



John McDonnell MP

Member of Parliament for Hayes & Harlington

Dear Friend,

I hope you and your family are well.

This is my latest newsletter reporting on some of the activities I have engaged in as the local MP both in Parliament and in the constituency.

Just as reminder, if you or anyone you know has any issue of concern that you wish me to assist with, then please don't hesitate to email me on mcdonnellj@parliament.uk or lowderh@parliament.uk and we will do all we can to assist or advice you.

Community Conference – 25th February 2023

Prior to the pandemic I regularly convened in our constituency what we described as a community conference. On 25th February I brought the community together to discuss the issues facing our local area and how we can improve the quality of life for all local residents.

The agenda included addressing our local health needs and local NHS and social care provision, how our local policing is delivering for us, and the changes in our local built environment and how we protect and improve local nature and biodiversity.

To start each discussion a professional who is delivering the services our community depends upon spoke about that topic

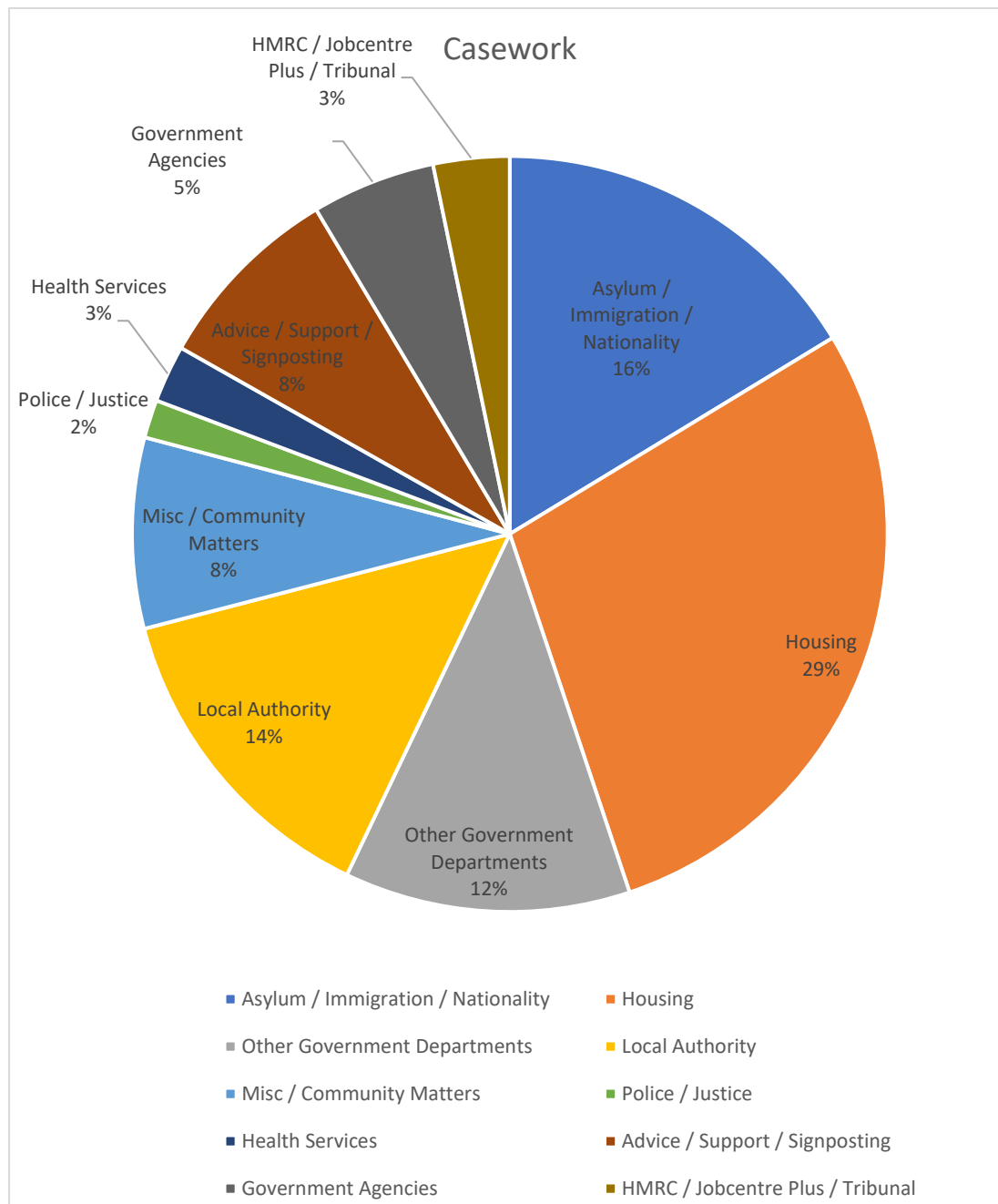
Although the presentations brought us up to speed on local services, everybody was able to express their views and their ideas for change and improvement.

