



# Diana Johnson MP

Fighting for Hull North all year round

## Lifting the Lockdown safely



Alternate text

On 4 July with further COVID-19 restrictions starting to be lifted, including the reopening of pubs, I spent that Saturday evening with Humberside Police out on patrol in the city centre, Princess Avenue, Newland Avenue and Orchard Park. Although the vast majority of people out that evening practised social distancing, it was clear as the night wore on, with more alcohol being consumed, that maintaining it became harder. The police were out in force to ensure that everyone was safe and I was impressed by the number of Special Constables who give their time freely to help keep the peace. I was yet again struck by the important job local police do and how unwise funding cuts have been since 2010. I also met the Street Angels who help people who get into difficulty on a night out. Many local businesses I spoke to had worked hard to make the necessary arrangements to keep all their customers safe and were just glad to be able to re-open, including the Piper on Newland Avenue.



I'm an image



I'm an image

## New Security role

This month Parliament appointed me to the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) that oversees the work of MI5, MI6 and GCHQ. This is a special committee of Parliament and the Prime Minister, in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, puts forward names to serve on it. There are three Labour members out of a membership of nine. You may have seen that there was considerable news coverage of members voting for Julian Lewis to be their Chair and of the publication of the report into Russian interference in the UK, including concerns about the Brexit referendum in 2016.

In the House of Commons, I raised the growing crisis in local news due to a combination of planned cuts to local and regional BBC Radio and TV, cutbacks in local newspapers and commercial TV and Radio. This is all the more important for community life and local democracy in areas furthest from London, as our media is already too London-centric. The Government have also outsourced the funding for free TV licences for over-75s to the BBC without giving them enough money. Due to budget constraints the BBC will abolish them in August. Behind this is a political agenda to '#defundthebbc' that should concern us all.

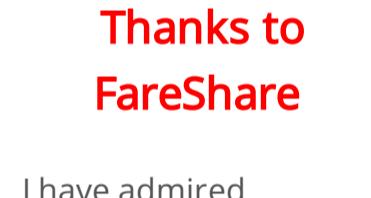


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## Hull Trains update

At the time of writing, the Prime Minister is encouraging people to return to work and use public transport. Since lockdown, Hull Trains have suspended services. They rely solely on ticket sales to operate and do not receive Government support that franchise operators, and Transport for London, do. Humber MPs from both parties have been making the case for support to be made available to Hull Trains. This month we had a meeting with the Trains Minister to press our case and stress this service was hard fought for 20 years ago. We now need it more than ever in terms of the Northern Powerhouse as well as saving 130 Hull jobs. As we await further developments Ministers have announced – or re-

announced – plans to electrify the TransPennine line between Manchester and Leeds. Hull is excluded again and I will continue to campaign on this issue.



## Thanks to FareShare

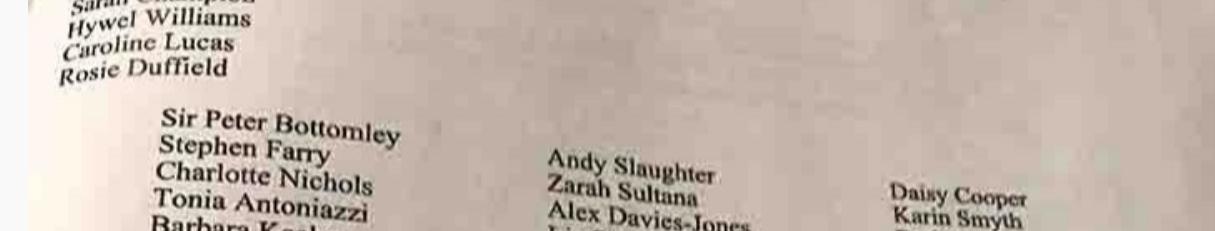
I have admired FareShare for many years and visited them to thank them for their work. They have been working harder than ever during COVID-19 distributing food to community groups and organisations in Hull and the Humber, using a combination of volunteers and members of staff. I fear that they will be busier still soon as furloughing ends and benefits sanctioning restarts.

## School Food Victory

One way of bringing about change is to work cross-party with other MPs when we can lobby more effectively. I chair several All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) and one win we had recently for the APPG on Sixth Form Education was getting Ministers to include students at Sixth Form colleges in the Free School Meals Voucher Scheme over the summer school holidays - following the previous victory on that issue for school pupils. Initially they were excluded.

## Support local traders

It has been incredibly difficult for shops and businesses during the Coronavirus lockdown and I know how important it is to support small independent shops - many jobs depend on them. We have some excellent shops locally and I am always keen to help promote them whenever I can. Watch out for my Small Business Awards in December this year.



## Domestic Abuse Bill

Dame Diana Johnson  
Christine Jardine  
Sarah Champion  
Hywel Williams  
Caroline Lucas  
Rosie Duffield

Sir Peter Bottomley  
Stephen Farry  
Charlotte Nichols  
Tonia Antoniazzi  
Barbara Keeley  
Kate Green  
Jack Dromey  
Anna McMorrin  
Jo Stevens  
Dr Rupa Huq  
Feryal Clark  
Lilian Greenwood  
Catherine West

Andy Slaughter  
Sarah Sultana  
Alex Davies-Jones  
Liz Saville Roberts  
Debbie Abrahams  
Wayne David  
Tony Lloyd  
Gareth Thomas  
Mrs Sharon Hodgson  
Valerie Vaz  
Jess Phillips  
Paula Barker  
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Daisy Cooper  
Karin Smyth  
Ruth Jones  
Stella Creasy  
Stephen Kinnock  
Bill Esterson  
Clive Efford  
Ms Lyn Brown  
Yvonne Fovargue  
Tracy Brabin  
Kerry McCarthy  
Mr Virendra Sharma  
Helen Hayes

NC28

To move the following Clause—

**"Enabling access to abortion in abusive relationships"**

The Bill has now completed its stages in the Commons. I raised with the Government the problem of victims of domestic abuse being unable to access reproductive healthcare services, including abortion, when they couldn't leave the house because of abuse. During the COVID-19 pandemic women were able to access services through telemedicine and this has worked very well. The Government have now agreed to carry out a consultation on whether this should carry on.



Alternate text

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