

BELL RIBEIRO-ADDY MP

Monthly Report, June 2021



Youth safety: investing in safer neighbourhoods

My thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and family of Denardo Samuels-Brooks, the teenager fatally stabbed on Prentis Road last month. My thanks go to local emergency workers who dealt with the incident and the support services dealing with the aftermath. We cannot underestimate the trauma these incidents inflict.

In the wake of the tragedy, I was chosen for a PMQ and called on the Prime Minister to reverse his party's 70% cuts to youth budgets over the last decade. His response was a flat-out denial, claiming that his party had "invested in youth services". If he genuinely believes that £1 billion of cuts is investment, I fear for our country.

In the same month, we had Tory MPs claiming that working class kids are being held back by schools teaching them about racism. This from a party that has closed more than 750 youth centres over the last decade, trebled tuition fees, cut school funding by nine per cent and abolished Educational Maintenance Allowance. Instead of trying to create divisions within working-class communities to distract from these failings, wouldn't it be more helpful if they addressed these things, starting by fulfilling their manifesto pledge of £500 million for youth services?

Knife crime is driven by a series of complex factors, but these overwhelmingly have deprivation and poverty at their root. We've seen a 50% increase in knife crime since 2010, rising in step with austerity: youth funding cuts, the growth in zero-hours jobs, and police cuts.

The violence we have seen so far this summer reflects a situation where the impact of the pandemic has fallen hardest on disadvantaged families in our area. The immediate things we need to look at include creating social outlets, improving mental health services and ensuring better job opportunities for young people.

It is fantastic to see Lambeth Council's Lambeth Made Safer strategy, led on by Deputy Leader of the Council Jacqui Dyer building on successful initiatives from elsewhere in the UK, to make our borough safer for young people. By resourcing local governments properly and adopting a holistic public health approach to violence, we can work effectively with the local community to make harm reduction our number one focus.

In the Constituency

Water outages in Streatham Wells

People in parts of Streatham Wells were without water for several days this month. I met with representatives of Thames Water several times during these outages and kept residents updated on emergency water supplies, bottled water banks and repair work timeframes. I'd also like to take this opportunity to highlight the priority services register in the event of future water outages. If you or someone you know would struggle to get hold of water during an emergency outage, please do consider registering here: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/extra-care/priority-services>

On average, Thames Water pipes have leaked 619.7m+ litres a day over the last 3 years. Meanwhile, the company's CEO is on a pay package worth up to £3.27m a year and it paid out £115m in dividends from 2018-2020. Privatising water hasn't worked. Our supply doesn't just leak billions of litres every day, it also leaks billions of pounds out of the system and into shareholder pockets every year. We should take water back into public ownership and invest this money in a better system.

Estate walkabouts

This month, I got out with Councillor Marianna Masters to listen to residents on the Sackville and Valley Road Estates about their concerns over major works bills, other leaseholder costs, and general estate repair. Housing is consistently the main issue I am asked by constituents for help with, so it's great to get to the heart of these issues and understand what I can do to help.



Fire in Baldry Gardens

I was shocked to hear of the fire started by arsonists down at Baldry Gardens last month. I am overwhelmingly grateful and relieved that there were no fatalities and that all those who incurred injuries are now recovering safely. I'd like to thank the firefighters who brought the fire under control and highlight the bravery of Streatham Labour activist and friend Sarbaz Barznji (Streatham South), who ran towards a smoke-filled flat twice in order to try and rescue residents from the building. Wishing Sarbaz and everyone involved a speedy recovery.

Windrush Day 2021



The 22nd of June marks the day when the Empire Windrush, carrying people from Kingston, Jamaica, landed at Tillbury Docks just outside of London. Lambeth has a particularly close relationship with the Windrush Generation as the first borough that many of these people settled in, spending their first night at Clapham South Deep Shelter, Brixton, visiting the local employment exchange in Brixton to find work, and eventually setting up home here.

On Windrush Day, we celebrate the generation of migrants who came over from the Commonwealth after the war to help rebuild Britain. After the war, tens of thousands of people travelled from across the Commonwealth to make their home here.

When we talk about the Windrush Generation, we think of the Caribbean, but people came from all across the Commonwealth, from countries including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Hong Kong. They were nurses, doctors, railway workers, steelworkers, electricians, builders and farmworkers, and under the Nationality Act 1948, they were British citizens.

It was also a privilege to join CARICOM Heads of Mission in Windrush Square at the Black Cultural Archives to pay a special tribute to the people who have done so much for our area. The Windrush Generation's strong sense of community, faith and activism have helped make our area the incredible place it is to live today. Windrush Day is a time to celebrate their legacy but it is also a time to reflect on the injustices they faced and continue to face and recommit to righting the wrongs of our immigration system.

It was lovely to spend some time with Corpus Christi College on Brixton Hill, alongside Lambeth Council Leader Claire Holland and Councillor Sonia Winifred, to celebrate this local legacy with a very special musical Windrush Day celebration. At 10:27am, I joined them to sing Desmond Dekker's famous song, 'You Can Get It If You Really Want' to mark the 1027 passengers that arrived on the Empire Windrush 32 years ago today. I'm always impressed to see local schools making the extra effort to teach history in a way that reflects the full diversity of our country and community. I'll continue to push the Government to follow their lead and ensure that Black history becomes a more integrated part of our curriculum.



