



Andrew Dismore

Member of Parliament for Hendon

Constituency Report #8
21st September – 24th October 2006

House of Commons and Westminster

Parliament is now back in full swing, in what we call the 'spill over' session. This is the period in October when we are primarily dealing with amendments from the House of Lords on bills which have gone through the Commons, as the Parliamentary year comes to an end at the beginning of November. The Queen's Speech will be on the 15th November, to launch the new Parliamentary year.

Nevertheless, some new bills still come through, and I was particularly pleased to see the **Corporate Manslaughter Bill** receive its second reading. I have campaigned for almost twenty years for this measure, so it was with some satisfaction that I saw the Bill come forward, though I believe that it needs significant improvements during its passage through Parliament. I spoke in the second reading debate and you can see my speech by [clicking here](#).

I also spoke on the second reading of a Private Member's Bill, the **Local Government and Planning Bill** which aims to protect the greenbelt by giving local people a greater say; allows local amenity societies rights of appeal against the grant of planning consent if that consent was given in breach of planning policy; provides greater control over repeat applications; and also would provide better protection for back gardens from overdevelopment. Again, I spoke on the Bill and you can access my speech by [clicking here](#). Unfortunately the Bill has little prospect of becoming law and would need extensive amendment, anyway, but it was a useful opportunity to debate these important issues.

I also spoke during **Health Questions**, particularly highlighting **cancer care** for patients in Hendon [click here](#); and briefly during the debate on the **UK-US Extradition Treaty** [click here](#).

The **Joint Committee on Human Rights**, which I chair, has also been very much in the news. We published a major report on **people trafficking**, which has been well received by both Government and charitable organisations alike, so we are probably on the right lines! We held a very interesting evidence session with the **Children's Commissioners** for England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. We also had an 'awayday' (actually held in Westminster!), where we spent a full day looking at three particular issues, including the debate over the **Human Rights Act Vs. Bill of Rights**; the likely role of the new **Commission for Equality and Human Rights**; and some scoping work on the new inquiry we are about to start, on the **treatment of asylum seekers** by the system (we will not be looking at who is, or is

not, an asylum seeker, but how such people are treated). All the proceedings of the JCHR, including the reports and transcripts of evidence can be accessed on the Committee website [click here](#). I particularly recommend that you access the report on people trafficking if you are interested in the subject, as there is a lot of new information and suggestions contained in it.

As **Chair of the London Group of MP's**, I also chaired our awayday held during the Parliamentary recess, when we looked at a variety of key issues affecting London, including the **Olympics**, the changing **demography of the city, transport and health issues**, with the leading players in those fields in the capital. We have also held a separate meeting with the **Police Minister**, looking at community policing in London.

As Vice-Chair of the **All Party Olympics Group**, I was also present at our officers' meeting discussion with **Tessa Jowell MP**, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and **Jack Straw MP**, the Leader of the House, who has cross-departmental responsibility for coordinating on the Olympics, to review progress. I remain concerned that Barnet is going to miss out unless the Conservative controlled Borough Council wakes up and gets its act together, in taking advantage of the opportunities which are now emerging to improve facilities in the Borough, through the Olympics programme.

I also attended the **Diwali** celebration we held in the House of Commons. This is now an annual feature of the Parliamentary diary.

I met with the **Iranian Ambassador**, at his request: this was an opportunity for me to raise a number of human rights issues with him, as well as Iran's attitude towards the problems of the Middle East. This was a 'full and frank' discussion, as the diplomatic parlance goes!

I attended a meeting organised by the **British Council** to highlight their work in South America which has been a particular interest of mine for some time; and the event organised by the charity '**Phones 4 Africa**', which seeks to persuade people to recycle their phones so that they can be used by people in Africa. If you would like to donate an unwanted mobile phone, details can be found in my press release on my website on this subject [click here](#).

I met with the new **deputy Lord Lieutenant**, to discuss his work, at Parliament.

I attended the '**Pearl Awards**', in my capacity as **Chair of the All Party Chinese in Britain Group**. The Pearl Awards are an annual event, to recognise achievement within the Chinese community, nationally.

The annual return of **Parliamentary allowances** has now been published, and as I always do, I published my own allowances return in advance of the general release, so that people are aware of what I have spent, in maintaining my office and keeping constituents up to date. Full details are in my press release, on my website, published on the 2nd October [click here](#).

