th December 2001	10:00am	
Tuesday 18 th December 2001	6:00pm	
		Tel: 0207 525 5000
Friday 11 th January 2002	10:00am	
Friday 25 th January 2002	10:00am	
Tuesday 29 th January 2002	6:00pm	
Friday 8 th February 2002	10:00am	
Friday 15 th February 2002	10:00am	
Tuesday 19 th February 2002	6:00pm	
Friday 1 st March 2002	10:00am	
Friday 8 th March 2002	10:00am	
Tuesday 19 th March 2002	6:00pm	



or write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
or telephone my constituency office on 0207 219 4218, fax 0207 219 4877.

Damilola Remembered

The 27th November 2001 will be the anniversary of the tragic death of Damilola Taylor. There will be a church service at St Lukes led by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Warwick Park Youth Centre which has been recently refurbished is to be re-opened the Damilola Taylor Centre. The Damilola Taylor trust set up by Richard & Gloria, Damilola's mother and father will also be launched. For more info contact Alun Hayes in my office.



Caroline Gardens Chapel

In my August Newsletter I mentioned that I intended to work with local residents of Caroline Gardens to get the Caroline Gardens Chapel restored and used for the community. Since then the residents and myself have asked Southwark Council to draw up a lease for the residents so they can explore funding avenues for the restoration. I also organised for Tessa Blackstone, Minister for Arts to visit the chapel recently to advise the residents on the best ways forward to secure Funding for the restoration of this listed building

NEW CONSTITUENCY CASEWORK TEAM

I have recently appointed two new Caseworkers to work on my casework and help me deal with the hundreds of enquiries I receive from constituents each week. Charlotte Smith joins me from Richard Burden MP's office and Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle, Southwark's Deputy Mayor will also be working on my casework on a part-time basis. If you would like me to take up your case please do come and see me at one of my Advice surgeries (listed above) or write to me at the House of Commons or phone 0207 219 4218.

Harriet Harman QC MP

Member of Parliament for
Camberwell & Peckham



Annual Report 2001



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London, SW1A 0AA**

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E-mail: harmanh@parliament.uk

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Introduction

This is my 20th year of being Member of Parliament in Camberwell & Peckham but this is my first annual report.

I have always believed it to be important that my constituents know what I am doing, and trying to do, on their behalf. But in the past I have done that by way of newsletters, bulletins and press statements.

In order to increase my accountability to my constituents and openness about what work I do and how I do it, I have decided from this year, to do an annual report.

This annual report covers the period from February 2001 to February 2002 and what has been a momentous year for Peckham.

Local schools have struggled to recruit and retain the teachers they need. The community wants more police on the beat. The terrorist attack of September 11th left the Muslim community fearing harassment. The Aylesbury Estate renovation programme failed to win the support of tenants. Overcrowded families find it even harder to get the move they need. Immigrants find their lives on hold while they wait for the Home Office to decide whether they can stay or must go.

But it has also been a year of progress as well as problems. The childcare programme is steadily increasing. School standards are improving. The relationship between the police and the local community continues to deepen. The Peckham Five Estates redevelopment is nearly finished.

In this report I set out some examples from my casework on behalf of individuals, along with my casework statistics, and some examples of my work for community groups.

Looking ahead for the next 12 months, I am working to ensure that

- We get a Children & Families Centre in Cator Street in Peckham
- Caroline Gardens Chapel is renovated and available for use by residents
- We get more Police in Southwark
- We get an After-school club at Oliver Goldsmiths School

Best wishes,

Harriet Harman MP

Advice Surgeries and My Constituency Office

I hold thirty-six advice surgeries a year at Southwark Town Hall. They are either on a Friday morning or a Tuesday evening. Most constituents who come to my advice surgeries are seeking my help. Usually I am their “last resort” after they have tried to sort out the problems themselves. Some come to give their views on current political issues.

At most advice surgeries I deal with 60 cases. Each case usually consists of two or three people, meaning that I normally have between 100 and 200 constituents at each advice surgery. If there are more than 60 cases, I ensure that those over and above the 60 who will be seen are phoned either that afternoon or the next morning. Advice and assistance can be given over the phone and then dealt with in the same way as someone who has been seen at the advice surgery. Although I have new responsibilities as Solicitor General, I always attend my advice surgeries: they are an important part of my work as Member of Parliament for Camberwell & Peckham.



Harriet and Dora with several constituents at advice surgery, Southwark Town Hall

Over the last year my team and I have dealt with 2,100 visits to my advice surgeries. I also receive many requests for help by post, email, telephone and fax. We are continually striving to improve the service offered to constituents and as part of this I am planning to apply for a Community Legal Services Quality Mark for the advice surgeries.

I'd like to express my thanks to my regular team for advice surgeries: Charlotte Smith (Caseworker), Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle (Caseworker), Cllr Barrie Hargrove (Advice

Surgery Assistant), Charlie Robinson (Volunteer), Amber McReynolds (Volunteer) and Alun Hayes (Parliamentary Assistant). I would also like to extend my thanks to all the other people who have helped at my advice surgeries over the past year – namely Cllr Joan Khachick, Cllr Anne Worsley, Cllr Dominic Thorncroft, Cllr Billy Kayada, Rhodri Thomas, Joseph Ochieno, Cllr John Friary and finally Christine and the excellent Town Hall reception team.

Examples of Constituency Casework

Case:

Mrs X came to see me in September 2001 concerning her mother-in-law, aged 50 who had come from Ghana to visit her family in Peckham. Whilst in the UK, she tragically suffered from a brain haemorrhage and died suddenly. The family were extremely distressed, and were then horrified when they were sent a bill for £24,500 from Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust, where Mrs X's mother-in-law had been cared for before she died. They could not possibly afford to pay this as they were a low-income family with young children.