A note of the meeting and the actions points will be circulated soon

Just a Flavour of the Volume and Types of Local Constituency Casework

Below is a chart that shows the breakdown of casework my team and I have actioned from 20th December 2022 – 28th February 2023 and gives you a flavour of the work our team deals with.

In addition to casework, I received a large number of emails from constituents raising their concerns about policy positions and campaigns.



Local Visits and Meetings

I continue to meet with constituents, local community groups and statutory agencies. This is helpful by way of updates, sharing information and assessing how we can all work together.

These are a few examples of the work we have been undertaking with local groups and constituents.

ULEZ Scheme Extension

I have met with local residents and neighbouring MPs to discuss how the ULEZ scheme impacts on our local residents and what measures are needed to overcome these concerns.

West Drayton Community Meeting

I joined local councillors in West Drayton to attend and provide a report to the annual meeting of the Garden City Residents Association covering wide range of issues including local flooding problems.

Plans for Austin Road Estate

The Austin Road estate is to be demolished and the site redeveloped for housing. I have been meeting regularly with the residents on the estate and council officers to ensure that all the residents are provided with an offer of good alternative housing on the new development or in an area of their choice.

Harlington Residents Meeting

I have worked with the local councillors and residents to secure meetings with the council and police to address the environmental and crime issues in the village. This is an ongoing piece of work to dramatically improve the village area.

Harlington Hospice Board Meeting

As a Trustee of Harlington Hospice, I attend regular board meetings to discuss the future role and activities at the Hospice, which is providing a wonderful service to our local area thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff, volunteers and friends of the hospice..

Hayes Canal Partnership

I continue to work with the local Canal Partnership that I helped to found. We have been focussing on improvements to the towpaths, securing residential moorings in Hayes town centre and ensuring developments along the canal in Hayes and West Drayton open up the canal to local residents and improve the overall environment. The Canal Trust is now working with local schools and we are working towards the return of the Floating Classroom to Hayes. Infuriatingly the council has failed to complete its boardwalk project on the bridge in Hayes Town. We will be raising this with the council.

Cranford Park

I am the Chair of the Friends of Cranford Park. We are a group of residents who came together to see how the park could be regenerated, what activities could be arranged and to look at the protection of the historical artifacts on site.

This is such an exciting and invaluable project. I want to say a big thank you to the volunteers who have worked so hard on improving the park and to the team working on its heritage project.

Here is the website link should you want more information about our meetings and events. www.cranfordparkfriends.org

Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support

I met with HACS representatives to discuss the council's cut to their grant which has resulted in the closure of the café at the Rural Activities Centre site. This is a deeply regrettable decision and I have written to the Council urging the council to reverse this decision.

Somali Women's Group

The council has also cut the grant to the Somali Women's Group that has worked hard over two decades in providing advice and support in the community. I have also raised this decision with the council and urged the councillors to think again.

YMCA

I met with the directors of the YMCA to discuss the services they provide locally and their concerns about managing these services with the cuts to voluntary sector funding

Botwell Pensioners Party

It was lovely to see our friends at the Botwell Pensioners Party. A big thank you to those who arranged this annual event, who cooked and made it a welcoming place

Sri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Gurdwara

I attended the annual commemoration of the anniversary of Sri Gur Ravi Dass Ji, a community organisation that has served our community for over 40 years and was especially supportive to local residents during the pandemic.

