



Kate Osborne MP  
Monthly Newsletter  
January 2023

I am writing today with an update of my work in Parliament and around the constituency over the past month – it has been a busy start to the new year but I continue to be determined to keep up the fight in 2023.

## Right to Strike

The Government is turning back the clock on workers' rights. Two hundred years ago, the Tolpuddle Martyrs were criminalised for withdrawing their labour and deported to Australia - as were the Seven Men of Jarrow.

The Government's proposed anti-strike legislation would see key workers sacked for the same "crime." In the Chamber this month, Shapps dismissed my concerns and accused me of "raving on" about their plans to criminalise workers. You can see my contribution in the Chamber [here](#).

I will never stop raving on and showing solidarity with workers taking action against the damaging impact of twelve years of Tory cuts.

Since then I have voted against this government's disgraceful legislation and I have today written in [Labour Outlook](#).

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I have been contacted by countless constituents who are outraged with the Government's Minimum Service Level Bill. Labour will repeal this anti-worker legislation, but we must do all that we can now to stop it ever becoming law – I voted against it and the bill is now in the House of Lords. [Click here to see the video I made along with comrades from the Socialist Campaign Group.](#)



I was proud to speak up for workers against the political violence this Government is inflicting on communities and I will continue fighting this attempt to deny workers their right to strike. We must all fight these attempts to pit worker against worker. Click here to watch my speech in [full](#). I have voted against this anti trade union and anti-worker bill at every opportunity.

The Tories want to remove power from the people. Restricting our right to protest, attacking democracy (voter ID) and the removal of huge chunks of human rights with their Retained EU Law Bill. Each of these power grabs is an act of political violence on our communities. I wrote one of my regular columns for the Shields Gazette on this, you can read it in full [here](#).

### **Westminster Hall Debate: The Future of The Royal Mail**

Earlier this month, I led a debate in Westminster Hall on the future of Royal Mail. Gross mismanagement is putting this vital service at risk, with a CEO hell-bent on inflaming industrial relations and destroying the Universal Service Obligation (USO). We must protect the USO and protect postal workers jobs. You can watch part of my speech from this debate [here](#).

It was good to hear every contribution in the debate talk about the importance of saving the USO – from Tory MPs in rural constituencies, SNP MPs talking about the importance of the USO in Scotland, and many of my Labour colleagues speaking up for Royal Mail.

The problem is that Royal Mail management aren't listening and are driving down the service to put pressure on the government to change its mind. Ministers must now intervene to ensure the six-day-a-week obligation remains viable and to ensure OFCOM is regulating Royal Mail effectively. You can read more about this in the articles I wrote for Labour Outlook [here](#) and the Morning Star [here](#).

Solidarity with the CWU in their fight to defend this vital service!

## Justice Questions

The Common Platform System has been rolled out nationally, despite warnings from the PCS Union that it is “deeply flawed” and judges calling it “unfit for purpose.” During justice questions, I asked the Minister what the Government is doing about the growing court backlogs. You can watch the clip of my question in full [here](#)

## Women and Equalities Select Committee (WEC)

I continue to sit on the WEC – our enquiries cover a huge range of issues. This month we covered: Sexism and Inequality in Football and Equality in the UK Asylum Process

If you would like to see clips of my questions re. sexism in football, click [here](#).

If you would like to see clips of my questions re. Equality in the UK Asylum process click [here](#).

## Parliamentary Drop-In's

I was pleased to drop in to chat with Jill Clark of Action Heartburn in supporting Less Survivable Cancer Awareness Day. We need to close the deadly cancer gap for cancers of the liver, lungs, brain, oesophagus, stomach, and pancreas. You can find out more by clicking this link - <https://tinyurl.com/36yebzd6>



It was good to attend a discussion in Parliament this month with North East and Yorkshire ELF Club Chairs on how we can make football fairer and more sustainable. The Jarrow constituency has so many brilliant grassroots teams – implementing the Fan Led Review will give them many more opportunities to thrive!



I popped along to meet with the Samaritans for #BrewMonday to discuss how best we can support their work throughout the year. We need a new suicide prevention plan for England urgently.





