



Constituency Report (September 2021)

Summer Recess

Since my last Constituency Report in July, Coronavirus restrictions in England have been lifted. For the first time in a long time, events have been able to take place in person, people from different households have been able to mix without restraint – and I have been getting back out there into the constituency!

I'm delighted to say that my **constituency surgeries are back**. I have so missed being able to speak to my constituents about their issues and provide them with the advice they need in person rather than via email or over the phone. As has been the case since I was first elected, I will be holding two constituency surgeries a month, one by appointment and a walk-in surgery at Islington Town Hall on the second Saturday of every month. If you would like to make an appointment, please ring our Advice Line on 020 7697 9307 or email me.



Helping build a go-kart at Formula Fun, 3 September

This summer, I have held three constituency surgeries. I have also visited: the newly refurbished Three Kings Pub in Clerkenwell; St Luke's for a Thank You event for staff and volunteers; Formula Fun at Exmouth Market; the Whittington for the unveiling of a statute dedicated to Windrush and Commonwealth nurses and midwives; and more.

Of course, the Coronavirus pandemic isn't over. We must continue to wash our hands, maintain social distance where possible and wear a face covering in public places. But I must say, it is great to be able to get back out there and be amongst the people I was elected to serve. I've missed them.



Visiting the Three Kings Pub in Clerkenwell, 26 July

The Afghanistan Crisis

This August, a tragic situation unfolded in Afghanistan as the Taliban took over the country in a matter of days. Whatever anyone thinks of the decision to invade the country twenty years ago, or how that war has been conducted, we can all agree that what has happened is disastrous for the Afghan people, and a terrible betrayal of the faith they put in us.

My office is currently dealing with over 70 cases from my constituents and their families in Afghanistan who are in imminent danger from the Taliban, whether that be because they have previously worked for the British government, because they are LGBT or simply because they are a woman.

Labour have been calling on the government to take all action to alleviate the immediate suffering of the Afghan people, and to introduce an Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme worth its name. The Afghanistan crisis is a humanitarian crisis. The UK government must do all it can to support Afghans in desperate need of refuge.

Islington Council has pledged to support up to 15 Afghan households by the end of the year. London Councils and the Mayor have also set up the London Refugee Response appeal to support new arrivals to London from Afghanistan. You can find out more information about the appeal [here](#).

Labour's Trade Policy: Putting Workers First

On 12 September, I published a report, entitled 'Labour's Trade Policy: Putting Workers First', setting out the ways in which a future Labour government will promote the interests of working people in the UK and protect workers' rights abroad as central priorities of our trade policy. You can read the document and the background to it [here](#).

As I said in the foreword of the report: "We [need] a trade policy that will create decent, well-paid jobs here at home, raise standards around the world, and ensure every trade agreement the UK signs is used to protect, promote and enforce the rights of workers, wherever they may live."

Later that day, I discussed the report and its international trade context with Paul Nowak of the TUC, Damaris Muhika from the Central Organisation of Trade Unions in Kenya, and Lori

Wallach, the Director of the Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch at a TUC Conference Fringe event, chaired by Susie Boniface.

The event was a resounding success. Thank you to everyone who attended. I am now looking forward to having meaningful discussions with the broader Labour movement which will allow Labour to publish a final, agreed document by the end of 2021.

LABOUR'S TRADE POLICY: PUTTING WORKERS FIRST

September 2021



The Rt Hon Emily Thornberry MP
Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade



DIT Questions, a Ministerial Statement on Brexit and a New SoS

During [International Trade Questions](#) on 14 July, I asked Liz Truss to name just one country where she'd taken action through Britain's trade deals to enforce the rights of workers. But she couldn't! You can watch me ask the question [here](#).

After the summer recess on 16 September, I responded to a [Ministerial Statement on 'Brexit Opportunities'](#). As you can see in [this video](#), I urged the newly appointed Paymaster



International Trade Questions, 14 July

General Michael Ellis to "join us in the real world, together with Britain's business community, in the world of delays and shortages, red tape and bureaucracy, lost business and lost trade; a world which demands sensible answers and practical action from the Cabinet Office."

