



Andrew Dismore

Member of Parliament for Hendon

Constituency Report
22nd November 2005- 22nd January 2006

Welcome to the first of what is my 'new style' constituency report, now available by email and on my website, please [click here](#). This covers two months, due to the Christmas break, but will normally be prepared monthly.

House of Commons and Westminster

As Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, a select committee of MPs and House of Lords, I am also a member of the **Liaison Committee** – the committee of committee chairs. This sounds obscure, but is very powerful. Twice a year, we get to question the Prime Minister in depth for 2 ½ hours – five times the length of normal PMQs, so we can develop themes properly. At our November session, I challenged the P.M. over education admissions policy, in the light of the Education White Paper; evidenced based policy development ([click here](#) for the transcript); and the issue of Memoranda of Understanding, by which terror suspects are likely to be returned to Middle East countries. For the full transcript, please [click here](#).

The **Joint Committee of Human Rights**, under my chairmanship, continues the detailed scrutiny inquiries into counter-terror policy; and UK compliance with the UN Convention Against Torture. In this context, we are looking at “extraordinary renditions”, the allegations that the CIA has used UK airports as stopovers for planes carrying terror suspects to face torture. So far, there is a lot of suspicion but no hard evidence. Transcripts of oral evidence, as we receive it, and our reports are published on the committee’s website, please [click here](#). We have published a short report on the Health Bill expressing our view that a partial smoking ban in public places (as opposed to a complete ban) is potentially discriminatory and against Human Rights laws and conventions.

Our next inquiry, probably after the Easter recess, will be about people trafficking, and we have issued a call for evidence about this.

I was re-elected **Chair of the London Group of Labour MPs** at our AGM. We have held meetings with **Harriet Harman MP**, Minister for Constitutional Affairs, over poor levels of electoral registration in London – Barnet is one of the worst areas in the capital; and with Sir Ian Blair, **Metropolitan Police Commissioner** over the future policing strategy for London – he gave us the very welcome news of the early roll-out of Safer Neighbourhood Team to the rest of London. In Hendon, this means that by the end of April this year, the remaining wards of Hale, Mill Hill and Hendon will see their teams start on the beat, being

progressively brought up to full staffing levels by this Autumn. As Chair of the London Group, I also met with Yvette Cooper MP, Minister at the ODPM, to discuss London's local government settlement for this, and future, years.

Speeches in the House itself include my widely reported "record breaking" contribution of 3hrs 17 minutes on a Private Member's Bill, the **Criminal Law (Protection of Property) (Amendment) Bill**. This was the longest speech this century (beating my previous record of 3hrs and 1 minute); I now have the dubious privilege of having made the 7th, 9th and 10th longest speeches in House of Commons history! This was done with a clear purpose though, to block the Bill. I believe the Bill, contrary to its title, would have had quite the opposite effect and would have led to greater violence and risk to occupants. For the speech please [click here](#) for the transcript, (my contribution starts at the end of the page) and click on 'Next section' link on the page itself to scroll through it.

I also spoke (more briefly) to welcome the **International Development Bill** a Private Member's Bill to require regular reports to Parliament on the UK's progress towards 0.7% of GDP on aid; and our contribution to the UN's Millennium Development Goals. I also raised questions during another Private Member's Bill debate, the **Breast Cancer Bill**.

During **PMQs** in November, I asked the P.M. about policing in London. I have also tabled a large number of written questions, as usual two particular themes in this period have been **housing** and **pensions**. (Answers can be accessed by [clicking here](#) and typing "Andrew Dismore" into the search box provided. Also make sure you tick the box labelled '**Commons Written Answers**' under the '**Commons**' sub-section of the '**Document Type**' section of the Parliamentary Search Engine).

I was in Parliament, to vote for the long-overdue **Animal Welfare Bill's** second reading; and to hear the **Pre-Budget Report** from the Chancellor.

A campaign I have been very involved in, as **Chair of the Far East Prisoners of War All Party Parliamentary Group**, is for justice for former civilian internees of the Japanese in WW2. The minister was called before the Public Administration Committee; and based on his evidence I believe a breakthrough is imminent. I am due to meet the minister with a delegation from the Group, shortly.

I was asked to meet the Home Office's expert on criminal injuries and **help for victims of crime**, to advise them on the new Green Paper consultation on this issue: in my previous life as a lawyer, I was recognised as somewhat of an authority on the subject, having written a book about it.