Tennis Partnership

I met with the Lawn Tennis Association to discuss a strategy for the refurbishment and upkeep of the tennis courts in our area. I am extremely disappointed that despite all our efforts in the South of the borough the LTA and Council now want to fund an indoor court in the north of the borough.

Townmead Football Club

This is a thriving football club that is providing a marvellous opportunity for our youngsters to play football. I have been meeting with the club's volunteers and the council to secure resources to improve the club's facilities.

Hayes and Yeading FC

I attend as often as other commitments permit our local side's matches. I am trying to assist the club on its long term plans for the future. The club is a rue community club with a range of teams for boys and girls as well as its main side.

St Anselm's Church Hillingdon Choral Society Concert

St Anselm's hosted a spectacular evening of music and song from the local choral society that I really enjoyed in this beautiful setting.

Theatre Performance at Brunel

I attended a wonderful theatre performance at Brunel university which was organised by a project from the Compass theatre working with asylum seekers living in our area.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Week

To thank the local Police team on the work they do in our area I joined our local Safer Neighbourhood Team on a walkabout as part of their action week. It was a bit of a surprise when members of the team shot off at a pace to detain a local man, who had been sighted on our walkabout and was wanted by the Police. The arrest took place and the person was detained. A day in the life of our local MP!

Meeting with Police Commissioner Ricky Reel Case

I arranged and attended a meeting between the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the family of Ricky Reel. Ricky was a young constituent who was missing after a racial attack and was later found dead in the Thames. For 25 years I have been supporting the family in seeking the truth about how Ricky lost his life. WE have secured a fresh investigation into the case as a result of our campaign.

This link explains the tragic story of the family's desperate search for justice.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/police-bring-fresh-eyes-case-28940317>

Light the Darkness

Each year people from across the UK take part in a national moment for Holocaust Memorial Day. At 4pm on 27th January, people across the nation light candles and put them in their windows to remember those who were murdered for who they were and to show a stand against prejudice and hatred today. I have supported this event every year.

Hotel Visits

I have been visiting the local hotels housing asylum seekers to offer support and advice. Thank you to so many local organisations who have helped to provide support for the asylum seekers.

Cervical Cancer

I have met with Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust to support the campaign for more resources to address this condition.

Street Stall

This month I organised my regular street stall to engage with my constituents and to also invite them to our community conference on 25th February. My aim is to have a monthly street stall in the town centre. Please come and join us there.

Strikes

I have joined the picket lines of local trade unionists who have been forced to take strike action to secure a decent pay rise to protect them against the cost of living crisis.

This has included:

PCS Border Force Workers at Heathrow

Unison Ambulance Para Medics at Hillingdon Ambulance Station

CWU postal workers in Hayes depot

Unite bus drivers at Abello

Nurses at various London hospitals and by joining the NHS demonstration with the nurses and doctors

UCU college lecturers

NEU teachers at Barnhill School

RMT, ASLEF and TSSA members at local tube and railway stations

Carers Group

Unpaid carers provide support to family members who are often in desperate need as a result of disability or chronic illness. They are awarded a pittance in Carers Support Allowance and many face real hardship. To give carers a voice in Labour's policy making I have brought together a group of carers who are Labour members and supporters to form the Labour Carers Group. Please let me know if you would like to join this group.

Hormone Pregnancy Tests APPG

I attended the joint meeting of the Hormone Tests and Public Accountability APPG's along with the Hillsborough Law Now Campaign group. I heard from campaigners from the Association for Children Damaged by Hormone Pregnancy Tests who face a legal cut off date of 13th January, after which their avenues to justice could be closed

Campaigners updated the meeting on the legal case and explained how a Hillsborough Law on the statue book today would assist them in their efforts to seek redress

Meeting with the Iranian Workers Movement

At the request of local constituents who have expressed their concerns about the repression of the young women protesting in Iran I convened a meeting of Iranian human rights activists and UK trade unions to set up a group campaigning to support the women and workers struggling for human and democratic rights in Iran.