The Government's compensation scheme has been criticised from all quarters for failing to get adequate financial restitution to the ageing victims of the Windrush Scandal. More than two years since the Government announced the scheme, the overwhelming majority of the scheme's 2,367 applicants to date are still waiting for compensation. Earlier this year, the Government finally admitted that at least 21 people have died before hearing back on their application and at this rate, more will follow.

The number of applications so far suggests they have failed to reach many of the 11,500 people estimated to have been affected by the Windrush Scandal. In spite of an overhaul to payouts, the average payment still does not seem adequate to the trauma endured by victims. Following similar calls from community groups close to the scheme, Labour has this year called for the scheme to be taken out of the Home Office's control. We must never forget the Windrush Generation's immense contribution to our society or how they stood strong in the face of the racism they faced under successive governments. Their struggles must spur us forwards to challenge the Tories' divide and rule tactics and attempts to penalise migrants for the failings of their own rotten economic policies.

Watch my [Windrush Day video](#) now

EU Settlement Scheme Advice Sessions

Ahead of the EU Settlement Scheme, I called on the Government to lift the 30th June deadline. The Government's statistics show that up to 31st March 2021, there were 65,300 applications for Settled Status from people in Lambeth, with at least 3,570 outstanding at the same point.

The last-minute surge in applications means this number is now likely to be much higher. Thousands of EU nationals in South London now face becoming undocumented, leaving them exposed to exploitation and hostile environment policies, including detention and deportation.

On top of unprocessed applications, there is also mounting evidence of significant gaps in the scheme's uptake. Some groups of people are thought to be less likely to have applied for EUSS by the June deadline – particularly older EU residents, children, physically or mentally disabled individuals, women in relationships involving domestic abuse or Roma people.

In the week of the deadline, I worked with local charities and legal organisations, including South London Law Centre and South London Refugee Association to offer advice sessions for those potentially vulnerable to missing out on regularising their status.

Learning from migrant families in South London

Last month, I was invited to speak at the launch of the South London Refugee Association's report, "Learning from migrant families' lived experience in Lambeth". Their report showcased the damaging and discriminatory impact that No Recourse to Public Funds is having on people in our area. It's a reminder that we need to centre the lived experiences of people who deal with this issue if we're going to put compassion and fairness at the heart of our local policy response. I'm very proud to support SLRA in their ongoing efforts to make our constituency a better place for everyone, wherever they come from.

EU Settlement Scheme Advice Sessions with Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP

Get help applying for the EU Settlement Scheme from me, my team, and immigration specialists before the 30th June deadline:

- Monday 28th: 1pm-2pm
- Tuesday 29th: 1pm-2pm
- Wednesday 30th: 1pm-2pm

BOOK A SLOT

bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk
0207 219 6695

SLRA

Every child deserves to be treated fairly regardless of their parents' immigration status. #EndNRPF

Promoting walk-in vaccine clinics

Every single shot of the vaccine takes us a step closer to getting back to something resembling normality. As the local vaccine rollout continues, delivered by amazing NHS workers and volunteers, I'm working with local public health teams and the council to build vaccine confidence and publicising the latest opportunities for people to get vaccinated. Getting the vaccine couldn't be quicker or easier and is one of the most important things you can do to keep yourself and your family safe from Covid.

List of [local vaccine clinics](#)

Lambeth Youth Safety forum

I joined leaders from local policing, local government and the local community to discuss the Mayor's Action Plan to improve public confidence in the police. At the time of writing, Lambeth had the lowest level of expressed confidence in the Metropolitan Police of any London borough. This is perhaps unsurprising in the wake of recent events like the Sarah Everard vigil and disproportionate Covid policing.

In the UK, we have a long tradition of policing by consent. The function of the police must always be to keep the peace and keep our community safe. This role is undermined when you have an authoritarian government that refuses to review policies like random stop and search, which have clearly become counter-productive and tries to use policing as a way of plugging other social gaps, such as a lack of adequate youth provision, good job opportunities and mental health infrastructure. A decade of police cuts and underinvestment in community policing doesn't help.

Community panel hosted by Cllr Marcia Cameron

In the wake of recent abduction attempts in our area, I attended a 'Protect our Children' meeting with members of the local community hosted by Councillor Marcia Cameron and attended by Councillor Sonia Winnifred, Councillor Ed Davie and Sandra Moodie, Co-Chair of Lambeth Black Families Forum.

Too often, Black families have been left feeling they were not listened to when they raised concerns. According to recent data from the National Crime Agency, Black people were four times more likely to go missing in England and Wales from 2019-2020. We need to see efforts at a local and national level to address this and ensure that the police are always working with people and treating everyone with the respect they deserve.

St Gabriel's College

It was great to join students from Saint Gabriel's College in Camberwell (where I am a school governor) to listen to their presentations on the current situation in Colombia, where peaceful protesters have faced a brutal crackdown from the state. It's good to see children in our area raising awareness and showing solidarity around such an important international issue.