Outcome:

After making representations to the Chief Executive of Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust and close liaison with the hospital and the Secretary of State for Health, Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust have waived the bill.

Case:

My constituent Mr Y was awaiting a final decision on his Indefinite Leave to Remain and awaiting his documentation from the Home Office. Tragically, his father passed away in Ghana and Mr Y needed his documentation so he could travel to Ghana to pay his last respects and to support his family. He contacted me at the beginning of the week, and the funeral was to take place the following week.

Outcome:

I made representations to the Home Office Minister Lord Rooker and was able to get Mr Y's case dealt with in time for him to attend his father's funeral. He sent a fax back to the office from Ghana, saying, "This is to say thank you very much for your effort and concern in my recent application to the Home Office. This message speaks for itself, that I'm in Ghana and fully played my part in laying my dad to eternal rest."

Case:

Mr Z is an elderly constituent. He telephoned the office as he had discovered that his son, aged 30 had been arrested in France. He was unable to discover any further information about what was going on.

Outcome:

I contacted the Foreign Office and got details of where his son was, how he could be contacted and exactly what had occurred. I was also able to get Mr Z information about the French judicial system and advise him on visiting rights.

Case:

Ms A called my office in an extremely distressed state. She was calling from a phone box in Oxford Street, saying she would not go and collect her young daughter from primary school because the police would arrest her and that she was homeless because her sister had thrown her out.

Outcome:

I made representations to the London Borough of Southwark and Ms A was able to secure emergency temporary accommodation and has since received help from social services.

Case:

Mrs B came to see me at my advice surgery. She was to be taken to court by the London Borough of Southwark for rent arrears. She believed she was not receiving all her benefits.

Outcome:

I intervened and wrote to the CSL Group, who act on behalf on the London Borough of Southwark to administer benefits and council tax about Mrs B's concerns over the calculation of her benefits. Mrs B received backdated benefits that cleared nearly all her arrears and the council waived their right to the court costs.

Case:

Mr C was imprisoned and sent to Camphill Prison on the Isle of Wight. His sister living in Camberwell wrote to me saying she found it expensive to travel to visit him and was not able to see him as often as she would like.

Outcome:

I made representations to the Home Secretary and Mr C was transferred to Maidstone.

Case:

Ms D applied for an educational maintenance allowance and waited nearly 8 months to hear whether or not her application had been successful. Ms D is a single parent, aged 18, struggling with her finances and she was hoping to use this money to support herself through Lambeth College, where she is studying Childcare and Education.

Outcome:

I made representations to the Local Education Authority and the money was backdated and sent to Ms D within 7 days.

Case:

Mr E phoned my office very upset by the amount of rubbish being continually dumped on a piece of derelict council owned land. Nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.

Outcome:

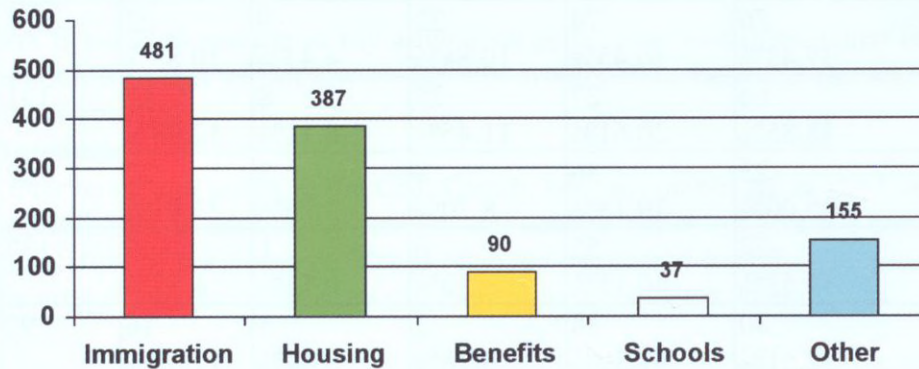
I wrote to the London Borough of Southwark's Regeneration and Environment Director and the rubbish was subsequently cleared and the site made secure to prevent any further fly-tipping.