The Mayor for London

A few London MP's had an informal meeting with Sadiq Khan

Jagtar Singh Johal

I have received many representations on the imprisonment of Mr Johal in India and as a result I raised these concerns in Parliament. My intervention during the debate about Jagtar Singh Johal who was imprisoned whilst visiting India in 2017.

Many of the representations I have received from constituents share my view, which is respect for India and its independent Government, respect for its constitution, and a natural concern about any form of terrorism in India or anywhere else, which has to be tackled. The concern that my constituents have expressed time and again—I have also related it in the Chamber before—is the lack of openness and transparency in the whole process. Just to add to what the hon. Member for Harrow East (Bob Blackman) has said, from the earliest stage most were simply asking for adherence to due process. That clearly has not been the case, and that is why there is such concern around this case. The concern also relates to the openness and transparency of our own Government and their involvement in this case, too. The appeal today is for openness, transparency and due process, and I think that would result in the release of Jagtar immediately.

Parliamentary Debates – Spoken Contributions

Now that I am no longer Shadow Chancellor, I have the freedom to be able to speak on any subject and I usually intervene on issues that my constituents have raised with me.

My role is to be the voice of the local community in Parliament.

In the Main Chamber

12th January – Iran

16th January – Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill

18th January – Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill

19th January – Jagtar Singh Johal

30th January - Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill

6th February – NHS Strikes

6th February – Social Security and Pensions

7th February – Seafarers' Wages Bill

21st February – Social Security (additional Payments) Bill

23rd February – Future of the NHS

23rd February – MP's and Second Jobs

23rd February – Football Governance White Paper

Here is the link to read all of my contributions in Parliament

<https://members.parliament.uk/member/178/contributions>

Using other Parliamentary Devices to Get Constituents' Voices Heard

There are a range of other devices to ensure local constituents' voices get heard.

This includes Early Day Motions, which are like petitions from MPs to the government, parliamentary questions and of course votes.

If you follow the links you can view the EDM's I have signed, the written questions I have raised, how I have voted and my spoken contributions

EDM's <https://members.parliament.uk/member/178/earlydaymotions>

Written questions

<https://members.parliament.uk/member/178/writtenquestions>

To see how I have voted

<https://members.parliament.uk/member/178/voting>

All Party Groups

On a number of issues, I will work across the political parties to promote the policies that will benefit my constituents and to respond to issues they have raised with me. This work is often done through all Party Groups.

I also work closely with a number of trade unions that represent my constituents and so I am a member of several trade union groups in Parliament.

- ✚ APPG SEND
- ✚ APPG for Parental Participation in Education
- ✚ APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma - Friends, Families and Travellers
- ✚ APPG New Immigration Centre for Women
- ✚ APPG No Recourse to Public Funds
- ✚ APPG for Tamils
- ✚ APPG for India
- ✚ APPG for Cuba
- ✚ APPG on British Sikhs
- ✚ APPG for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
- ✚ APPG Working at Height
- ✚ APPG Heathrow
- ✚ APPG Future of Aviation
- ✚ APPG for Renters and Rental Reform
- ✚ APPG on Land Value Capture
- ✚ Gaps in Support APPG
- ✚ Universal Basic Income APPG

Joint Letters

Another method I use to get our constituents' voices heard is a joint letter.

I work closely with other MP's to raise issues collectively. Part of this is jointly signing letters and statements of support with Parliamentary colleagues. This is in addition to the letters that I have written to Ministers and other agencies on behalf of constituents through lobbies and casework.

Here is the link to my website where you can view past newsletters, joint letters, videos and news

<https://www.john-mcdonnell.net/> or follow me on twitter [@johnmcdonnellMP](https://twitter.com/johnmcdonnellMP)

Meetings. Briefings and Events I have attended

It's important that as your local MP I try and keep well briefed on this issues that impact upon our community.

This gives you some idea of how I do this through meetings and briefing sessions that I organise or attend addressing local, national and international issues.

