



Andrew Dismore

Member of Parliament for Hendon

Constituency Report # 13
21st February – 20th March 2007

House of Commons and Westminster

Looking firstly at debates in the House of Commons, I was pleased the Speaker selected my application for a debate on **London's contribution to the UK economy** for an adjournment debate in Westminster Hall. This was an opportunity to highlight the need for investment in transport and housing in London, and for further steps to alleviate poverty and increase employment. For my speech [click here](#).

I also spoke during the **report stage of the Greater London Authority Bill**, particularly highlighting the need for better arrangements for the disposal of waste in London. For my speech [click here](#).

I was also in the House to support the **Agency Workers Bill**, with short interventions which can be seen [here](#) or [click here for the whole debate](#)

I have been particularly concerned about proposals to reform legal aid, and I raised this during the **Department for Constitutional Affairs Question Time** with the legal aid minister, Vera Baird, for my exchange with her [click here](#).

Although I did not speak in the debate, you may be interested to know that during the debate on **House of Lords reform**, I voted for abolition; then for election for 100% of the House of Lords; and finally for removal of the hereditary peers.

The other main issue which attracted public attention was the replacement of **Trident**. I was not in the House for this debate due to Joint Committee on Human Rights duties: we had a long planned field visit, for our inquiry into treatment of the elderly (see below) and as Chairman (and thus leader of the delegation) I could not pull out, bearing in mind the amount of preparatory work which had been done. I previously indicated to the Whips that I was not happy with Government policy in relation to a nuclear deterrent replacement.

The **Joint Committee on Human Rights** work continues. We had an interesting evidence session with **Home Office Minister Liam Byrne** to conclude our inquiry into the treatment of **asylum seekers**. The report is now being prepared and will be

published shortly. We also published a report on the **Sexual Orientation Regulations**, in the light of the controversy over this issue. Our main work at present, though, is our inquiry into the **treatment of the elderly** in hospitals and care homes, in relation to which we have had two evidence sessions and one field visit so far. We also published a report on the **Renewal of the Control Order Regime**. All the transcripts of our inquiries and reports can be seen on the Joint Committee on Human Rights website [click here](#).

In addition to the formal business in the House, I have had a number of meetings of interest.

Dealing firstly with the question of **legal aid**, I met with the Minister to discuss concerns raised by local advice agencies. I also met with the Defence Minister, to discuss my campaign for **compensation for former Second World War detainees** of the Japanese. I spoke at a meeting on **Corporate Manslaughter** organised by the pressure groups, over the issue of deaths in custody. I also chaired a **Chinese in Britain All Party Group** meeting with Health Minister, Caroline Flint.

I attended the **Chinese for Labour** dinner.

I also attended the dinner organised by the **Community Security Trust**, with whom I also had a separate meeting to discuss various concerns over electoral law, about which I also met with the **Electoral Commission**.

I chaired a **Friends of Cyprus Group** meeting, and also attended a meeting organised by the Cypriot community, addressed by the President of the House of Representatives, Mr Christofias. I attended the **Hellenic Society** dinner.

Turning to public transport, I met with the management of **London Buses** to discuss the bus service in the constituency; and also with **London Underground** and **Tube Lines** to discuss progress in relation to improvements on the **Tube**.

I attended the **Health and Safety All Party Group** meeting; and pressure group meetings around the questions of **people trafficking** and **diabetes**.

I attended the meeting organised by **PCS** Trades Union, to discuss developments in the civil service.

Finally, I met with the **Council of Civil Service Unions**, to discuss my forthcoming **Private Member's Bill** on equal opportunities recruitment in the civil service. This is my fifth attempt to get this Bill through Parliament: it is turning out to be the triumph of hope over experience, even though it has the backing of the front benches of all three main parties!

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

I continued my programme of meetings with school sixth forms, speaking with sixth formers at Copthall and the London Academy.

I also visited Matilda Marks Kennedy Primary School.

I was a guest speaker at St. Paul's Church, giving the first of their lectures in their series to commemorate the abolition of the slave trade. The title of my talk was Wilberforce : The Parliamentarian. For my talk, [click here](#).

I held one of my regular coffee mornings at St Peter's Church, for Edgware residents.

I also held a report back on my international development and Africa report.

I have spent some time completing my series of themed update reports this month. Now in production are reports on Environment (Climate Change special); Transport; and Education. If you would like these [click here](#), with your name, postcode, and which reports you would like.

I will be holding report back meetings on all of these issues. If you would like to attend these meetings, please RSVP as soon as possible, as space is limited, so confirmation of attendance is requested.

All the meetings will be at my constituency office ([MAP](#)), just click on the ones you would like to attend.

- [Animal Welfare: 7pm, Thursday 29th March](#)
- [Environment: 2.30pm, Sunday 15th April](#)
- [Education: 2pm, Sunday 22nd April](#)
- [Transport: 3.30pm, Sunday 22nd April](#)

I have also launched a consultation on Climate Change and my "greenest Hendon resident competition" [click here](#).

Media

I appeared on Radio 4's Today programme, commenting on the question of honours and the police inquiry. I was also quoted in the Guardian on the subject.

I appeared on Sky and Independent Radio News, commenting on the Joint Committee on Human Rights report on Control Orders.

I appeared on **Today** and **Yesterday in Parliament** on two issues, our inquiry on the Human Rights Committee on asylum seekers and our session with Liam Byrne; and on the question of the Agency Workers Bill. I was also quoted in the **Guardian** on this subject.

I was quoted about the Greater London Assembly Bill in the **Evening Standard** and the **Morning Star**.

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

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!


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.

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

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

PS. To join my mailing lists for any of my reports just [click here](#)

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