



Kate Osborne MP
Monthly Newsletter
March 2023

Dear constituent,

I am writing today with an update on my work in Parliament and around our wonderful Jarrow constituency over the last month.

It's been an incredibly busy month in which I've asked a PMQ, raised issues in parliament on menopause, justice for the WASPI women and demanding resourcing to deal with Anti Social behaviour as well as highlighting the inadequacy of the Tories Spring Budget, a budget which once again fails our communities and small business and rewards the wealthy few.

In the constituency we had politics Joe join us for the day (video link) and we have dealt with more cases than ever as people are struggling to cope with a cost of living crisis caused by this Government.

Yet the Prime Minister in his reply to me denied that poverty is rising under his Government.

I have visited small businesses, schools and held roadshows.

Read on to see just how much was covered in March!

Cost of Living Roadshow:

My recent roadshow in Jarrow Focus had people from across the constituency attend to seek advice - we also heard many reports about the rise in anti-social behaviour in the constituency.

These issues are linked, the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and cuts to services are driving people to anger and desperation. Youth services have lost 80% of their funding nationally over the last ten years, facilities for younger people have been cut, and many of the current problems we are seeing are in part as a result of that.

The lack of provision for youth services leaves young people with nowhere to go, no youth clubs, no mental health provision, cold homes, and hungry bellies - a perfect recipe to drag young people into crime like shoplifting and causing trouble on the streets.

The reduction in policing and council staff overall leaves them less able to deal with these issues. This is why I've been pushing so hard for investment and a Youth Zone in Jarrow.

The burden of all of this and the cost-of-living crisis is falling on my constituents – the Government is failing our communities.

I will continue to do all I can to support constituents locally, and in Parliament to ensure support remains available.



Anti-social behaviour

The amount of people contacting my office about Anti-social behaviour has sky rocketed.

Anti-social behaviour has been on the rise around the constituency, due to a 13-year decrease to police funding, whilst a lack of funding going into youth provision and community hubs has compounded the issue further.

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This is why I've been pushing so hard for investment and a Youth Zone in Jarrow.

My constituents deserve better and should be able to use spaces knowing that it is safe. This is why I organised a surgery in collaboration with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness in Wardley to ensure that our constituents receive the quality support they need and deserve.



Ahead of my advice surgery in Wardley – during Home Office questions – I asked the Home Secretary to commit to letting Northumbria Police recruit to their vacant police office posts and invest in tackling anti-social behaviour. Disgracefully Braverman didn't answer and instead sidestepped the question. It's quite clear from her lack of response, she has no plans

to fill vacancies created as a direct result of this Government's cuts to policing. You can watch my question in full [here](#) and you can read more about my question in the [Shields Gazette](#).

Devolution Event at Hebburn Helps

It was fantastic to speak at a devolution event at Hebburn Helps with North of Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll. It was an insightful discussion on the North East devolution deal and the effects of Tory austerity on our region.



Politics Joe and the Cost of Living

I am grateful to Politics Joe for joining me for a day around the Jarrow constituency to discuss the ongoing cost of living crisis. I joined the men's club at Hebburn Helps to speak with constituents about the importance of mental health provision and the impact the cost of living crisis is having on mental health more widely.

We had some engaging discussions on a huge range of topics, and it was great to hear about the positive impact the club has on those who attend.

It was also great to show the brilliant work that Angie and the Hebburn Helps team do to support our community. Whilst foodbanks should not be necessary, and it should not be down to volunteers to undo damage done by this Tory Government – the whole team at Hebburn Helps continue to do so much to support those who are in need.

Finally, I was really glad to welcome the Politics Joe team to my cost of living roadshow in Boldon where they were able to speak to some wonderful Jarrow constituents. You can watch the full video [here](#).



Following on from my cost of living event in Boldon, for one of my regular columns for the Shields Gazette I discussed the cost of living crisis further. Governments have a responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to our fundamental right to food and to heat our homes, but instead, the Tories continue to ignore the dire financial struggles affecting so many people in this area. You can read my column in full [here](#).

KATE OSBORNE MP: Does Prime Minister Rishi Sunak even know the cost of a pint of milk?