Women's Pensions

I continue to support the campaign to redress the injustice of women's pensions including the WASPI campaign.

Parliamentary Groups

Trade Union Groups I regularly attend the following Parliamentary groups, Unite. Unison, PCS, FBU, National Union of Journalists, Bakers Unions and the Justice Unions POA, NAPO.

I also receive regular briefings from USDAW, GMB and Equity and liaise with them on campaigning.

Fair Share

I am working with this group to develop the ideas on how our taxation system can be made fairer through progressive taxation.

Make Votes Matter Alliance

I am a supporter of electoral reform as are several constituents who have written to me on this and so I am working with this coalition of groups to promote reform and to oppose the Government's attacks on our existing rights.

Labour Climate and Environment Forum

This is a newly formed independent organisation whose purpose is to work with the Labour movement to strengthen ambition on tackling the climate and environment emergency

Less Survivable Cancers Awareness Day

I attended this event to learn more about these cancers and how MP's can support this campaign

Cervical Cancer Trust

As part of the Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, CCT held a drop-in session to provide the latest information about cervical screening and HPV vaccination statistics and the need for government commitment and national ambition

The Cost of Living Crisis and Property Tax Reform

The UK is in the midst of an acute housing crisis. Housing is the biggest category of expenditure for most households and the most significant driver of increased wealth inequality. I attended this meeting to discuss how we rethink our approach to housing through a progressive reform of our property tax system

Disability Benefit Assessments

I attended a briefing about the Disability Benefit Assessment Campaign

Fuel Poverty Vigil

Fuel Poverty Action Campaign and the National Pensioners Convention organised a vigil outside Parliament to highlight the ONS figures about excess winter deaths and how vulnerable people are being forced onto prepayment meters. They also highlighted potential solutions to the cost of living crisis such as [Energy For All](#) a free universal band of energy based on need which will guarantee that everyone has enough energy for heating, cooking and lighting.

All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ocean

The APPG for the Ocean launched its first inquiry into blue carbon and ocean-based solutions to climate change. The report, *The Ocean: Turning the Tide on Climate Change* has now been published and highlights that in order for the UK to meet net zero targets, there must be urgent prioritisation and investment into blue carbon habitats and ocean-based solutions

This is the link to the report [published](#)

Drop in Session with Ambulance Workers

I met with the GMB union's ambulance service personnel to hear from them why they are taking industrial action in the NHS and to discuss the Minimum Service Levels Bill

Trophy Hunting Ban

I take strong interest in environmental and animal rights matters. So I have been pleased to support the campaign for legislation to ban trophy hunting, which has resulted in such suffering of animals and threat to species.



Whilst it is wholly unacceptable that foodbanks are needed in 2022, until there is long term change, people will still have the need for this support.

Below are the details of the foodbanks in our area, should you wish to donate or if you are in need of support

St Anselms Church

Open: Wednesday 12pm – 2pm
Station Road / St Anselms Road
Hayes

St Edmunds Church

Open: Saturday 10am – 12pm
Edmunds Close (off Yeading Lane)
Hayes
UB4 0HA

Bell Farm Christian Centre

Open: Tuesday 10am – 1pm and Thursday 10am – 1pm / 2pm – 4.30pm
01895 444406
Bell Farm Christian Centre
South Road
West Drayton UB7 9LW

West Drayton Com Café

Open: Wednesday and Thursday 1pm – 3pm
01895 252 224
Com Café
62 Byron Way
West Drayton UB7 9JD

Yiewsley and West Drayton Foodbank

Open: Monday 2pm – 4pm and Friday 12pm – 2pm
St Matthew's Church Centre
High Street
Yiewsley UB7 7QH

[Hillingdon Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

I extend my deepest gratitude to the staff and volunteers who run all the foodbanks in our community and to those who assist with their donations

Conclusion

I hope that this has given you just a flavour of some of the work my team and I undertake.

All this would not be possible if it wasn't for the dedication and hard work of my office manager, Helen Lowder, and her team and the support I get from so many local groups and individuals in our community and our local Labour councillors.

I would like to thank you all.

Best wishes,

John

McDonnell MP