I was pleased to meet with the team from Over the Wall this month. They are a charity for children with serious illness and disabilities and their families. They offer residential camps and experiences to give the children a chance to laugh, play and cause mischief in a safe and relaxed environment. You can find out more about their work here - [www.otw.org.uk](http://www.otw.org.uk)



Behind every poverty statistic is a hungry child. In the North we are facing a child poverty epidemic. I attended a drop in with Child of the North this month to hear about their new report. The Government must implement the five recommendations in this report – including, as I asked at #PMQs, to provide free school meals to all children from families in receipt of Universal Credit.



As part of Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, I dropped in to speak to Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust to learn more about their campaign to make cervical cancer a thing of the past. With HPV vaccines and routine cervical cancer screening – we can end cervical cancer. Find out more - [www.iostrust.org.uk/ccpw](http://www.iostrust.org.uk/ccpw)



### **In the constituency:**

#### **Hebburn Town Centre**

I am really pleased that South Tyneside Council has now put together an action plan to make improvements to Hebburn Town Centre. I will be keeping a close eye on the progress made over the next few weeks and months to ensure residents and my own concerns are addressed. I am glad that, after issues in the town centre have been raised consistently by me, local labour councillors and residents, that we now have a plan in place to get improvements done!



## **Boldon Outdoor Nursery**

I had an excellent visit to Boldon Nursery School Outdoor Nursery - the only Local Authority outdoor nursery in England.

Lisa, Rebecca, and the whole team are hugely passionate about child-led development and the kids get to spend all their time in the outdoors exploring and learning.

There was some really good discussion, including how much more needs to be done to improve funding for local authority nurseries so staff can access resources needed to support kids in their early development!



## **Holocaust Memorial Day**

It was an honour to attend the Holocaust Memorial service at South Shields Town Hall to remember those murdered under Nazi persecution and in genocides across the world. Innocent people persecuted for their faith, sexual orientation, race, disability, and political beliefs. We must never forget.





## Jack Lewis

Really great to meet up with the incredibly brave Jack and his mam Sarah for a hot chocolate and to talk about his fundraiser - he has already raised over half of his target.

Jack tells me, after he spent so much time in hospital, he wants to make sure children like him have access to bags of toys, colouring books, teddies, and other lovely things to make their stay more comfortable!

One lovely anonymous donor has given £500! I've donated, and if you can give a small amount please consider donating to his GoFundMe page to help out - [Fundraiser by Sarah Lewis : Jack's Friendship bags of hope \(gofundme.com\)](https://www.gofundme.com/fundraiser-by-sarah-lewis-jacks-friendship-bags-of-hope)



## Labour National Campaign Weekend

A great turn out for our Jarrow Constituency Labour Party Stall for #NationalCampaignDay in Jarrow Town Centre and a fantastic reception on Labour doorstep. I was also so glad to catch up with Farokh and Fatima who I recently helped with housing, Gavin who I previously bumped into on the picket line, and Craig, another lovely Jarrow constituent.



Voters told me how worried they are that the Tories are destroying our NHS and vital services our communities rely upon. The sooner we can get a Labour Government in to start fixing this chaos, the better.

We are continuing to get out leafletting – please email if you want to get involved – [kateosborneforjarrow@gmail.com](mailto:kateosborneforjarrow@gmail.com)



### CLP Burns Night

Excellent night at Jarrow CLP Burns Night this month. A big thank you to Barry Gardiner MP (Brent North) for coming along and delivering a brilliant speech! And thanks to Cllr Paul Dean and the CLP for organising what turned out to be a great event. You can see a video of some highlights [here](#).




### Devolution

Political leaders across the North East gathered to sign the North East devolution deal this month. Despite a last-minute invite from Michael Gove, I did not attend the event in Gateshead. Instead I attended South Tyneside Council's Holocaust Memorial Day Service and kept the commitments with constituents that I had immediately after.



My full statement:

**STATEMENT ON SIGNING OF NORTH EAST DEVOLUTION DEAL**






While a £1.4bn investment fund might initially sound like a lot of money - it goes nowhere near replacing the tens of billions our local authorities have lost since 2010.

Michael Gove and his fellow Cabinet members want praise and expect us to be grateful for their pitiful attempts to undo the damage done to local services as a result of their party's cuts.

Their deliberate underfunding of our communities have destroyed local services, industries and jobs. This money, which will be stretched across seven local authorities over 30 years, will not repair the deep wounds ministers have inflicted on my constituents in South Tyneside and Gateshead, and on communities across the North East. Those seven local authorities have lost over £1bn every year since 2010 in rate support grant alone.

