



Tessa's May Update



Thank you if you've come to speak to me at one of my surgeries or an event. In April, I held my 200th surgery since July 2024, and I'm always happy to listen to you, wherever you catch me! I look forward to the next 200!

Locally, I attended a meeting with officials about informal 'festivals' on private land, met Ofsted's South Western Regional Director to discuss education and care in Somerset and North Somerset, met an officer from the Woodland Trust, and had a long conversation with the Rivers Trust about sewage

spills and water quality in my 'patch'.

I've been working for some time with a local constituent on persuading the Prime Minister to meet with the families of those who died in the 1994 Mull of Kintyre Chinook helicopter crash. The opportunity arose to press the PM on this during Prime Ministers Questions, and I'm pleased he gave his assurance he'd meet with the group. I continue to keep a close eye on this situation as 32 years later, it's as important as ever that the families know why their loved ones were put on an aircraft deemed "*positively dangerous*", "*unairworthy*" and "*not to be relied on in any way whatsoever*" at the time by military experts, and that the lessons from this terrible accident will be learned by the services and agencies involved.

In Westminster, I met with a Treasury Minister to discuss the provision of Basic Financial Advice for consumers, Health Department officials about what's on offer for those with ME, attended an Inter-Governmental Round Table on Frozen Pensions, and accompanied constituents to a meeting with a Justice Minister to discuss victims' rights when prisoners are deported to their home countries.

In Parliament, I led a short debate on regulating the sale of marmalade. You may have seen headlines about 'rebranding' marmalade post-Brexit, which has led to confusion about what is, and what is not, 'marmalade'. Bristol University analysed marmalade in the 1920s and traditionally, it comprises only citrus fruits. I'm pushing Government to recognise that the ingredients used and standards set for one of our most successful exports are important.

As we enjoy the move from Spring to Summer, I look forward to joining you at forthcoming fêtes, fairs and festivities. If you see me, feel free to come and say hello!

Thank you.

Tessa