Colombian Police have killed more than 30 protesters, over one hundred people have disappeared, and hundreds more have been arbitrarily arrested or subjected to sexual violence. There have also been targeted attacks on civil society organisations and human rights defenders, including police monitoring groups.



I was glad to add my name to Early Day Motion 4 condemning these widely acknowledged human rights abuses and calling on our Government to review its training of the Colombian Police, suspend the sale of riot control materials, review all arms exports to Colombia, and use its leverage as pen holders for the Colombian peace process at the UN Security Council to promote substantive reform of the Colombian security services and full implementation of the Peace Accord.

Defibrillator mapping in Streatham

The dramatic collapse of Denmark's Christian Eriksen during the early stages of Euro 2020 was a reminder of how crucial it is to have easy access to life-saving medical equipment. I was proud to sign my colleague, Mary Foy's letter to the FA calling on them to finance defibrillators for grassroots clubs and expand their Emergency Aid training programme to grassroots clubs.

Christian Eriksen's life was undoubtedly saved by the quick actions of his teammates, match officials, and medical staff in Copenhagen. Now is a really important time for us to think locally about how we can maximise people's survival chances in the event of tragedy. Prompt use of a defibrillator can increase survival chances cardiac arrest by up to 70%.

It's really welcome to see that Streatham BID are carrying out a mapping exercise of where public defibrillators in Streatham are located. If you have one or would consider hosting in your shop, please do reach out to my office or alternatively, get in touch with Streatham BID directly.

Surge testing

Lambeth Council are asking everyone who lives in Lambeth to get a test – even if you don't have symptoms – to help slow the spread of the virus. They have set up additional testing in Clapham, Brixton, Stockwell, Vauxhall and West Norwood for people without symptoms in all of these areas after a local rise in confirmed cases of the Delta variant.

You can pick up and drop off home PCR tests or get an in-person test without an appointment at the following sites:

- Clapham Common: Windmill Drive (SW4 9DE), 8.30am to 5pm
- Brixton: Windrush Square (SW2 1EF), 9am to 4:30pm
- Stockwell: Stockwell Memorial Gardens (SW8 1UQ), 8:30pm to 5pm
- West Norwood: Waylett Place Car Park (SE27 9AE), 8:30pm to 3pm
- Vauxhall: 139 Vauxhall Walk (SE11 5HL), 8:30am to 3pm

Getting a test is easy. You can order a test kit for delivery to your home, for yourself and up to 3 other people you live with. You can return completed tests to one of the below test sites. You can also post them if you are unable to attend a site in-person.

You can also book tests via the GOV.UK website at the following testing sites:

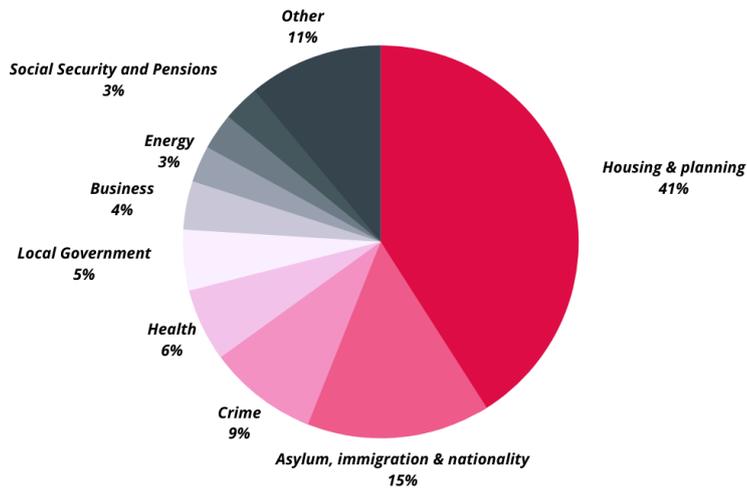
- Somerleyton: Angela Davis Industrial Estate (SW8 2UP), 8am–8pm
- The Rookery: Streatham Common car park (SW16 3BX), 8am–8pm
- Stockwell: Wheatsheaf Community Hall (SW8 2UP), 8am to 8pm

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste. If you have any of these symptoms, you need to stay at home and book a free NHS test. You can get a test delivered to you if you cannot get to a testing site. If you test positive, local support is available, including help with practical things like shopping and medication. If you are on a low income, you may be eligible for a £500 support payment.

[**Click here to order home testing kits**](#)

Casework

Last month, we received a majority of casework on constituents' housing and planning issues (disrepairs, suitability of housing, social housing allocation) where we worked with various housing associations to resolve these issues. Last month also saw a high number of immigration-based issues where there have been prolonged delays from the Home Office for constituents' biometric residence permits (BRP) and settled status applications. Finally, there were a number of constituent casework issues regarding local crime, anti-social behaviour and delays in the DVLA.



June Statistics

Correspondence

The two major focuses of June's correspondence were the upcoming Policing, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Bill and the Tories' plans to push through massive cuts to the aid budget. Constituents called on me to support legislative amendments to address shortcomings in these pieces of legislation. With the Tories also soon to introduce a Bill to ramp up privatisation in the NHS, this has also figured prominently in this month's correspondence.

