



### COVID-19 Update



Coronavirus still dominates my work in both the constituency and at Westminster. In the next few days, some lockdown restrictions will be relaxed. Whilst this is welcome it is worrying that far too many people are still dying from COVID-19. The Government's 'world-beating' Test, Track and Trace system is not working at full capacity and it has been very difficult to get local data for daily tests and prevalence. In response to my Written Parliamentary Questions, a Health Minister told me that no local data is available from local testing sites such as Humber Bridge. I recently challenged the PM on why pubs were re-opening before schools and am disappointed that the Government have not taken up Keir Starmer's offer of an education taskforce to work together on a plan for children returning safely to school. With unemployment rising, Hull MPs have been working on many fronts in the battle to save local jobs. This has included the local caravan industry and I have been working cross-party with David Davis MP to get action to save Hull Trains before it is too late.

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#### Immigration Bill

I was a member of the committee undertaking line by line scrutiny of this Bill, which ends free movement after Brexit. With the Children's Society, I raised the issue of EU children in council care being automatically included in the EU Settlement scheme. If they are not, another Windrush scandal is in the making. My friend Lord Alf Dubs has been campaigning on unaccompanied young people for many years.

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#### Victory for Free school meals over the Summer

I have campaigned since becoming an MP on the issue of healthy school food and the holiday hunger scandal. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the Government have supported families on Free School Meals with vouchers and these have been paid during the Easter and Whitsun holidays. After Labour's campaign and the great intervention by Marcus Rashford these will now be paid over the Summer too.



### Black Lives Matter

I share the revulsion at the state killing of George Floyd in the USA that sparked Black Lives Matter protests in Hull and round the World and the debate about statues that glorify the slave trade. While we cannot be complacent about the poison of racism in all its forms and the vile activities of the Far Right, I am prouder than ever of the tradition that we have in Hull represented by William Wilberforce. Over the last couple of weeks, I have been working with women and young people in the city from black and minority ethnic communities to address structural racial inequalities that have been exposed so starkly in the COVID-19 crisis. For many years, I have convened a round table of stakeholders for Hull's refugee community and we met this month. The Home Affairs Select Committee that I recently joined is currently taking evidence on UK policing 20 years after the MacPherson Inquiry.

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#### Your views on COVID-19 testing

This month I have been seeking views from constituents about their experience of getting tested for COVID-19. The survey has been very successful, with over 400 people so far completing it. If you would like to give your views, please go to <https://dianajohnson.co.uk/content/coronavirus-testing>.

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#### Domestic Abuse Bill

We could fill the 25,000 capacity KCOM stadium with Hull perpetrators of domestic abuse. As a member of the Draft Bill Committee that took evidence and made recommendations for improvements, I have taken a particular interest in this Bill. There are still serious gaps in it that need remedying, such the support available to migrant women and reforming family courts.

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#### War Graves Commissioner

In 2019 I was appointed as one of the two MPs representing Parliament on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission - the body that commemorates the British and Commonwealth dead in the World Wars. This month I visited the Tower Hill monument that is dedicated to the Merchant Navy, many of whom came from Hull.

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#### Brexit cliff-edge

This month is the deadline for Ministers to request an extension to the transitional period before it ends on 31st December. Many people believe that this would be a sensible, as the Government is overwhelmed with dealing COVID-19. However, to date the Government have refused this option. I am very concerned that without a new EU trade deal in place there will be a cliff-edge no deal Brexit on 1st January 2021 and further economic damage.

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#### Help and advice

The months since March have been busy months for my team, as we all worked mostly from home during the COVID-19 lockdown. We have had hundreds of new cases from constituents, with many pandemic-related problems - over 70 so far in June alone. Hundreds more have written in about various policy issues. If you, or someone you know, thinks that I can assist with an issue, please call 01482 319135 or e-mail [Johnsond@parliament.uk](mailto:Johnsond@parliament.uk). I will continue to put new COVID-19 information on my website at [www.dianajohnson.co.uk](http://www.dianajohnson.co.uk) and on other social media.



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