You're never too old to seek advice. Those were the words of Joan, a 93-year-old constituent who came along to my most recent cost-of-living roadshow to find out what support is available for households during these incredibly difficult times.

Big Local Central Jarrow

I was pleased to see an exhibition of ceramics produced by constituents at Big Local Central Jarrow as part of their 7 week project! The project offers a chance to learn a new skill whilst socialising with others - I was hugely impressed by the ceramics produced, in particular the cat sculpture made by Ida!



St Bede's Catholic Primary School British Council International School Award Accreditation

It was great to catch up with language teacher Anne-Marie McQuillin at the British Council International School Awards and to pass on my congratulations for the schools recent accreditation. To further congratulate the school I was proud to table an early day motion on this achievement.

St Bede's Catholic Primary School, British Council International School Award accreditation

EDM 995: tabled on 22 March 2023

Tabled in the 2022-23 session.

This motion has been signed by 6 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

That this House congratulates St Bede's Catholic Primary School for their recent accreditation with the British Council International School Award; and notes that this is a brilliant achievement for all pupils and staff involved and applauds them for all their hard work with this accreditation and in the local community.



World Book Day

It was really great to pop along to the World Book Day event in Parliament this month. Reading and literacy are so important – when surveyed, 55% of primary school children said that they read more books as a result of World Book Day!



Long Live the Local

I met with Long Live the Local Campaigners in parliament to discuss their campaign and reaffirm my support to their calls to the Chancellor to help brewers and pubs. In the Jarrow constituency we have 43 brilliant pubs that provide 827 jobs and contribute £19.8 million to the local economy!



Women's History Month

Women's History Month provides an opportunity to celebrate how far women's rights have come – but for thirteen years now, the Tories have been failing women. From menopause, the gender pay gap and health inequalities – the Government have shown time and time again that women are not their priority.

Women and Equalities Select Committee: UN Commission on the Status of Women 97

I kicked off Women's History Month by attending a delegation with the Women and Equalities Select Committee at the UN Commission on the Status of Women 67. I attended numerous events to discuss violence against women, gender violence and technology, online exploitation and much more. It was a privilege to discuss women's rights internationally. There is still so much work to do in the global fight for equality.



Women and Equalities Select Committee: Menopause enquiry:

Moving testimony from Kate Muir, Karen Arthur, Mariella Frostrup and Carol Vorderman at committee this month. The Government rejected 11 out of 12 recommendations the committee made on menopause – the only one they accepted was to appoint a Menopause Ambassador. I asked Carol Vorderman what she would say to the newly appointed ambassador – watch her full response [here](#).



Labour Outlook – International Women’s Day

We have to keep fighting to defend the rights that we have won and continue to fight for equality internationally. We must demand that our Government stops attacking women’s rights, advocates for equalities and internationally. Ahead of the Spring Budget this month I wrote an article for Labour Outlook to demand that the budget actually delivers for women. You can read this in full [here](#).

Spring Budget

The Tories have spent the last 13 years failing the majority in this country keeping us in a vicious cycle of economic and political failures. The Spring Budget promised more of the same and once again failed my Jarrow constituents. The Minister in response to my speech on the #Budget said it was politics of envy. Maybe he's right the 40% of people in my constituency who can't afford heating are envious of those that can afford with basics such as food and warmth! This budget fails the vast majority. Poverty is a political choice.

You can watch my contribution to the budget debate in full [here](#).

My full statement on the budget:

The Conservative Government has spent 13 years failing the majority in this country, keeping us in a vicious cycle of economic and political failures. The Spring Budget today promised more of the same.

This Government has failed my Jarrow constituents.

People across the UK are struggling to afford food, rent, heating, and childcare. Mortgages are £2,000 a year higher than they were before the Government's mini budget last September. These costs have escalated during the cost of living crisis, but these issues have been ongoing since long before inflation reached its highest point in 40 years because of their failures to govern.

Under this Government, pensioner poverty is up, child poverty is up, fuel poverty is up and public services like the NHS, Schools, Local Government and so much more are on their knees - yet for workers real wages are down 3.5% and public sector pay has fallen 5%.