Despite a last minute invite from Michael Gove, I will not be attending the event in Gateshead, I completely understand that Local Councils are desperate for any investment and have been told by Ministers accept this deal or get nothing - but I will not give it credibility by ceremonially standing next to him. I remain sceptical as to how far this devolution deal, which doesn't deliver full fiscal devolution, will truly benefit us.

I will be attending our Holocaust Memorial Day service and keeping the commitments with constituents that I have immediately after.

 KATEOSBORNEMP KATE-OSBORNE.CO.UK

For one of my regular columns in the Shields Gazette, I also wrote about the North East. You can read this in full [here](#).

## KATE OSBORNE: Devolution deal is no cure-all for damage done by Tory governments

The devolution deal for the North East announced by the Westminster government last week will bring much-needed investment into our region.

### Scottish Gender Reform Bill

This month, I voted against the Government's disgraceful move to block the Scottish Gender Reform Bill in Parliament. My full statement on this can be read below:

## STATEMENT ON SCOTTISH GENDER RECOGNITION REFORM BILL



This evening, I voted against the Government's disgraceful move to block the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill in Parliament.

The Government's unprecedented action to block the Bill was not because it impacted on the Equality Act and was not made in order to protect women. If the Tories really cared about women, they would tackle the gender health gap, deal with the poor conviction rates for people who have committed violence against women and girls and tackle the gender pay gap, instead millions of women are living in poverty.

The Government have consistently used trans people as a political football to stoke a culture war in our society. To divide our communities and pit people against each other, to distract from the crisis they are causing in our communities. With the blocking of this bill they are failing the most marginalised in our community and damaging devolution in the process.

As a member of the Women and Equalities Select Committee, I have heard from several witnesses including academics, legal experts, LGBTQ+ and transgender organisations, women's rights groups, health organisations, the EHRC and Ministers on the reform of the Gender Recognition Act. It was clear from this evidence that the GRA needs reforming. The Tories have had years to reform this process and have done nothing. In blocking this much needed reform in Scotland they are sending a clear signal they will not reform the GRA for the rest of the UK either.

As Angela Eagle and Elliot Colburn said in their joint letter to the Prime Minister on behalf of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT+ Rights

*"We are deeply concerned that the Government's course of action risks further politicising the very real struggles of the trans community and placing their identities and lives at the centre of a constitutional crisis"*

Trans people deserve better than this. I stand in absolute solidarity with the trans community.



KATEOSBORNEMP

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Following on from the vote on the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill, I was proud to stand in solidarity with our trans siblings outside of Downing street. The trans community is being used as a political football by this Government. With the blocking of this bill, the Government are failing the most marginalised in our community.

### NHS Rally

I was proud stand with NHS workers at the Keep Our NHS Public Rally outside Downing Street earlier this month. I delivered a speech in which I said that we must do all we can to support you [NHS workers] to revive the NHS and demand that it is renationalised. I will keep fighting off attempts to make it harder for workers to stand up for their rights.





## Levelling Up Fund

The rejection of the Jarrow constituency levelling up fund bid shows the Tories are continuing to neglect communities. My full statement is below, or you can listen to me on BBC Radio Newcastle [here](#).

### ***This rejection of the Jarrow constituency levelling up fund bid shows the Tories are continuing to neglect communities.***

This rejection of the Jarrow constituency levelling up fund bid shows the Tories are continuing to neglect communities such as ours, while chasing headlines with empty rhetoric and announcements that will not "level up" but continue to leave us behind.

It has been announced that the bid has not been approved by the Conservative government.

Although I am not surprised at this continued neglect from the Tory government, I am very disappointed that the transformative bid, which I worked on alongside South Tyneside council, has been unsuccessful, meaning we have missed out on funding that would have brought much needed funding into our borough. The bid included plans to regenerate our local high streets, put investment into Jarrow Hall and help make our communities more environmentally friendly.

My constituency covers wards in Gateshead and Gateshead Councils bid was successful. I showed support for this bid in 2021 and it will hopefully bring benefits to individuals and businesses across both Gateshead and South Tyneside, but those benefits will go nowhere near making up for the decades of neglect and cuts the North East have suffered. The North South divide continues to grow with higher levels of unemployment, poverty and deprivation.

The North East's Transport Decarbonisation Levelling Up Fund bid was also successful, I supported this bid for £19.5m and I hope this will boost the zero carbon transport options for our communities with the new electric buses and EV chargers helping transport become greener.

