

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 resident,

Ian Byrne MP Report: 24th January - 23rd February 2024

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. 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 Parliament

Human rights in Palestine

A large number of West Derby constituents contacted me specifically about votes in the House of Commons on 15 November 2023 and on 21 February 2024.

In November 2023 I voted for amendment ‘h’ to the King’s Speech which supports calls for an immediate ceasefire. This amendment, in the name of Stephen Flynn MP, expressed “that there must be an end to the collective punishment of the Palestinian people”, called “for the urgent release of all hostages and an end to the siege of Gaza to allow vital supplies of food, fuel, medicine and water to reach the civilian population” and called “on the Government to join with the international community in urgently pressing all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire.” Unfortunately not enough MPs joined me in voting for this amendment and it was therefore defeated.

I can also confirm that on 21 February 2024 I would have voted once again, as I did in November, for an immediate ceasefire. The chaos that surrounded the SNP’s Opposition Day Debate in Parliament was unsavoury and served to distract from the desperate situation in Gaza.

A large number of West Derby constituents have also contacted me to ask me to sign Parliamentary motions, namely Early Day Motion #1685, Early Day Motion #1 and Early Day Motion #377. **I can confirm that I have signed all of these Parliamentary motions.**

More than half of people receiving UC cannot afford enough food

This month the Trussell Trust has reported that in January, more than half of people receiving Universal Credit were unable to afford enough food - and 780,000 people receiving it visited a food bank for support at least once in the last month.

This is disgraceful. Food banks are doing all they can to support people but, as we know, they are a sticking plaster and the systemic change that we are working for with the **Right To Food campaign** is what is desperately needed in the longer term.



In the short-term, however, the Chancellor must take urgent action in the Spring Budget to increase long-term support for people on Universal Credit.

He must also extend the Household Support Fund - and you will see further down in this report that this month I have tabled an Early Day Motion in support of this essential funding being extended.

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.

Debates, Votes & Oral Questions

Education Questions

Headteacher Ofsted concerns raised in Parliament

This month in Parliament I raised the concerns of headteachers in West Derby about the current Ofsted inspection model. The Government must urgently meet with educators to hear their deep concerns and discuss what needs to change. **You can watch my contribution below:**



Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Questions

Palestinians have a Right to Food

This month in Parliament I raised the fact that Palestinians have a Right To Food, after the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right To Food, Michael Fakhri, said at the weekend that more than 2 million people in Gaza are facing "inevitable famine". Now that the Government has opted to halt its funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees, I asked how it now plans to ensure that urgently needed humanitarian aid - as called for by the International Court of Justice - will continue to be delivered to the children, women and men in Gaza. **You can watch my contribution below, on YouTube:**



Health and Social Care Questions

Many West Derby NHS staff have written to me and expressed concerns about the classification and regulation of NHS medical associate roles and patient safety. On 23 January I raised this in the House of Commons. I told the Government Minister for Health and Secondary Care, Andrew Stephenson MP, that "NHS staff have expressed concerns about the Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates Order 2024" and asked him "if resource will be needed for AAs and PAs to be properly supervised by doctors on a one to one ratio?" and furthermore if he would "meet trade unions and professional bodies as a matter of urgency to clarify the Government's position on this hugely important public health issue?".

**A copy of my question and answer can be found [here](#).
I have also signed a Parliamentary Motion (Early Day Motion 291)
on this issue, and a copy of the motion can be found [here](#).**

Events:



Proud to support Bowel Cancer: This month in Parliament I met with doctors, researchers and campaigners at the Bowel Cancer APPG to discuss actions needed to build a future where no one dies from this. I was proud to pledge my support to the vital work being done by Bowel Cancer UK.



Ban Shock Collars: I fully support the campaign to ban these cruel electronic shock dog collars. How anyone can use such instruments of pain on their dog is truly beyond me. The Government needs to act now. #BanShockCollarsNow



Proud to Chair the CAFOD APPG: Delighted and honoured to become Chair of the CAFOD All-Party Parliamentary Group. I look forward to working with all involved.



Meeting Palestinian Ambassador: It was sobering listening to Palestinian Theologian Munther Isaac and Palestinian ambassador Husam Zomlot on the horrific situation in Gaza and the need for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine.