**Breakdown of Constituency Casework by Issue and Ward
(% and number of cases) January 2001 – January 2002**

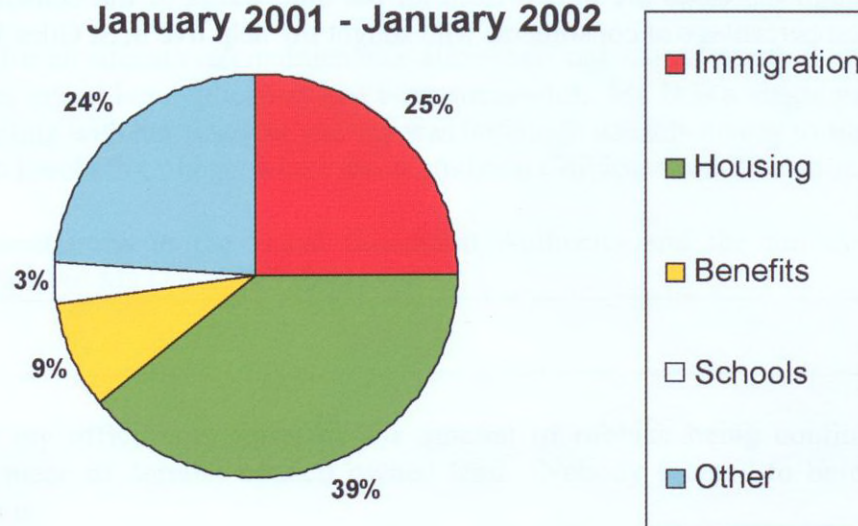
	Immigration	Housing	Benefits	Schools	Other	Total
Friary	70	46	15	2	20	153
%	45.75%	30.07%	9.80%	1.31%	13.07%	
Faraday	80	42	8	3	17	150
%	53.33%	28.00%	5.33%	2.00%	11.33%	
St Giles	76	74	22	9	22	203
%	37.43%	36.45%	10.84%	4.43%	10.85%	
Brunswick	64	27	15	8	17	131
%	48.85%	20.61%	11.45%	6.11%	12.98%	
Barset	23	36	8	3	22	92
%	25.00%	39.13%	8.70%	3.26%	23.91%	
Liddle	72	55	0	1	9	137
%	52.55%	40.15%	0%	0.73%	6.57%	
Lane	30	38	3	5	16	92
%	32.61%	41.30%	3.26%	5.44%	17.39%	
Consort	47	44	15	4	19	129
%	36.43%	34.11%	11.63%	3.10%	14.73%	
Waverley	19	25	4	2	13	63
%	30.16%	39.68%	6.35%	3.17%	20.64%	
Total	481	387	90	37	155	1150
	41.82%	33.65%	7.83%	3.20%	10.00%	100

- The main issues for my constituents are immigration (42%) and housing (34%).
- Although the cases are drawn from all the nine wards of the constituency, the highest percentage of constituents who sought my help live in St Giles Ward.

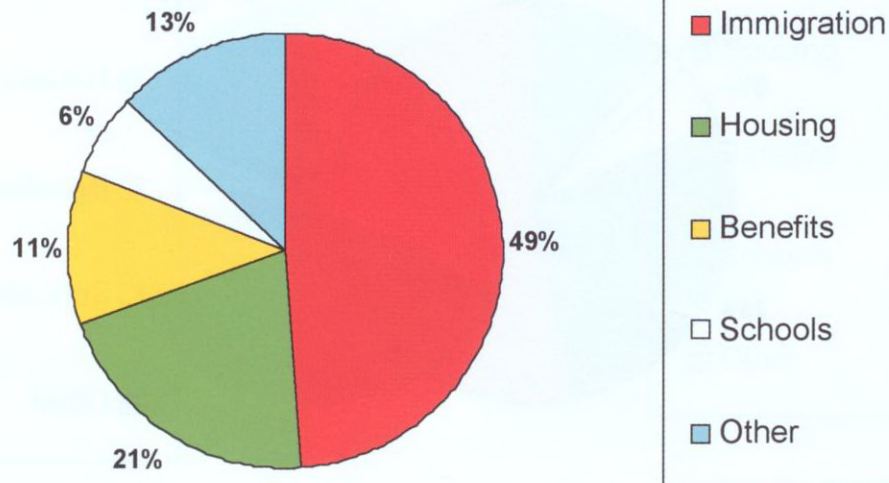
Camberwell and Peckham Constituency - All Wards New Cases by Issue, January 2001 - January 2002



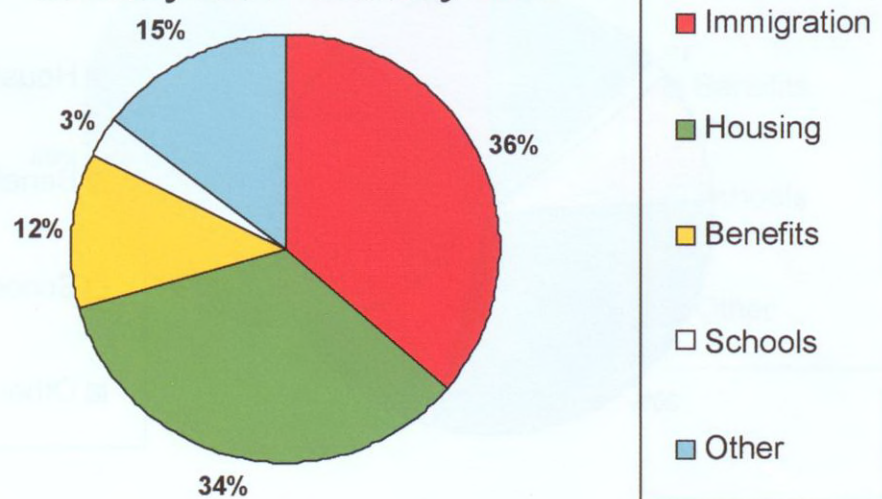
Barset Ward, New Cases by Issue January 2001 - January 2002



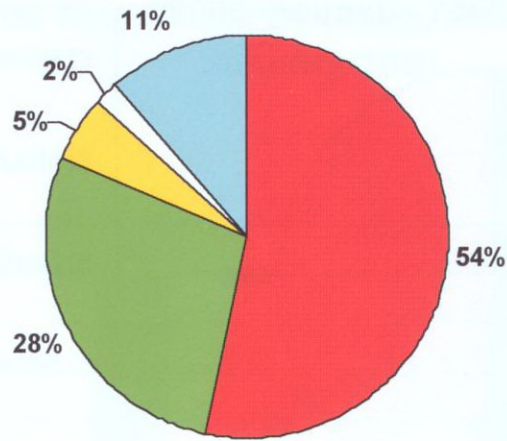
Brunswick Ward, New Cases by Issue
January 2001 - January 2002



