



# Andrew Dismore Member of Parliament for Hendon

Constituency Report # 14  
21<sup>st</sup> March – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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## New Website

Can I firstly draw your attention to my new interactive website [www.AndrewDismoreMP.com](http://www.AndrewDismoreMP.com): this is a much improved site, on which I am putting a lot of important and useful information, especially in the “reports” section. I hope you will find it of interest and use.

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## House of Commons and Westminster

With the Easter recess of two weeks there were fewer “speaking” opportunities in Parliament, but I still seem to have been pretty busy!

I spoke during the second reading debate on the **Mental Health Bill**, particularly highlighting the need to respect the rights of mental health patients with appropriate safeguards, for my speech [click here](#).

I also spoke briefly, in an intervention in the debate on **asylum seekers** please [click here](#), and during the report stage of the **Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill**, [click here](#). This Private Member’s Bill promoted by a Conservative MP, has been very badly reported in the media. I support the proposal in the Bill to exempt MP’s constituency correspondence entirely from the Bill, as I consider there should be an absolute guarantee of confidentiality, about anything raised with me, if the constituent so requests. We should continue to publish our allowances, as now – I tabled an amendment to this effect.

As usual, the **Joint Select Committee on Human Rights (JCHR)** which I chair, has been pretty busy. Our main business was the publication of the report on the treatment of **asylum seekers**, for the report, [click here](#). We were critical of the system, which can leave people destitute and ill, falling through the net. (We accept, of course, the need for effective immigration control and do not pass judgment on who is or not a refugee). The report received a lot of favourable media coverage – see below.

We also held a significant public evidence session, with Home Office **Terrorism Minister, Tony McNulty MP**, which also received significant coverage. For the transcript [click here](#). We expect to provide a further report on making the

prosecution of terror suspects easier, probably in the late Summer.

Our inquiry into the **treatment of the elderly in hospitals and care homes** continues, for our evidence session [click here](#). We also expect to report on this in the Summer. We have just announced, and called for evidence on, our next inquiry, on access to services for **adults with learning difficulties**.

I was asked to give evidence in public to the **Modernisation Committee**, on how Parliamentary procedures could be improved. For the transcript [click here](#).

Apart from formal Parliamentary activities, mentioned above, I also met informally with a delegation from the **Council of Europe** who are looking at discrimination issues; I chaired the meeting of the **Fire Brigades Union group**; met with **Chevening Scholars** from **Cyprus**; and attended the relaunch of the **Parthenon Sculptures (Elgin Marbles)** campaign.

I met with the Home Office minister Gerry Sutcliffe MP to discuss the **Corporate Manslaughter Bill** and the outstanding issue of deaths in custody; and Lord Faulkner, Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor, on the same issue, and to discuss the Home Office reorganisation which will lead next month to the creation of the new **Ministry of Justice**.

I met briefly with students from **St James' RC High School**, who were visiting Parliament.

Still in London, but away from Westminster, I attended the **Labour Friends of Israel** lunch, addressed by Gordon Brown MP; took a JCHR delegation to visit the very moving exhibition at **St Paul's Cathedral** on people trafficking; attended **Yad Vashem's** commemoration of **Yom Hasoah**; and had a very interesting private briefing from the Gallup World Poll on **attitudes of London Muslims**, which revealed some very positive findings, [click here](#) to see the full report for yourself.

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.

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## **Constituency**

Much of the month has been spent visiting residents on the Watling Estate in **Burnt Oak**. I am very concerned about the neglect of the environment there, and I have started a petition for residents to raise their concerns.

I attended the **West Hendon estate** fun day, with my street stall, to launch my West Hendon Estate consultation, if you live on the estate [click here for your copy](#); and [here for photos](#).

In the light of Conservative Barnet Council's cuts in the budget for **Age Concern**, I visited the **Meritage Day Centre** for the elderly to hear from users about the impact this will have on them, and joined the small demonstration, presenting their petition to the Council: for photos [click here](#).