If you have an issue that you need help with, or know someone else in the constituency who may benefit from having their MP fight their corner, please email me at bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk with your full name, postcode and a brief outline of the problem you are experiencing. My team and I will be happy to try and assist you as best we can.

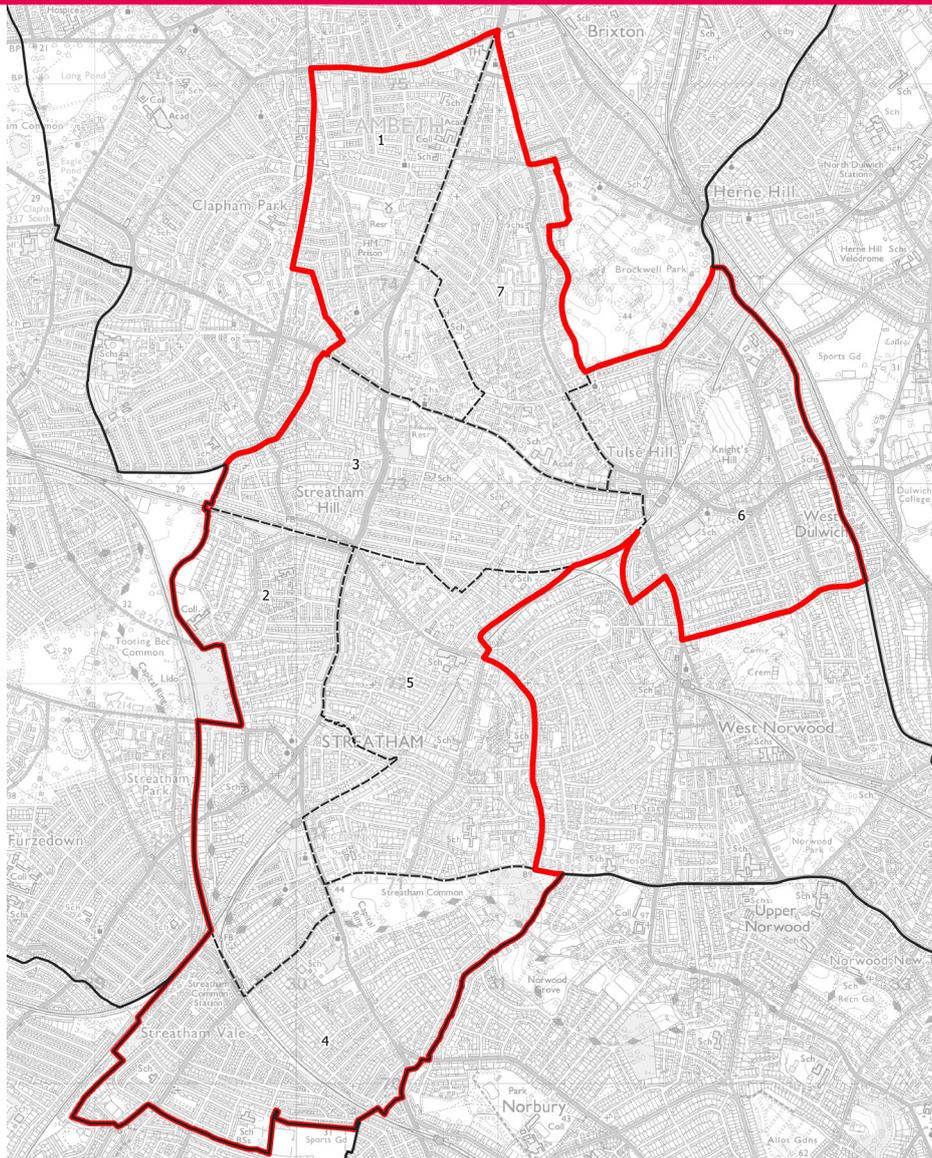
[Bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk)

Major works bills

A decade of Tory outsourcing and cuts to council budgets have left leaseholders now facing crushing major works bills. I've been out and about this month, talking about the devastating impact this is having on people in our area. I also went on BBC Politics to discuss the Government's proposed leasehold reforms, which will be of little comfort to leaseholders facing astronomical bills for cladding and other major repairs.

Watch my **[Politics Live](#)** appearance

Boundary Review



Last month saw the publication of the Boundary Commission's initial proposal for the new constituency boundaries across England. Under the changes outlined, Streatham would lose the Clapham Common and Thornton wards and gain Thurlow Park (currently in Dulwich and West Norwood). Since then, the Boundary Commission's has also announced it will undertake further limited consultation on proposals for five wards in two parts of the borough.

The first is the areas south and east of Clapham Common and Stockwell tube stations, covering the Clapham Common and Stockwell East & Landor wards. The second covers the south east of the borough, containing West Norwood, Gipsy Hill, and West Dulwich & St Martin's wards, which includes the Tulse Hill area.

They welcome comments on the further draft recommendations before 26 July 2021, with final recommendations for the whole of the council area set to be published on 5 October 2021. You can click the link below to see more about how Streatham and other neighbouring constituencies are affected and share your views on the proposals.

