

Emily Thornberry MP

ISLINGTON SOUTH AND FINSBURY

Annual Report



3 Tory PMs and a Permacrisis

A lot has changed in a year. This time last year, Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak were under investigation from the Met for breaking covid laws, interest rates were 0.5%, and Tory MPs were praising, rather than condemning, NHS staff.

It has been a difficult time since for many in our constituency as the Tories took a wrecking ball to the economy with Liz Truss's disastrous "budget event" leading to interest rate hikes, unchecked inflation, and poverty. Meanwhile, public services have never been in such a terrible state.

Speaking to local teachers, nurses and other frontline workers, their struggles in meeting the needs of the public lays bare the 13 years of Tory mismanagement and cuts. Back at Christmas, I organised a foodbank collection in my own constituency, and the generosity we saw that day from local people was overwhelming. But what is clear that Islington South & Finsbury and the country urgently needs a Labour government to fix this awful mess.



Constituency Activities



The highlight of my week are the opportunities to see the hard work in Islington to make our community a better, healthier, and fairer place to live and grow up in. Over the past year I have visited sheltered accommodation, hospital wards, local businesses, places of worship, community centres, and many street parties.

Particularly enjoyable are my frequent visits to the primary schools across the constituency. Often, it is here that I get asked the most difficult questions!



Foodbanks across the country and constituency have had a huge rise in users as the cost-of-living crisis continues. I have visited all foodbanks in the constituency to hear from constituents, and understand the difficulties that charitable organisations face in delivering this vital lifeline.

I have written to constituents about the support available from my office and community organisations. If you are able to help any of Islington's wonderful community groups then you can do so [here](#).



My role as Shadow Attorney General

As Shadow Attorney General, my job is to hold the government to account for their appalling record on crime. It's disgraceful that on the Tories' watch only 4% of reported burglaries result in someone being charged, and only 1.6% of reported rapes.

Combating the fraud epidemic

Over the past few months I've been leading Labour's policy development on combating fraud - the UK's most commonly experienced crime. In February, at [Attorney General Oral Questions](#), I again called for the government to finally publish its national fraud strategy. And in March, I announced Labour's policy to [block scam callers](#) from overseas targeting vulnerable people by hiding behind fake UK phone numbers.

Clearing court backlogs

In March, I discovered shock figures that the number of prosecutors in the Crown Prosecution service declined by 25% in a year, against a backdrop of record backlogs in our courts. I announced that Labour would [boost the number of prosecutors](#) by allowing Associate Prosecutors to work on more complex cases so we can get the backlogs cleared and ensure that victims get justice.

Standing up for victims

In March, I revealed that the Attorney General only referred one in five unduly lenient sentences for child sexual abuse to the Court of Appeal. And in December in parliament I also called for action to stop stalking and harassment.



Campaigning



Following the last CLP AGM, I spent 3 months campaigning across the constituency for a Labour Islington Council. And what success it was! Islington South returned all 27 Labour candidates. It is a testament to the hard work activists put in all year round and the trust that our neighbours have in Islington Labour.

With the local elections fast approaching, this vote could be the last opportunity voters have to make their fury with the Tories known before the next general election. That's why I've been travelling up and down the country all month to talk to voters on the doorstep about the need for Labour councils locally and a Labour majority in parliament.

From Redcar to Ramsgate, the recurring theme is that people are sick and tired of this government, and the challenge to us as Labour activists is to win the trust of voters as we get ever closer to a general election.



Standing up for standards in public life

It's been an incredibly turbulent year in politics. At times it's felt almost impossible to keep up with the Tory chaos - we've had three Prime Ministers, four Chancellors, a catastrophic minibudget, the fallout from Partygate, and more Tory sleaze and bullying scandals than anyone could count.

Throughout my numerous media appearances on these issues throughout the year, as well as in parliament, I have always tried to keep in mind the public I represent and their fury with the chaos and dysfunction we have witnessed. I hope I have demonstrated to people that we can be better than this as a country, and that a Labour government is what we need to restore integrity to politics.