Food Foundation event in Parliament: I was pleased to attend and speak at a Food Foundation event in Parliament this month to mark the launch of their report on barriers to breastfeeding, the cost of formula and the improvements urgently needed to the Healthy Start Scheme. #RightToFood



Keep football fans safe: It was a pleasure to speak to ex-footballer and pundit Martin Keown in Parliament about fan safety and to discuss our support of Kevin Brennan MP's proposed bill to help ensure this. Martin spoke fondly of his memories of West Derby and Bellefield from his time spent with Everton Football Club.



Trade Union Co-Ordinating Group: I enjoyed a superb celebration of trade unionism at a TUCG reception. Good to hear from superb GSs including Fran Heathcote and Jo Grady on the importance to their members of support from MPs in Parliament and on the picket line.



The Truth About Zane: A huge thank you to Kevin Brennan MP for spending time in Parliament with Zane's parents Kye and Nicole to hear why an independent inquiry into Zane's death is so desperately needed from a future Labour government. #HillsboroughLawNow



World Cancer Day 2024: To mark World Cancer Day 2024 I met with Cancer Research UK in Parliament to thank them for the incredible work they do to support families in West Derby and to discuss their Cancer Manifesto.

Parliamentary Written Questions:


Medication shortages:

Constituents have been in touch with me about the impact that medication shortages are having on them. I have been submitting Written Parliamentary Questions to the Health Secretary in order to get answers on what is causing shortages of some medications, and to push for supplies to be increased.

Treatment of Seasonal Workers:

I tabled Written Parliamentary Questions to the Home Secretary about the appalling conditions faced by seasonal workers at farms across the UK. This follows revelations by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) that hundreds of migrant workers in the UK's agriculture sector have raised welfare issues about poor conditions, pay and treatment, including wage theft and racism.

Parliamentary Letters



IAN BYRNE
Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Email: ian.byrne.mp@parliament.uk
Tel. 020 7219 3000

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Sent by email only

12 February 2024

RE: Childminders unable to receive Government funding for related children

Dear Secretary of State,

At a recent surgery I met a constituent who is a professional childminder registered with Liverpool City Council since 1998. She looks after children of all ages, including her own grandson, however, due to current Government rules, my constituent cannot claim funded childcare hours for him.

As I am sure you are fully aware, Ofsted registered childminders are not allowed to care for children who are family members (grandchildren, nieces and nephews etc) under the Government's two, three and four year-old funding scheme.

This rule is seeing many children who have been cared for in a childminding setting until the age of two being forced to leave that setting in order to take up their funding entitlement, simply because the childminder and the child are related. This results in the child not receiving the continuation of care they deserve and having to leave behind the friends and relationships they have made.

All children should be able to receive the best possible care available to them and the fact that a childminder is related to them should not interfere in this.

In the case of my constituent, her grandson's parents are now having to find alternative childcare for their two-year-old son, however they have discovered that the most affordable and reputable childcare providers are already full. They are therefore now being forced to look further afield for suitable childcare, which will incur extra costs due to petrol and later pick-up times for their child.

I appreciate that childcare funding is intended to help parents return to work, however in the case of my constituent and her family, it is costing them more money. She understandably feels very strongly that this rule needs to be changed and I have to agree.

My constituent feels that she is being discriminated against, because the ban on related children in England is unique to childminders. People who work in, or own, a nursery, school or pre-school, are all permitted to claim the entitlement for related children.

Secretary of State, why are our registered childminders singled out in this way?

I would like to request a meeting with you on the issues raised in this letter as soon as possible and look forward to your earliest response.

Constituency Office:
545 West Derby Road L138AA
Phone No. 0151 222 2345 Email: ian.byrne.mp@parliament.uk
www.ianbyrne.org

Childminders unable to receive Government funding for related children

A constituent who is a professional childminder looks after several children, including her grandson. But current rules mean she is unable to claim funded childcare hours for her relative. Why are childminders singled out in this way? **This month I have written to the Secretary of State to try to find out.**

Measures on homelessness and rough sleeping in the Criminal Justice Bill

Thanks to all West Derby constituents who wrote to me about measures in the Criminal Justice Bill that could criminalise rough sleeping. We should treat people who are homeless with dignity and humanity, not with threat of police action. **This month I wrote to the Home Secretary to press home this point:**



IAN BYRNE

Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Email: ian.byrne.mp@parliament.uk
Tel: 020 7219 3000

Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF
Sent by email only

30 January 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

RE: Measures relating to homelessness and rough sleeping in the Criminal Justice Bill

I am writing to you to share the attached correspondence which I have received from a number of constituents in Liverpool West Derby regarding the Criminal Justice Bill.