I visited the **Hyde School**, to see the children and staff, and to learn about progress on the plan for the **new school** buildings, which are now advancing rapidly.

I met with Carl Lammy, the **Chair of the Mental Health Trust** and Chas Hollwey, **Chief Executive of the Barnet Primary Care Trust** to discuss their plans for the forthcoming year. The PCT's grant has increased by 9% this year, for a summary of their plans, please [click here](#).

I met with the **Environment Agency**, to discuss the **Silk Stream Flood Defence scheme**. I am delighted to report that the last £2 million for this huge project has now been allocated, and the construction work should be completed by this Autumn (with some cosmetic landscaping in the Summer of 2008).

I attended the launch of the **Mill Hill Music Festival**; attended the **Sri Lankan New Year** celebrations, held in Harrow; spoke at the **Finchley Reform Synagogue Yom Hashoah** service; attended part of the **BVSC** training day; and visited the **Hendon Bowls Club**, to discuss their security concerns

At my Constituency Office I held "report back" meetings on Animal Welfare, Climate Change, Education and Transport.

I have published reports on:

- [Transport](#)
- [Education](#)
- [West Hendon Estate](#)

and eUpdates on:

- [Planning Sites in the Constituency](#)
- [The Thameslink Service](#)
- [Metropolitan Police's Annual Crime Statistics](#)
- [Barnet's local NHS – The Facts](#)
- [London's Muslim Community – A Gallup World Poll](#)
- [Jewish Community Update – HET Special](#)
- [An update on Varosha/ Famagusta](#)

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## Media

The JCHR report on asylum seekers received a great deal of coverage; I appeared on, or was quoted in, Channel 4 news; Sky; the Today programme, Radio 4; LBC; Radio 5 live; BBC London radio; the Independent; the Evening Standard; Daily Mail; the Scotsman; the Guardian; and various specialist journals.

I appeared on Radio 4 'Today in Parliament', with the JCHR evidence session with Tony McNulty.

I was on BBC TV London, over the Brian Gordon and Nelson Mandela fancy dress saga. I received extensive coverage of my criticism of rock star Bryan Ferry's reported comments on his "appreciation" of Nazi art, including the Vanessa Feltz show on BBC London, BBC Scotland and BBC Northern Ireland, the Evening Standard and the People.

My letter on the need to prosecute terrorist suspects was published in the Guardian.

I appeared on BBC Radio 4's "World at One" and in the Times, over the Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill; and on ITV's 10:30 Evening News, over the police inquiry into honours.

I was interviewed on London Greek Radio over the Varosha/Famagusta issue.

I was quoted in the Daily Express on the need to deport Muslim extremist El Faisal, on the completion of his jail sentence; and in the Daily Mail on MP's allowances.

Finally, I was rated by the Jewish Chronicle at No 71, of the 100 most influential people in the Jewish Community – a reasonable rating, for a non-Jew, very few of whom have appeared on the list, so far, and nobody above me yet!

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

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## Support

In response to these monthly updates, quite a few people have responded, asking how they can get involved in my campaigning work, or make a donation to support the costs of what I do, or join the Labour Party. If you are interested in any of these please [click here](#) and I'll get back to you, on how you can help!

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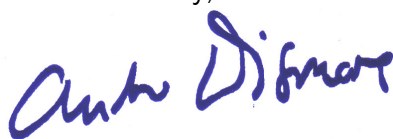
I would be very interested to hear any feedback on the issues raised in this report. I have now started a series of occasional meetings for constituents, on Sunday afternoons, to receive feedback, both from these reports and more generally on what is going on in and around the constituency. Please let 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](mailto:updates@hendonlabourparty.com).

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](mailto:updates@hendonlabourparty.com).

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



**Andrew Dismore**  
**Member of Parliament for Hendon**

**\*\*\*\*\*You can find out more at my website –just click here \*\*\*\*\***

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