Overall though, once again this Government have shown they do not care about our communities. They have no interest in investing in our Northern towns and cities and never have done.

As your MP, I will continue to fight for investment across the Jarrow constituency. We deserve so much better than the contempt we are being treated with by this government.



## Newcastle Uni students



I currently have two lovely students from Newcastle University doing a placement in my office as part of their studies. Amanda, one of these students, came to visit Parliament this month. It was great to give an inside look at what it is like working as a Member of Parliament.

### **Menopause and Work**

Once again, the Tories are failing women - ignoring the significant evidence we heard at the Women and Equalities Select Committee. Women in work need supporting through the menopause - urgent action is needed yet Ministers are dragging their feet and ignoring our recommendations.

I spoke with BBC Newcastle this month about the Government's repeated failures to support women at work through the menopause. You can listen in full [here](#).

### **Environment Agency**

The Government has underpaid and undervalued Environment Agency workers for over a decade. They have suffered a shocking 21% pay cut since 2010 and now are facing a staffing crisis – all while both the cost-of-living and climate crisis deepens. I was proud to join Unison this month, to call on DEFRA to pay environment agency staff fairly.



## Cost of Living Roadshow

The cost-of-living crisis is still having a real impact on our community. Back in December I held two roadshows, where I was joined by a variety of charities and organisations to give constituents access to resources and information that hopefully can ease some of the worries caused by the cost of living.

One constituent who came along to the Heworth Roadshow told me she had no idea how much was on offer in terms of support. If you are interested and would like further information on my previous roadshows, you can click [here](#). If you would like to attend the next roadshow, you can register via this link.

The next roadshow is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm – at Boldon CA, New Road, Boldon Colliery, NE35 9DS.

**KATE OSBORNE MP'S  
COST OF LIVING  
ROADSHOW**

**SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY**  
**10AM TO 12PM – BOLDON CA,  
NEW ROAD, BOLDON COLLIERY, NE35 9DZ**

SCAN THIS  
CODE TO  
REGISTER  
TO ATTEND

**Need some help and advice  
about an issue or problem  
you may be having?**

Come along and speak to Kate or one of the  
advice organisations that will be at this roadshow.

ANY QUERIES OR PROBLEMS WITH REGISTRATION, PLEASE EMAIL  
KATE.OSBORNE.MP@PARLIAMENT.UK OR PHONE 0191 4661509

**KATE OSBORNE MP** **KATE-OSBORNE.CO.UK**

**KATE OSBORNE MP PROUDLY REPRESENTING...**  
Bede / Boldon Colliery / Cleadon & East Boldon / Fellgate & Hedworth / Hebburn North  
Hebburn South / Monkton / Primrose / Pelaw & Heworth / Wardley & Leam Lane

citizens advice South Tyneside Veterans  
South Tyneside Council MENTAL HEALTH CONCERN  
ACTS age concern  
Department for Work & Pensions  
Boldon foodbank  
Boldon Councillors

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR  
**KATE OSBORNE**  
THE ARROW CONSTITUENCY

## Advice Surgery – forward plan

I hold regular advice surgeries for constituents to discuss a wide range of issues affecting them. I have put in place a six-month plan of appointments to ensure that constituents are able to book a slot easily. If the below dates don't suit your schedule, do still get in touch as phone/zoom appointments can be arranged as well. You can view the forward plan of my [surgeries here](#).

## **General Election Fighting Fund**

You can help with our General election plans by making a donation online here:

[https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/keep-jarrows-red-flag-flying-2?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/keep-jarrows-red-flag-flying-2?source=direct_link&)

Donations will go towards the next general election campaign - 10% of all donations will go to our local foodbanks. (Donation policy can be read in full via my website)

## **Stay up to date with my work via my social media channels:**

Website: [www.kate-osborne.co.uk](http://www.kate-osborne.co.uk)

Twitter: @[KateOsborneMP](https://twitter.com/KateOsborneMP)

Facebook: @[KateOsborneMP](https://www.facebook.com/KateOsborneMP)

Instagram: @[KateOsborneMP](https://www.instagram.com/KateOsborneMP)

Tiktok: @[kate.osborne.mp](https://www.tiktok.com/@kate.osborne.mp)

If you need assistance with anything, please don't hesitate to contact me via [kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk) or by calling my office on 0191 466 1509.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Osborne MP