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West Derby Constituency Report 22nd June - 25th July 2023

Dear constituents

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well during these difficult times, as we see many in our communities struggling with the cost-of-living crisis because of the political choices this Government continue to make.

Please see below a little of what I have been doing in Parliament and the constituency this month.

Ian Byrne
Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby

In the Constituency



Supporting Zoe's Place Baby Hospice Liverpool

It is always a pleasure to visit one of my favourite organisations and this month's visit to Zoe's Place once again left me in total awe of the team and the care they provide for children and families.

I am now taking forward several Parliamentary actions from the meeting and will be doing all I can to support the team's vision being fulfilled in the coming year.

#WestDerby



Visit to Claire House in West Derby

I enjoyed a moving and inspirational visit to the Claire House Liverpool site this week, where I chatted about the importance of hospice care and funding with the wonderful Charlie and his mum Shirley. Listening to Shirley talk about the invaluable help Claire House has given to her family and Charlie really brought home how vital hospice care is and I'm proud to have this wonderful resource in West Derby. I look forward to working with the team moving forward. #WestDerby



Richly deserved National Teaching Award for West Derby Principal

Congratulations to Dr John Patterson, Principal at St Vincent's School here in West Derby, for a richly deserved National Teaching Award in recognition of the remarkable dedication of himself and his team at St Vincent's. A wonderful teacher and a fantastic school. #ThankATeacher #WestDerby



Pause for thought

It was a privilege to attend Pause Liverpool, an organisation working with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeat removals of their children into care. I heard many powerful stories and saw first-hand how Pause empowers women in our city to rebuild their lives. Other issues discussed included housing, food, poverty and mental health.



School visit at St Teresa's

Earlier this month I spent a wonderful morning with Year 6 pupils at St Teresa of Lisieux Primary School at a thought-provoking session about British politics.

Celebrating retail workers in West Derby

Retail workers in West Derby are key to our local economy and society and let us never forget how they kept us going through the pandemic. On USDAW union's National Retail Workers' Day I showed my support for retail workers in our community. **#NRWD23**



Right to healthy food in West Derby

This meal was cooked by a West Derby constituent who visits our mobile food pantry at St Mary's Millennium Centre each Friday. All the ingredients on the plate are from the pantry. **#RighttoFood #HealthyFoodForAll**



Partnership between Alder Hey and Fowler Academy

It was a privilege to attend the signing of a partnership between Alder Hey and the Fowler Academy to provide local young people with vocational opportunities in health and sport. Well done to all involved. **#WestDerby**



Incredible Edibles visit

Thank you to Karen and all the team at for a tour of this wonderful community facility. Great to see the work done by Karen in partnership with local companies including Sterling Services and Huyton Asphalt. **#RightToFood #HungerIsAPoliticalChoice**

Supporting our doctors and teachers

I attended a solid doctor's picket line this month at the Royal. Wage stagnation is leaving many doctors, who are also saddled with huge university debts, struggling to survive. They are simply asking for fair treatment. For all that they do for us, this is the very least they deserve. **#DoctorsStrike**



I also joined vibrant NEU picket lines at Holly Lodge School and Blueberry Park Primary School earlier this month and witnessed huge public support on display. These teachers are fighting for the future of our children's education and they have my support. **#SaveOurSchools**



Working with The Bobby Colleran Trust

A pleasure to join with Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram earlier this month to hear about the exciting plans from The Bobby Colleran Trust on future projects to aid the community on so many levels. Their hub is a magnificent resource and this is a truly inspiring organisation that I'm so proud to work with. **#WestDerby**
#SlowDown4Bobby

Campaign Focus:

The Real Truth Legacy Project

I am incredibly proud that after 18 months collective work with so many good people, our ***Real Truth Legacy Project*** has launched in Liverpool City Region with a Hillsborough assembly

