

## Manufacturing in the UK

Earlier in March, I tabled an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons on the importance of manufacturing skills in this country. It reads: “That this House notes that innovation in manufacturing is of vital importance to the UK economy; further notes that UK manufacturing accounts for some £191 billion of output providing 2.7 million jobs; recognises that closing the skills gap in manufacturing will require 186,000 skilled individuals to be hired every year until 2024; notes that the current national curriculum does little to prepare young people for a career in the sector; recognises a nationwide lack of awareness of manufacturing as a potential career; further notes the calls of small and medium-sized manufacturers for an urgent review of provision in this area; and urges the Government to put manufacturing-centric skills at the heart of the National Curriculum.” Further information can be found by clicking [here](#).



## Climate Crisis

I was very pleased to be among the first 100 MP's to demand decisive action on the Climate & Ecological Emergency by supporting the CEE Bill.

Climate change is something that affects all of us and it is vital we act now. Find out more about the CEE Bill by clicking [here](#).

## NHS Pay Rise

In March I leant my voice to those calling for a fair pay rise for our NHS staff. Without the NHS working endlessly hard the past year, we as a nation would not be in the position we are now when it comes to the Coronavirus pandemic. We owe our thanks to our NHS, and they are owed a fair and decent pay rise.

This month I had the opportunity to speak in the Westminster Hall debate on the unacceptable 1% pay rise proposed by this Government and you can watch my speech [here](#). The meagre 1% pay rise is unacceptable and does not even account for inflation. It is only right that this Government offer a real and meaningful pay rise to our NHS staff who kept our country going during this dreadful pandemic. You can also read my column in the Shields Gazette on the same pitiful pay rise [here](#).



## **School Uniforms Bill**

I fully support Mike Amesbury MP's Bill which was debated on in parliament in March. The Bill would make school uniform affordable for all. There are children whose families can't afford high uniform costs and can end up paying the price themselves, facing exclusion from school for incorrect uniform. I believe that school uniforms should be affordable and available to every child, and until then no child should be discriminated against due to lack of availability of affordable uniform.

**I support the  
School Uniforms Bill.**



## **Police Crime and Sentencing Bill**

I was pleased that Labour voted against the Tories Police Crime and Sentencing Bill. The bill proposed was an egregious assault on the right to protest, which is a democratic right that must be protected. The Bill enables restrictions placed on freedom of assembly and association in contravention to Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights Act 1998. As well as this attack on our right to protest, this bill increases police powers of eviction whilst criminalising trespass which will further increase the inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

The pandemic cannot be used as an opportunity to rush through a bill that will target those already less able to make their voices heard whilst giving further protection to those with power. These features of the proposed Police, Crime and Sentencing bill are unacceptable. I was happy to sign this amendment as seen below. We must resist this attack on the right to protest. The Bill has been pushed back at committee stage, but we must keep up the pressure to #killthebill.

You can also view my contribution on this debate in the House of Commons [here](#).

## 2. POLICE, CRIME, SENTENCING AND COURTS BILL: SECOND READING (DAY 2)

Until 7.00pm (Standing Order No. 9(3))

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy**  
**Caroline Lucas**  
**Wera Hobhouse**  
**Kirsten Oswald**  
**Liz Saville-Roberts**  
**Claire Hanna**

Apsana Begum

Claudia Webbe

John McDonnell

Kate Osborne

Kate Osamor

Paula Barker

Lloyd Russell-Moyle

Ian Mearns

Olivia Blake

Dan Carden

Carol Monaghan

Grahame Morris

Peter Dowd

Alison Thewliss

Ms Diane Abbott

Ian Byrne

Rachel Hopkins

Navendu Mishra

Mary K Foy

Jon Trickett

Ian Lavery

Clive Lewis

Florence Eshalomi

Ben Lake

Rosie Duffield

Zarah Sultana

Jeremy Corbyn

Rebecca Long Bailey

Beth Winter

Nadia Whittome

Richard Burgon

Dawn Butler

Mick Whitley

Kim Johnson

Daisy Cooper

Mohammad Yasin

Stephen Farry

That this House declines to give a Second Reading to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill because it contains a number of measures that, taken together, constitute a significant reduction in established civil liberties, because the Bill enables restrictions placed on freedom of assembly and association in contravention to Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights which, under the Human Rights Act 1998, protects the right to take part in marches, protests and demonstrations, because the Bill fails to address the racial bias and discrimination that persists within policing and the over-representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in the prison population and deaths in custody, because the Bill contains new measures such as the new offence of residing on land without consent in or with a vehicle that will disproportionately impact Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, because the Bill does not include any specific measures to prevent male violence against women and girls nor to address the fact that a large proportion of women in prisons are survivors of domestic abuse and other types of gendered violence, because the Bill therefore risks exacerbating the racial and gendered disparities in the criminal justice system by increasing police powers and sentencing whilst reducing accountability.

### **Crisis of Violence Against Women and Girls**

We owe it to Sarah Everard's memory and every woman who is a victim of sexual harassment and assault to bring about change, to tackle the crisis of violence against women and girls. You can read my article about the events that took place at the Vigil for Sarah Everard and the horrific impact the Police Crime and Sentencing Bill on our freedoms and right to protest [here](#).