Find out more about the [new boundary proposals](#)

In Parliament



Prime Minister's Question on vaccine nationalism

This month, I got lucky with the draw and had the opportunity to ask two Prime Minister's Questions. In my first, I raised the ongoing scandal of vaccine inequality and called on the Government to pledge their support for the international efforts to scale up vaccine production.

According to the New York Times' vaccine tracker, 85% of shots that have gone into arms worldwide have been administered in high- and upper-middle-income countries, while just 0.3% of doses have been administered in low-income countries.

This disparity isn't just a moral outrage, leaving people who face higher risk of the virus without protection, it's also an outrageously bad strategy. When the Covid-19 pandemic exploded, scientists warned rapid transmission increases the likelihood of more dangerous variants emerging. We've already seen mutations that reduce the efficacy of vaccines. In the UK, variant upon variant has sparked surge testing, further lockdowns and the recent delay to the end of restrictions, with the more virulent Delta Plus variant and the new Lambda variant now detected in the UK.

I called on Boris Johnson to reconsider his negligible vaccine donation policy and join over 100 countries in supporting an intellectual property waiver on Covid-19 vaccines to ramp up supply and ramp up the speed of the global vaccine rollout.

Covid-19 vaccines were made possible almost entirely by public money and international scientific cooperation. It's completely wrong to allow pharmaceutical companies to hold publicly funded Covid patents hostage whilst factories that could produce further doses of the vaccine are sitting idle around the world.

I recently wrote for [Labour Outlook](#) on the need to suspend patents and scale up vaccine production.

Prime Minister's Question on youth service cuts

I was incredibly fortunate to get drawn for my third PMQ just a week after the first. We are experiencing a knife crime epidemic in London, where we have lost as many as 50 people so far this year. A staggering 17 of them were young people including, tragically, 17-year-old Denardo Samuels-Brooks right here in Streatham last month.

In my second Prime Minister's Question of the month, I asked Boris Johnson if he would reverse the Tories' 70% cuts to youth services over the last decade. He claimed his government has "invested in youth services". If he sincerely believes £1 billion in cuts is investment, that explains a lot about the Tories' levelling up agenda.

The causes of crime are complex and manifold but it's clear that poverty and deprivation are both key drivers. The pandemic has only added to the factors that have driven crime up over the last ten years with rising youth unemployment, youth service providers seeing their income strangled by the recession, and the mental duress of lockdown. I'm really concerned that we are going to see more and more people needlessly losing their lives and heightened violence on our streets with the summer approaching.

The most immediate things we need to look at include creating social outlets, improving mental health services and ensuring better job opportunities for young people. We also need to create a stronger culture of community policing, where policing is something that is done with people, not to them.

Hancock's last half hour

Discharging Covid patients into care homes, missing his own test targets, unlawfully failing to publish contracts: Matt Hancock would have been fired from any normal job for his handling of the pandemic along with many other senior Tories. His resignation is long overdue.

We might rightly question the timing of the leak that brought an end to his career; firstly, because his affair with an aide is small fry in comparison to some of his other offences. Secondly, because it has clearly served the purpose of installing a more hawkish Health Secretary, whose readmission to the Cabinet reflects a change in policy bent towards a big bang unlocking.

Covid cases in the UK are currently running at ten times the EU average. Ending mask-wearing rules and other restrictions won't help change this, nor will it protect the most vulnerable. But it will help the Tories make the argument that our pandemic outcomes are a result of individual choices rather than systemic failures. It's pure ideology.

The pandemic has shown that our health is connected. It depends on the health of the person standing next to us and the person next to them. The Government should be encouraging people to work together to control the virus, not creating a dangerous free-for-all and encouraging new variants.



"I understand the enormous sacrifices that everybody in this country has made, that you have made, and those of us who make these rules have got to stick by them and that's why I have got to resign." - Matt Hancock



Clean up our air

3 in 5 people in the UK breathe air so polluted it's illegal. In recent years, air pollution on Brixton Road has breached annual pollution limits inside the first month of the year. The air we breathe shouldn't make us ill. This month marked Clean Air Day, with Labour reiterating its call for a new Clean Air Act to establish the legal right to clean air, bring World Health Organisation (WHO) targets into UK law with duties on ministers to enforce them, and grant new powers to councils to take urgent action on air quality.

Another dirty trade deal

This month, Labour demanded a parliamentary vote on the government's trade deal with Australia, warning it will undercut British farmers and undermine our animal welfare standards.

Australia has the highest rate of deforestation in the OECD, ranks 54/60 on the world Climate Change Performance Index and allows thousands of pesticides and harmful substances banned in the UK.

Our trade deals shouldn't contravene our commitment building a better world and addressing climate breakdown, nor should they undermine our efforts to promote sustainable domestic farming.



Celebrating 34 years of the first Black MPs

Last month marked 34 years since the first Black MPs were elected to Parliament. Equal representation is a cornerstone of any just society. Our current Parliament is more representative, diverse and inclusive than ever but there's still much to do. I'm proud to stand on the shoulders of giants and continue their efforts to build a more equal society that treats everyone with the same respect, no matter the colour of their skin or where they come from.

