

**IAN BYRNE MP**

**WORKING FOR WEST DERBY  
STANDING ON MY RECORD**

Promoted by Maureen Delahunty  
c/o 545 West Derby Road, L13 8AA

## **Liverpool West Derby Constituency Report: 22nd September - 27th October 2023**

Dear West Derby constituents

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. Please see below a snapshot of what I have been doing in Parliament and in our constituency this month.

**Ian Byrne**

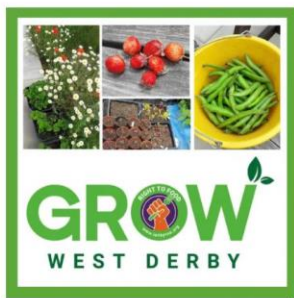
**Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby**

## Invitation

You are warmly invited to join me for a **Social Evening and Catch Up at Marlborough Road Allotment Clubhouse, from 7.30pm on Friday 17th November.**

Join me at this event to celebrate our fantastic 'Parliamentors' winning Best Project for our Grow West Derby community garden. There will also be an update on the Right To Food Campaign, live music, speakers and an update from me on various work and projects. Free entry. Cash bar.

**Register here for your free e-ticket here.**



**UPDATE ON  
THE RIGHT  
TO FOOD  
CAMPAIGN**

**SOCIAL EVENING  
& CATCH UP WITH**

**WEST  
DERBY MP  
IAN BYRNE**



**FRIDAY  
17TH  
NOVEMBER  
7PM**

**MARLBOROUGH  
ROAD  
ALLOTMENT  
CLUBHOUSE**

**Join us to celebrate our  
Parliamentors winning Best  
Project for the Grow West  
Derby community garden,  
as part of the Right To Food  
Campaign.**

- **SPEAKERS**
- **POLITICAL  
UPDATE**
- **Q&A**
- **LIVE MUSIC**



### **Visit to St John Bosco Arts College**

It was a pleasure to visit St John Bosco Arts College this month, where the pupils talked with clarity and insight about lack of resources, crime, the justice system and how young people in our country urgently need hope. A fantastic school, thank you to Karen for organising.



### **Speaking to CAFOD future leaders**

It was a privilege to be asked by CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) to speak at their future leaders course at the Metropolitan Cathedral on my journey into politics and the importance of CAFOD's work internationally to tackle poverty and hunger.



### **Taking back control of our city's buses**

I was delighted to join Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram earlier this month when he announced that Liverpool will bring its buses back under public control. Privatisation has been disastrous for our buses and public services. This is a great move by Steve and his team.



### **Mural to remember the 1981 Peoples March for Jobs**

This is the Giz a Job community heritage scheme mural, remembering the 1981 People's March for Jobs. This fantastic piece of working class history is on Breeze Hall just before the Walton roundabout. I was proud to unveil the mural this month.



**IAN BYRNE**  
Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 0000/0000

Liam Fisher  
Head of TalkSport  
1 London Bridge Street  
London SE1 9GF

Sent by email only

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

**Re: Simon Jordan's use of the phrase 'victim culture' in regard to Liverpool fans**

Dear Liam

I write to you in your capacity - as I understand it - as the person responsible for audio output on TalkSport, regarding Simon Jordan's use of the phrase 'victim culture' in regard to Liverpool fans.

**"Always the victims"**

A phrase that has been too commonly sung on terraces over the last three decades in reference to Hillsborough.

A phrase that has caused - and continues to cause - so much anger and hurt to the families and survivors of Hillsborough after 34 years, even when the truth about the Hillsborough disaster is a matter of public record.

A phrase that is a significant part of the reason we decided to set up the Real Truth Legacy Project, with the aim of having an education programme about Hillsborough taught in schools and ultimately added to the national curriculum.

A phrase that is key to the Premier League and FA agreeing to the formation of a 'tragedy chant' working group in order to combat and eliminate the ignorance of many supporters on this issue.

A phrase now recognised as a slur against the Hillsborough tragedy and the chanting of which is in fact now an arrestable offence.

And now, sadly, a phrase we hear Simon Jordan parroting on one of your flagship morning shows as he regurgitates the 'victim' jibe about Liverpool supporters, when he says: "... you'll build up this conspiracy theory, this **victim culture of Liverpool fans** being penalised by a goal that's been disallowed."