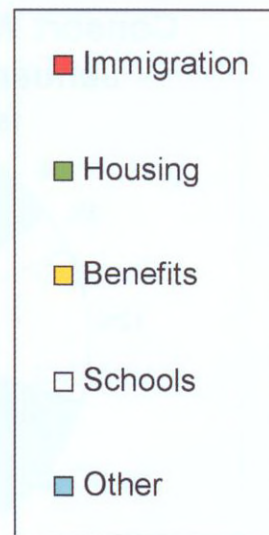
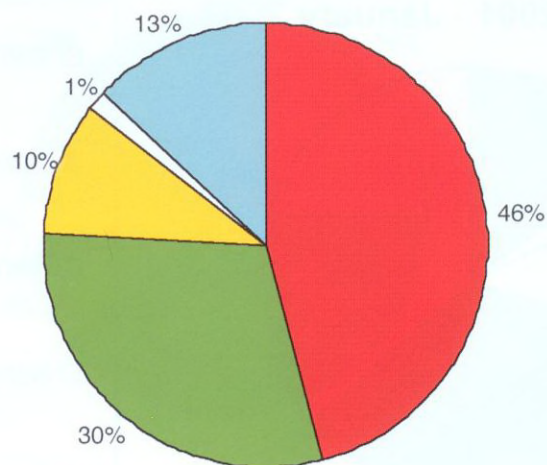
Consort Ward, New Cases by Issue
January 2001 - January 2002



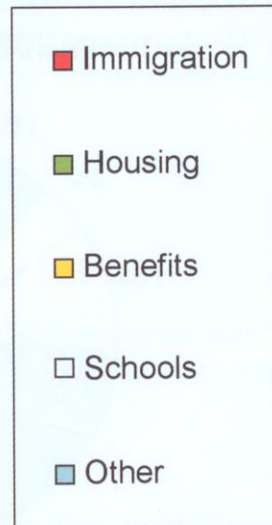
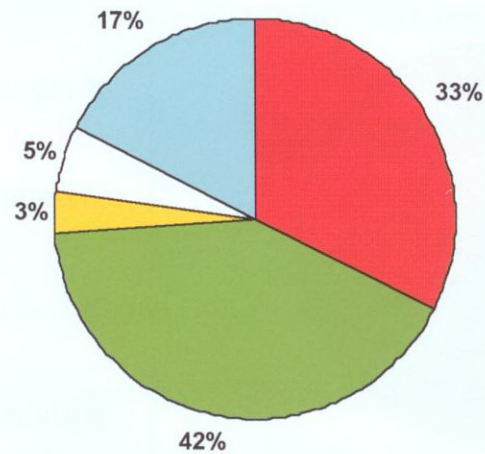
**Faraday Ward, New Cases by Issue
January 2001 - January 2002**



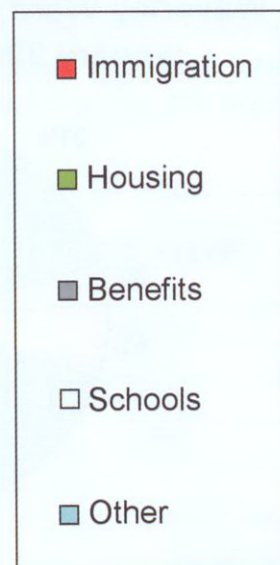
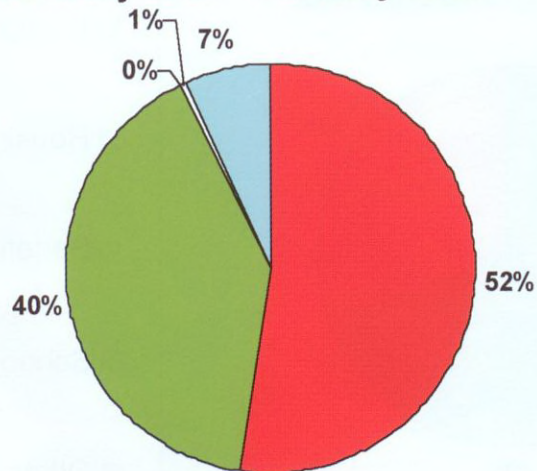
**Friary Ward, New Cases by Issue
January 2001 - January 2002**



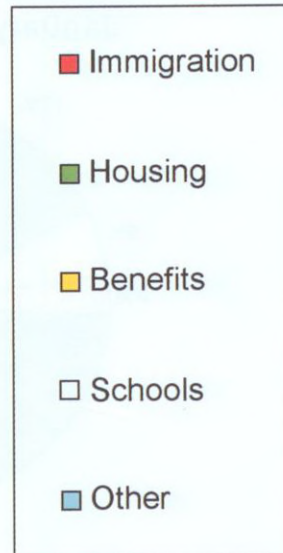
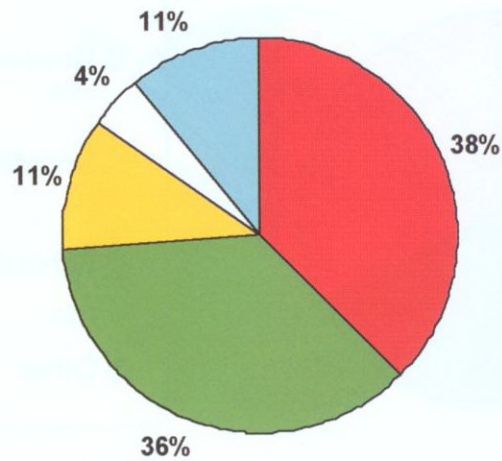
**Lane Ward, New Cases by Issue
January 2001 - January 2002**