Watch [Labour's video](#) about how the first Black MPs inspired the MPs of today

**Support Barry Gardiner MP
for the launch of his
Private Member's
Bill to legislate
against Fire and
Rehire**

Monday 14TH June 2PM



Location: outside Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Ruscote Avenue, Banbury, OX162NL

Barry Gardiner and Unite's Stop Fire and Rehire Bill

Unscrupulous employers forced thousands of staff onto worse contracts during the pandemic. When large companies in particular are able to do this with impunity, it has a knock-on effect, pulling down the wage floor across different sectors. This month, I was proud to support the introduction of Barry Gardiner's Private Member's Bill to stop this practice in its tracks and stop workers bearing the brunt of the recession.

Trying to stop the Government axeing the aid budget

The Government's proposed aid cuts are so deep and come at such a dangerous time that even senior Tories are opposing them. It's therefore unsurprising that they have taken the extremely anti-democratic step of denying MPs a chance to vote on these plans. If they are forced to hold a vote, I will use mine to protect the aid funding that supports water, food, healthcare and education for millions around the world.

Another month, another Tory attack on migrants

This month, I highlighted another vicious Tory immigration policy. The Home Office's plan to roll out 24/7 GPs tracking for bailed immigration detainees is a Trojan horse. It offers new intrusive ways of monitoring immigration detainees and gathering data against them. Its purpose is to discover anything that might discredit their claim to residency.

To take one example: victims of human trafficking sometimes commit crimes as a result of their being trafficked, such as those enslaved on British cannabis farms, and face deportation and GPS tracking as a direct result.

These expansive and expensive new surveillance powers offer a glimpse of the new Tory authoritarianism: cracking down on migrants to divert attention from their attempts to shore up the deeply unequal society they have built over the last decade.

Coverage of my [comments on Tory GPS tracking](#) for bailed immigration detainees

Trade union regulator reforms

Rather than stopping unscrupulous companies from firing and rehiring workers, the Government has also this month announced plans that suggest they will penalise the trade unions fighting back against them. This will do nothing to address the crises of low pay and insecure work facing us after a decade of Tory rule. I'll continue to scrutinise these plans as they come before Parliament.

Police Crackdown Bill

In the last Parliament, the Tories were forced to drop plans for the dismal Policing, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Bill (more accurately dubbed the Police Crackdown Bill by campaigners). Unfortunately, we've not seen the last of this Bill, which is the Government's response to the successful protest movements of recent years, including Black Lives Matter and Extinction Rebellion.

With measures that target Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and new police powers to crack down on peaceful protest, this Bill constitutes a clear attack on progressive movements, marginalised communities and the working class in all its diversity. It does nothing to address fundamental problems in policing or the justice system.

In the run-up to the Bill's Third Reading, I joined Labour colleagues to table amendments that would protect minoritised communities from the worst impacts of the Bill, whilst upholding civil liberties, including the right to protest.

“

Decades of structural inequality fuelled the Black Lives Matter protests, but the spark that ignited them was the Government's shameful failure to protect Black communities from Covid-19, the persistence of heavy-handed policing throughout the pandemic and the disproportionate suffering our communities experience at every stage of the justice system.

I've tabled New Clause 56 and New Clause 57, calling for a review of stop and search orders and a public inquiry into the criminal justice system's treatment of people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.”



BELL RIBEIRO-ADDY, LABOUR MP FOR STREATHAM

Write to your MP today and ask them to support amendments to the Police Crackdown Bill

rebrand.ly/PoliceCrackdownBill

Women and Equalities Select Committee

This month, the committee held the final session for our inquiry into reform of the Gender Recognition Act. The committee put questions to Baroness Falkner (Chair of the EHRC), Melanie Field OBE (Executive Director for Policy, Strategy and Wales at the EHRC), and Jo Churchill MP (Parliamentary Undersecretary, Department of Health and Social Care). During the session, I raised questions regarding the balancing of conflicting rights and fostering healthy debates around the issue.

The committee also held an informal meeting with the team behind Channel 4's Black Maternal Health: Dispatches. This was opportunity for the committee to discuss the issue of racial disparities in maternal health and receive further information for our future inquiry into the issue.

Campaigns

Four years on from Grenfell

This month, we remembered the 72 people who burned to death in their homes in one of the richest areas in one of the richest cities in the world.

It took the Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick less than 24 hours to intervene and get approval for a Conservative donor's £1bn development. Almost four years on from Grenfell, there are hundreds of thousands of people living in homes with unsafe or unsuitable cladding.



There are an estimated 12,000 people across Lambeth in this situation. Leaseholders have been hit by profiteering at every stage of the cladding scandal. As well as having to pay to remove dangerous cladding at their own expense, they are now being hit by sky-high insurance premiums and extortionate waking watch costs.

On the anniversary of Grenfell, I called on the Government to bring forwards upfront funding to make homes safe and ensure the costs of doing so are borne by the people responsible for fitting them with substandard cladding: developers and a government that set the bar too low.