**It is essential to recognise the Hillsborough connotations of the term "victim culture" in regard to Liverpool fans; it is not a culture but refers to an actual tragedy of which there were victims.**

This fills me with both profound sadness and anger. Simon Jordan knows the truth about Hillsborough and yet has chosen to propagate this smear to millions of listeners. This type of behaviour from someone with a significant media profile sets back the collective efforts of so many who are trying to end this toxic discourse.

I therefore urge you to, at the very least, ask Mr Jordan to reflect on his comments, apologise to the families and survivors of the Hillsborough disaster and commit to not using the phrase again.

Yours sincerely

**Ian Byrne MP Liverpool West Derby  
& Hillsborough survivor. JFT97**

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## **Letter to TalkSport regarding Liverpool slur**

Earlier this month I wrote to TalkSport regarding the use of the term 'victim culture' by one of their pundits, Simon Jordan. I told them that Mr Jordan is fully aware of its use by rival supporters against LFC, its connotations to Hillsborough and how its use undermines what many supporters are doing to tackle tragedy chanting. **#JFT97**



### Hillsborough Law Now Campaign in our community

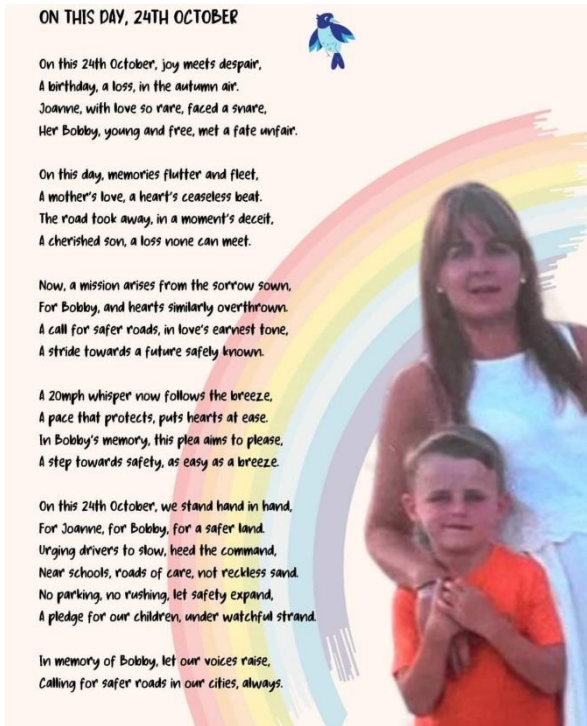
It was good to take the #HillsboroughLawNow campaign out of Parliament and into our communities during October. Thanks to Keep Our NHS Public and Fans Supporting Foodbanks for a warm welcome at the NHS demonstration and at Goodison Park earlier this month. Thanks also to Mercedes Villalba MSP and Kim Johnson MP for their support. **#UnityIsStrength**



"We are a nation of families..."

Such a brave and dignified message to the Prime Minister from Joanne Colleran at The Bobby Colleran Trust here in West Derby about the

impact of losing their beloved son. A family driven by courage, dignity and determination to make our roads safer and a 20mph limit is a key part of that plan. [You can watch Joanne's message to the Prime Minister, delivered with the help of Led By Donkeys, here.](#)



My thoughts and prayers were also with Joanne, David, their boys, family and friends this month as they marked the 9th anniversary of Bobby's tragic death. [#slowdownforbobby](#)



### Walking to raise funds for Access to Justice

It was a privilege to support the #LiverpoolLegalWalk for Access To Justice this month and to have support from hundreds of access to justice campaigners for a #HillsboroughLawNow.



### Visit to St Edward's College

I was pleased to visit St Edward's College this month to talk to students about the work being undertaken on the #RealTruthLegacyProject. I also spoke with pupils about the importance of working class representation in Parliament, being proud of where you come from and my own journey into politics.



### Discussing campaigns with Usdaw Learning Reps

It was a privilege to be invited to speak to Usdaw Learning Reps this month about the campaigns I am leading in Parliament and to discuss why **#RightToFood**



**#HillsboroughLawNow** and **#RealTruthLegacyProject** matter to all trade unionists. Thanks to Terry Adair and Usdaw for fantastic support.



### **RIP Bill Kenwright**

I send my deepest condolences to Bill's family, friends and everyone at Everton at this sad time. On a personal level I would like to place on record my thanks to Bill for all his support of the Hillsborough families and survivors, and of Fans Supporting Foodbanks. RIP Bill.