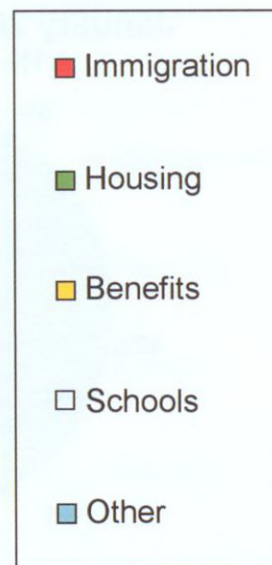
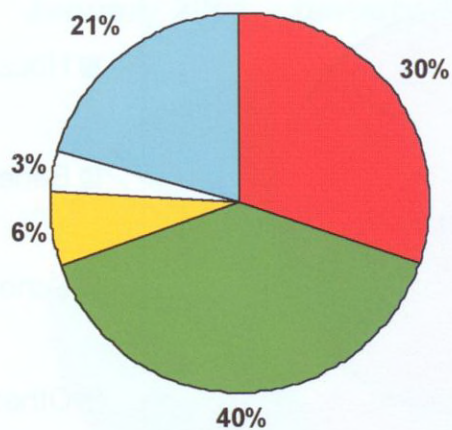
**Liddle Ward, New Cases by Issue
January 2001 - January 2002**



**St Giles Ward, New Cases by Issue
January 2001 - January 2002**



**Waverley Ward, New Cases by Issue
January 2001 - January 2002**



Strangers Gallery Tickets & Visits to Parliament

I regularly arrange for groups of constituents, community organisations and schools to visit the House of Commons either for a tour or to watch a debate in the chamber. If you would like me to arrange a visit please contact my parliamentary office on 0207 219 2057. I am usually allocated two House of Commons gallery tickets every two weeks and visits can be organised for groups of 16 people.

New Website Launched

In January 2001 I set up a Website to open up further lines of communication with my constituents. The website contains details of advice surgeries; my publications; press releases; a short biography and links to other sites.

The website address is www.harrietharman.labour.co.uk

If there are any suggestions for improving the website I would be grateful if you could contact either Alun Hayes or myself on 0207 219 2057.

The General Election June 2001

The General Election was in June and I was delighted to be returned to Parliament by the majority of voters in Camberwell & Peckham winning 70% of the votes cast. Although the voter turnout was only 49% we bucked the national trend with turnout only dropping by 5% from the previous election as opposed to the 9% average elsewhere in the country.

PARTY	VOTERS	% OF VOTE
Labour	17,473	69.7%
Liberal Democrats	3,350	13.29%
Conservatives	2,740	10.87%
Others	1,541	6.14%

Apart from the worrying increase in voter apathy nationally I believe there were a number of reasons locally, which contributed to the low turn out. Many people didn't receive their polling cards and as a result were unsure about where they could vote. I've asked the London Borough of Southwark to make sure that polling cards are distributed well in advance of all future elections to ensure that everyone entitled to vote is given all the information they need in order to do so.

Despite the fact that Labour won by such a large majority, the campaign was nevertheless hard fought and often very exciting.



Harriet, Ashwin Kumar (Secretary C&P CLP), Ruth Smith and other election campaigners

Camberwell Credit Union



Southwark Credit Union

In August 2000 Camberwell Credit Union had a Section 19 order placed on it by the Financial Services Authority, which prevented members from withdrawing their savings because the credit union was insolvent. There was a real prospect that members would only receive as little as 20p for every £1 they had saved such was the plight of the credit union.

I worked hard with the FSA, Southwark Council, Southwark Credit Union, Association of British Credit Unions, PriceWaterhouse Coopers, the British Bankers Association and others to ensure that all member's savings were safeguarded and they received back their full investment.

With help in the form of loans, donations and expert advice, a Transfer of Engagement has now taken place with Southwark Credit Union, which has ensured that no members lost any savings they had.

Southwark Credit Union is a well run organisation and the transfer of Camberwell Credit Union member's savings was overseen by the FSA and the Rescue Group, which I chaired. The Government have now introduced legislation that will come into

effect in July 2002, which will automatically safeguard members' savings in credit unions and prevent this from ever happening again.



Harriet with Peter Bussy (ABCUL and CCU), Roy McLeod (SCU Treasurer) and CCU members celebrating the launch of the new Southwark Credit Union at Kings College Hospital in October 2001

Southwark Credit Union successfully completed the rescue of Camberwell Credit Union in October 2001, which finally ensured that all Camberwell Member's savings were saved. I celebrated the good news with members at the launch in October.

I wish Lucky and his team at Southwark Credit Union every success for the future and I am sure it will grow from strength to strength and continue to benefit the people of Southwark.

The Aylesbury Estate

The Aylesbury Estate badly needs improvement. But in December the tenants voted overwhelmingly to reject the Aylesbury Master-Plan. The tenants clearly want change on the Aylesbury, but were not happy with the proposals and in particular feared that they had no guarantee of a home in the redeveloped estate and that transferring to Housing Association tenancies might lead to an increase in their rents.

I'd like to pay tribute to those of the Aylesbury tenants who worked so hard to try and develop an option, which would solve the estate's problems, in particular, Jean Bartlett, Joan Amodio and Lorraine Lauder.

We now have a responsibility to work together both at national and local level to find a satisfactory alternative, and one, which will significantly improve the estate and the lives of the people who live on it. I am working closely on this with the Housing Minister Charlie Falconer QC who at my invitation visited the estate in July 2001.



