

IAN BYRNE MP

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

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

Dear West Derby residents,

Ian Byrne MP Report: 23rd March - 23rd April 2024

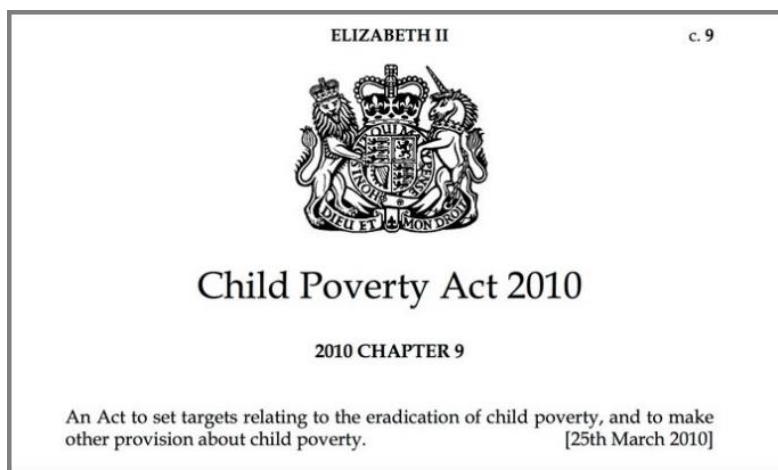
I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. In this email you can find out a little of what I have been doing in Parliament and the constituency this month.

Ian Byrne
Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby

This month...

Child poverty continues to be a national disgrace

Fourteen years ago, on 25 March 2010, the Child Poverty Act was established with a goal of eradicating child poverty by 2020. But in 2016 the Act was abolished under a new UK Government and the targets were abandoned. **Today, one in four children live in poverty in the UK. This outrage must cease; we can start with a fully implemented #RightToFood.**



Labour launches public ownership plan for buses

This month the Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Lou Haigh MP, set out Labour's plan for better buses. Our plan will give every community a say over their buses and will see 1300 vital routes created and saved across the country, as well as better bus services nationwide. **Liverpool is set to be one of the first areas to get powers to bring bus services into public ownership, which really is excellent news, I'm sure you'll all agree.**

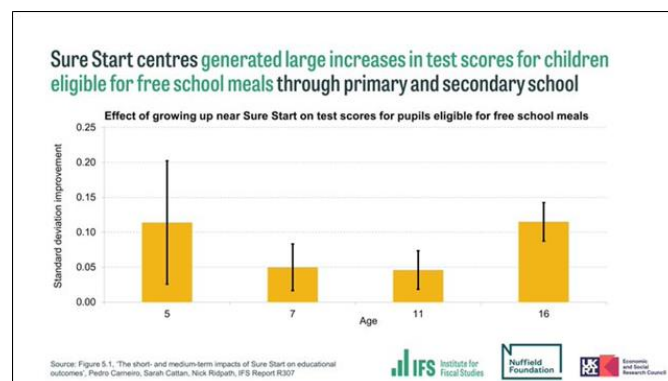
EXCLUSIVE

Labour plans to fix UK buses with public ownership of failing services

- » Party vows to resolve bus crisis by effectively nationalising services in first term of office
- » Shadow Transport Secretary Louise Haigh says plan will create or save 1,300 bus routes
- » Mayors and local authorities would be given power to bring services into public ownership
- » Cambridgeshire, Liverpool, Peterborough and West Yorkshire among first likely to get powers
- » Shadow minister tells it is time to end the bus 'postcode lottery' and ensure services across England are as good as those in London, with creation of 250 million more journeys per year
- » Plan will not require extra Treasury funding, says Labour, a claim disputed by Conservatives

Impacts of Sure Start on educational outcomes

Every day I see the damage done by governments of the last fourteen years to the long term health and wellbeing of the nation via their destruction of the Sure Start programme. **Read this article detailing how Sure Start levelled up communities.**



