



Constituency Report (June 2021)

Cladding Crisis

14 June 2021 marked 4 years since the Grenfell Tower fire, in which 72 people lost their lives in a fire which rapidly spread due to unsafe cladding fitted to the exterior of the building. My thoughts are with the loved ones of everyone who was affected by this senseless tragedy – their fight for justice continues.

Since then, I have been putting an increasing amount of pressure on Ministers to resolve the cladding crisis. It is unacceptable that temporary fire protection measures are still in place on many blocks. More government money is needed to renew cladding and make flat blocks safe – leaseholders and Housing Associations should not be left to foot the bill.

On 28 May, I sent yet another letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, in which I wrote:

“Over 400 leaseholders from my constituency have contacted me recently about fire safety. [...] I am calling on you now to take a minute to look at the misery being caused to so many.”



Aquarelle House on City Road is one of the 30 blocks affected

I enclosed with my letter the stories of residents in each of the 30 blocks of flats in my constituency impacted by the crisis. You can read my letter to the Minister [here](#), resident testimonies [here](#), and an article in the Islington Tribune about this issue [here](#).

Proposed Boundary Changes

On 8 June, the Boundary Commission published its 2023 review, which would see Islington South and Finsbury renamed as the City of London and Islington South. My views are as follows:

“I have never understood why, when counting the number of constituents I have, thousands and thousands of people who live in

Islington are excluded just because they can’t join, or haven’t yet joined, the electoral register. [...] And, if they had all been counted, there would be absolutely no need to change the boundaries because the constituency is ‘too small’.”

Emily Wilding Davison



The unveiling of Emily Wilding Davison’s statue in Epsom, 9 June



On 9 June, I was so very pleased and moved to be at the unveiling of a statue to Emily Wilding Davison in Epsom, where 108 years ago she was killed by the King’s horse on Derby Day. Congratulations to everyone who worked for eight long years to finally see this day happen.

TUC Conference on Workers' Rights and Trade

On 28 May, I co-hosted the 'Building a Workers' Trade Agenda' conference with the TUC. We heard some really valuable contributions outlining why we must build a trade policy which upholds the rights and freedoms of workers throughout the world. I want to thank our excellent chairs, Labour MPs Chi Onwurah and Andy McDonald, and the TUC's Rosa Crawford.

Across three sessions, we heard from experts in their field, as we discussed the role of trade unions in trade negotiations, how to create a trade policy which promotes decent jobs and a green economy, and how to create a progressive trade agenda.

We were notably joined by Gilbero Martinez from CUT Colombia, Colombia's central union of workers, who spoke about the

shocking attacks on workers' rights that are currently taking place across his country.

The conference was a great success, and I am looking forward to further exploring many of the ideas that were discussed.



Session 3 of the 'Building a Worker's Trade Agenda' conference with the TUC, 28 May

Urgent Question on UK-Australia and DIT Questions

On 27 May, I asked Liz Truss an [Urgent Question](#) in the House of Commons on the proposed UK-Australia trade deal, and its elimination of tariffs and quotas on all Australian agricultural exports to the UK.

I asked Tory MPs to consider how they would react if it was Brussels selling out Britain's farming communities through lop-sided trade deals. I made my position clear:

"We cannot support a deal on agricultural tariffs that will cost jobs in our farming communities, undercut our food standards, increase our carbon offshoring, and open the door to the de-



International Trade Questions, 10 June

struction of our farming industry, through further lop-sided trade deals."

Later, on 10 June, I raised this issue again during [International Trade Questions](#). I asked Liz Truss whether tariffs will be cut on meat produced in Australia using practices that are illegal in the UK — such as mulesing. Mulesing is a horrific practice which is used on young lambs. Whilst it is primarily used in the Australian wool industry, the Australian meat industry has admitted that it is also "very exposed" to the practice. If you would like to read more information about mulesing, you can do so by clicking [here](#).

Unsurprisingly, Liz Truss did not answer my question — and the answer that she did provide made me think that she hadn't even considered that this would be an issue.

On 15 June, the UK-Australia trade deal was agreed in broad terms. Rest assured, I will continue to put pressure on the government to ensure that this deal does not undermine the high food and farming standards in our country.

G7 Summit

This year's G7 summit was held in sunny Cornwall between Friday 11 June and Saturday 13 June. World leaders came together to discuss pressing issues, such as global inequalities, climate change, and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

I headed over to Cornwall myself and was taken aback by the beauty of the South West. As I said during my [Sky News interview](#), while the optics were great and it was brilliant to be joined by Joe Biden, I fear we did not do enough on vaccines and we did not step up to the challenges of climate change.



Seeing the sights in St Ives, Cornwall, 12 June

International Trade and Work in Parliament

- 24 May: [Letter to Liz Truss on the UK-Australia trade deal](#)
- 24 May: Meeting with Animal Welfare NGOs and Luke Pollard
- 25 May: Briefed Labour MPs on the UK-Australia trade deal with Luke Pollard
- 27 May: [Urgent Question on the UK-Australia trade deal](#)
- 28 May: 'Building a Workers' Trade Agenda' Roundtable with the TUC
- 3 June: [Letter to Liz Truss on UK Steel](#)
- 3 June: Meeting with the WWF and Greener UK
- 7 June: [Statement on the Trade and Agriculture Commission](#)
- 8 June: [Attended the Emily Davison statue unveiling](#)
- 10 June: [International Trade Questions](#)
- 12 June: [Statement on International Trade FOI rule breaches](#)
- 14 June: [Letter to Liz Truss on the Equality Commission](#)
- 14 June: Meeting with trade unions on UK Steel
- 14 June: Speaking to Cambridge University Labour Club



My Zoom companion! Via [Instagram](#), 26 May

In the constituency

- 28 May: [Letter to Robert Jenrick on the cladding crisis](#)
- 4 June: Visited Prospecx
- 9 June: Meeting with Baroness Berridge on Clerkenwell Parochial Church of England Primary School
- 10 June: Royal College of Nursing event
- 11 June: We Own It event on Islington NHS privatisation
- 16 June: Women's Walk



[Urgent Question](#) on the UK-Australia trade deal, 27 May

Media

- 24 May: LBC Radio – Question to Liz Truss
- 27 May: [Question Time](#)
- 4 June: [Islington Tribune on the cladding crisis](#)
- 5 June: [The Independent](#)
- 7 June: [Newsnight](#)—"I'm in politics to do the right thing"
- 9 June: [Interview with The London Economic](#)
- 13 June: Sky News—"G7 could've been so much more"



Speaking to Trevor Phillips about the G7 summit, 13 June

- 13 June: [The Andrew Marr Show](#) — "The weak link is government Ministers"
- 13 June: Times Radio
- 13 June: LBC Radio



Speaking to Emily Maitlis about why the government should return to spending 0.7% on foreign aid, 7 June