Harriet with Joan Amodio, Charlie Falconer QC, Cllr Andy Simmons and local residents, July 2001

Teacher Recruitment & Retention Report

Whenever I visit a school, the Headteacher always raises concerns about the recruitment and retention of teaching staff. In October 2001, I conducted a survey of Headteachers in Camberwell & Peckham in order to provide the Local Education Authority and the Government with a clear picture of the efforts schools in Camberwell & Peckham have to make to get the staff they need. 9 out of 20 Primary Schools and 4 out of 5 Secondary Schools responded.

These are some of the findings;

- It is especially difficult to recruit experienced teachers in Southwark.
- There are particular difficulties in recruiting for English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, Languages and Religious Studies.
- Schools are having to compromise on formerly high standards of teacher quality in order to fill posts.

- Efforts that have been made to recruit teachers range from cash bonuses, telephone interviews and recruiting foreign teachers from as far afield as Russia and South Africa.
- Ideas suggested by Headteachers that may help recruitment of teachers were higher funding, higher pay and amending LEA admissions policy to allow children of teachers who live outside the area to bring them to school or nursery in Southwark.

I sent the report to Estelle Morris- the Secretary of State for Education, and to the Chair and the Director of Education for the London Borough of Southwark calling for action.

Damilola Taylor

In November 2000, Damilola Taylor was murdered in Blakes Road in Peckham. As we all now know it was a murder that shocked the nation. The entire community of Peckham was united in grief.

The dignity and strength Richard and Gloria Taylor have shown is inspiring. Richard and Gloria's strength is even more admirable when you realise that during this extremely distressing time they have managed to set up the Damilola Taylor Trust and had a youth centre in Peckham refurbished and named after Damilola, which was opened by the Prime Minister.

At the time of writing this, four Peckham youths are standing trial at the Old Bailey charged with the murder of Damilola.

NB A speech made in the House of Commons, 7/12/00 by Harriet following the death of Damilola is available on request from Alun Hayes on 0207 219 2057.

Local Government Finance Settlement 2002/03

The Leader of London Borough of Southwark raised concerns with me over Southwark's budget for 2002/03 and the Local Government Finance Settlement that the council would receive from Central Government. I wrote to Nick Raynsford the Local Government Minister expressing concern about the budget for Southwark and the pressures facing the local authority.

In November 2001 I arranged for the Leader of the London Borough of Southwark along with the Chief Executive and a representative from my office to meet with the Minister to ensure that concerns over Southwark's budget for 2002/03 were fully taken into account.

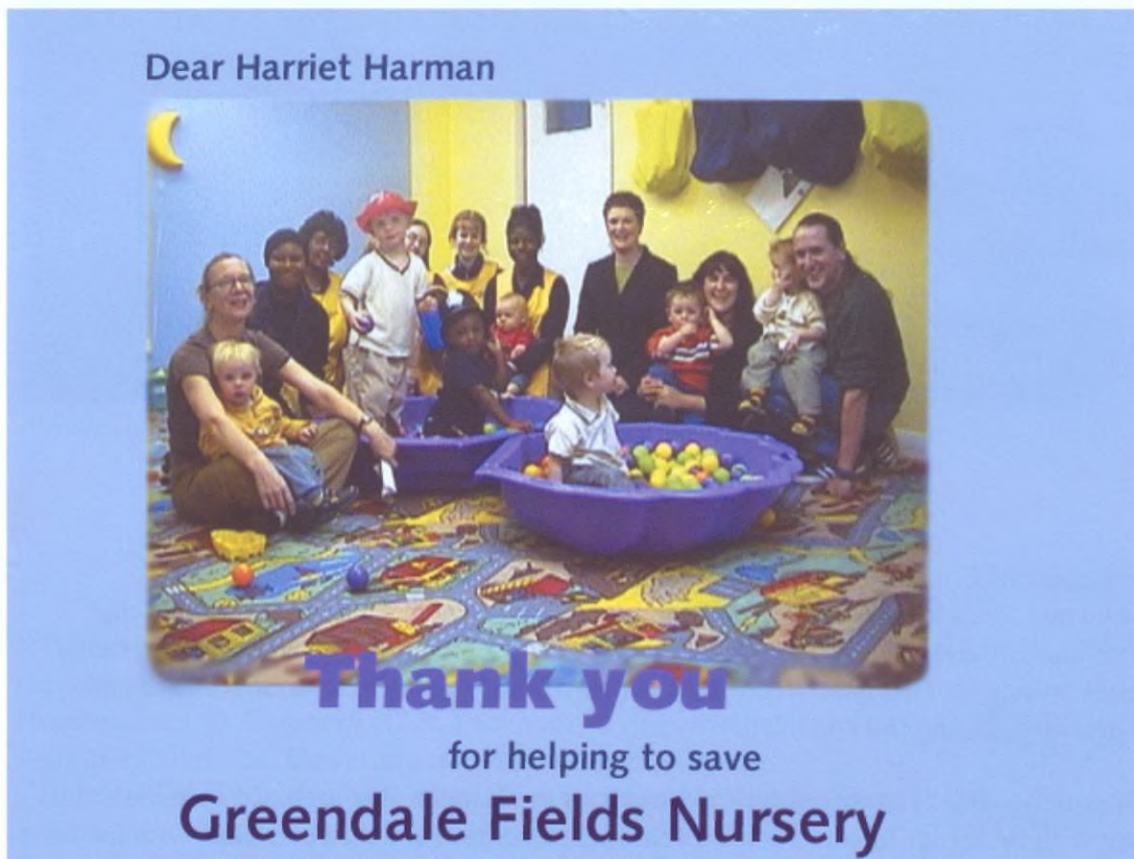
The meeting was a success and the finance settlement for Southwark was a lot more favourable than previously anticipated.