Marking the 35th anniversary of Hillsborough

Last week marked the 35th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. Thirty-five years ago we attended a football match with hope in our hearts. 97 innocent women, men & children were unlawfully killed, never to return to their families and countless lives were changed

forever. My love and thoughts were with the families, survivors and everybody affected. **#JFT97**



In Parliament

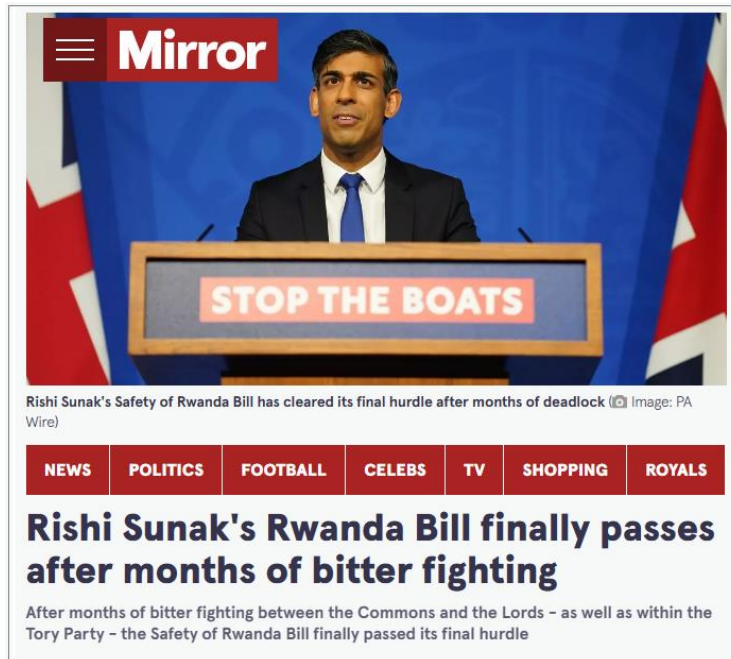
Speaking up for the Palestinian peoples' Right To Food

The situation in Northern Gaza is horrific and the World Food Programme says the area has now been largely cut off from aid and has recorded the highest levels of hunger in the world. This month in Parliament I again asked the Government how it plans to uphold international law and the Palestinian peoples' Right To Food. **#RightToFood #HungerIsAPoliticalChoice**



Consistently voting against the Rwanda Bill

Having voted against it at every turn, I am horrified that the Government's nasty, unnecessary and expensive Rwanda Bill passed this week. A truly shameful moment for the UK, who should offer safety to refugees, not threaten them with deportation flights to a country thousands of miles away. I hope this law is never utilised; it is an inhumane and costly pre-election gimmick from a deeply unpopular Government. **You can find more detail on this in the Votes section in this report.**



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](#).

In summary: my work in Parliament this month

Votes and Debates

Votes on Safety of Rwanda Bill

I am deeply opposed to the Government's *Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill*. I **voted against the Bill** in January at its Third Reading, but unfortunately, due to votes from Government MPs, the Bill passed.

This month, the Bill had its "ping pong" stage between the House of Commons and the House of Lords. During the Bill's passage through the House of Lords, a number of amendments were added to the Bill, including a requirement that the Bill have "due regard" for international and key domestic laws, including human rights and modern slavery legislation.

Crossbench Peer Lord Hope also introduced a measure requiring Rwanda to pass an independent verification before it is considered safe, whilst Baroness Chakrabarti proposed an amendment that would have restored the ability of the courts to provide so-called "interim relief" in the event that Rwanda was found not to be a safe country for asylum seekers to be sent to. I supported these efforts to amend the Bill.

I believe that international law is clear that it is a person's right to seek asylum in any country they wish to, including the UK. I will continue to advocate in Parliament and beyond that all migrants have automatic access to resources without fear of detention or deportation. This includes continuing to call for an amnesty for undocumented migrants, ensuring a legal route to family reunion for child refugees, an end to the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) policy and the closure of immigration detention centres.