It is no wonder that so many people are saying enough is enough, real change is needed. This Government once again failed to prioritise the majority, or even those who need support the most, instead once again they protected the wealthiest in society.

In Jarrow, 40% of constituents are unable to afford to turn the heating on. This comes to no surprise when electricity prices in the UK have risen by 66.7% and gas prices by 129% in the 12 months to January 2023. The so-called price freeze does not help the many that are struggling to pay the already high costs.

Small businesses were once again neglected and their false rhetoric on levelling up continues - it remains the case more still goes to London and the South East than the North will ever see. But I hope the promise for money for South Tyneside is actually delivered - we will see!

As always, the Chancellors Budget serves the most wealth in our society. £9 billion in tax cuts to corporations, £6 billion cuts to fuel duty, at least £2 billion tax cuts for pensions of highest earners and yet nothing from this Government for our teachers, lecturers, nurses, junior doctors, NHS staff or civil servants who have been taking industrial action.

Poverty is a political choice. This Spring Budget has proved that the Tories will choose it time and time again.

It's time we had a Labour Government that can start to fix the mess the Tories have made of our communities.



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Labour Outlook – Food Poverty

I raised the deepening crisis of food poverty at PMQs – only to be met with outright denial by Rishi Sunak. The Tories would rather pretend that families aren't going hungry than address the problem, all whilst supermarkets continue to make grotesque profits. You can read this article in full [here](#).

BBC Impartiality

Following on from Fiona Bruce's comments on BBC Question Time this month, trivialising violence against women which you can watch [here](#) – and following the BBC's irresponsible response, I wrote to the Director General demanding urgent education on the impact of language. It is time we start reporting domestic abuse with the severity it deserves.

Kate Osborne MP
Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency



House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

Tim Davie
Director General of the BBC
BBC Broadcast Centre
201 Wood Lane
London
W12 7TP

13th March 2023

Dear Tim,

I am writing to you as a MP and a member of the Women and Equalities Select Committee, to express serious concerns regarding BBCQT Presenter Fiona Bruce's comments last week and the disappointing response from the BBC saying her comments were putting the situation into context.

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown spoke about Stanley Johnson's wife beating in response to Ken Clarke who was attempting to portray Stanley Johnson as a good chap, the response to this from Fiona Bruce as a presenter to intervene and quote his friends as saying it was just once is abhorrent and trivialises domestic violence.

For a representative of the BBC to publicly undermine an act of domestic violence on national television, is as appalling as it is irresponsible.

For the BBC not to immediately clarify and comment on this is a dereliction of duty - there are many women who have contacted me about the huge impact this had on them as survivors. For the BBC's eventual response to dismiss what happened as Fiona providing context is an outrage, where was the context and quote from the victim in this, where was her voice? It was absent. Yet Charlotte Fawcett Wahl, has been quoted saying she was hit many times.

I understand that Fiona Bruce has stepped down from her position as ambassador of Refuge - but this is not an issue for a single person to take responsibility for. Whoever issued the instructions to use that language, whoever signed off the "context" response as adequate, the editing team, the producers - all need urgent education on the impact of language.

Domestic violence and those who perpetrate it should be publicly condemned. Domestic violence already has a stigma attached where women are reluctant to speak out. Survivors often face a backlash, are not believed, and are constantly undermined whereas perpetrators such as Stanley Johnson face no real consequences and are instead defended, and their actions minimised.

Last week saw many people including the BBC note International Women's Day and feature calls to end violence against women, the narrative from the BBC sets us back further and reflects the long way we have as women to achieving equality.

Domestic violence is rarely if ever just the once and even then it is still a crime. As Farah Nazeer, chief executive of Women's Aid has expressed, 'Domestic abuse is hardly, if ever, a one off, often stemming from a pattern of behaviour including different forms of abuse.'

A woman is hit on average around 34 times before she reports domestic abuse to police, women are then often disbelieved, blamed and dismissed - one in three women will suffer from domestic abuse - last week's Question Time programme has failed to address that.

As our public broadcaster the BBC holds a vast amount of influence, which needs to be used responsibly. It is harmful to insinuate that abuse is a one off and dismiss it in that manner. To prevent domestic abuse, we need to work on acknowledging and shaping the attitudes that enable this and work on actively condemning this.