Greendale Fields Nursery

One morning in February parents turned up as normal to take their children to Greendale Fields Nursery before going to work. The parents were told that the nursery was to be closed until further notice because the lease had been revoked due to the council being in dispute with the owner of the nursery. The parents and children were left in a state of despair and confusion.

It was not possible for the existing owner of the nursery to continue to run the nursery. I felt it was vital that this property should only be used for a nursery and nothing else, and that whilst a permanent childcare provider was found Greendale Fields nursery should be immediately re-opened with an interim provider so that the lives of parents and children were disrupted as little as possible.

Unfortunately the London Borough of Southwark was very slow in ensuring this, but with pressure from an extremely well organised parents group and myself an interim provider was found and eventually the nursery re-opened with the permanent provider Trish Brown from Mother Goose.



An E-Card received from parents and children at Greendale Field Nursery after it was re-opened

Southwark Early Years & Childcare Development Partnership

The EYCDP has had considerable success: 1263 new childcare places have been created through the New Opportunities Fund since January 1999. As of February 2001, 25 childcare providers have been successful in their NOF applications, totalling 4909 childcare places. This includes 437 Breakfast places, 891 holiday places, 375 Special needs places and 1300 After school places.

After over 2 years of being Chair of Southwark EYCDP I have now stood down because of my additional responsibilities as Solicitor General. I am immensely proud of our record and by making Childcare a priority we have seen excellent improvements in childcare provision in the borough.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who I worked with on the partnership, in particular Sara Willis, Principal Planning and Commissioning Officer. I would also like to wish the new Chair, Susan McQuail the best of luck in building on the success of the partnership and I am sure she will do an excellent job.

I will continue to work with the partnership on improving childcare provision in Southwark. I will continue to work with the Partnership and local schools to get more after school clubs in the constituency. I am currently working with the local authority, the Headteacher and Governors of Oliver Goldsmiths School in setting up an after school club there.

Caroline Gardens Chapel

I am working with the London Borough of Southwark and residents of Caroline Gardens Residents Association, particularly their Chair Kevin Gould in getting the Caroline Gardens Chapel restored for community use. Kevin has worked tirelessly over the years on behalf of fellow residents in trying to get the chapel restored so that residents can use the building for community meetings and activities. Unfortunately at the moment the Chapel, which is of great local, historical and heritage value is deteriorating and is need of urgent attention. The cost of any repair is to be funded by charitable organisations such as the lottery.

The chapel is a 'listed building' and I recently arranged for the Arts Minister Tessa Blackstone to visit the chapel and lend her support to the campaign. We are currently trying to get the London Borough of Southwark to draw up a lease for a management committee of the residents so that we can explore funding opportunities.



Harriet, Baroness Blackstone (Arts Minister), Kevin Gould (Chair Caroline Gardens RA), Joyce Somerville, Alun Hayes (Parliamentary Assistant), Cllr Stephanie Elsy, Cllr Anne Worsley, Anne Sachs and local residents from Caroline Gardens

Peckham Children & Families Centre

The Childcare Commission was an independent body set up to look at childcare provision in the UK. I was Chair of the commission. After looking at best practice childcare providers and holding a series of seminars on childcare issues, the commission's recommendations were published in January 2001. One of those recommendations was the establishment of Children's Centres throughout the UK. I am working to get a Children & Families Centre established in Peckham.

There is a clear consensus amongst the local community, councillors, the Police, the Health Authority and volunteer organisations that the under-used Education Centre in Cator Street should be turned into a 'flagship' Children & Families Centre.

Peckham has a high percentage of children under 16. It lacks places for children to meet and play, and for parents to meet. Cator Street would be a perfect place for services such as a nursery, playgroup, mother and toddlers group, after schools club, police surgery, health visitor 'drop in' centre, office space for TA's and community groups and more.

The local community are also keen for the Centre to include a community launderette and café, both of which I think would be excellent.

The grass outside Cator Street is wonderfully kept but no one has trodden on it for about 10 years, because it's behind a 7ft fence. This is a great shame – it should be used by local children as a safe place to play.

I have set up a steering group to take this forward which includes people from the local community (Maria Williams, Dominic Welch, Sabena Emanuel, Eileen Ridgeway, Paula Ridley, Ali Bali and Patrick Yorke) councillors (Joan Khachick, Anne Worsley, Patrick Kelly, Billy Kayada and Andy Simmons) the Police (Ed Bateman), the Health Authority (Katherine McDermott HAZ), volunteer organisations (Lorraine Beck SGTO) and council officers (Todd Hayda, Russell Profit and Neil Gordon-Orr) and I personally am determined that the project should succeed.

Anyone interested in joining the Steering Group should contact Alun Hayes on 0207 219 2057 or e-mail me on harmanh@parliament.uk

FTSE Female Index

In November 2000 I published the FTSE Female Index. I published it again in November 2001. The FTSE Female Index is a joint initiative between the Fawcett Society, the Industrial Society and myself. Cranfield School of Management and SMART Company are also now involved in its publication. The Index highlights ongoing resistance to women in the boardroom from the UK's top FTSE 100 companies. The Index ranks FTSE 100 companies according to the number of women board directors and will be published annually. Although 50% of the UK's workforce is female, women make up less than 2% of FTSE 100 directors and less than 8% of non-executive directors.

I will continue to expose the extent of the problem, work for change and realise the target that there should be no all-male boardrooms in the FTSE 100 companies. British business needs a culture change particularly at the top to create family friendly Workplaces.