Debate: Second Reading of the Football Governance Bill

Speaking in Parliament this week at the Second Reading of the Football Governance Bill, I spoke of the need to place supporters at the heart of the beautiful game. As the great Jock Stein once said, football without fans is nothing. **You can watch my contribution in the video clip below:**



Debate: Hospice Funding

At this week's debate on Hospice Funding, I urged the Government to provide an increased level of sustainable funding to all children's hospices, including Claire House and Zoe's Place in West Derby, which provide magnificent support for so many. **You can watch my contribution in the video clip below:**



Events:



Proud to take the #NHSPledge

This month I have taken the We Own It **#NHSpledge** to confirm that I support proper NHS funding and the reinstatement of the Health Secretary's duty to provide healthcare and oppose NHS outsourcing.



Valuing unpaid carers: I attended a fantastic presentation in Parliament by Oxfam this month to mark the release of 'Valued'; their paper on how we break the link between paid and unpaid care, poverty and inequality across Britain.



Ovarian cancer continues to be overlooked and I want to help raise awareness and support West Derby constituents affected by this devastating disease. **This is why I am proud to become a Target Ovarian Cancer MP Champion.**

Parliamentary Written Questions:

Ending the Leasehold Scandal

Leaseholders in West Derby continue to be subject to a situation that the Government has itself described as unfair – contractually obligated to pay onerous and escalating ground rents, invariably with no clear service in return.

I submitted a Written Parliamentary question asking the Secretary of State, Michael Gove MP, to clarify the government will cap all leaseholder ground rents at nominal, or

“peppercorn” rates – following various media reports in March indicating that Government is considering abandoning plans to do this.



I firmly believe that the scandal of leasehold must be brought to an end for the millions who have bought their home but do not feel like they own it, including the many residents in West Derby – and I will continue to campaign on your behalf in Parliament to end this injustice.

These are just some of the questions I have asked the Government this month. You can find a record of all my Parliamentary Written Questions here: <https://members.parliament.uk/member/4831/writtenquestions>

Parliamentary Letters:

Excellent response from Manchester United on tragedy chanting

I was delighted to receive this excellent response from Manchester United in response to my recent letter to them in regards to tackling tragedy chanting. I'm delighted we can work in collaboration to educate all generations via our **#RealTruthLegacyProject**. It was great to join former HFSG Chair Margaret Aspinall, whose son James died in the Hillsborough disaster, former Liverpool captain Phil Thompson and former Man Utd player Wes Brown for an educational session on this issue at Lord Derby Academy in Huyton. **You can read more about this here.**



Ian Byrne
MP for Liverpool West Derby,
House of Commons,
London
SW1A 0AA

26 March 2024

Dear Mr Byrne,

Thank you for your letter to Manchester United and, on behalf of the club, let me reiterate our strong condemnation of the unacceptable chants that were heard from some fans against Liverpool FC.

Ahead of the game and afterwards, we have made our feelings clear by reiterating the comments made by both managers in a [joint statement](#) last season, as well as providing our unequivocal support for the statements by The Football Association and Greater Manchester Police condemning this behaviour.

We are also working closely with Greater Manchester Police to identify those responsible and will back up any criminal action with strong club sanctions as we seek to eradicate this issue from our game.

Football must stand together on this subject, and we applaud your campaign to raise awareness of the realities of what happened on that terrible day at Hillsborough in 1989, particularly among those too young to remember.

To this end, we have formed a working group between Manchester United and Liverpool FC to explore the delivery of a joint education programme aimed at educating young people through the Manchester United and Liverpool FC Foundations.


We are hopeful we can announce this programme ahead of the Premier League fixture on April 7, and subsequently roll it out in our respective partner schools across the two city regions. It would make sense for us to connect with your campaign as part of this plan and I have suggested that to my colleagues who are leading this forward.

We have no desire to subdue the great rivalry that will always exist between Manchester United and Liverpool FC, but we do firmly believe it should take place in a spirit of mutual respect for our shared histories of achievement and tragedies.

Thank you again for getting in touch and please be assured of our openness to continued dialogue on this matter, as part of our wider engagement with community stakeholders to educate people on this issue alongside Liverpool FC.

We wish you well in your campaign and look forward to working collectively to change behaviours on this issue.

