



# Diana Johnson MP Parliamentary Report

News from Westminster - December 2008

[www.dianajohnson.co.uk](http://www.dianajohnson.co.uk)

## Queen's Speech maps out year ahead

December saw the start of the New Parliamentary year, with the Queen's Speech setting out new laws that the Government is planning to bring forward in the coming year. Below is a brief summary of the proposed legislation for 2008/09.

- The Banking Bill will strengthen the UK's framework for financial stability and depositor protection.
- The Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill will strengthen the borders by giving the UK Border Agency the powers it needs, and make changes to nationality law .
- The Business Rate Supplements Bill will introduce a new tool for councils to raise funds to undertake additional investment aimed at promoting the economic development of local areas.
- The Child Poverty Bill will enshrine in law the Government's commitment to eradicate child poverty .
- The Coroners and Justice Bill will deliver a fair, effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system and coroner service.
- The Children, Skills and Learning Bill will reform education, training and apprenticeships for young people and adults.
- The Equality Bill will make Britain a fairer place where people have the opportunity to make the most of their abilities whatever their race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

*(cont'd overleaf)*

## Free swimming for Hull petition launched



Diana and fellow Hull MPs John Prescott and Alan Johnson recently launched a campaign in favour of free swimming in Hull for under 16s and over 60s. This follows the decision by Hull City Council not to apply for Government funding to extend free swimming in Hull.

To sign the petition online, go to [www.dianajohnson.co.uk](http://www.dianajohnson.co.uk).

**Diana Johnson: Hull North's local MP**

### *Queen's Speech (cont'd from page 1)*

- The Health Bill will create a duty to take account of the new NHS Constitution, which will set out the core principles of the NHS.
- The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill will devolve more influence, power and control over local services to citizens, communities and councils.
- The Marine and Coastal Access Bill will introduce a new framework of planning for our seas that balances conservation, energy and resource needs.
- The Policing and Crime Bill will increase the effectiveness and public accountability of policing.
- The Political Parties and Elections Bill will control unregulated local candidate expenditure and make donations more transparent.
- The Saving Gateway Accounts Bill will help people save for the future and promote a culture of saving.
- The Welfare Reform Bill will reform the welfare system for the long term, to provide more help for people to move from benefits into work and to provide greater support, choice and control for disabled people.

For more detailed information on the 2008 Queen's Speech, see <http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17666>.

***Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year....***

### **Six ways to contact Diana Johnson MP**

**By post:**  
House of  
Commons,  
London, SW1A  
0AA



**By telephone:**  
01482  
319135 (Constituency Office)  
0207 219 5647 (House of  
Commons)

**By Fax:**  
01482 319137

**By E-mail:**  
[johnsond@parliament.uk](mailto:johnsond@parliament.uk)

**At an Advice Surgery:**  
Diana operates appointment-only surgeries. To find out the dates and to make an appointment please ring the Constituency Office (01482 319135)

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

*To get this report by e-mail please contact one of the above addresses. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please write to inform me at the above address.*

**Diana Johnson: Hull North's local MP**