



Constituency Report (March 2021)

Coronavirus Vaccine

I was delighted to receive my first COVID vaccination at The Arc Centre in Islington. The vaccine was quick and painless, and the centre was highly organised, safe and caring.

Together we can fight coronavirus by making sure we get vaccinated and protect our community. It is so important that we all step up to take our vaccine when it's our turn.

When you get your message, whether its via a text, a letter, or an email, please book your appointment. Those over 56 are now eligible for the vaccine and are encouraged to book an appointment online. The vaccine is safe, and will help protect you, your family, and our community.

There's a lot of misinformation out there, but nobody should have any concerns about the vaccine. You can check the facts and find out more about vaccine distribution in Islington [here](#).

More than one year on from the start of the pandemic, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. It is by the strength of our hardworking and determined NHS staff, and the

hundreds of volunteers across our community, that we are able to see a way back to the Islington we know and love.



Getting my first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at The Arc Centre, Islington

DIT Orals

Those who followed the long-running debate last year about a potential trade deal with the United States, and what it would mean for our food and farming standards, will know that the same issues are looming again over potential trade deals with Australia and New Zealand, and the government's planned accession to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

On February 25, I asked Liz Truss about some of those issues in the House of Commons, particularly in light of the recent comments by her top adviser on trade and agriculture, Shanker Singham, who stated that the European Union could never create a mega trade bloc with the CPTPP because of the EU's approach to agricultural standards.

That begs the question: what is going to change about the UK's

agricultural standards now that we're outside the EU?

As ever, I didn't get any meaningful answers from Liz Truss, but I will keep hammering away and asking the important questions. You can watch the full session [here](#).



Speaking at Trade Orals, 25 February

Cameroon Conflict Research Group Event

On February 19, I had the pleasure of taking part in a Cameroon Conflict Research Group event, hosted by the University of Oxford's Law Faculty.

I spoke about the shame of the UK government's trade deal with the Biya regime, which has been responsible for committing brutal atrocities against Cameroon's Anglophone population. I also spoke about the fact that 8 weeks after it took effect, the government had still not published the agreement. You can see my remarks at 1:04:46 [here](#).



Speaking at Oxford University Law Faculty's Cameroon Conflict Research Group Event, 19 February

International Women's Day

For International Women's Day on March 8, I took part in CARE International's virtual [March4Women](#); a celebration of the power and potential of women and girls around the world, and a global movement for gender equality.

I had the pleasure of being asked a question by Harriet, a constituent who voiced her concerns around the climate crisis and its impact on women and girls.

I spoke about the fact that Britain offshores more carbon emissions than any other country in the G7, and how my fight as Shadow International Trade Secretary is to hold the government to account on this. We must ensure that decisions on trade policy consider how to tackle climate change and its disproportionate impact on women and girls, and we must have environmental and climate change chapters in our trade deals.



Chatting to Harriet for IWD, 8 March

Richard Watts

I was very sad to hear that Richard Watts will be standing down as Leader of Islington Council. Despite the massive cuts in government funding since 2010, with Richard's help the Council has achieved so much, and he has led Islington Labour to two landslide election victories.

Our journey has always been guided by the desperate need for greater equality & fairness. I thank Richard for his invaluable contribution and wish him the best of luck for the future.



Richard and I celebrating Armed Forces Day, June 2016

Islington COVID Dialogue Event

For many months, life as we know it has had to change. The pandemic has exposed the insecurities of our economy and inequalities of our society, and the sacrifices people have had to make have been immeasurable.

On 27 February, I had the opportunity to call constituents with local councillors and volunteers on behalf of the Labour Party, to talk politics and to hear stories about living under the COVID-19 pandemic in the Inner City.



Islington COVID Dialogue Event, 27 February

International Trade and Work in Parliament

19 February: University of Oxford [Cameroon Webinar](#)

20 February: North Swindon Dialogue Event

22 February: Faroese APPG; Meeting with Nick Crook from UNISON

23 February: Meeting with Matt Hancock; Global Britain Event on post-Brexit trade, hosted by Harvard University and King's College London

25 February: [DIT Orals](#); Meeting with Rob Yates from Chatham House

26 February: Virtual event to celebrate the Emperor of Japan's Birthday

27 February: Early Votes Action Day Phonebanking

1 March: Meeting with Humane Society International UK; Stop AIDs Meeting on Vaccines

2 March: Meeting with Trade Justice Movement

3 March: Meeting with Oxfam on Vaccines

4 March: Sadiq Khan's Launch for London's Mayoral Elections; Walk with Australian Deputy High Commissioner

5 March: Virtual Event for International Women's Day at Parliament Hill School

8 March: Spring Business Forum; Meeting with Crisis Action Yemen

9 March: Sadiq for London Briefing; Meeting with Sedex; APPG on HIV & AIDS: Q&A with the Lord Speaker

In the constituency

26 February: Briefing from Vaccines Minister; SCG/GLA Covid-19 briefing for London MPs

27 February: [Islington Dialogue Event](#)

3 March: Briefing from Vaccines Minister

4 March: Meeting with David Gold on Mount Pleasant Nursery

5 March: Briefing from Vaccines Minister; SCG/GLA Covid-19 briefing for London MP

Media

17 February: Times Radio with Carole Walker

4 March: CARE International UK's [March4Women](#) Day

7 March: Social Media on [COVID Vaccine](#) at the Arc Centre

Join Emily Thornberry to phonebank in Islington



On Early Votes Action Day, I phone-banked to encourage people to register for a postal vote, 27 February



University of Oxford Law Faculty's Cameroon Webinar



The first signs of spring in St James' Park