Like many constituents, I am appalled that the Criminal Justice Bill contains fourteen separate measures relating to sanctions the government proposes to impose on people who are rough sleeping. Most significantly the Bill makes a number of provisions regarding "rough sleeping prevention notices" and proposes to make it an offence for a rough sleeper to fail to comply with such a notice. Committing the said offence would carry a possible jail sentence or large fine.

I agree with the words of homelessness charity, Crisis, who have said that:

"Poverty pushes people into homelessness and the fact that homelessness exists in 2024 is a failure of Government policy. This Bill would criminalise and dehumanise those of us that have been failed by a system that should keep all of us safe. We should treat people who are homeless with dignity and humanity – not with the threat of police action."

You will no doubt be aware of the escalating homelessness crisis across the country and that local councils are facing enormous challenges in order to meet their statutory duties to provide temporary and emergency accommodation.

The devastating scale of the homelessness situation in Liverpool has led the City Council to write twice to your colleagues in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to declare an emergency and calling for emergency funding. One of the main drivers of the crisis is the use of Section 21 evictions, the repeal of which has been kicked into the long grass by the Government despite many promises.

I therefore horrified that the government's main ambition appears to be to criminalise homelessness rather than addressing its structural causes, empowering local authorities to provide tailored support and increasing the supply of affordable and good quality housing.

In the attached correspondence my constituents are calling on you, in your role as Secretary of State, to immediately enact the repeal of the Vagrancy Act 1824 and remove the parts of the Criminal Justice Bill referring to rough sleeping and begging as they will criminalise homelessness.

Constituency Office:

545 West Derby Road L138AA
Phone No. 0151 222 2345 Email: ian.byrne.mp@parliament.uk
www.ianbyrne.org

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:

The importance of urban green spaces to children

At the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee session on Urban Green Spaces this month, I raised the crucial importance of green spaces on child health and wellbeing. **You can watch my contribution below, on YouTube:**



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee:

Raising the needs of disabled people in the housing sector

This month at the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee session on disabled people in the housing sector, I asked Adrian Dobson from RIBA how the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - and by extension local plans - can be revised to meet the housing needs of disabled people.

You can watch my contribution below, on YouTube:



Early Day Motions (EDMs)

Household Support Fund

This month I have tabled a Parliamentary motion to record my deep concern that the Government has not committed to extending the Household Support Fund (HSF) beyond March 2024. [**View this motion in full on the Parliamentary website: Household Support Fund \(No. 2\) - Early Day Motions - UK Parliament**](#)

UK Parliament

Early Day Motions

[UK Parliament](#) > [Early Day Motions](#) > Household Support F

Household Support Fund (No. 2)

EDM 410: tabled on 20 February 2024

Tabled in the 2023-24 session.

Early Day Motions

[UK Parliament](#) > [Early Day Motions](#) > Alan Bates and the Fr

Alan Bates and the Freedom of the City of Liverpool

EDM 402: tabled on 19 February 2024

Tabled in the 2023-24 session.

Award Alan Bates the Freedom of the

City of Liverpool: This month I have tabled a Parliamentary motion in support of the Freedom of the City of Liverpool being bestowed on Liverpool-born Post Office Horizon campaigner Alan Bates. [View this motion in full on the Parliamentary website: Alan Bates and the Freedom of the City of Liverpool](#)

Gellings Riding School

This month I have tabled a Parliamentary motion in support of Gellings Riding School's bid to acquire the land it is situated upon in order to secure its existence for future generations. The school provides inclusive opportunities for education, health and wellbeing to residents in the entire Liverpool City Region including the provision of visually impaired riding facilities and the use of its stables for neuro-diverse young adults and those experiencing poor mental health.

[View this motion in full on the Parliamentary website: Gellings Riding School - Early Day Motions - UK Parliament](#)

Early Day Motions

[UK Parliament](#) > [Early Day Motions](#) > Gellings Riding School

Gellings Riding School

EDM 378: tabled on 07 February 2024

Tabled in the 2023-24 session.