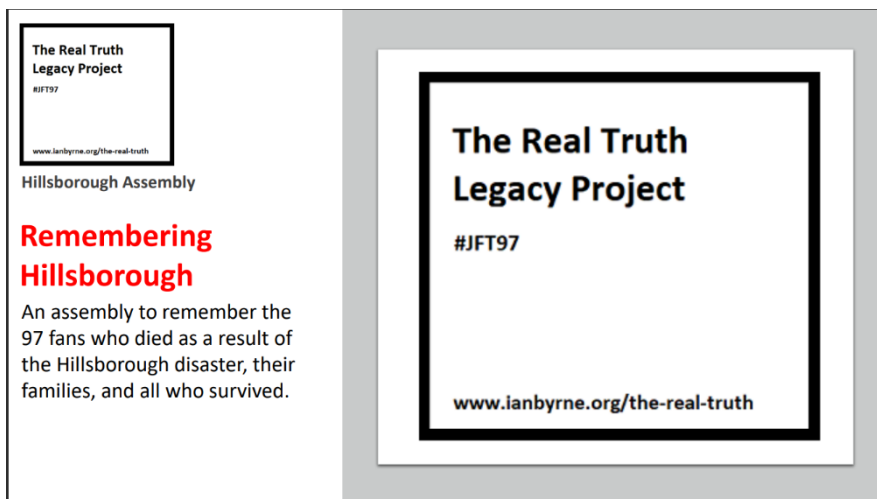
and education pack now available to all schools in our region to support teaching about Hillsborough, the cover up and the long fight for justice.

I am also delighted that Schools Minister Nick Gibb is backing the rollout nationally of the ***Real Truth Legacy Project*** Hillsborough assembly and education pack to help ensure that "schools up and down the country will understand what an important event Hillsborough was, and what a tragic event this was." **This is extremely positive news and I will vigorously pursue the national rollout.**

For those of you who have asked how to access the ***Real Truth Legacy Project*** Hillsborough assembly and education pack, please visit our website to download the pack and please drop me a line with any feedback after using it.

You can also find more details and download the *Real Truth Legacy Project* Hillsborough assembly and education pack at: www.ianbyrne.org/the-real-truth


JFT97



In Parliament

Save our railway ticket offices

The planned mass closure of railway ticket offices in England by rail operators will be a disaster and many West Derby constituents are worried about accessibility and safety. Earlier this month I tabled a Parliamentary Question, asking the Transport Secretary what Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken and I have also written to the Transport Secretary about the planned closures.




House of Commons written question 192737.

Question for Department for Transport

UIN 192737, tabled on 5 July 2023

Question

 Ian Byrne
Labour
Liverpool, West Derby [Comments](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether his Department (a) has conducted and (b) plans to conduct any equality impact assessments on train operators' proposals for railway ticket office closures.

Due for answer in 5 days (by 11 July 2023)



Well done to the two disabled activists who are taking on a vital legal case against the train operators plans announced earlier this month which would see the majority of ticket offices in England close over three years. Disabled activists Sarah Leadbetter, who is blind, and Doug Paulley, a wheelchair-user, believe the consultation process discriminates against disabled people and have

applied for a judicial review on the grounds that the 21-day consultation was too short and information was not provided in all accessible formats.

I fully support the five Labour mayors, including Liverpool City Region Mayor Steve Rotheram, who are also preparing legal action against the plans in support of the elderly, vulnerable and disabled people who will find it disproportionately harder to travel by train without a ticket office. More than one-quarter of rail tickets sold in our region last year were sold at a ticket office. We cannot and should not accept a public transport system that leaves behind those who need it most. As many of us know, ticket office staff do much more than sell tickets; they help and reassure travellers in so many ways.

Sarah, Doug, the RMT, Labour mayors and all who are standing against these ill-thought-out ticket office closures have my full support, as do railway staff, who in some areas have been told to stop wearing "save our ticket offices" stickers or face disciplinary action, according to the RMT. Threatening staff who are fighting for their very futures and for the services they provide is a disgraceful tactic. Any genuine and meaningful consultation process should allow the very staff whose future is threatened to voice an opinion. People must come before profits.

The collective message to the rail operators is clear: go back to the drawing board, or we will make you. **#SaveOurTicketOffices**



Debate on Universal Credit deductions

Last week I spoke in a Westminster Hall debate on Universal Credit deductions and highlighted the many harms this policy brings to already vulnerable West Derby constituents. I also raised a major concern I have with deductions in general – that of the basic premise of affordability. As I say in the debate, it is simply staggering that there is no requirement for the DWP to determine whether someone can actually afford a deduction.

You can read my contribution in [Hansard](#).

You can watch a clip of me speaking in this debate on [Parliament TV](#).