I have since learned that I was 'Number 1' on the list for spending on stationery and postage: I regard this as a matter of pride, rather than shame, because it

shows that I am an active MP, keeping my constituents up to date about what is going on in the area, in response to requests for information. Even so, the amount I spent represents on average only about one letter per constituent per year, bearing in mind the size of the constituency!

I am a member of the **All Party Cricket Group**, one of the social activities we have at the House of Commons, and I was very pleased to attend the dinner we held in honour of the England cricket team, where one of our star guests was Monty Panesar, prior to the team's departure south of the equator, for the forthcoming Ashes series.

Last but by no means least, arriving in Parliament early one morning, at about 7am, I witnessed a most unusual site: the **Parliamentary Hawk!** Apparently, we have a Harrier Hawk 'on the books', whose job it is to scare off pigeons and seagulls. It was most bizarre to see the hawker carrying this large bird through the Portcullis House office block where I work, on the way to one of the courtyards! As a little while ago we had a fox on the loose in Portcullis House, we seem to get our fair share of wildlife in central London!

I have sponsored and signed the usual wide range of **Early Day Motions**, to see them [click here](#).

To see my written **Parliamentary questions** use the [Parliamentary Search Engine](#), which you can use to see them all, or just those that you have a particular interest in.

Constituency

One of the main issues in the constituency this month was the **future of the NHS** and in particular the reconfiguration of local hospitals' debate. Discussing the matter with other political parties, it became clear to me that we were all thinking along the same wavelength. I brokered an agreement with the Conservative and Liberal Democrats, to issue a joint statement, as to how we saw the future of health services developing in Barnet. In particular, we feel the hospital services should be looking more to the south, rather than east, linking Barnet Hospital with the Royal Free, with further upgrading of the two community hospitals, Edgware and Finchley Memorial. The joint statement appears on my website, [click here](#) if you would like to see what we all had to say. We are therefore able to represent a united front to the NHS in London and nationally, as the way we wish our local health service to progress. I think it is very important that on such a key issue, we cooperate as far as we possibly can, and I am pleased that the other parties were of the same view.

I also attended the annual meetings of the **Primary Care Trust** and the **Mental Health Trust**.

I was very pleased to welcome **Lord Warner**, the Department of Health Minister for NHS in London, to **Edgware Hospital**, where he launched a new initiative on community hospitals and community healthcare. He was full of praise for the work done at the hospital.

I visited the **Sangam Centre** and met with Brent Cross Management to discuss issues affecting them.

I visited the **Ayesha Muslim Girls School** in West Hendon.

I also attended the presentation by **Crime Concern**, by young people.

I held discussions with the **National Blood Service** at Colindale, as they are about to undergo a major reorganisation. I stressed the importance of maintaining the facilities in the constituency.

I visited **Jesus House** for their Sunday service.

I held discussions with the outgoing Director of the **National Institute for Medical Research**, Mill Hill, about the future of the institution. Sir John Skehel has now retired, but the concerns about the possible relocation to central London continue, and I am maintaining the campaign to retain NIMR at Mill Hill. I suspect in the end, the finances will be such that the move to London will not be economic.

I attended **Barnet Housing Conference**, organised by the local authority, where I spoke to emphasise the importance of more social housing in the Borough, to help those who cannot afford to buy. There is a desperate shortage of accommodation for rent, through the local authority or housing associations, and I do not believe Barnet Council is doing anything near enough to rectify this.

I attended **Middlesex University's Black History Month**, where I spoke on diversity.

My programme of street stalls has now been extended to include occasional visits to **Brent Cross Shopping Centre**, where we held our first street stall there this year, which was well received.

I also attended three Hindu temples to join in the celebrations for **Diwali**, at Golders Green, Neasden and Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Finally, I would like to promote the **'Tiffin Cup 2007'**. The Tiffin Club is a group of MPs, of which I am a member, who come together to discuss issues of concern to South Asia, usually over a South Asian meal. Every year we award a cup for the best South Asian restaurant in Britain, and it is time for me to nominate this year's contender from the constituency. The competition is organised for charity, and last year we raised a substantial amount for a breast cancer charity in India. I would like your help to decide which restaurant to propose from Hendon. [Please click here and email me your nominations.](#) and in my December report, I will tell you who I put forward in our area!