It is time we start reporting domestic abuse with the severity it deserves and stop excusing violent men.

The BBC must urgently publicly address this complaint, it's so crucial to highlight the scale of violence against women and to show that this is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

It seems that producers and presenters need to be given urgent guidelines regarding how this topic is discussed across BBC platforms to prevent harmful rhetoric and attitudes being used again.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Osborne MP
Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency

I then also signed my name to EDM 955 to further express my deep concern around this saga.

BBC impartiality

EDM 955: tabled on 13 March 2023

Tabled in the 2022-23 session.

This motion has been signed by 12 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

That this House notes with deep concern the recent saga at the BBC surrounding Match of the Day host Gary Lineker and the lack of appropriate leadership from Richard Sharp, chair of the BBC; believes that this matter highlights a serious failure in implementing proper, politically impartial leadership at the BBC, which has put its reputation as one of Britain's most trusted institutions in question; and calls for the immediate resignation of Richard Sharp.

Illegal Migration Bill

The Tories Illegal Migration Bill goes against fundamental and international human rights, fails to ensure safe routes for refugees and fails to protect children and victims of trafficking. It is an assault on refugees. I signed my name to Bell Ribeiro Addy MP (Streatham) amendment to throw it out.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Caroline Lucas

Colum Eastwood

Claire Hanna

Kirsten Oswald

Liz Saville Roberts

Apsana Begum

Sam Tarry

Ian Lavery

Claudia Webbe

Jeremy Corbyn

Lloyd Russell-Moyle

Ms Diane Abbott

Tony Lloyd

Stephen Farry

Nadia Whittome

Olivia Blake

Kate Osborne

Clive Lewis

Ian Mearns

Mick Whitley

Grahame Morris

Zarah Sultana

Mary Kelly Foy

Andy McDonald

Ian Byrne

Richard Burgon

Dawn Butler

Beth Winter

John McDonnell

Jon Trickett

Rebecca Long Bailey

Kim Johnson

That this House endorses the aim of saving lives and breaking the business model of people smugglers running small boat Channel crossings, as stated in paragraph 1 of the Explanatory Notes on the Illegal Migration Bill; but declines to give the Bill a Second Reading because it fails to ensure safe routes for refugees, fails to protect people, including children and victims of trafficking, from harm and exploitation by people smugglers, further expands the hostile environment for migrants which treats them as less deserving of dignity, safety and humanity and contravenes the United Kingdom's duties under the Refugee Convention 1951 and the Protocol 1967 and other fundamental and internationally recognised human rights including the right to claim asylum, the right to family life, legal rights for detained people and the prohibition of degrading inhuman treatment.



My full statement from the night of the votes:

Tonight I voted against the Government's inhumane Illegal Migration Bill, which sets out to ban the right for people to seek asylum and seek sanctuary within the UK.

This Bill is immoral, it's illegal and it violates human rights. This Government is attempting to dehumanise, scapegoat and finally criminalise an innocent minority for political gain.

This Bill goes against fundamental and international human rights, fails to ensure safe routes for refugees and fails to protect LGBTQI+ community, women, children and victims of human trafficking.

It is an assault on refugees. Instead of reforming the asylum system, a system that has been broken by consecutive Conservative Governments - this Bill will further expand the hostile environment for migrants which treats them as less deserving of dignity, safety and humanity.

The Government has consistently scapegoated refugees within society; by pitting people against refugees and using inciting, inflammatory language, they create hatred and division in communities in attempts to distract us from their own failure to govern this country.

It puts refugees, including women and children in further vulnerability by leaving them in indefinite limbo, detained in unsanitary accommodation for an indefinite amount of time and denies them the right to a fair hearing, whilst removing protective laws that are necessary to protect their welfare and enables trafficking furthermore.

As a member of the Women and Equalities and Select Committee, I have listened to several concerns raised by Women's Rights and Children's Welfare groups regarding the serious implications of this Bill. It is clear from the evidence provided that this Bill does not work for anyone.

It must be stopped.

The Government have had thirteen years in power and in that time they have failed to create safe and legal routes for those fleeing persecution and war. The Tories are woefully incompetent and this Bill is a prime example of their inability to govern.