I have also chaired two meetings of the **Parliamentary Fire Brigades' Union Group**, looking at the changes in the Fire Service including the "modernising" agenda, regionalisation of fire control and fire service pensions.

I met with the **Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw MP**, to brief him on Cyprus issues, after my Autumn visit.

I also hosted meetings at Parliament for Labour Party members to meet with the **Home Secretary, Charles Clarke MP**; and for **Indian British constituents** to meet with the Indian Deputy High Commissioner; and for **Muslim constituents** to meet me, and tour Parliament.

I attended the memorial service for **Robin Cook MP**, who died so tragically and suddenly.

Last, but by no means least, three photographs I've taken have been selected for this year's annual **Parliamentary Photography Exhibition**, to be held in March!

Early Day Motions: If you would like to see a list of the EDMs I have recently signed in Parliament, or the full text of any of them, they can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

CONSTITUENCY

The biggest issues over this period include the **Barnet Chase Farm NHS Trust** proposals to reconfigure their services. I do not believe the plans to move non-urgent treatment to Chase Farm will go forward, in the light of public protest, which I very much share. I have been in the forefront of opposition to this.

I also attended the public committee meeting on **out of hours services** organised by Barnet PCT, with reference to Edgware walk-in centre; and I have met with the Chair and Chief Executive of the PCT to discuss health issues generally. I will be dealing with all this issue in more detail in my NHS report (probably at the end of February/ early March).

If you would like a copy of my Health Update, or any of my other recent updates such as International Development; Pensions and Pensioners; and Traffic and Public Transport. Just [click here](#). To see previous editions of these reports on my website please [click here](#).

I have been active in the campaign over the Post Office's plans to franchise **Hendon and Mill Hill Crown Post Offices**. I organised a petition of over 1,000 names, attended and spoke at the C.W.U.'s meeting in Mill Hill, and led a delegation to Post Office HQ in Old Street, to protest – apparently this was the first time they'd been 'picketed' by disgruntled Post Office customers.

Congratulations to **Deansbrook, Woodcroft and Fairway Junior Schools**, all of which had winners in my annual greetings card competition. I've visited each of the schools to present the winning children with certificates, and to invite them for a special tour and tea with me, at the House of Commons.

I attended **Hendon Area Forum** and spoke on behalf of residents of **Glebe Crescent**, and in support of the petition presented against **Conservative cuts in Youth Services**.

I carried out the official opening of the new **Job Centre Plus** building in Edgware – a leap forward from the previous dreary premises; presented long-service badges for the **Red Cross** in Hendon; attended **Barnet African Caribbean Association** Christmas Lunch; the **Mill Hill Preservation Society** Winter meeting, to answer questions; the **Cyprus Rizokarpasso** annual dinner, where I spoke (in Greek); and the **Edgware Royal British Legion** benefit night for a 7th July badly injured bomb victim.

I have held the first of my regular constituency tea parties, this time at St Margaret's Parish Church Hall, Edgware, for residents for parts of Edgware and Hale wards.

Lastly, but of the greatest importance, I attended the **Holocaust Memorial Day** event in Hendon Park. As the M.P. who devised the strategy in Parliament to bring about national H.M.D, this is of the greatest priority, to me.

THE PRESS

I am attaching a list of the press releases I have issued over the period: this gives an idea of some of the other issues I have spoken about which may be of interest to you. They can be accessed for the full text by [clicking here](#).

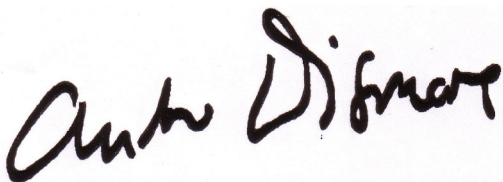
****Stop Press**Stop Press**Stop Press**Stop Press**Stop Press**Stop Press**Stop Press**Stop Press****

The Prime Minister Tony Blair visited Brent Cross Shopping Centre
on Tuesday 24th January 2006
to launch the Welfare Reform Green Paper with Andrew Dismore MP

More next month!

I hope you've found this report of interest: any comments please email me at AndrewDismoreMP@parliament.uk .

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dismore
Labour Member of Parliament for Hendon

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