

# Stephen Kinnock MP

## February 2018 Newsletter



**EU (WITHDRAWAL) BILL**  
Stephen Kinnock  
Labour, Aberavon  
**BBC PARLIAMENT 16 JAN HOUSE OF COMMONS**

# A Strong Voice For Aberavon



# News from the Commons



## **CARILLION IS A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF THE PRIVATISATION OF PROFIT AND THE SOCIALISATION OF RISK**

During a Government statement on Carillion I questioned the Cabinet Office Minister, saying that the Carillion collapse shows that it is time for us to impose a windfall tax on these kind of companies who are taking taxpayers for a ride to the tune of billions of pounds. Government must do better. <http://bit.ly/2BjdY6H>



## **EEA-BASED BREXIT IS THE ONLY VIABLE OPTION FOR OUR COUNTRY**

I was selected to ask a question during questions to the Treasury, I took the opportunity to call for an EEA based Brexit, because it is the only Brexit deal that would cover services, which accounts for 80% of the UK economy. <http://bit.ly/2Dud1hO>



## **GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO INCLUDE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS STRIPS US OF VITAL CIVIL AND WORKPLACE RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS**

During the debate on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, I exposed the lie at the heart of the Tory Bill. They claim the Bill is about transferring EU law into UK law to facilitate Brexit, but by refusing to include the Charter of Fundamental Rights it is clear that this is really just a Tory power grab that strips us of vital civil and workplace rights and protections. <http://bit.ly/2DuTjme>



## **FINANCIAL GUIDANCE & CLAIMS BILL SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM SO REGULATORS CAN BE MORE PROACTIVE**

In the Financial Guidance & Claims Bill debate I spoke about the lessons we need to learn from the transfer of the British Steel pension scheme into a new scheme, and the need for an early warning system so the regulator can be more proactive when unscrupulous individuals take advantage of vulnerable people. <http://bit.ly/2GvBGR8>



## **CREATION OF BSPS2 CREATED FERTILE TERRITORY FOR UNSCRUPULOUS PENSION ADVISERS TO SWOOP IN LIKE VULTURES AND EXPLOIT VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

My colleague, Debbie Abrahams, secured an urgent question in the House on stopping the abuse of private sector pensions. I spoke in the debate on how the creation of the British Steel pension scheme mark 2 created fertile ground for unscrupulous pension advisers to prey on vulnerable people. <http://bit.ly/2DWpsm6>



# News from the Commons



## MY QUESTION ABOUT THE BREXIT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

I questioned the Brexit Minister about the nature of the Brexit transition period. The response I had was sad and pathetic, where the Minister tried to impugn my motives. After I raised a point of order and asked for the Minister to apologise. <http://bit.ly/2Eqbve4>



## MEETING WITH PENSIONS MINISTER ABOUT CHANGES TO THE BSPS

I met with Pensions Minister, Guy Opperman, for a frank exchange of views about the government's handling of the changes to the British Steel Pension Scheme (BSPS). The Minister agreed to look at changing the way the FCA deals with cases of potentially fraudulent pension advisors. And promised to work with Labour MPs on ensuring that the Single Financial Guidance Body is established and that it serves as a clear point of contact for all pensioners seeking independent and impartial advice. <http://bit.ly/2DQAPwK>



## PARLIAMENTARIANS REQUESTION INFORMATION ARE NOT BETRAYING OUR COUNTRY, WE ARE SIMPLY TRYING TO DO OUR JOB AND STAND UP FOR OUR CONSTITUENTS

In the Chamber I called for the Government to release the Brexit impact papers, a common sense EEA/EFTA Brexit and a new kind of politics. The debate was an important moment where the government were forced into releasing the Brexit impact papers. It is vital we have the information required to do our job.

<http://bit.ly/2E4tjxq>



## EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

A debate was held in Westminster Hall on the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). In the debate I called for an EEA EFTA Brexit, a deal that can reunite the country and give a voice to the silent majority with a Brexit that lets us take back control and protects jobs, opportunity and prosperity. <http://bit.ly/2nQNuos>



## EEA AND SWISS MODEL

As part of its work scrutinising the Brexit negotiations and the UK's relationship with the EU once we have left, the Committee for Exiting the EU looked at the EU's relationship with Switzerland. In the session I concentrated on how the movement of people works for the Swiss. <http://bit.ly/2C3JRAI>



## EU ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS

After looking in to the CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) negotiations and agreement, the Committee for Exiting the EU have been looking at the EU's Association Agreements, which create a framework for co-operation between the EU and non-EU countries. Representatives from Georgia and the Ukraine appeared before the committee to tell us of their experiences with the EU. <http://bit.ly/2BNsCYL>

# News from the Commons



## NORWEGIAN MPs

Members of the Committee for Exiting the European Union had a great meeting with Norwegian MPs. The meeting underlined importance of an EEA EFTA Brexit deal. It is the only way to defend jobs and the economy and also sovereignty. There would be no direct effect of ECJ and it provides options to reform free movement & real rule shaping.