KATEOSBORNEMP

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Prime Ministers Questions

This month I had a PMQ – during which I raised the growing food poverty crisis. The Prime Minister responded to my question on food prices rising by 18% and more people than ever being in poverty, by claiming there are fewer people in poverty....and that he will halve inflation... this was on the day that once again inflation rose further.

You can watch the clip of my question and Sunak's response in full [here](#). My question was written up by The Mirror too – the Prime Minister is deluded to claim that his plan is working. Millions are living in food and fuel poverty due to Tory political choices enabling grotesque profiteering at the expense of our communities. You can read this article in full [here](#).



Rishi Sunak mocked for boasting about 'halving inflation' on day it actually went up

The Prime Minister appeared to forget that the latest Office for National Statistics figures show UK inflation rose to 10.4% in February, up from 10.1% in January, when he made the claim

Labour MP Kate Osborne blasted him for saying it was working when Brits are struggling to afford their weekly food shop.

"Millions are living in food and fuel poverty because of this government's failures," she said.

"How on earth can the Prime Minister claim his plan is working? Or is it in his eyes a success that so many people are struggling with their weekly food shop?"

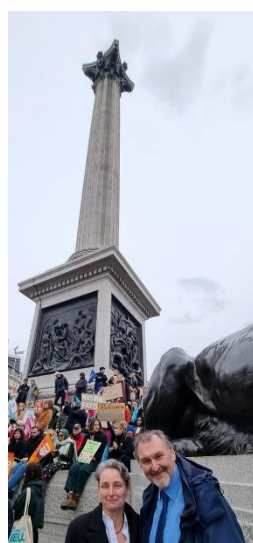
Solidarity:

I was proud to show my continued solidarity with workers this month. I joined numerous picket lines on my way into Parliament and was proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with PCS Union and British Medical Association members.



15th March saw teachers, junior doctors, public sector workers, Uni staff, transport workers & BBC local journalists on strike ASLEF - The UK Train Drivers' Union BMA Junior Doctors National Education Union PCS Union National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) National Union of Journalists (NUJ) UCU - University and College Union

I was proud to join rallies and picket lines to show my support.



SOS NHS

I was proud to speak at the SOS NHS rally this month. Our NHS is in crisis, thousands of staff vacancies, millions on waiting lists, billions of pounds removed from NHS budgets and given to private providers, workers have faced decades of pay cuts, health inequalities rising, Enough is enough. Watch my full speech [here](#).



Tory Sewage Scandal

Water companies in England & Wales are polluting for profit - making £2bn per year since privatisation. We need a Government that is committed to putting an end to this environmental vandalism & polluting for profit.



Casework wins:

My office continues to work hard supporting Jarrow constituents - here are just a few of our recent casework wins.

- Pension credit delays resolved
- DVLA compensation issued
- Housing repairs completed
- Universal Credit arrears paid and special payment awarded
- Passport issues resolved
- Housing banding increased
- DWP tribunal cancelled and payment awarded

If you would like support with an issue you're experiencing, you can get in touch with my office – email: kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk or phone: 0191 466 1509 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Advice Surgeries:

As always if you would like an appointment at one of my advice surgeries please do get in touch with my office to book an appointment. A list of my future surgeries is available for viewing via my website [here](#). Alternatively, below is a list of my upcoming surgeries in April – all surgeries are by appointment only so please do book an appointment.

**KATE OSBORNE MP'S
APRIL ADVICE
SURGERY SCHEDULE**

TUESDAY 4TH 12:00PM - 1:30PM | **HEBBURN HELPS***
*appointments with caseworker only

THURSDAY 6TH 4:00PM - 5:00PM | **JARROW***
*appointments with caseworker only

FRIDAY 21ST 12:00PM - 1:30PM | **PELAW**

Attendance by appointment only
Please email kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk or phone 0191 4661509 to book.

Appointments will last no longer than 15 mins, are only open to residents of the Jarrow constituency & may be with a caseworker

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

KATE OSBORNE
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
THE JARROW CONSTITUENCY

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&
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

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 or by calling my office on 0191 466 1509.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Osborne MP