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### **Campaign update**



### **The Real Truth Legacy Project starts national rollout of Hillsborough education materials**

Proud that #RealTruthLegacyProject educational packs on Hillsborough are now being rolled out nationally. We have worked with qualification

provider AQA to send teaching materials to History and Citizenship teachers across England. #JFT97



### **Belfast becomes a Right To Food city**

Belfast is now a Right To Food city following Councillor Paul Doherty's motion being passed at council earlier this month! A magnificent achievement by Paul and his fellow campaigners and a warm welcome to Belfast as the city joins our growing number of towns and cities calling for systemic change and a #RightToFood for all. #HungerIsAPoliticalChoice

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### **In Parliament**

**On 17 October I signed and supported a parliamentary motion (#EDM 1685) on 'Protecting civilians in Gaza and Israel'. This motion reads:**

*"This House utterly condemns the massacre of Israeli civilians and taking of hostages by Hamas; agrees with the United Nations Secretary-General that these horrific acts do not justify responding with the collective punishment of the Palestinian people; expresses its deep alarm at the Israeli military bombardment and total siege of Gaza and the resulting deaths and suffering; believes that the urgent priority must be to stop the deaths and suffering of any more civilians in Gaza and Israel; welcomes the joint statement from 12 leading aid agencies, including Oxfam, Christian Aid, CAFOD, Medical Aid for Palestinians and Islamic Relief, calling for the Government to use its influence to help protect civilians, to*

*ensure adherence to international humanitarian law and to guarantee civilians have access to critical life-saving humanitarian support; and to this end supports their call for the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary to urgently press all parties to agree to an immediate de-escalation and cessation of hostilities, to ensure the immediate, unconditional release of the Israeli hostages, to end to the total siege of Gaza and allow for unfettered access of medical supplies, food, fuel electricity and water, to guarantee that international humanitarian law is upheld and that civilians are protected in accordance with those laws.”*



HOUSE OF COMMONS

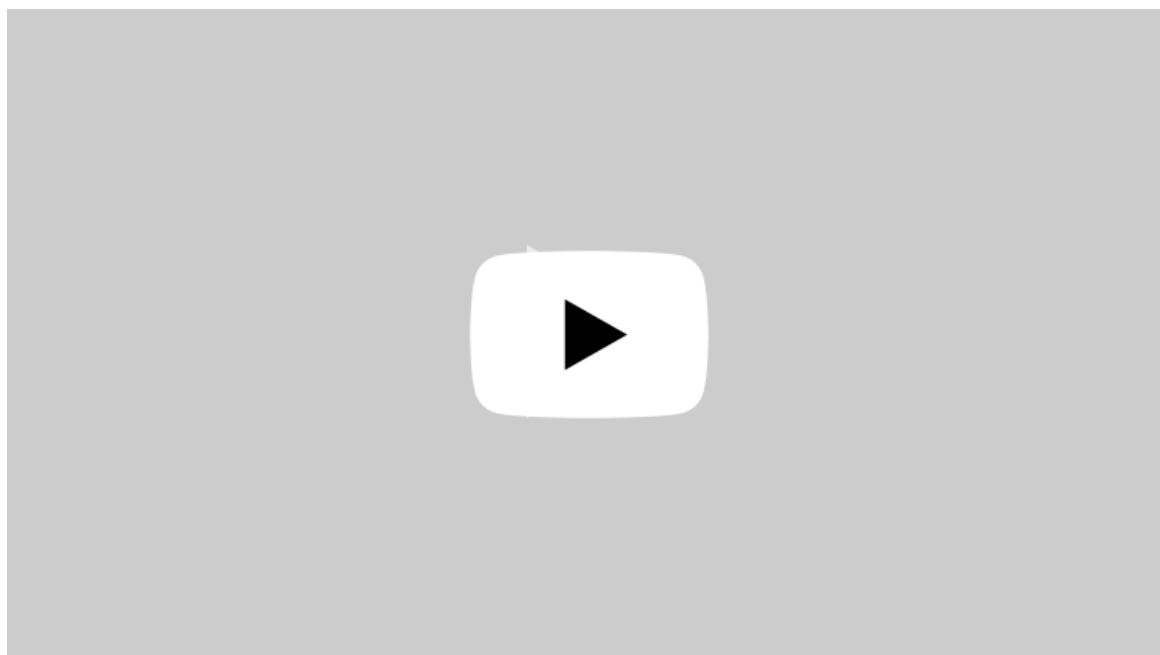
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**On 24 October I spoke in the House of Commons and called on the UK Government’s Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, James Cleverly MP, to support an immediate ceasefire. I said:**

“The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said yesterday that an immediate and “broad humanitarian ceasefire is essential for both Gaza and Israel” and that “if more aid for Gazans, including fuel, medicine, food and water, does not arrive in days...many more people in

Gaza will die.” He added: “The violence will never end unless leaders stand up and take the brave and humane choices that are required by fundamental humanity.”

