

Constituency Report (February 2022)

Thank you Islington South and Finsbury CLP!



After 17 years, it was probably time to renew the sign at my constituency office...

Thank you to Barnsbury, Bunhill, Caledonian, Canonbury, Clerkenwell, Holloway, Laycock, St Mary's & St James' and St Peters & Canalside branches, and to the local branches of Unite, the Co-Operative Party, GMB, Unison, and Usdaw, for voting to re-select me.

It is the greatest honour to be re-selected as Labour's candidate for Islington South and Finsbury at the next General Election.

Islington South and Finsbury is not just my home, but quite simply (and without doubt) the best constituency in the UK.

COVID Update

As I documented on my Instagram (right), I tested positive for COVID this February and so a number of my plans had to change .

I've said it many times before, but thank God for science! Because I am double-vaccinated and boosted, I was not made too unwell by the virus. The worst symptoms for me were the tiredness — and the boredom!

Thank you to everyone who sent me well wishes.



Meetings in the Constituency

My January **constituency surgeries** were cancelled due to the high rate of COVID infections at the time. They returned in February — although, ironically, my casework team had to go ahead without me following my positive COVID test.

I attended a **roundtable discussion with Central North Policing** on the very important issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). I asked the police what they are doing to tackle this endemic in our society, and I made it clear to them what my expectations are of the police in this area.

I met with **Cllr Rowena Champion**. We had a productive discussion regarding constituent concerns about people with disabilities in light of Islington Council's People Friendly Streets initiative.

I visited the **new Barnsbury Estate with Cllr Jilani Chowdhury and Newlon Housing Trust** to see what progress has been made — as I'm sure you know, the transformation of the old Barnsbury Estate began in October 2019, with Newlon's aim being to create high-quality homes and green spaces for everyone in the Barnsbury community to enjoy.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day 2022

Harry Olmer, 95, shared the harrowing experiences of his Jewish family in Poland during the Zoom event. It was a privilege to hear him speak.



ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

Islington Council's Holocaust Memorial Day took place online this year, incorporating the national theme of 'One Day'. I was honoured to speak at the event. I wanted to share with you below some of my words:

"The propaganda, they break down people to 'other', the lie that others are different to you. It can move very quickly to hate, to dehumanisation. [...] We have to remember how important it is that we always hold on to the fact that we are the same. There is no 'other'. The other thing to learn from Harry is just how strong we can be, the strength of the human spirit and what we can achieve if we stick together,."

Canvassing for the Local Elections in May

With the local elections in May fast approaching, I have been getting out and about on the Labour doorstep to speak to voters. On 27 January, I spoke to my constituents with **Bunhill Labour** (pictured on the top right) which is always a pleasure.

In **Chipping Barnet** on 29 January (pictured top left and below), the people I met were fed up of Boris Johnson and his party excuses — many of them told me they wished they could vote now, and it certainly wasn't going to be for the Conservatives...

I have more canvassing planned in the constituency in the coming weeks, and I'm going to campaign with every ward before the end of March. I'll be in **St Mary's & St James'** on Thursday 17 February, and **Caledonian ward** on Saturday 26 February.



Islington Together's Walk for Women



On 16 February I joined the **Walk for Women**, lead by Cllr Sue Lukes and Anita Grant, part of the **Islington Together** campaign.

The walk promoted the council's [growing network of 'Safe Havens'](#) - shops, churches, and other organisations who have made a commitment to provide a safe space to turn to for those who are feeling threatened or anxious on the street.

In many ways I feel like I have been fighting the same fight all my life—that more must still be done to protect women, to keep them safe, and feeling safe, on the streets and at home.

With this in mind, it was a pleasure to come together with such an inspirational and energetic group of women, representing women's, children's, and LGBT charities, domestic violence survivors, faith groups, and the council. We are all committed to safer streets for women and marginalised communities.

Attorney General Work



Attorney General Questions, 6 January

At Attorney General Questions on 6 January, I asked Suella Braverman to accept that our nation's magistrates will find themselves in an impossible position if the COVID laws that the government is asking them to enforce are not applied equally to individuals working for the government itself. This was in response to the reports that many Downing Street parties were held in Number 10 during various COVID lockdowns (more on that below!). You can watch my question [here](#).

Having contracted COVID myself, I was unable to attend the next session of Attorney General Questions on 10 February, but Shadow Solicitor General Andy Slaughter did a stellar job of holding the Law Officers to account on their appalling record of tackling fraud. Watch his question [here](#).

I have got stuck into many issues since the start of this year, including fraud, the backlog of rape cases in our courts, and the lack of referrals made under the Unduly Lenient Sentences Scheme. I have exposed:

- In the last **six years**, the number of [specialist fraud prosecutors](#) has been cut by **more than a quarter**;
- The typical delay between an offence of **rape** and the completion of the resulting **criminal case** rose to [1,000 days](#) in 2021; and
- The Attorney General's Office only referred [one in five child sex abuse cases](#) to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentences Scheme in 2021.