Best wishes,



Patrick Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

MANCHESTER UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED
Sir Matt Busby Way, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 9RA
Telephone: 0161 868 8000. Facsimile: 0161 868 8804. www.manutd.com
Registered in England & Wales No. 3349147. VAT No. GB 941 081515.
Registered office: Sir Matt Busby Way, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 9RA

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Government refuses UN Right To Food visit

I am extremely disappointed that the Government has refused the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Michael Fakhri, the opportunity this year, to conduct a study on what a #RightToFood would look like in the UK. We need to make sure this important work happens after the next election. **#HungerIsAPoliticalChoice**

You can find out more about the Right to Food campaign here.



Protecting the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)

I wrote to the Government's Secretary of State for Education on behalf of West Derby teaching staff who work in post-16 and the higher education sector. I raised the concerns of teachers and the University and College Union (UCU) that the Government is not providing higher education institutions with additional funding for the 5% increase in the pension scheme - and that the employer body Universities UK (UUK) is requesting that institutions be allowed to withdraw from the TPS.

In my letter I have demanded that the Government provide the necessary funds for the pension scheme increase. Teaching staff at higher education institutions should be able to access the same scheme as schoolteachers and college lecturers. **You can find out more about the campaign from UCU here.**

Calling for arms sales to Israel to be suspended

Alongside 134 MPs, I have signed my Labour colleague Zarah Sultana's letter calling on the UK Government to immediately suspend export licenses for arms sales to Israel. This

follows reports that UK-made weapons are being used in Gaza and United Nations experts calling for arms exports to Israel to be immediately stopped.



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:

Inquiry on Pet Welfare and Abuse

In April, our Committee released our **second report on pet welfare and abuse**. Our inquiry has exposed the major rise in canine fertility clinics, from under 40 in 2020, to over 400 in 2023.

Unscrupulous canine fertility clinics have benefitted from diffuse enforcement arrangements, allowing them to operate without veterinary involvement, with surgical procedures, including caesarean sections, performed unlawfully by lay-persons.

Our report also demands that the Government address the fact that more than half of the puppies entering the market come from unlicensed breeders. We are calling for a list of licensed breeders to be made public, and a change in the licensing regulations so as to include breeders of two or more litters a year, in order to counter low welfare breeding practices and provide assurance to buyers.

Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee:

Inquiry on Electoral Registration

In March, our Committee released our **fourth report on Electoral Registration**, in which we found that as many as eight million people face being disenfranchised at the next election due to an electoral registration system which is neither effective nor efficient. There have been notable issues with the practical implementation of recent electoral registration reforms, including voter ID, which has left individuals without the right ID being prevented from voting - with only a limited number of forms of ID being permitted.

No legitimate voter should be excluded from our democracy. Unnecessary barriers should not be put in place that make it harder for voters to exercise their democratic rights.

In our report, the Levelling Up, Housing & Communities Committee has recommend that the Government adopt a strategy to move towards an opt in Automated Voter Registration system over the next few years, while monitoring the pilot in Wales.

We have also asked the Electoral Commission to write to us within four weeks with a detailed plan including milestones and dates for moving towards implementing automated voter registration with a clear outline of how people can protect their data privacy.

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>

In the constituency

SEND clinic: Huge thanks to Deborah Morgan Tyfield at University of Liverpool Law Clinic and the team from the University of Liverpool School of Law and Social Justice for their invaluable SEND legal advice and support clinic for constituents held in my office this month.

Casa project: As always, it was a pleasure and privilege to welcome one of my favourite people, Eileen Turnbull, of the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign, to my office this month to discuss an exciting project with Casa Liverpool. I look forward to seeing this come to fruition. More on this soon.

A heartwarming afternoon of community solidarity at PrescottCablesFC recently, with the fantastic Home Bargains FC, Eden Bar Eaton Road and MezFoundation#16

walking from West Derby to Prescott to donate food to the Fans Supporting Foodbanks collection point in memory of their friend John Merrill.