The day before, Boris Johnson had conducted a Cabinet reshuffle, replacing Liz Truss with Anne-Marie Trevelyan as the Secretary of State for International Trade. I welcomed Anne-Marie to her new role with a letter summarising Liz Truss' legacy of major problems. You can read my letter [here](#).

Following her appointment, I made clear my disappointment with Anne-Marie's previous tweets in support of climate change denial. As [I tweeted on 15 September](#), at least Liz Truss only hired climate change deniers...

Back to Parliament

The end of Coronavirus restrictions also mean that the business of Parliament is back to 'normal'. This means that I've finally been able to catch up with some of the amazing charities that have been unable to lobby Parliament in person since March 2020, such as Macmillan Cancer Support and the Alzheimer's Society. I've really enjoyed discussing with these charities the importance of their work and how they have been supporting people in Islington South and Finsbury, as well as learning more about their government demands.

I'm hoping to catch up with many more charities at the Labour Party Conference at the end of this month!



Meeting in Parliament with Macmillan Cancer Support and the Alzheimer's Society to discuss support for cancer nurses and new dementia tests, 8 and 15 September



International Trade and Work in Parliament

- 15 July: [International Trade Questions](#)
- 19 July: [Letter to Liz Truss on PPE Contracts](#)
- 20 July: Meeting with the Egg Council to discuss exports
- 22 July: Meeting with Backbench Trade and Unions;
Meeting with Fur Free Britain
- 28 July: [Letter to Sajid Javid on PPE Contracts](#)
- 29 July: Meeting with the Head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia
- 1 August: [Letter to Lord Gedit on Ministerial Meetings](#)
- 18 August: Spoke at Labour's Stronger Together Webinar
- 20 August: [Letter to Liz Truss on the Energy Charter Treaty](#)
- 23 August: [Letter to Sajid Javid on PPE Contracts](#)
- 2 September: [Letter to Liz Truss and George Eustice on the TAC Report](#); Meeting with Community
- 8 September: Attended Parliament's Macmillan Coffee Morning and Letters to Earth's Children's Lobby;
Meeting with the Bioindustry Association
- 12 September: [Published New Policy Document](#) and Spoke at TUC Fringe Event – 'Labour's Trade Policy: Putting Workers First'
- 15 September: [Letter to Anne-Marie Trevelyan on her appointment as International Trade Secretary](#); Attended the NFU Breakfast; Met the Alzheimer's Society in Parliament
- 16 September: [Ministerial Statement on 'Brexit Opportunities'](#)
- 18 September: Spoke at a Barbara Castle Symposium



During the summer recess, I spent some exploring the beauty of Northumberland, as I documented on [my Instagram](#)



Speaking on Peston about the Cabinet reshuffle, 15 September

In the constituency

- 20 July: Meeting with We Are Islington
- 23 July: Meeting with Vaccines Minister
- 26 July: Visited the Three Kings Pub
- 29 July: Visited St Luke's Volunteer Thank You Event
- 30 July: Surgery at St Luke's
- 6 August: Surgery at St Luke's
- 1 September: Visited Charterhouse Square
- 2 September: Meeting with Arsenal FC
- 3 September: Surgery at St Luke's; Visited Formula Fun
- 10 September: Meeting with the Leader of Islington Council; Attended Windrush Statue Unveiling at the Whittington
- 11 September: Surgery at Islington Town Hall
- 19 September: Attended the Lambe's Feast at St. James'

Media

- 17 July: [The Independent](#) - "The government has made basic errors when rolling over our EU treaties"
- 21 July: [The i](#) - "Liz Truss and her Board are sticking their heads in the sand on [carbon border tax]"
- 22 July: Politics Live
- 5 August: [Authored Labour's Eulogy for Richard Trumka](#); [The New Statesman article](#) - "British farmers need a level playing field"
- 7 September: Interview with the Institute of Directors
- 8 September: Sky News to discuss UK-Australia trade
- 15 September: [Peston](#) - "The Department for International Trade had a reputation for cut and paste"