Babies Budget March 2001

I had been campaigning for years for a review of Maternity Pay and Leave. I believe the Government should provide more help to families in the early years of a child's life. I undertook a research project with the Knitwear, Footwear & Apparel Trade Union entitled 'Mothers In Manufacturing' which I presented to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry. The report played an important part in the March 2001 budget, which extended maternity leave from 18 to 26 weeks and increased maternity pay from £60.40 to £100.

My Work as Solicitor General

I am a Minister in the Labour Government, holding the office of Solicitor General. I am the deputy to the Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith QC who sits in the House of Lords. The Solicitor General and the Attorney General are the Government's Law Officers.

As Solicitor General I make sure that wherever possible I keep in mind the issues of concern to my constituents in Camberwell and Peckham. I have never seen my front-bench work and my constituency role as separate.

So as Solicitor General I am taking action on a number of issues, which are not only important nationally but also directly concern my constituents.



The Criminal Justice System in London

As Law Officers we have responsibility for the Crown Prosecution Service. The CPS is the legal service, which takes criminal cases to court for prosecution after the police have investigated and charged. I am chair of the Ministerial Group, which has responsibility for improving the Criminal Justice System in London. That includes everything from the police through to the courts. We are working to ensure that the Criminal Justice System works fairly and effectively – and that means that cases are properly investigated, that they are dealt with promptly, that defendants are treated fairly and that victims get properly looked after. This involves me working closely with the police in Southwark, across the Met, with Magistrates and the Crown Court as well as the CPS.

Domestic Violence – Murder Reviews

A quarter of all murders occur when a woman is killed by her current or former husband or partner. I have set up a system for investigating “domestic” murders.

Where the murderer kills himself, there is an inquest. When he is charged there is a criminal case. But I thought it necessary to try and learn lessons from domestic violence. Most “domestic” murders are not a “bolt out of the blue” but follow a long pattern of violence and many also involve risk to the children of the family. So now, after a domestic violence murder, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will draw together all the information that is known about the family from the police, the CPS, the social services, GP etc to see who knew what and what more might have been

done to prevent it. Within London, the Met has set up their own inquiry programme, which I am supporting. These inquiries will report to Ministers.

I am a member of the Government's Domestic Violence Ministerial Committee.

Locally, I am working with the Southwark Police, Southwark Women's Aid, and the local Domestic Violence Forum to ensure that we do all that we can to protect women and children from violence in their own home and ensure that when it happens it is treated as the serious crime that it is.

Domestic Violence In Southwark April – December 2001

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
No of Offences	258	243	260	290	284	228	251	248	267	2329

Information provided by Southwark Police, February 2002

Lawyers for Free

As lawyers in government, the Law Officers maintain close contact with the legal profession. One of our concerns is to ensure that people who cannot afford lawyers do not lose out on the advice they need. First and foremost that means a good publicly funded system for legal services. The Lord Chancellor is working on this initiative. But it is also important that lawyers who don't currently work with socially excluded communities give some of their time and services free. We are working with the Solicitors and Barristers Pro Bono Groups to ensure that it is seen as an integral part of the profession that lawyers at all levels give some of their time free. I have recently arranged for the Consort Leaseholders & Freeholders Group to receive free legal help with a dispute they have with the London Borough of Southwark over the estate wide heating system.

Law that serves our multicultural community

The CPS employs 2000 lawyers throughout the country. There are 4,000 admin staff and caseworkers. Many have no post-school qualifications: they take a job in the CPS and then discover that they love the law and the casework. A high proportion of our admin and caseworkers are from ethnic minorities – particularly in London. I am working on proposals, which will see CPS admin and casework employees given financial sponsorship to get law degrees and then become qualified barristers or solicitors. The programme will also ensure more CPS lawyers move on to become qualified as Higher Court Advocates and appear in court. This programme will meet our objectives of:

- helping people get higher qualifications

- helping get more members of the ethnic minority communities into the legal profession
- helping towards ensuring that our judges reflect today's multicultural community.
- helping the CPS recruit and retain employees by helping them develop their potential.

I have a wide range of other duties as solicitor general. We will be publishing a Law Officer's annual report in June setting out in detail all the work we are involved in. This will be the first time the Law Officers have published a full annual report and reflects our concern to be more open and accountable.

**Solicitor General Questions – Extract from Hansard 10th January 2002 -
in the House of Commons**

Mr. Ellyn Llwyd (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy): How many Crown prosecutors at each level of seniority there were in the post in each year since 1995; and if she will make a statement. [23866]

The Solicitor-General (Ms Harriet Harman): Rather than reading out the tables relating to the five grades of Crown Prosecutors over the last six years, let me tell the Hon. Gentleman that I have arranged for the information to be put on the Law Officers website. I can summarise it by saying that in 1995 there were 2,218 Crown prosecutors, and in 2000 there were 1,922.

Mr. Llwyd: How many of them have been female, and how many have been members of ethnic minorities? What efforts are being made to increase recruitment in those groups?

The Solicitor-General: I will supply the Hon. Gentleman with the exact percentages, but I can tell him now that there are relatively more female and ethnic-minority lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service than in private practice. We welcome that, and want to build on it.

One of the ways in which we attract women to the CPS is to provide much more flexible employment, and much more family-friendly terms and conditions, than they would find either in private practice or at the independent Bar. But we need to go further. We must not just recruit ethnic-minority lawyers at the basic level, but ensure that they move up the system and become higher-court advocates. I hope that they join the judiciary as well, so that we can play a part in its diversification.

For further information and copies of Hansard extracts from SG questions please e-mail me on harmanh@parliament.uk and for my speeches, access my website www.harrietharman.labour.co.uk

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