



# Andrew Dismore

## Member of Parliament for Hendon

Constituency Report # 12  
25<sup>th</sup> January – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007

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### House of Commons and Westminster

Things have remained pretty busy over the last month!

As the chair of a select committee I am a member of the powerful **Liaison Committee**, the committee made up of committee chairs, senior backbenchers. Twice a year we have the opportunity to question the Prime Minister at length for 2 ½ hours. I raised with him the definition of “public authority” for the purposes of the **Human Rights Act**: this only applies to public bodies, and court decisions have suggested that privatised or contracted out services are not covered, [click here](#).

I also raised with him the growing influence of **China** in the African continent. To read my exchanges with the Prime Minister, [click here](#).

I was also drawn in the ballot for **Prime Minister’s Questions** at question 1. I asked the Prime Minister about the recent **Community Security Trust** report and the growth of anti-Semitism in Britain, and received a very positive response. [Click here](#) for the Hansard entry.

Immediately after Prime Minister’s Question time, I am pleased that the Prime Minister agreed to present the Labour Party Regional merit award to my agent, Ruth Montague. Ruth has been a stalwart member of Hendon Labour Party for decades, and has acted as my agent at the last three elections. This is the first time Ruth also had the opportunity of seeing me “in action” live, during Prime Minister’s Questions. To see the presentation photograph [click here](#).

We had a major debate on human rights in Parliament, and as chair of the **Joint Select Committee on Human Rights** I spoke in the debate, highlighting the importance of an accurate understanding of the Human Rights Act, the benefits that it has brought to many, and the importance of “myth busting” some of the more ludicrous stories about human rights which are simply not true. For my speech [click here](#).

There was a short debate about the **Abu Hamza** case, and I made a short contribution during that. To see it [click here](#).

**Private Members' Bills** are back with us, and I spoke briefly during the debate on the **Energy Saving (Daylight) Bill**, to highlight the possible implications for those faith communities whose prayer times are governed by dawn and dusk. To see my speech [click here](#).

I made a more lengthy contribution to the second reading debate on the **Land Use (Gardens Protection) Bill**, highlighting the particular problems in the constituency. For my speech on the debate [click here](#).

The **Joint Committee on Human Rights** has continued with our inquiry into the treatment of asylum seekers, with an evidence session with the Health Minister, **Rosie Winterton MP**. For the discussion with the Minister [click here](#). We also published a report on the **Mental Health Bill**. To access this [click here](#).

In addition to formal business at Westminster, I had the usual series of meetings. These included with **Ken Livingstone**, the London Mayor, in my capacity as chair of the **London Group of Labour MPs**. We discussed issues relating to investment in London, the Greater London Assembly Bill presently going through Parliament, and the financing of the Olympics.

As chair of the **All Party Chinese in Britain Parliamentary Group**, I organised the first **Chinese New Year** party we have held in Westminster, attended by the Deputy Ambassador from the Chinese Embassy, who spoke very inspirationally. The event was well attended by Chinese community leaders.

I met with the recently appointed **Israeli Deputy Ambassador**; and attended the Parliamentary reception held for the Israeli Ambassador. I attended the Zionist Federation dinner.

I met with the Chief Executive and Chairman of the **Blood Transfusion Service**, to discuss their plans for Colindale Blood Transfusion Centre. They are consolidating on fewer sites, which will mean a significant expansion at Colindale, probably using land released from the Colindale Hospital site.

I met with the **Senior Salaries Review Board**, who are looking at the issue of MPs' allowances, in my capacity as chair of the London Group of Labour MPs, to emphasise the need for London weighting in the allowance system, which is presently not there. This means that London MPs find it difficult to offer the same level of service as MPs outside the capital.

The London Group also met with Education **Secretary of State, Alan Johnson MP**, looking at various issues relating to education in London. A number of matters we will follow up, include the future of the "London Challenge" scheme, and strategy in relation to city academies in the capital.

I met with **Jobcentre Plus**, to discuss their future plans for the constituency; and **PCS Union**, to hear about their concerns, particularly affecting the Department for Constitutional Affairs reorganisation.

I attended the dinner organised by **DIKO**, one of the Cyprus political parties.

I also attended an event organised by the campaign on **people trafficking**, with particular reference to children.

I met with the **Home Office "Respect" squad**, to look at their new ideas of how to deal with anti-social behaviour.

I hosted a question and answer session for students from **Warwick University**, looking at careers in politics. As an alumnus of the university, I always think it is a good idea to encourage and explain to students.

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**

I attended the borough **Holocaust Memorial Day** commemoration at Middlesex University.

I held a series of report back meetings at my constituency office for residents who wished to raise with me concerns over pensions, policing and health, following on from my reports which went out last month.

The next meeting will be on **International Development**, and if you would like to come, this will be held at my constituency office:

at 7:30pm,  
on Thursday 8th March,  
St. George's Lodge,  
79 The Burroughs,  
Hendon, NW4 4AX.

[Click here if you want to attend](#)

In the current month I am issuing updates on the Chinese community (to coincide with Chinese New Year) and also on animal welfare. If you would like to receive these, [click here](#) with your name, postal address, and which report you would like!

I attended the **Mill Hill Preservation Society** winter meeting.

I also spoke to **Mill Hill County High School** sixth formers.

I held a coffee morning in **Burnt Oak**, for residents to meet with me to discuss their concerns, which was extremely well attended.

I held a meeting with **Barnet Council Education Department** to catch up with developments locally, which will feature in my forthcoming education report which I hope will be finalised next month.

I attended **Merrivale** Residential Care Home, to meet with residents and staff, to discuss their concerns over the present dispute with the privatised company which runs the home, Fremantle.

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## **Further Afield**

Further afield, I led a small delegation of Parliamentarians to Cyprus, on behalf of the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**, to meet with Cyprus politicians and civil society.

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## **Media**

I had substantial media coverage this month!

I appeared twice on the **Radio 4 Today Programme**, to discuss Corporate Manslaughter and the Government defeat in the House of Lords over deaths in custody; and developments in relation to people trafficking.

I appeared on **BBC Television 10 O'Clock news** over the Lord Chancellor's approach to the Human Rights Act, commenting on a major speech he made.

I appeared on **Radio 5 Live**, to discuss the Joint Committee on Human Rights report on the Mental Health Bill.

In the print media, I appeared in the **Daily Express**, over the issue of Abu Hamza and his access to legal aid; and in the **Observer** on the question of Corporate Manslaughter. I even appeared in the **Morning Star**, reporting my discussions with the Prime Minister at the Liaison Committee (see above).

I appeared in the **Sunday People**, over my ongoing campaign concerning war crimes and the need to prosecute former Nazis resident in the UK.

I was quoted in the **Jewish Chronicle** over the anti-Semitic videos appearing on YouTube; my concerns over the Daylight Saving Bill; and on war crimes.

Finally, a note for the future: ITV have filmed an episode of **Miss Marple** in the Boroughs, and used the frontage of my office as part of the set. However, you will not see the office as you might recognise it: they dressed it up as a fish and chip shop!

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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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).

I hope from this report you will see that, like most MPs, I had a pretty busy summer, and did not spend more than a statutory couple of weeks away from my duties.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



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

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