



# Andrew Dismore

## Member of Parliament for Hendon

Constituency Report #10  
22<sup>nd</sup> November– 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006

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### House of Commons and Westminster

I seem to have done a lot of speaking in the Commons, this month!

I spoke extensively during the Report stage and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the **Corporate Manslaughter Bill**, as I ended up leading the debates on critical amendments, concerning individual liability of directors; to extend the Bill to other undertakings, not just limited companies; and to include deaths in state custody within the Bill. I **voted against the whip** on both the votes, so I am not too popular with the Whips at the moment! If you wish to read the debate [click here](#). The Bill has just started in the House of Lords, where further amendments can be expected. This is an issue I feel passionately about. I have campaigned for this law for almost 20 years, since I was a young lawyer, representing victims and grieving families from the King's Cross fire and the Zeebrugge ferry disaster. I am determined to do what I can to make it as watertight as possible.

The **Joint Select Committee on Human Rights (JCHR)**, which I chair, jointly sponsored a debate with the Home Affairs Select Committee on the question of **Pre-Trial Detention in Terrorist Cases**. I led for our committee, emphasising the important human rights duty on the state to protect people from terrorism; and making a series of suggestions, as to how prosecution could be made more effective. To read my speech [click here](#); and to read our full report on the issue [click here](#) for the JCHR website.

On behalf of the JCHR, I also spoke in the debate on **People Trafficking**, to stress the need for a "victim centred" approach to this appalling crime. For my speech [click here](#), and for the JCHR's report on the subject [click here](#) for the committee's website.

I also spoke during the Second Reading debate of the **Greater London Authority Bill**, which extends devolution of power to the London Mayor I particularly addressed issues relating to strategic planning, and the need for co-ordination of waste disposal (including recycling) across London. For my speech [click here](#).

Finally, during **Prime Minister's Questions**, I spoke about the success of the **free**

**museum admissions policy** for the RAF museum in Hendon, which has seen a 50% increase in visitors as a result of this policy, which we introduced five years ago. For my exchange with the Prime Minister [click here](#).

Private Members' Bills are now back on the agenda. I was not successful in the ballot, but I am promoting two Bills this year, nevertheless. The first, a "presentation Bill" is my fifth attempt at the **Crown Employment (Nationality) Bill**, which would open up the civil service to a wider range of applicants, whilst reserving certain key posts (about 10%) to UK nationals. In previous years, I've almost got the Bill all the way through before time ran out, so I'm optimistic this year.

The second Bill, the **Human Rights (Interpretation) Bill**, I am bringing in through the "10 minute" rule procedure. The motion will be heard in January. The Bill aims to clarify the extent of the Human Rights Act. The Act only applies to public authorities, but there is an important 'grey area', where a public service has been privatised or contracted out, or a service user is placed with a private company, for example an elderly person placed by the Council in a private care home. My Bill will ensure that these cases are brought within the Bill, as it is vital that such people have the protection of the Act, in the way they are treated by those providing the services.

Turning to the JCHR work programme we are part way through an inquiry into **asylum seekers**: the evidence can be viewed on the JCHR website [click here](#). We have just announced our next major inquiry, on the **treatment of elderly people in hospitals and care homes**. This will cover a wide range of issues, including not just elder abuse, but the question of neglect. We will also look at decision making processes concerning the availability of drugs, for example for Alzheimer's. The terms of reference are on the JCHR website [click here](#). We have just asked for written evidence and expect witness hearings to start in March. We have also had informal discussions with the **Muslim Council of Britain**.

I have had a number of meetings with ministers, too. As vice-chair of the **All Party Group on Safety and Health at Work**, we met with Home Office minister Gerry Sutcliffe, to discuss further improvements to the Corporate Manslaughter Bill.

I also met with the **Prime Minister**, to discuss the JCHR report on **people trafficking**.

I had discussions with the **Health Minister for London Lord Warner**, over our local NHS; and with **Secretary of State for Health, Patricia Hewitt**.

I had a brief meeting with the **Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett** to discuss **Cyprus**, as well as meeting at greater length the **Cyprus High Commissioner**. The Speaker has granted me a debate on Cyprus, in January.

I was part of a Labour Friends of Israel delegation to meet the **Home Secretary John Reid**, to discuss **anti-semitism**.

I met with **Constitutional Affairs Minister Harriet Harman**, to discuss reform of the coroner's system.

At our AGM, I was re-elected **chair of the London Group of Labour MPs**. In this capacity I spoke at the **London Region of the Labour Party's conference**.

I chaired a meeting of the **All Party Far East Prisoners of War Group** to discuss anomalies still arising from the compensation scheme.

I attended the **Select Committee on Science and Technology**, who are conducting an inquiry which includes the future of the **National Institute for Medical Research**, Mill Hill.

I organised a meeting for MPs and peers with Charles Margai, opposition leader from **Sierra Leone**; I held discussions with the **Mayor of London's office** over the **G.L.A. Bill** (see above); attended the **All Party Cuba Group**, to discuss the continuing USA boycott; and the **Wildlife Trust's** reception.

I attended the award of an honorary knighthood to Professor **Elie Wiesel**, noted holocaust writer and Nobel prize winner. I was a guest at the **Anglo-Israel Association** dinner.

Finally, the children who designed my **Eid** and **Diwali** cards were my guests with their parents, for tea and a private tour of Parliament.

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**

As you can see, most of this month has been pretty busy in Parliament, but I still had a full range of constituency events, too.

I spoke to **Hendon School** 6<sup>th</sup> formers and met with the executive head of **Hasmonean High School**.

I visited **Rosh Pinah** (Chanukah) and **Deansbrook** (Christmas) primary schools to congratulate my card design winners – they will also be coming to Westminster in the New Year.

I met with the company promoting the re-development of **Brent Cross** to hear of their proposals for the centre.

I attended the **AJEX** Chanukah event and exhibition.

I visited **Royal Mail Hendon delivery office** (at 6:30am!) to see how they were

getting on with the Christmas post, and to thank the staff for their efforts.

I also had extensive discussions with the chief executives and chairs of **Barnet and Chase Farm** Hospital Trust and **Barnet Primary Care Trust** to review developments in our local health service. Details will be in my next NHS report, to be published early in the New Year. To receive it [click here](#), with your name and address.

This month's report was on **Cyprus and Greece**; if you'd like a copy [click here](#), with your name and address.

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## **Media**

I appeared on Radio 4's '**Today in Parliament**', over corporate manslaughter, also reported in the '**Guardian**'. I commented in the '**Sun**' on Russia and nuclear poisoning and in the '**Jewish Chronicle**', about the Iranian Holocaust denial conference.

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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## **Staff Changes**

Dimple Patel, my caseworker at the Constituency office, is moving on to "pastures new". My new caseworker Karen Thomas starts in the New Year.

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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).

Finally, may I wish all my readers Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



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

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