



DIANA JOHNSON MP

Fighting for everyone in Hull North



Queen's Speech starts new session

A new Parliamentary session started on 10 May with a Queen's Speech containing 38 Government Bills. These include a Harbours (Seafarers' Remuneration) Bill to give British ports powers to refuse entry to ferries not paying crews the national minimum wage. This comes too late to help the P&O Ferries workers in Hull and around the country sacked recently and does not address wider abuses such as Fire and Rehire. There is no bill on Employment Rights, which the Government has promised repeatedly.

A Transport Bill will set up a new state-run agency to regulate railway services across the UK following the failings of 1990s rail privatisation. There are a number of Home Office Bills that will need close scrutiny, including on the right to protest. On 23 May, I spoke as Home Affairs Committee Chair in the Second Reading of the Public Order Bill – see <https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/5a3a6d2a-db91-47dd-a4e4-3b11fc9f13b8?in=18:21:34&out=18:28:59>

Another Government Bill is the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. On 16 May I spoke in the Queen's Speech debate attacking twelve years of Tory failure on 'Levelling Up' the North. I also restated the case for investing in Hull – see [here](#).

A fuller list of Queen's Speech Bills can be seen at www.bbc.co.uk



War Graves Week

As a representative of Parliament on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), I was pleased to co-host an event at Westminster in May to promote their work maintaining war graves and memorials in 23,000 locations all over the UK and in 150 countries around the World. With War Graves Week on 21-28 May, CWGC were promoting their latest campaign 'Ordinary People, Extraordinary Times'. Information on this can be seen at www.cwgc.org.



You've only got to HASC

Hearings of the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) that I chaired during May included one questioning a Home Office Minister about the Government's recent announcement on sending some asylum seekers to Rwanda – see [here](#). I also responded as HASC Chair to two Commons Ministerial statements on deporting foreign criminals and on what more can be done on the low rate of rape convictions – see [here](#) and [here](#). In the past month I chaired three HASC sessions as part of our inquiry into drugs, hearing evidence on whether the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act needs updating.



Unity in Community recognised

It was a pleasure to welcome Dennis Woods of Unity in Community (UIC) to Westminster on 11 May. For many years UIC have played a valuable role across the North Hull Estate and Orchard Park and especially during the pandemic. I was therefore delighted to award Dennis the first of my 'Hull North Citizens' Awards'. After visiting me at the House of Commons, Dennis went on to another appointment at Buckingham Palace at an event recognising people who had done vital community work during the COVID pandemic.



Food poverty crisis

At the time of writing the Government was refusing to ease the cost of living crisis that many Hull families are facing. A range of factors are fuelling the worst food price inflation in several decades. On 19 May, I raised this issue in the Commons – see [here](#). As well as supporting local Hull North Food Banks, such as Unity in Community in North Hull or St John's in Bransholme, I would encourage support for Food Bank initiatives at www.trusselltrust.org and fareshare.org.uk.



Hull's farewell to Yvonne

On 20 May at All Saint's in Hessle, I was honoured to attend the funeral service of Yvonne Blenkinsop, the last of Hull's 'Headscarf Revolutionaries', who passed away in April. It was moving to see the pride that both Yvonne's family have in her and, indeed, that of the fishing community. As I mentioned in my previous report, I am working with Ian Cuthbert and Emma Hardy MP for a permanent statue in Hull to remember Yvonne and the other Headscarf Revolutionaries.

Here to help

I am always happy to take up issues for Hull North constituents.

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