Great to attend the Gellings Riding School open day this month with Anneliese Midgley, the Labour Parliamentary candidate for Knowsley. I was delighted to hear of the positive developments on the campaign to secure the school's long-term future and look forward to working with the team to help secure this.

Campaigns update

Hillsborough Law Now Campaign

A Hillsborough Law will rebalance the scales of justice

As a survivor of the Hillsborough disaster and a campaigner for justice for the 97 Liverpool fans who lost their lives that day, cover-ups at the hands of the state and the struggle of victims wanting to be heard is something I have long been familiar with.

There is a lengthy list of historic and ongoing scandals in modern Britain, from Hillsborough, the Infected Blood Scandal and WASPI Women to the Post Office Horizon scandal, Grenfell, Truth About Zane and Nuclear Test Veterans.

Last week marked the 35th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. Thirty-five years that survivors and families of those who died have tried to get justice and accountability from the authorities who lied and covered up what happened.

The idea behind the 'Hillsborough Law' is simple – it would place a legal responsibility on public officials to tell the truth in any form of formal inquiry or proceeding (known as a 'duty of candour') and ensure they faced criminal punishments if found to have breached this law. That it is not already a legal requirement for public officials to tell the truth in such proceedings is farcical and unacceptable. **[You can read my article in full in Left Foot Forward.](#)**



Hillsborough Law Now campaign solidarity

I was also proud to speak to LFC and Manchester United academy players recently about the **#HillsboroughLawNow** campaign. It was a wonderful show of solidarity between the two clubs, for which the two academies and all players and staff deserve much credit. **#UnityIsStrength #JFT97**

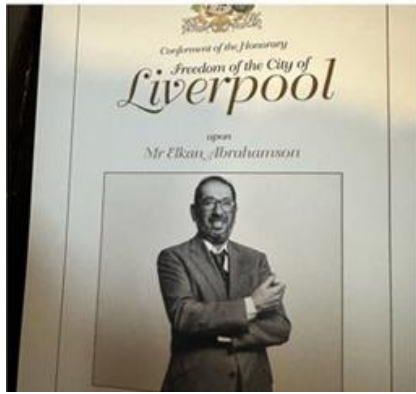


It was also a privilege to speak about **#HillsboroughLawNow** with Margaret Aspinall and the LFC Academy to a brilliant set of youngsters representing LFC, EFC and Notts Forest at the Hillsborough tournament. A big thanks to Caitlin and John from the LFC Academy for organising such a moving tribute.



Hillsborough legal expert receives freedom of city

It was wonderful to watch Elkan Abrahamson receive the freedom of our city this month and to hear some outstanding speeches highlighting Elkan's contribution to many fights for justice over four decades. Elkan is Head of Major Inquests & Inquiries at Broudie Jackson Canter Solicitors, the co-author of the draft Hillsborough Law and he represents Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice UK. This was a very well-deserved acknowledgement. **#HillsboroughLawNow**



The Real Truth Legacy Project

Hundreds more pupils taught about Hillsborough this month

I am proud that nearly 500 pupils in Liverpool have this month been educated about the 'real truth' and injustice of Hillsborough through workshops and school assemblies delivered by LFC Foundation as part of our Real Truth Legacy Project.

You can read more about this month's activity in this report by the BBC.



Right To Food Campaign

Supporting Sadiq Khan's pledge to continue universal free school meals...

All primary school children in London will enjoy free school meals for another four years if Sadiq Khan is re-elected mayor, he has promised this month. **It is vital for all policymakers to understand that when free school meals are universal, it reduces stigma and makes it so much easier for all children to get the nutrition they need to grow and flourish.**

This is why I believe what Sadiq Khan is doing in London regards the continued rollout of **#UniversalFreeSchoolMeals** is remarkable; he is showing a genuine commitment to tackling the scourge of child hunger at its root cause. This is precisely what we need

across the UK and why Universal Free School Meals are one of five key pillars of our **Right To Food Campaign**.



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.

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>

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** Email me on: ianbyrne@labour@gmail.com.

In Solidarity,

Ian Byrne MP, West Derby, Liverpool