



Emily Thornberry MP
Islington South and Finsbury



Constituency Report (December 2021)

Small Business Saturday



Visiting Gail's Florist, 4 December

This year, Small Business Saturday took place on 4 December. To mark the occasion, I went out and visited some of my favourite small businesses in Islington South and Finsbury. Small businesses give Islington so much of its character; I don't take for granted how lucky we are to have so many amazing small businesses right on our doorstep.

First, I took a visit to Gail's Florist, where Gail has a great eye for flower arrangement. I spotted the sweetest little poinsettia called "Mouse Ears" in the shop, selling for only £3!



Visiting Pistachio & Pickle and Fantasy Nails, 4 December

Next, I visited Pistachio & Pickle, where I met Steve — a man who knows his cheese! Whether it's a truckle of cheddar or a cheese sandwich, P&P is the place to be!

I also went down to Fantasy Nails on The Cally to get a fresh set of Christmas nails. Thank you to Hannah for her excellent work! I left a very happy customer.

And finally, I visited Nourished Communities, which sells unusual and imaginative food boxes that are also available for delivery. Perfect for Christmas!

Fire Brigade Union Plaque Unveiling

Plaque unveiling for Colin Townsley, who died in the King Cross fire, 18 November



On 18 November, I was honoured to speak at the unveiling of a red plaque dedicated to the memory of Colin Townsley. Colin was in charge of the firefighters from Soho station who, in 1987, attended the Kings Cross Underground Fire, where he lost his life saving others. The Fire Brigade Union are currently placing red plaques across the UK, near the locations where firefighters died protecting their communities. We owe these fallen heroes a great deal; commemorating their sacrifice is the least we can do.

Work In and Around Parliament



Speaking to Nick Ferrarri on LBC, 7 December

On 29 November, Keir Starmer announced his new Shadow Cabinet. After spending 19 hard months exposing the blunders, lies and betrayals of Tory trade policy, and the continuing act of economic self-harm that is their botched Brexit deal, I have moved on to the next good fight as Shadow Attorney General. I know that Nick Thomas-Symonds will do a great job with the trade brief, and I am looking forward to getting stuck into holding this government to account on its appalling track record when it comes to the law.

I released a joint statement on 6 December, which you can read [here](#), on the government's plans to bypass Judicial Review

rulings. The judicial review process exists so the public can challenge the Government and other public bodies when it suspects they have broken the law. As we said in our statement: *"This is nothing to do with the sovereignty of Parliament, but all about the Henry VIII fantasies of a Prime Minister who thinks none of the rules the rest of us have to live by should ever be applied to him."*

Speaking of the Prime Minister, there has been no shortage of stories to comment on in the media this month surrounding last year's alleged No 10 Christmas party. As I said to Nick Ferrari on LBC on 7 December:

"This government believes that the rules don't apply to them. You just see the way in which they think they can have the No 10 staff parties at a time when there was a lockdown last year – because rules only apply to little people, they don't apply to them."

Vaccines

As I'm sure you are aware, there is a new variant of the Coronavirus called 'Omicron', which is causing the government and their scientists a great deal of concern, because of its increased transmissibility. Against this new variant, we need all the protection we can get, which is why the government has reintroduced some restrictions (such as mandatory face coverings) and is currently trying to make it possible for all adults to get their booster vaccines before the end of the year.

I had my booster Moderna vaccine on 11 December, as [documented on my Instagram](#). I am so thankful for science and for the amazing NHS staff who made it possible.

If you are yet to have booked in for your booster vaccine (or indeed your second or first dose), I would encourage you to do so.

The last thing any of us need this Christmastime is COVID! Getting vaccinated protects ourselves, our loved ones, and the people around us. It is the best defence we have. That's why I was honoured to be at the opening of Astra Zeneca's Research and Development Centre in Cambridge on 23 November to discuss vaccines and their importance in the fight against COVID.

At Astra Zeneca's new Research and Development Centre, 23 November



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of my constituents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pictured left is my 2021 Christmas card, featuring the festive photos of Islington I snapped last year for every day of Advent. We sure do live in a beautiful place.



Speaking to students at King's College, Cambridge, 18 November

International Trade/Attorney General and Work in Parliament

- 18 November: Meeting with the Falkland Islands' Government Representatives; Spoke to King's College, Cambridge Politics Society
- 19 November: Meeting with the Japanese Embassy
- 22 November: Reception at the US Embassy
- 23 November: Attended the Opening of Astra Zeneca's Research and Development Centre
- 24 November: Spoke to Hull North CLP
- 29 November: [Letter to Michael Ellis, Paymaster General on the Scrapping of the Brexit Checker Service](#)
- 6 December: [Joint Statement with Steve Reed on Judicial Review](#)
- 8 December: Spoke at the ActionAid Trade Report Launch
- 9 December: Meeting with the Society of Labour Lawyers
- 15 December: Meeting with the Bar Council



Visiting Nourished Communities on Small Business Saturday, 4 December

Constituency

- 18 November: Fire Brigade Union Plaque Unveiling
- 3 December: Surgery at St Luke's
- 4 December: Visits to Gail's Florist, Pistachio & Pickle, Fantasy Nails, and Nourished Communities for Small Business Saturday
- 7 December: Meeting with constituents for PSC Lobby Day
- 11 December: Surgery Islington Town Hall



Speaking to Kay Burley on Sky News, 7 December

Media

- 24 November: [Twitter Thread on the New Export Support Service \(ESS\)](#)
- 7 December: Media Round ([Sky News](#), [LBC](#), Times Radio, ITV, Bauer Media); BBC Radio Scotland; Times Radio with John Pienaar – “If it quacks like a duck, if it smells like a duck, it's a duck” [on the No. 10 Christmas party allegations]
- 8 December: [Sky News](#); BBC Radio 2; [LBC with Shelagh Fogarty](#) – “So many people were making so many sacrifices last Christmas”
- 10 December: [Spectator Podcast on COP26](#)
- 15 December: [Unearthed](#)



There's a smile beneath the mask! Receiving my booster Coronavirus vaccine, 11 December