Standing up for Parkview Medical Centre in Parliament

This month in Parliament I called on the Health Minister to halt the planned closure of Parkview Medical Centre because of the concerns raised regarding the consultation process run by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside **#SaveOurSurgery**



Human Rights Joint Committee hears powerful evidence on the need for a Hillsborough Law

As Parliamentary lead for the Hillsborough Law Now campaign I recently attended a powerful session of the Human Rights Joint Committee on the need for a Hillsborough Law. Witnesses to the session included Anna Morris KC, Pete Weatherby KC, Bishop James Jones, Elkan Abrahamson and Andy Burnham. **#JFT97 #HillsboroughLawNow**

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:

This month I spoke in the House of Commons 8 times:

- **20 June:** I asked a question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about whether he would provide funding for a Universal Free School Meals pilot in Liverpool
- **20 June:** I asked a question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on whether he would introduce price caps for essential food items
- **27 June:** I asked a question to the Justice Secretary about whether he would change the law to compel offenders to attend their sentence hearings and face bereaved families, as is being called for by the "Face the Family" campaign
- **29 June:** I asked a question to the Leader of the House asking for a debate on the imminent closure of Park View Medical Centre
- **04 July:** I asked a Question to the Foreign Office minister on violence in the West Bank and what action the Government will take as president of the UN Security Council
- **11 July:** I spoke in a debate on UN high-level meetings on global health, pandemic preparedness and sustainable development
- **11 July:** I asked the Health Minister if he will intervene and halt the closure of Park View Medical Centre
- **19 July:** I spoke in a debate on Universal Credit deductions and how these deductions are having an extremely negative impact on people in West Derby.

You can find the transcripts of all of my speeches in the House of Commons on the [Parliament website](#)

This month I also took part in 36 votes in the House of Commons.

You can find a copy of my full voting record on the [Parliament website](#)

This month I attended 7 Select Committee meetings:

I am a Member of two House of Commons Select Committees: The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) and the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) 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:

- **27 June:** We looked into the next steps government should be taking on tenant farms - which make up roughly one third of all farmed land in England.
- **4 July:** We held our first evidence session in our inquiry into pet welfare and abuse. I asked panellists questions about mass “puppy farm” breeding and the unregulated importing of puppies into the UK. I know this is an issue which matters a great deal to many people in West Derby and I will continue to raise your concerns at the Committee.
- **12 July:** We questioned key decision makers in the water industry, including ministers, executives from Thames Water and the Chief Executive of Ofwat. I raised the disastrous record of the private water companies and the damage that has been done to our environment.
- **18 July:** We questioned the minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries regarding the degraded quality of soil health in England – and what steps the Government is taking to support farmers to improve it.

The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee:

- **26 June:** We continued our inquiry into audit and financial reporting in local authorities.
- **3 July:** We questioned the Electoral Commission and election administrators on the introduction of voter ID.
- **10 July:** The committee questioned Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Rachel Maclean, the Housing Ombudsman Richard Blakeway, and renters and landlords’ groups in a one-off evidence session to follow-up on the Committee’s private rented sector (PRS) report and the Government’s Renters (Reform) Bill.

Early Day Motions (EDMs):

I have signed several Parliamentary Early Day Motions over the past month. You can find full details of these on [Parliament’s website](#), and I thank constituents who have been in touch to ask me to sign them.

Written Parliamentary Questions:

In the past month I have tabled several Written Questions to the Government. You can find a record of these on the [Parliament website](#).

News and Events

Windrush injustice must be addressed

Hundreds of people experiencing chronic illness and mental ill-health from the Windrush generation were sent to the Caribbean between 1958 and 1970 in what has been described as a "historic injustice", the BBC has found. Formerly classified documents have revealed that at least 411 people were sent there under a scheme that was meant to be voluntary. Lives have been destroyed and families torn apart. **There must be an inquiry into this and redress for all those who suffered as a result of this policy. #Windrush75**

Deadly global heatwaves result of climate crisis

The human-caused climate crisis is undeniably to blame for the deadly heatwaves that have struck Europe and the US in recent weeks, scientists have shown. Both would have been virtually impossible without the global heating driven by burning fossil fuels, their analysis found.

The results confirm that human-caused global warming is already destroying lives and livelihoods across the world, making the need to cut emissions incredibly urgent. The scientists point out that these brutal heatwaves are no longer rare events and will worsen as emissions continue to rise.

A report by leading climate scientists in March endorsed by global governments said there is "a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all".

It is plain for all to see how rapidly that window is closing and the UK government - and Labour - must commit to reducing fossil fuels and a move to green technology as a priority.

Congratulations to new Labour MP Keir Mather

Welcome to Keir Mather, Labour's newest MP, following his election to represent the former Tory seat of Selby & Ainsty, where I joined Labour colleagues on the doorstep ahead of the recent by-election.