



Tessa's June Update

It's been another busy month both here and in Westminster.

In Westminster, I met with Lord Timpson, the Prisons Minister, to draw his attention to a case of a man who has been locked up for 38 years, 22 years more than his sentence - but hasn't been released because he maintains his innocence. I've also met Stephen Timms, Minister for Social Security & Disability about problems with the Access to Work Scheme which supports those with a disability or health condition to start or stay in work; and Polly Miller-Perkins, the first ever Armed Forces Commissioner.

In Parliament, I've requested a debate about an extraordinary High Court decision which will allow building on flood plains, filed two amendments to the Health Bill relating to the new 'Single Patient Record', and to following NICE 2021 guidelines which the NHS has implemented inconsistently, leading to a 'postcode lottery' for patients with ME. I voted for a 'minority report' on the Courts & Tribunals Bill in Committee as the Government is set to remove the centuries-old right to a Jury trial in many cases. I also spoke in the debate about Child Sexual Offender Data.

I've asked questions about:

- * Priddy Folk Festival's supply of water from Bristol Water and its contractor, Aquam
- * protecting agricultural land to ensure our food security into the future
- * speeding up free court transcripts for victims
- * raised concerns about the lack of funds for the Music and Dance Scheme which benefits young people from less privileged backgrounds
- * repayment of overpaid tax from HMRC which can't be cashed as they're in the wrong name

- * quashing convictions for victims of child sex abuse who have been coerced into criminal activity
- * contracting newly qualified dentists to work in the NHS for a period of at least three years
- * the use of shell companies and flags to disguise Russian shadow fleet activities and evade sanctions
- * introducing a 'right to be forgotten' to ensure that children's data footprints are destroyed on request
- * a local company waiting months to be paid for defence and security work relating to submarine disposal
- * the lack of a special 'rural' mileage supplement for mobility vehicle users who travel great distances to access health and care facilities in rural areas

I have enjoyed meeting many of you at events across the constituency this month, and look forward to holding many surgeries during the months ahead.

Thank you.

Tessa