I also added my voice to those calling for an urgent inquiry into the safeguarding procedures in schools in order to ensure that no student should suffer sexual harassment or abuse. You can read my full thoughts on the matter [here](#).

### **Coronavirus Act (Review of Temporary provisions)**

In March, I voted against the Coronavirus Act as I believe the act does not take many extremely important issues into account. There is still a lack of support for people who have to isolate and for businesses. More deprived areas have suffered and continue to suffer the greatest. This Conservative Government needs to support its people a lot more, like increase Statutory Sick Pay and consider the fact that low paid workers on 80% of their pay while furloughed are still struggling and some are living in poverty. Key workers have helped carry the UK throughout the pandemic and yet there is no plan in place to reward them for their heroic work. Instead they are being treated with contempt.

### **PE and Sport Premium Grant**

In last month's newsletter I included my letter to the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson regarding the PE and sport premium grant funding for primary schools. I am happy to inform you that the Government listened to calls such as mine and extended the grant funding for primary schools until the end of the 2020/2021 academic year.

#### **Carried forward unspent PE and sport premium grant funding from the 2019 to 2020 academic year**

As a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Department for Education took steps to relax the ring-fencing arrangements for the PE and sport premium in the 2019 to 2020 academic year to allow any unspent grant to be carried forward into the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

Any under-spends carried forward from the 2019 to 2020 academic year will need to be spent in full by the end of the 2020 to 2021 academic year. Schools should factor this into spending plans for their 2020 to 2021 PE and sport premium allocation. The [2020 to 2021 conditions of grant documents](#) have been updated to reflect this.

### **Solidarity with our Kurdish Brothers and Sisters**

In March, I also had the opportunity in Parliament to highlight the increasingly authoritarian policies of President Erdoğan and the Turkish Government during a Westminster Hall Debate on the Arrest of Opposition Politicians in Turkey. You can read my article on this in Labour Outlook [here](#).

### **Fire and Re-hire**

In Parliament I had the opportunity to ask the Government when they would release the findings of the ACAS fire and rehire report. You can watch the clip including my question as well as the Ministers response [here](#).

### **Post Office Question**

In March I also put a question to the Minister in the House of Commons regarding the 555 sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses who took the post office to court in 2019 are not included in the historical shortfall scheme creating two tiers of justice. Their award did not even scratch the surface of their losses. Click [here](#) to see the clip.

### **Coronavirus**

In March, we passed the one-year anniversary of the introduction of the first lockdown and since that time we have been tested as a country. I took part in a minute's silence in the House of Commons to remember all of those we have tragically lost as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. I want to say thank you to every single member of the constituency for the sacrifices we have all had to make. It has not been an easy year, but the end is in sight, all I ask is that you continue to follow the government guidelines as we ease our way out of restrictions. The past year has thrown up some true heroes who have kept our communities working and kept it moving during these tough times and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has played a part in supporting our communities and will continue to do so in these difficult weeks ahead.

I encourage everyone to get vaccinated when their time comes. You should wait until your GP contacts you, but you can check if you are eligible [here](#).

### **Joint Surgery with Police Commissioner Kim McGuinness**

At my surgery this month I was joined by Police Commissioner Kim McGuinness who met with myself and some constituents, via Zoom, to help resolve issues surrounding anti-social behaviour in the constituency. It was a great success and I would like to thank Kim and those constituents that we met with. Information and dates of future surgeries can be found on my social media and on my website so if you would like to book an appointment please do get in touch by clicking [here](#).

### **Upcoming Local Government Election – 6<sup>th</sup> May**

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that the local Government elections are fast approaching. If you haven't already you can apply for an early postal vote, the deadline to do so is the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. The link to register is available here - [Apply for an early vote \(labour.org.uk\)](#) Postal voters of all political persuasions have much higher turnout than in-person voters, and it is highly likely that concerns about coronavirus will suppress in person turn out further. Please sign up for a postal vote yourself and encourage your friends and family to do the same.

All the Labour Candidates running in the Local Government elections across the 2 boroughs have my full support, you can read my full statement below:

## Kate Osborne, MP for Jarrow

The past year has been an extraordinary year in which South Tyneside Council, and the communities it serves, has had to face unprecedented challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the past 12 months, I appreciate that the Council have been focused on meeting the challenges posed by Covid, ensuring the right support services are in place to help those who need it the most. The pandemic has demonstrated not only the huge importance of Council services, but the value that people have placed on the support they have received, from refuse collections to care workers and business support and I wish to offer my thanks to our Council for going above and beyond to help communities across South Tyneside. I wholeheartedly support the good work of Labour across the Borough and I would like to wish all of the Labour candidates all the very best in the local government elections on May 6th.

SOUTH TYNESIDE  
LABOUR GROUP  
Serving Our Community

Vote Labour

My official website launched this month, on it you will be able to keep up to date with my work throughout the month, both in Parliament and around the constituency. You will also be able to find my contact information and social media. The link for the website is below:

[Kate Osborne MP – MP for The Jarrow Constituency \(kate-osborne.co.uk\)](http://kate-osborne.co.uk)

As always if you need any assistance from me or my team please contact me at [kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk) or call 0191 466 1509 and I will do everything I can to help.

Warmest wishes,

**Kate Osborne MP**

Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency