



## Constituency Report (November 2021)

### Business Visits to Discuss International Trade



*Visiting Sanders and Sanders, and Medicom, 10 November*

During last week's parliamentary recess, I visited businesses across the country to discuss issues relating to trade such as exports and our new trading relationship with the EU.

On 10 November, Shadow International Trade Minister Bill Esterson and I met with Community Trade Union at their Regional HQ in Earls Barton for a roundtable with the British Footwear Association. Afterwards, Bill and I visited Sanders and Sanders, a 140-year old business that today produces over 2,000 pairs of shoes and boots a week, which are exported to over 30 countries. There, I met Beryl 'the Skiver' (pictured above) who has been skiving the edges of leather for nearly 50 years!

Later that day, Bill and I visited Medicom's new factory in Northampton, which is making more than 1.5 million PPE masks a day and employs around 250 local people. As I said at the factory: *"It should be our collective goal in the coming years to*

*buy, make and sell more in Britain, so it's been a pleasure to visit a company that is trying to provide a high-quality, home-grown solution to our PPE needs."*

On 11 November, I met with the British Growers Association in Yaxley for discussions around farming and trade. I later visited some brassica (that's broccoli and sprouts to you and me), onion and blueberry growers in Peterborough. A huge thank you to everyone at RB Organics for showing me the carrots and for letting me take a bag home to make soup!

And to end the week on 12 November, I took a trip up to Macclesfield to meet with the Cheshire Cheese Company and Hartington Creamery, where I heard about just how hard it's become for our great British cheese SMEs to trade with Europe.

Thank you to all who gave us their time. It's been great to get out there and speak with businesses face-to-face.



*Visiting RB Organics and the Cheshire Cheese Company, 11-12 November*

## Remembrance Sunday

Islington and Finsbury came together this Remembrance Sunday to remember all those who left our community in order to protect it and never came back. I joined the Remembrance Parade, which runs down past Islington Town Hall. I always wear on Remembrance Sunday a brooch given to me by my Irish grandmother. It had belonged to her aunt who had been engaged to a soldier who died in WWI. Although she married again, she kept a photo of her first love in the back of the brooch all her life. I wear it in honour of their love, his sacrifice and my great-great aunt's pain.



*Remembrance Parade in Islington, 14 November*

# DIT Questions

During [International Trade Oral Questions](#) on 21 October, I pointed out that the government had finally given up its pretence of concern for our farming communities, following the announcement of both the UK's agreement in principle with New Zealand and the government's long-awaited response to the Trade and Agriculture Commission Report.

You can read [here](#) my joint statement with Luke Pollard on the government's TAC response. The government has double-crossed us and their promises about the role and recommendations of the TAC are going to be discarded.

[I responded](#) to the proposed UK-New Zealand trade deal during the session by stating: *"In Year One of this new deal, New Zealand can export four times as much lamb as they did last year before any tariffs kick in. They can export more butter to Britain than they have done for the past six years put together before facing a*



[International Trade Oral Questions](#), 21 October

*single tariff. And they can export 25 times more beef, entirely tariff-free, as they can right now with a 20 per cent tariff. For all practical purposes, what this deal therefore gives us is unlimited, tariff-free trade from New Zealand to go with unlimited, tariff-free trade already agreed with Australia, confirming this as the precedent which every other major exporter will now expect to follow."* Our farmers surely deserve better.

## COP26 in Glasgow

COP26 took place in Glasgow between 1-15 November.

On 1 November, I was invited to speak at 'Women Leading the Way in Green Trade', an event organised by the British Chambers of Commerce. I shared the final section of my speech on my Facebook page, which you can read [here](#). I also wanted to share below a section from it which highlights how little attention is paid to women in this government's so-called 'green trade agenda':

*"The government's report on 'Green Trade', a 52 page report with seven pages of pictures and just two of recommendations, [has been] billed as providing the definitive analysis on the role of trade in tackling climate change.*

*"Unsurprisingly, the words 'gender', 'female', 'women' or 'equality' did not feature once in that report, and also missing was any discussion of some of the critical issues on the green trade agenda."*



At Glasgow College with some inspiring women, 1 November

Overall, the outcome of COP26 was disappointing and we have left the summit miles away from where we need to be to halve global emissions this decade.

## Poetry Reading in Memory of Mehri Jafari



Mehri Jafari was a much-loved member of our Labour community in Islington South who very sadly died over the summer whilst mountaineering in Kyrgyzstan. On 22 October, Mehri's loved ones came together for an evening of poetry reading in her memory. The most powerful poems I heard were read by Mehri's Iranian friends and family because although I couldn't understand the words, the emotion I could hear being expressed was so very powerful.

A final poem written by Mehri was found with her possessions in Kyrgyzstan, which you can read [here](#). At the reading, I recited 'People's Faces' by Kae Tempest, which you can listen to [here](#).





Greeting delegates at the Climate Train at St Pancras for COP26, 30 October

## International Trade and Work in Parliament

21 October: [International Trade Oral Questions](#);

Spoke to Westminster North CLP

22 October: [Letter to Steve Barclay on Business-Level Data on Trade with the EU](#)

27 October: Visited Richard Ratcliffe on hunger strike outside the FCDO

1 November: Spoke at the Women and Green Trade Event at COP26; [Letter to Nigel Adams on the Ministerial Code](#)

3 November: [Letter to Anne-Marie Trevelyan on Nagaenthran Dharmalingam](#)

4 November: [Letter to Anne-Marie Trevelyan on Copyright Protections for UK Creative Artists](#)

9 November: Meeting with Nestle on supply chains

10 November: Roundtable with Community and the British Footwear Association; Visited Sanders and Sanders; Visited Medicom

11 November: Meeting with the British Growers Association; Visited AM Fresh and RB Organics

12 November: Visited the Cheshire Cheese Company

16 November: Meeting with Jersey Senator Ian Gorst



Trying out the new TIER e-bikes in Islington, 8 November



At Community's Regional HQ for a roundtable with General Secretary Roy Rickhuss and Lucy Reece-Raybould from the British Footwear Association, 10 November

## Constituency

22 October: Spoke at Poetry Reading in Memory of Mehri Jafari

30 October: Visited the Climate Train at St Pancras for COP26

5 November: Surgery at St Luke's; Meeting with Disability Action

8 November: Tried out the new TIER e-bikes at Exmouth Market

13 November: Surgery at Islington Town Hall

14 November: Remembrance Sunday Parade; Remembrance Services at Islington Green and Spa Green Fields

## Media

20 October: [The Guardian](#) – "Thanks to Liz Truss's latest blunder, we now know that the public support she was claiming for her trade deals is nothing of the sort"

21 October: [Press Release with Luke Pollard on DIT's response to the TAC Report](#); [Sky News with Adam Boulton](#); [The London Economic](#) – "Asia is taking us to the cleaners"

22 October: [Twitter Thread to Mark One Year of the UK-Japan CEPA](#) – "Truss left the record uncorrected"

31 October: [Sky News](#) with Trevor Phillips; Times Radio; LBC

2 November: ['The Real Me' on GB News with Gloria De Piero](#)

3 November: BBC Radio 4; [BBC News](#) – "This would make Donald Trump blush" (Tory sleaze)

4 November: BBC Radio 4 World at One; [Question Time](#)

5 November: [POLITICO](#) – Trevelyan has "actively chosen to duck the debate" at COP26

7 November: [The Independent](#) – "It is time for a change of course" on the government's trade policy