**Will the Secretary of State heed those calls from the international community and support an immediate humanitarian ceasefire?”**



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**I want to place on record my sincere thanks to all in Liverpool West Derby who have taken time to write to me as your Member of Parliament. I will continue to speak up in the House of Commons on your behalf.**

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### **In summary: my work in Parliament this month**

*As your Member of Parliament I represent concerns of constituents in West Derby and hold the Government to account by taking part in Parliamentary votes, debates and questions in the House of Commons, by writing to Ministers and tabling Written Parliamentary Questions, by taking part in House of Commons Select Committees and by attending*

*Parliamentary events and meetings. **Please find a summary below of my Parliamentary work this month.***

*You can also find a summary of my contributions in the House of Commons on [my page on Parliament's website](#).*

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## **Debates**

### **Renter's (Reform) Bill**

The private rented sector has utterly failed to provide homes that are decent, affordable and allow people in West Derby, and across the country, to live in safety, security and dignity. More than one in 10 privately rented homes contains a category 1 hazard that could kill or seriously maim, and tenants who raise complaints are two and a half times more likely to be handed an eviction notice, which often leads to a forced move that is disruptive to the family and to children's education. The cost of private rents have risen to completely unaffordable levels.

I spoke in the debate as the Government's Renters (Reform) Bill finally returned to the House of Commons. It was hoped this Bill might at least bring an end to the nightmare of section 21 no-fault evictions, but it appears that the Government have introduced yet another delay.

### **I told the House of Commons:**

*"The Secretary of State (Michael Gove MP) has now said: 'Implementation of the reforms in this bill won't proceed until further improvements are in place and [the courts are] fully prepared for these changes' How long will that take? Can the Secretary of State explain how this commitment will be reflected in legislation?"*

***"My constituents and hundreds of thousands of others have zero faith that they will ever see a ban on section 21 evictions under this Government, because they have seen 13 years of the Government's complete destruction of the justice system, which has caused so much damage to those seeking justice in so many sections of society, including housing. I sit on the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities***

***Committee. From the Secretary of State's response to the Committee's report, it feels as if the ideological destruction of the justice system by his Government is now being used as a cover to bow down to the lobbying from landlords - many of them seem to be on his Back Benches - and to kick the ban of section 21 into the long grass."***

*"This Bill should be an opportunity to empower tenants and hardwire social justice into the system. So many people are looking to the Bill to rebalance the scales of justice, which are weighted so heavily against tenants and so in favour of profit. Any delay in bringing in a no-loopholes ban on section 21 evictions really is unforgivable. A nation awaits."*

**You can watch my contribution on the YouTube below and you can also read a transcript of it in Hansard**



## Parliamentary Written Questions:

**Bank staff and the NHS pay deal:** I asked the Government to ensure that NHS bank staff receive non-consolidated payments as part of the NHS pay deal in England.

**Fertility treatment rights at work:** I asked the Government if they will bring forward legislative proposals to introduce a statutory right to paid leave for people undergoing fertility treatment.

There is currently no legal right to have paid time off for fertility treatment or clear protection from unfair treatment or dismissal for absence from work due to treatment for fertility issues. Employers are too often not supportive towards the issues that are faced by people going through fertility treatment and that it can be difficult to obtain paid time-off from work for treatment and appointments. I fully support the campaign for greater rights at work and the campaign by trade unions for a right to paid leave for fertility treatment.

**Prescription shortages:** There are currently intermittent supply disruptions affecting a number of ADHD medicines and this is having a profound impact on people who need to access their prescriptions. I asked the Government what steps they are taking to resolve the supply of those prescriptions nationally and in the Liverpool West Derby constituency. I also asked what support and information the Government is providing to people who are impacted by supply disruptions for their prescribed medication.

**Supporting disabled people with energy costs:** The disability charity, Scope, has been campaigning around the significant additional costs that disabled people in this country face, including energy costs this winter. To highlight their concerns I asked the Government a series of Written Questions about what support they will be putting in place to support disabled people with the cost of energy and if they will extend the ban on forced installations of pre-payment meters to include all households which include a disabled person. I have also signed a parliamentary motion (#EDM 1103) acknowledging that “disabled people are facing spiralling additional costs, which have been exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis” and which “calls on the Government to work

directly with disabled people and charities to tackle the inequality of extra costs”.

**Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act 2023:** The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act passed into law in May 2023 and introduces important rights to leave and pay for parents. However, concerns have been raised because the Act is not expected come into force until April 2025, leaving many without these important new rights until then. I asked the Government if it will provide transitional support to people for neonatal care leave and statutory neonatal care pay between now and April 2025.

**In the past month I have tabled several more Written Questions to the Government that you can find a record of here:** <https://members.parliament.uk/member/4831/writtenquestions>

### **Parliamentary Letters:**

#### **Opposing benefit sanctions:**

I have written to the Chancellor to demand he cancel any plans to make the benefit sanctions regime even stricter. Benefit sanctions are already deeply unjust, they cause significant financial hardship and have pushed many of my constituents into poverty.

#### **Baby Loss Awareness Week:**

Baby loss is an issue which affects and concerns many families in Liverpool West Derby and across the country. As part of Baby Loss Awareness Week 2023 I wrote to the Government Minister to raise the concerns of people in West Derby – and to ask what the Government intends to do over the next 12 months to continue the fight against baby loss and to guarantee a safer, more personalised and more equitable system that will enable more babies lives to be saved and fewer people having to suffer the heartbreak of losing a baby.

#### **Support for Unpaid Carers:**

I wrote to the Chancellor calling for urgent measures to increase support for unpaid carers in West Derby, and across the country, including reform of Carer’s Allowance. The level of Carer’s Allowance is totally



inadequate, unfair and reflective of undervaluing both paid and unpaid care work.

### **Food labelling:**

I wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to demand new laws be introduced to improve food labelling. This follows concerns from constituents about the findings of The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) and ITV about the meat business SuperDrob, which sells frozen poultry products to Lidl, Asda and Iceland, which had sourced chicken from farms that use fluoroquinolone antibiotics. Fluoroquinolones are often used to treat serious salmonella infections in humans and the World Health Organisation has listed antibiotic resistance as one of the key threats to global public health.

### **Committee Work:**

I am a Member of two House of Commons Select Committees: *The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities* and *the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee*. As a Committee member, I scrutinise Government policy and hold them to account through a process of evidence sessions and inquiries.

### **Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee:**

#### **Questioning the Secretary of State:**

This month our Committee quizzed the Government's Secretary of State, Thérèse Coffey MP. We scrutinised her on the most pressing topics currently in DEFRA's remit, including issues around food security and inflation, flood preparedness and coastal erosion, biodiversity, borders and biosecurity and the UK's trade agreements.

### **Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee:**

#### **Inquiry into Electoral Registration:**

The committee visited our Canadian counterparts as part of our inquiry into electoral registration. Our inquiry is gathering evidence and looking into the current system of voter registration in the UK, how effective it is

at registering eligible electors and consider international examples of good practice.

### **Early Day Motions (EDMs):**

I have signed several EDMs over the past month. You can find full details of these on Parliament's website using the following link, and I thank constituents who have been in touch to ask me to sign them: <https://members.parliament.uk/member/4831/earlydaymotions>

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## **Support**

### **Food Parcels**

Any constituent struggling for food can email my office with full details, DOB and how many are in the household for a voucher code.

### **Food Pantry**

The Fans Supporting Foodbanks mobile food pantry every Friday 10-12pm in the Millennium Centre St Mary's is £3.50 for a shop with fresh fruit and veg.

### **Free Food Fridays**

Every Friday we collect and redistribute food that would go to waste for Free Food Fridays. Food is also shared throughout the week at Croxteth Community Garden as part of Grow West Derby. Please check the Facebook page for updates.

### **Access to Justice**

All constituents have access to free advice and representation if needed via Vauxhall Law Centre. More information about our collaborative work can be found on the following link: <https://www.vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk/ian-byrne-m-p-advice-service>

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## **Ask me anything**

This is just some of what I have been up to locally and in Parliament. For ongoing updates, you can follow me on **Facebook** and on **Twitter** or to get involved in local projects visit my website and sign up at **[www.ianbyrne.org](http://www.ianbyrne.org)**

If you would like to discuss any of these issues, or any other matters of concern please contact me by email on: **[ian.byrne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.byrne.mp@parliament.uk)** or by calling **0151 222 2345**.

**In Solidarity,**

**Ian Byrne MP**

**West Derby, Liverpool**