## NEW LONELINESS APPG

A new Loneliness All Party Parliamentary group has been set up. It will explore the actions Parliamentarians can take to act on the recommendations of the Jo Cox Commission On Loneliness, to reduce loneliness nationally and locally. I'm proud to be a member of the group and continue Jo's work in this area.



## EU ANDEEA MEMBER STATES

The Committee On Exiting The European Union looked at the relationship between the EU, Norway and the European Economic Area. Appearing in front of the Committee was Professor Alla Pozdnakova; Ulf Sverdrup; and Professor George Yarrow.

The Committee also got the chance to examine Professor Carl Baudenbacher, Judge on the EFTA Court. <http://bit.ly/2EwHfKf>



## MY SUBMISSION TO THE WELSH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S INQUIRY INTO PRISON PROVISION IN WALES

The Welsh Affairs Committee is holding an inquiry into prison provision in Wales and one aspect they are looking at is the potential for new prisons in Wales. I have made a submission to the inquiry, focusing on the proposals for Port Talbot. You can read my submission at <http://bit.ly/2GfcP2Z>

# News from Aberavon



## INTERTISSUE

I visited toilet paper and kitchen roll manufacturer Intertissue on the Baglan Energy Park, which employs nearly 400 people. During the visit I spoke to the workforce and was shown how they turn base materials like wood and waste paper into paper and eventually into toilet paper and kitchen roll.

It is an impressive operation to see how they take the base materials and turn them into toilet paper and kitchen roll, before sending them across the UK. <http://bit.ly/2npGxuw>

# News from Aberavon



## MP HOLDS CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING WITH NEW PRISONS MINISTER

I held a constructive meeting with the new Minister for Prisons, Rory Stewart MP, just days after his appointment to the role, over the proposals to build a prison in Port Talbot. The meeting was helpful in putting the case to him and outlining why the land in the Baglan Industrial Park is not suitable for a prison. I made it quite clear to the Minister that the prison should not be built in the industrial park, and he was made well aware of the level of strong opposition there is in the community to the Ministry's proposals. <http://bit.ly/2E09RIC>



## NO PLACE FOR SCANDALOUS CHILD POVERTY FIGURES

Nearly a third of children in Aberavon are living in poverty according to statistics published by the End Child Poverty coalition. These figures are a damning indictment of this UK government's policies, and how they have let down the people of Aberavon. The UK government have failed to tackle the increasing cost of living and stagnating wages. Instead they have chosen to attack the social security payments that many of these families rely on for support. <http://bit.ly/2Gx7sNx>



## AMAZON FUNDING FOR LOCAL LIBRARIES

I was delighted to help three local libraries secure funds from Amazon. Briton Ferry, Glyncothrog and Taibach libraries all received £500 from the fulfilment centre on Fabian Way. They are all community run facilities that rely on volunteers who work tremendously hard to keep the service going. The money from Amazon will be useful to help them meet the costs of running a community library and purchase items that the library needs. All three are community hubs, offering a range of services for the public, and this money will help them to maintain this service. <http://bit.ly/2njgyFN>



## TARMAC VISIT

On a recent visit to Tarmac in Port Talbot, I saw how local work helps to deliver infrastructure projects across the UK. I was given a guided tour of the plant where they extract slag from waste materials from the steelworks. They breakdown the waste materials from the blast furnace using high pressure water, they then turn the slag into aggregate which is used in asphalt, road construction and to make cement. <http://bit.ly/2E0Ys52>



## FUNDING FAIR 2018

There was a real buzz at my third annual Funding Fair held in Taibach Community Education Centre on Friday. Fourteen funding agencies were there giving advice to the over 150 people who attended. Many great project ideas and loads of networking!

This year there was advice from new funders like the Waterloo Foundation, Prince's Trust Cymru, People's Postcode Lottery, Groundwork and NPT Physical Activity and Sports Service. <http://bit.ly/2EpadzI>

# News from Aberavon



## WALLICH

I visited The Wallich bus in the town centre. This is a tremendous initiative, helping some of the most vulnerable in our communities, and providing a great source of support. Their bus is really impressive, with facilities for homeless people to have something to eat, a washing machine and shower. The team is really enthusiastic about what they do and making a difference to people's lives. <http://bit.ly/2FNprOJ>



## ABERAVON WASPI

I was delighted to attend an Aberavon WASPI meeting in Baglan on the weekend. The group has really taken shape since the initial meeting that I organised back in October. We discussed the Private Members Bill currently going through Parliament which seeks justice for women born in the 1950s who have been unfairly hit by changes to the state pension age without due notification. I will keep on fighting for WASPI and all women until we can secure justice and equality. <http://bit.ly/2EHTA2m>