G7 pay up

Last month, the most powerful nations on earth came together at the G7 Summit to discuss global issues. Disappointingly, they fell well short of the commitments needed to tackle the major crises we face on vaccines, fossil fuels and climate breakdown.

In 2009, G7 leaders pledged \$100bn a year to help countries on the frontline of the climate crisis. As leaders of rich countries who are the biggest historic emitters, I called on them to honour this commitment.

Low-income countries mustn't be left to fend for themselves and the UK needs to lead by example.

Birthrights Inquiry

Black women are four times more likely to die in pregnancy and childbirth. This shocking statistic is the end result of a whole series of policy failures and other racial disparities in maternity care and across the UK.

This month, birth charity Birthrights announced an important inquiry looking into the reasons behind this. They are clear that women from ethnic minorities are too often failed by maternity services.

The year-long inquiry will gather views from parents, midwives, obstetricians and anti-racism campaigners. I welcome this and will be paying close attention. The colour of a mother's skin shouldn't have any impact on her baby's health or her own and we need to see a much more proactive effort from the top of government to address disparities in maternity care.

Carers Week 2021

The pandemic has taken a toll on the UK's 6.5m unpaid carers, who are feeling the burden of the Tory failure to fix social care. 72% of carers have been unable to take a break during the pandemic and there are millions of people in the UK with unmet care needs. On Carers' Week, I pledged to highlight the valuable work unpaid carers do and push the Government to give them the support they need.

I also joined the fantastic Lambeth Carers' Hub to talk to local unpaid carers. It was heartbreaking to hear some of their stories of financial hardship, housing difficulties, homelessness, and mental health. I am worried by the lack of talking therapies available to carers in our local area, particularly after the toll of the last sixteen months, and will be looking to raise this in future.

72%

of carers have not had any breaks in the pandemic



Almost two thirds

63%

of carers are worried about continuing to care without a break



Breaks or breakdown: Carers Week report 2021



Breaks or breakdown: Carers Week report 2021

55%

of working carers felt overwhelmed by their caring role



Nearly half

49%

of carers would like to use a break to take part in hobbies or leisure activities



Breaks or breakdown: Carers Week report 2021



Breaks or breakdown: Carers Week report 2021

Stop Centene

Centene, a US healthcare giant which recently took over Edith Cavell Surgery, Streatham Place Surgery and Streatham High Practice in Streatham (and 49 surgeries in total across London), was last month forced to pay \$143m to the states of Mississippi and Ohio for overcharging patients.

This is an important reminder that local surgeries aren't safe in the hands of profit-greedy corporations, whose need to make profit for shareholders invariably conflicts with delivering decent patient care. This is a particular issue when there are so few mechanisms for us to hold the company in question to account for its decisions.



You can sign We Own It's petition [here](#)



Victory in Batley and Spen

In the run-up to our by-election win in Batley and Spen, I was on the phones trying to reach voters and ensure we kept the seat red. This is a great result for the people of Batley and Spen and reflects the brilliant organising efforts of Shabana Mahmood MP, our new campaign co-ordinator and Holly Lynch MP, who led the local campaign in Batley and Spen. I'm delighted that we managed to stave off the threat of another by-election loss thanks to a really strong local campaign led by Kim Leadbeater. She fought through a divisive campaign to hold the seat and will now be a powerful voice for her community in Parliament.



In the wake of this result, we cannot be complacent need to ensure we keep moving forwards, sharpening our message and setting out a progressive policy agenda.

Stopping the deportation of Osime Brown

I was delighted to hear this month that we won the fight to allow Osime Brown to stay with his family. The sheer pressure it took to stop a vulnerable autistic man from being deported to a country he doesn't know shows how far we are from a Home Office that is rooted in compassion. We shouldn't be deporting young adults who have spent most of their lives in our country; we should be taking responsibility for them. I'll continue to push for an immigration system that is centred on human rights and real people.

National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast is an annual recognition of the contribution that Christianity makes to national life in the UK. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast took place online again and was livestreamed from 8:00-8:45am on Friday 25 June. It was great to join local Labour party member Alison Ingis-Jones (who some of you may know from her fantastic work with Brixton-Norwood Foodbank).

Labour's Children's Recovery Plan

The publication of the National Education Recovery Plan continues a long trend of failure on education during the pandemic and over the last decade. For any halfway competent Education Secretary, this would constitute another fireable offence (after last summer's exams fiasco and January's U-turns on closures). But Gavin Williamson staggers on.

In the event, the Government stumped up just 10% of the funding recommended by their education adviser, prompting his resignation. It's a fraction of what other countries are spending on their children. The Education Recovery Plan falls far short of what is needed after a year of disrupted learning.

When the penalties for failing to help kids catch up couldn't be higher, this decision doesn't even make sense on its own terms. Failing to help children catch up on lost learning could cost them £350bn in lifetime earnings, with a concomitant blow to tax revenues. It's quitting your job to save on commuting costs. This decision is a false economy that shows that the Conservatives cannot be trusted with the long-term health of our economy.

In the aftermath, Labour used an Opposition Day to hold a vote on forcing the Tories to publish documents that could shed further light on this decision. The public deserves to know why Rishi Sunak has refused to invest in our children's futures.

Schools in Streatham saw per pupil cuts of £688 from 2010-2019. After a decade of austerity and a the attainment gap for disadvantaged secondary school students in Lambeth has widened to 13.8 months. Labour's National Education Recovery plan would ensure no child is left behind and help every child reach their potential, with £14 billion of funding for:

- Breakfast clubs
- Extracurricular activities
- Mental health support
- Tutoring for children most in need
- Holiday free school meals

LABOUR'S CHILDREN'S RECOVERY PLAN

Breakfast clubs and extracurricular activities

+

Mental health support

+

Training for school staff

+

Tutoring for children who need it most

+

Free school meals over the holidays

= Help every child reach their potential

Stop the NHS data grab

The Government recently tried to rush through a massive upload of our sensitive healthcare data. On the 12th of May, they announced that the medical records of 61 million NHS England service users were set to be centralised into a new database as part of a scheme called the General Practice Data for Planning and Research (GPDPR) on the 23rd of June.

Thankfully, after a strong backlash, the NHS Data Grab has been pushed back until the 30th of August, giving patients until then to opt out and giving us a little more time to raise awareness around the issue.

Quite apart from the reckless speed of the whole process, I have a number of concerns about the overall proposal, which hinges on three main issues. Firstly, the fact that the data will be pseudonymised but not anonymised, meaning someone could find out the name of the person the record belongs to. Secondly, the fact the Government refuses to clarify exactly how this sensitive data will be use and has failed to rule out indirectly selling it on to private companies. And thirdly, that the lack of transparency around the whole process risks undermining doctor-patient trust.

We should be clear that patient data can be incredibly useful and beneficial when used for these purposes with informed consent, but we should be equally clear that the use of such data should only ever be happening with informed consent. I'll continue to push for a proposal that reflects this.

Delivering a COP26 Climate Action Plan to Boris Johnson

The manifesto I stood on committed our party to stop all aid spending on fossil fuel production overseas and redirect this money towards clean, renewable energy for all. It also called for an end to all UK Export Finance support to fossil fuel projects, and the rejection of trade deals that conflict with our climate principles.

It's long since time we challenged vested interests in the fossil fuel industry and financed a cleaner planet for all. This month, I took part in a ceremonial handover of a cross-party letter to Boris Johnson with the Greens' Baroness Jenny Jones. The letter outlines a blueprint for ending fossil fuel finance this year and diverting these resources to developing renewable energy in the UK and beyond and was coordinated by Friends of the Earth and Oil Change International.



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Matt Hancock says the [#NHSDataGrab](#) will give patients "greater control" over their data.

Selling off our sensitive health data to private companies without proper consultation doesn't sound like greater control to me.



Right to Food

I'm proud to support Fans Supporting Foodbanks and my colleague Ian Byrne MP's campaign to put the Right to Food into law. Since the start of the pandemic, food bank use in our area has increased by 127%. The latest figures from Lambeth's four biggest food banks reveal 39,425 emergency food parcels were provided to people in our area in the last year alone, with 15,020 of these going to children.

During half-terms, Lambeth Council is supporting over 10,000 children from families on low incomes with FSM vouchers. 11,979 children in Lambeth schools are eligible for FSM in 2021. This would likely have been higher if not for changes to the eligibility criteria in 2018.

It's unacceptable that we're letting people starve whilst the richest consolidate their wealth and inequality skyrockets. In one of the richest countries on earth, nobody should be struggling to feed themselves. I'll be stepping up my campaigning around this issue over the coming months.



Excluded Alliance 4 Unity

More than a year after the start of the pandemic, more than 3.8 million people remain excluded from income support through no fault of their own. This month, I joined Excluded Alliance for Unity for a sobering four minutes of silence in recognition of those who have lost their lives as a consequence of falling into hardship. The Government must acknowledge just how many people have fallen through the gaps and finally act to help them.

Win or lose, England have inspired us all

I was proud to sign Stand Up to Racism's statement this month, expressing solidarity with the many teams who chose to take the knee during Euro 2020 and calling on Boris Johnson to condemn the booing of England players by a small minority of so-called supporters.

When spectators booed the England football team for taking the knee, many Tory ministers and MPs didn't just refuse to condemn this behaviour, they actually jumped to their defence. Condoning this response is inseparable from the racist

abuse that three Black players (Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka) faced on social media in the aftermath of their penalty misses in the final.

The racism experienced by players of colour is sanctioned from the very top of this Tory Government, which relies on whipping up division to distract from its own failures. It's heartening to see the players themselves leading the fightback. Win or lose, the current England team is the best I've watched in my lifetime both on and off the pitch. During Euro 2020, England footballers have inspired us not only with their football prowess, but with their collective and principled bravery in taking the knee.

As Gareth Southgate himself put it in his eloquent article explaining this stand, the team see it as their "duty to continue to interact with the public on matters such as equality, inclusivity and racial injustice, while using the power of their voices to help put debates on the table, raise awareness and educate". If only we had a Government that showed half this leadership.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy

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