In the constituency

- Ash Court Care Home visit: Thanks to Emma and all the team at Ash Court Care Home for their warm welcome and insight into some key issues around adult social care. The visit was also a great opportunity to speak to residents and pick up important casework on some of the issues raised.
- Bank View High School: Thank you to the school council at Bank View High School in West Derby for the opportunity to talk with students about the importance of participation in politics. The age range and organisation of the council was a great example of democratic and inclusive values.
- Clifford Holyroyd College: This month I enjoyed a visit to Clifford Holroyd Specialist SEN College. There were some extremely interesting questions and feedback from pupils and teachers, and I look forward to working with all of them in the coming months.
- Blackmoor Park Junior School visit: Thanks to pupils and staff for an inspirational visit to a superb school. So many questions on a wide range of subjects and the questions on homelessness and its causes were poignant indeed.
- Community Shop meeting: A huge thanks to the team at Community Shop for the invitation to see their model for tackling food poverty in action. Theirs is an extremely impressive set-up with a fantastic team working with the entire community. Plenty of scope here to link the work of Community Shop into our #RightToFood campaign.
- Gellings Riding School meeting: Another packed and positive public meeting took place at Gellings Riding School this month. A galvanized community with a plan to save this vital asset which I am proud to be involved with.
- Meeting local author JP Maxwell: It was a pleasure to welcome West Derby constituent JP Maxwell to my office this month to chat about his maiden novel Water Street. JP has ambitious plans to bring his story, which is based in Liverpool in 1863, to life through technology. You can find Water Street by JP Maxwell online here: <http://amzn.to/43yZ3Tr>
- MANVFAT in West Derby: I enjoyed getting an informative overview of the hugely impressive health programme at MANVFAT in West Derby recently. I also got a lot out of listening to the fantastic story of a West Derby constituent who is now an inspiring health coach. I also thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to take part in a game of footy.
- St Theresa's presented with CAFOD award: It was a privilege this month to see CAFOD present St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary School in

West Derby with the Live Simply Award in recognition of the outstanding efforts of pupils. It was good also to discuss with pupils and staff at St Teresa's the work of CAFOD and the very real differences it can make to vulnerable communities.

- Visit to Carla Lane's Animals in Need: A really positive meeting on so many topics, from XL Bullies to manifesto issues, with Carla Lane's Animals in Need. We really are so fortunate to have such a brilliant team in Merseyside doing so much for the welfare of animals.
- Meeting with CEO of Fields in Trust: Wonderful to meet Helen Griffiths, CEO of Fields in Trust this month. Lots to discuss on green issues, including the rollout of our vital scheme to legally protect all of Liverpool's parks and green spaces. This is vital for the health and wellbeing of all in West Derby and the entire city.

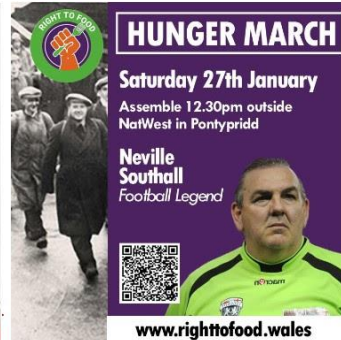
Campaigns update

Hillsborough Law Now Campaign

BBC Newsnight recently brought together guests affected by Grenfell, Hillsborough, Windrush and the Post Office Horizon scandal. Jenni Hicks, who lost her two daughters at Hillsborough, took part in the programme. She told presenter Victoria Derbyshire: "The thing we all have in common here...is those in power protecting themselves." **Jenni is spot on. The rich and powerful *must* be held to account and face responsibility. That is why we need a #HillsboroughLawNow.**



The Right To Food Campaign



Right To Food Campaign in Wales

Ninety-seven years after the first hunger march from the Valleys, Beth Winter MP and campaigners including former Everton and Wales goalie Neville Southall marched again for the **#RightToFood**. Well done to all involved in taking our campaign direct to the people of Wales.



Right To Food Campaign in Scotland

It was a privilege to speak in Glasgow at the Labour Campaign For Socialism conference fringe event on a **#RightToFood**. Superb speeches from Zarah Sultana MP and Monica Lennon MSP serve as another reminder of the support for a **#RightToFood** across UK.

Right To Food Campaign in Belfast

Well done to Belfast councillor and #RightToFood campaigner Paul Doherty, whose motion stating that the NI Executive is acting unlawfully by failing to adapt an anti-poverty strategy was passed this month by Belfast City Council. At Paul's request, the council will now write to the Minister for Communities calling for action and to outline how he intends to fulfil his legal obligation to tackle poverty, social exclusion and deprivation.



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>.

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. You can email me on: ianbyrne@labour.com

**In Solidarity,
Ian Byrne MP
West Derby, Liverpool**