## MY SUBMISSION TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF CYMER AFAN

After meeting with residents from the local community and local councillors, hearing their concerns over the proposals for the future of Cymer Afan Comprehensive, and their alternative proposals to continue secondary education in the Upper Afan Valley, I have made my submission to the consultation which you can read at <http://bit.ly/2o4GBQH>



## RHINO DOORS

I paid a visit to Rhino Doors on Llewelyn's Quay in Port Talbot, and was given a tour of the factory which makes attack resistant, vehicle ram resistant, blast resistant, flood proof, and fire resistant doors and gates. It was a terrific visit to Rhino Doors to see how they design, manufacture, install and maintain specialised doors and gates. The company play an important role producing doors for the nuclear industry, Ministry of Defence and many, many more companies. They are a great example of Welsh engineering and manufacturing. <http://bit.ly/2BFfjlk>

# Political Digest



## ONLY BY SPEAKING EUROPEAN LANGUAGES WILL BRITAIN REBUILD THE BRIDGES BURNED BY BREXIT

Together with Luciana Burger, I wrote an article for the Times, about the importance of learning to speak another European language. You can read the article on <http://bit.ly/2DOUE7F>

# Political Digest

Stephen Kinnock  
Labour  
BBC RADIO 4 Any Questions?



## ANY QUESTIONS

I was up again UKIP Leader Henry Bolton, President of the Liberal Democrats Sal Brinton, and Environment Minister Therese Coffey on BBC Radio 4's Any question.

We discussed the unity of North and South Korea at the Winter Olympics, local government funding; Brexit, the single market and the future of the border in Ireland. And what skills are needed to manage a political party at present, plus whether the suffragettes should be posthumously pardoned. <http://bbc.in/2EYUjffU>



## MIRROR: VITAL THAT THE PRIME MINISTER STANDS UP TO THE CHINESE

Before the Prime Minister left for China I spoke to the Mirror and called on the Prime Minister to stand up to the Chinese. The Prime Minister's visit to China should be considered a failure if she fails to secure anything short of a categorical commitment from the Chinese to stop their assault on British steelworkers by ending the dumping of steel. <http://bit.ly/2npBuuV>



## WHY I'M FASTING TO HELP END FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

On the centenary of women being given the vote, I, along with other campaigners took part in Make Votes Matter's hungry for democracy initiative, a 24-hour hunger strike to call for a new voting system, one that well and truly represents the diverse nature of Britain today. I also wrote an article for *LabourList* setting out why first-past-the-post is outdated, and why we need a new electoral system. You can read my article at <http://bit.ly/2BcWwVe>



## STEEL CONFERENCE REDCAR

It was great to be at Community Union's steel conference. In Redcar. Steel has a bright future for our steel industry and it's because of the fantastic men and women who came together today. If the government showed a fraction of their commitment & dedication we'd be in a much better place



## UK RISKS MISSING BREXIT BOAT

The United Kingdom's future relationship with the EU is on a burning platform. We have six short weeks to put out the fire by placing an EEA and EFTA Brexit at the heart of the crucial negotiating guidelines that'll be signed off by the EU in late March. I have written an article for *Politico* about the need for the Government to grasp the need for speed and pragmatism on the most important and complex deal in our post-war history. <http://bit.ly/2scgWLa>



## WELSH LABOUR DEPUTY LEADER NOMINATION

I have nominated Carolyn Harris to be Deputy Leader of Welsh Labour. Having worked closely with Carolyn in Parliament I have seen first hand how she is a passionate advocate and a real campaigner. She has fought tirelessly on child burial fees, state pension inequality, domestic violence, fixed odds betting terminals and so much more.

# Political Digest



## ALYN & DEESIDE CAMPAIGNING

It was great to travel to North Wales and join the campaign trail in Alyn and Deeside with Jack Sargeant. I was joined by a team from Aberavon as we hit the doorstep.



## WESTMINSTER HOUR

I was on BBC Radio 4's Westminister Hour talking about an EEA Brexit, the Tories shambolic handling of the Brexit negotiations, the defence review and fixing Parliament (both literally with refurb and in terms of representation!)

You can listen to the episode on <http://bbc.in/2rOnNu1>





# Stephen's Next Surgery

**Stephen Kinnock**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**for Aberavon**

## ***Coffee Morning***

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30-11.00am

## **Cwmavon Library**

Depot Rd, Cwmavon  
SA12 9DF

## ***Advice Surgery***

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

5.00-6.00pm

## **Vintage Lily**

25 Station Rd, Port Talbot  
SA13 1NN

# Contact Stephen

My office is open Monday - Thursday between 10am and 1pm for a drop-in advice surgery with a caseworker.

Outside of these times you can call to make an appointment.

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As your MP, I'd like to stay in touch and hear your views.

You can visit my website to sign up to my mailing list:

**[www.stephenkinnock.co.uk](http://www.stephenkinnock.co.uk)**

I send out a monthly newsletter and may also contact you to ask for your opinion on issues that may be important to you.