Overseas visit

As Vice-Chair of the **Friends of Cyprus Group** in Parliament, I led a delegation to visit Cyprus in the last week of the Parliamentary recess. I have prepared a very detailed report to Parliament and other interested parties about the visit. I was

extremely concerned that there appears to be so little progress towards settlement on the island. I have applied for a Parliamentary debate, so that we can discuss the issue at length. Whilst in Cyprus I also paid a visit to the Karpas peninsula in occupied northern Cyprus, where a small community of Greek Cypriots still reside, under Turkish occupation. I was absolutely horrified by the conditions in which they are living and the oppression which they face. I have made a formal report to the Council of Europe, asking them to investigate what appears to me to be significant breaches of their human rights. The Committee of Ministers at the **Council of Europe** are due to discuss my report in November. I shall be issuing a separate report to constituents who have expressed an interest in Cyprus on the visit, shortly. [Click here to sign up for your copy.](#)

Media

I issued a full range of press releases which you may be interested in seeing on my website. This is an opportunity for you to see short comments from me on a wide variety of issues. During this period I have issued press releases on the following issues:

- [Dismore demands action on Karpas](#)
- [Dismore welcomes Thameslink announcement](#)
- [Dismore backs action on cluster bombs](#)
- [Dismore demands housing action](#)
- [Top marks for local school: Dismore welcomes great results for Hendon schools](#)
- [Dismore backs Phones 4 Africa campaign](#)
- [Andrew Dismore MP welcomes National Identity Fraud Prevention Week](#)
- [Hendon's care kids get more education support](#)
- [Dismore demands responsibility in fashion trade](#)
- [Dismore demands better return for Fairtrade](#)
- [Dismore demands energy efficiency in local planning decisions](#)
- [Dismore demands protection of gardens](#)
- [Caring for older carers](#)
- [More help for first time buyers in Hendon](#)
- [Joint Committee on Human Rights calls for action on human trafficking](#)
- [Andrew Dismore MP says "Don't fall for Cameron's con". You cant trust the Tories on the NHS](#)
- [Tiffin Cup 2007: MP's Search for the best South Asian restaurant in Britain](#)
- [Dismore backs Corporate Manslaughter Bill](#)
- [Friends search for hope](#)
- [Dismore welcomes extra police for transport system](#)
- [London's 2012 games need you!](#)
- [Joint statement on Barnet, Enfield and Haringey NHS clinical strategy](#)
- [Dismore publishes Commons allowances](#)

As far as media appearances are concerned, there were quite a few this month. I managed to achieve the dubious privilege of appearing on the front pages of both the **Morning Star** and the **Evening Standard** on the same day, on two separate issues! The **Morning Star** reported my comments on the Corporate Manslaughter

Bill (see above); the **Evening Standard** my most recent criticisms of the hate preacher, Abu Hamza, over his property dealings.

I appeared on the **Radio 4** flagship '**Today**' programme three times, to discuss intercept evidence; the Home Secretary's speech concerning relations with Muslims; and the issue of control orders for terrorist suspects. On this latter topic I also appeared on **LBC** and **BBC Radio London**.

I appeared on **Today in Parliament** who reported my comments on corporate manslaughter and planning reform and for a lengthy interview over the Human Rights Committee report on people trafficking. On this issue I was also quoted in the **London Metro magazine**, had lengthy appearances on **Sky**, **LBC** and **BBC TV breakfast** and also on regional radio in Scotland, Kent and Wales.

In the print media, I was quoted by **The Sun** on the issue of extremist websites; the **London Paper** on the demonstration against the Pope; the **Sunday Express** on teenage pregnancy; and the **Evening Standard** and **Daily Mail** over the issue of the extremist Omar Brooks, who tried to hijack the Home Secretary's meeting in the East End.

The full range of press releases I have issued to the local and specialist press can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

I would be very interested to hear any feedback on the issues raised in this report. I have now started a series of occasional meetings for constituents, on Sunday afternoons, to receive feedback, both from these reports and more generally on what is going on in and around the constituency. Please let me know if you would like to have invitations to such events, which will be held at my constituency office next to the Town Hall in Hendon. To register your interest, email me with your name and address; just [click here](#).

I hope that you have found this report of interest, and if you would like to receive my specific subject based reports just [click here](#). If you have any comments, please do not hesitate to let me know by emailing me at updates@hendonlabourparty.com.

This month I will be sending reports on:

- **Cyprus**
 - **Hindu Community Issues**
 - **Muslim Community Issues**
- [Click here for your copy](#)

If you have any friends or neighbours in Hendon who might be interested in this report, please feel free to send it to them. If they would like to be added to my email list please ask them to email updates@hendonlabourparty.com.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dismore
Member of Parliament for Hendon

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