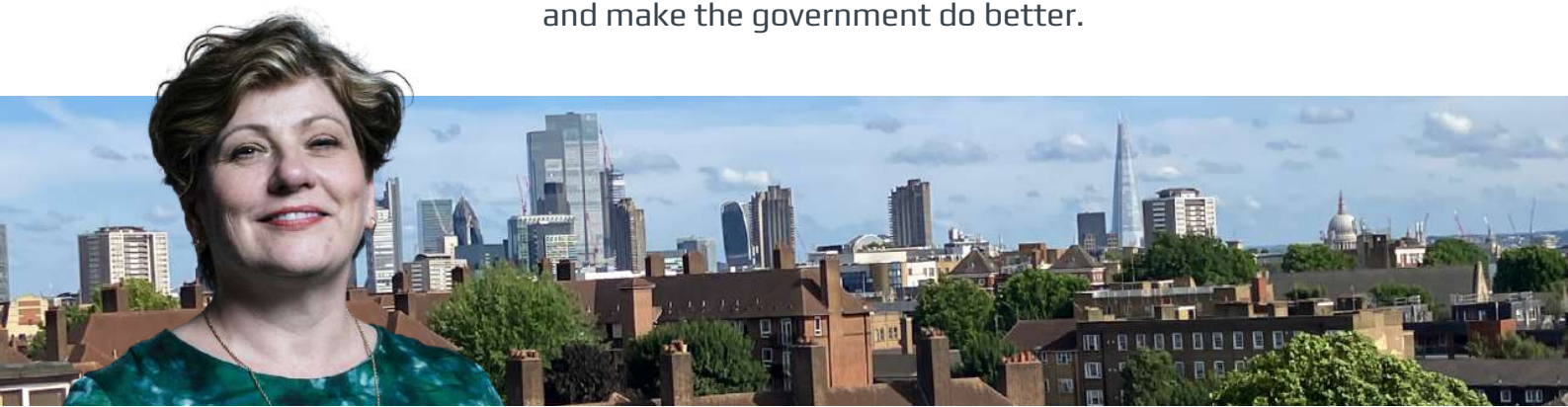
Wasteful government spending



In January, Labour launched the GPC Files, an investigation I carried out into the use of taxpayer-funded government payment cards. Since 2010, I found that spending on GPCs by fourteen major Whitehall departments had increased by 71%, much of it on wasteful or excessive purchases.

But almost as shocking as how some of the money was spent was the lack of transparency around it. My research revealed that thousands of pounds worth of English sparkling wine had been labelled as 'computer equipment' in Foreign Office accounts, and that millions of pounds of Ministry of Defence spending had not been reported at all.

Transparency in government is important, and there were some departments – like the Home Office – where I had to ask very few questions about their purchases because all the details were normally published up front. But in most areas, transparency is not the norm, and that's why it's important for MPs to use their power to ask questions to reveal the truth, and make the government do better.



Labour Party Conference

It was great to see party members, delegates, and activists from all over the country gathered in Liverpool for Party Conference in September. It was fantastic to meet so many new people as well as catch up with some more familiar faces. I thoroughly enjoyed grabbing a drink with Islington South & Finsbury CLP members at Conference!



In my speech, I honed in on how a Labour government would tackle the epidemic of crime. I was pleased to announce that Labour in government would change the law to make it easier to prosecute companies who commit fraud.



With the Tories in chaos, the atmosphere at Conference was of a Labour Party that has never seemed more united in fighting for the positive change that Britain needs in the wake of twelve years of Tory mismanagement.

International Criminal Court Visit

In October, in my role as Shadow Attorney General, I was honoured to visit the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. While there, I discussed with experts how the UK can ensure that President Putin and his cronies and military leaders can be prosecuted for the crimes they have committed in Ukraine.



What really stood out for me at the ICC was the huge commitment that has been made by the international community to ensuring prosecutions can take place. This is vital work that Labour is absolutely committed to continuing in government.



A Year in Numbers

Data from Jan 2022 - April 2023

11,431
Casework
Emails Sent

20
Casework
Surgeries

38
Labour
Campaign
Visits

24
Fundraisers

115
Islington
Constituency
Events

6,464 Policy
Replies to
Constituents