Downing Street Parties

I have also been spending some time speaking to various media outlets about the unacceptable behaviour of the Prime Minister, Ministers and government officials when it comes to the reports of Downing Street parties which clearly broke COVID laws.

In Sue Gray's report, 16 events were identified as part of her investigation, 12 of which are now being investigated by the Met Police.

Boris Johnson has continuously lied to the public and to Parliament about these parties — and believe me, I am as angry about it as you.

As I have said many times now: "There were rules that were introduced by the Prime Minister. They were his rules and, of all people, he should abide by them. The rule of law is a simple concept. The law applies to everyone equally. No one is above the law." Johnson should resign.



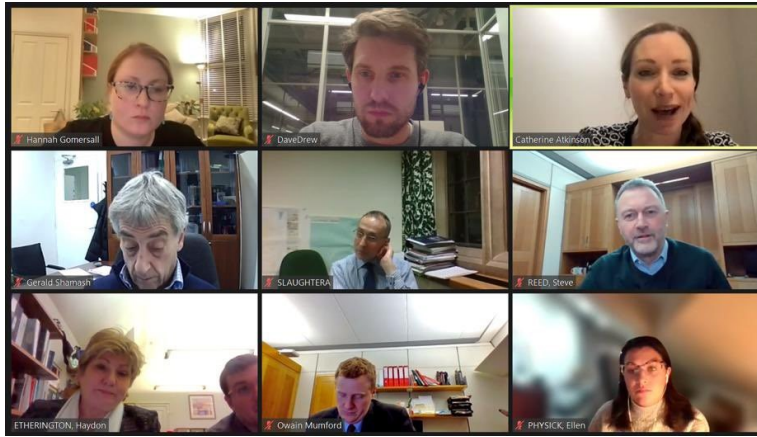
On BBC Question Time in St Andrew's, Scotland,
20 January

Speaking to the Good Morning Britain team,
14 January



Speaking to Robert Peston on ITV Peston,
26 January

Diary



Quarterly meeting with the Society of Labour Lawyers, 10 January

Shadow Attorney General and Work in Parliament

- 2 January: [Twitter thread](#) on Liz Truss' expenses
- 5 January: Meeting with the UCL Constitution Unit
- 6 January: [Attorney General Oral Questions](#)
- 10 January: Quarterly Meeting with the Society of Labour Lawyers
- 11 January: Meeting with Liberty
- 12 January: Meeting with the APPG for Legal Aid
- 13 January: Meeting with the Chartered Institute for Legal Executives
- 19 January: Meeting with The Law Society
- 26 January: Signed Book of Commitment for Holocaust Memorial Day
- 28 January: Canvassed in Barnet
- 2 February: Meetings with the City of London Corporation and the Public Law Project
- 9 February: [Twitter thread](#) on Unaoil fraud
- 10 February: [Twitter thread](#) on the Unduly Lenient Sentences Scheme; Meetings with Amnesty UK and the Good Law Project

Constituency

- 13 January: Meeting with Cllr Rowena Champion on People Friendly Streets
- 27 January: Spoke at Islington Council's Holocaust Memorial Day Event; Attended a VAWG Roundtable with Central North Policing Camden and Islington; Canvassed in Bunhill

1 February: Meeting with Cllr Jilani Chowdhury and Newlon on the new Barnsbury Estate

4 February: St Luke's Surgery (staff only due to COVID)

12 February: Surgery at the Town Hall (staff only)

16 February: Islington Together Women's Walk



Canvassing in Bunhill, 27 January

Media

- 6 January: [Channel 4 News](#) – "I do not think that the Prime Minister is a truthful man"
- 10 January: [LBC](#); [BBC Newsnight](#)
- 11 January: BBC Politics Live
- 14 January: Media Round - Bauer Media; talkRADIO; [Good Morning Britain](#); [Sky News](#); [GB News](#); Times Radio; LBC; [ITV News](#); BBC News
- 18 January: [Business Insider](#) article on Downing Street parties
- 20 January: [BBC Question Time](#) from St Andrew's, Scotland
- 23 January: Media Round - Trevor Phillips on Sunday (Sky News); ITV News; Times Radio; LBC
- 25 January: [Jeremy Vine Show](#) (BBC Radio Two); Media Round - BBC News, talkRADIO, LBC, and Times Radio; BBC Newsnight – "The rules apply to Boris Johnson"
- 26 January: [Good Morning Britain](#); [ITV Peston](#)
- 31 January: [Acting Your Age Podcast](#) with Nicky Clark; Media Round - BBC Breakfast, Times Radio, [Sky News](#) and ITV News; [The Guardian](#) article on delays to rape cases
- 1 February: [LBC Cross Question Podcast](#) with Iain Dale
- 9 February: Media Round – talkRADIO; ITV News; Times Radio; Good Morning Britain
- 10 February: [The Mirror](#) and [The Sun](#) articles on the Unduly Lenient Sentences Scheme