



Kate Osborne MP

Jarrow Constituency

October-November Monthly Newsletter

2021

Hello,

I am writing to provide you with an update of my work in the past month, both in Parliament and around the constituency. This month my autumn/winter newsletter began being sent out to houses throughout the constituency, so keep your eyes out for that!

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### Jarrow March:

Following from my column in the Shields Gazette that I shared with you in the last newsletter. The Tribune Mag wrote a brilliant piece on the history of the Jarrow Crusade which you can read in full [here](#). I have also tabled an EDM to highlight the significance of the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jarrow Crusade as well as to drive home the importance of this anniversary, both for our community and for Parliament too. You can read the motion in full [here](#).

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### Campaign Groups:

I was pleased to get the opportunity to attend the Long Live the Local's event in Parliament recently to discuss the importance of pubs locally as they pump billions into our economy and help create connected communities.



I wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the Government to do more to support our pubs and breweries. You can read my letter in full below.



**Kate Osborne MP**  
Member of Parliament for Jarrow  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Rishi,

**Re: Tax on Beer and Pubs**

I am writing on behalf of a number of constituents in Jarrow who have contacted me regarding tax on beer and pubs.

I am sure you will agree with me that pubs and breweries are historic partners at the heart of villages, towns, and cities across the UK. Sitting in a pub with a pint of beer is part of our culture, and something that has been enjoyed for generations.

I am sure you will also agree that pubs and breweries are essential to a thriving economy, yet over the past twenty-five years, taxes have gone up and up to the point where pubs and breweries are overtaxed and under genuine pressure.

Pubs, along with other licensed venues such as restaurants and bars, must pay VAT on all food and drink they sell. This is not consistent with other food outlets such as supermarkets, convenience stores and takeaways (including cafes) where VAT is not charged on most food products.

In terms of beer duty, tax has increased by 60% over the last 20 years and now the UK has one of the highest rates of duty in Europe. This means that beer duty increases are written into the Budget by default, meaning beer duty is set to rise every year for the foreseeable future.

On top of this, the average pub today pays a business rates bill of nearly £15,000 and when looking at business rates as a percentage of turnover, pubs pay five times more than the average of other sectors.

With these points in mind, I ask that you do all you can to help pubs and breweries recover and return to growth. On behalf of my constituents, I call on you to take the following action at the next budget:

- Introduce a permanent lower level of VAT for all food and beverages sold in pubs
- Create an overall reduction in Beer Duty
- Lower business rates for pubs equitable to other similar businesses

I urge you to consider these options to ensure that pubs remain a vital part of our high streets and social fabric in communities up and down the country.



**Kate Osborne MP**  
Member of Parliament for Jarrow  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Kate Osborne MP**  
Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency

## The Eyes Have It

I was grateful to attend The Eyes Have It event in Westminster with the Fight for Sight and Macular Society. The campaigners had a VR headset which gave a real insight into what it's like having sight-loss at different levels. It is so important to maintain good eye health!



## Dogs Trust

It was excellent to meet with Dogs Trust in Parliament recently. I fully support Dogs Trust in their calls for Government to raise the minimum age for puppies to enter the UK to six months and to increase penalties for those caught importing dogs illegally.



### **In the Commons:**

#### **Home Office questions:**

I had the chance to ask the Home Secretary what is being done to support victims of trafficking after leaving immigration detention. Since 2016, only 4,500 suspected trafficking victims have been referred for support after leaving detention. See my question in full and the Home Secretary's response [here](#).

#### **Trade Questions:**

In Colombia this year alone, 43 people were killed by police during protests in April and May, and with more than 100 social leaders having been murdered and former FARC combatants continuing to be targeted at an appalling rate, I asked the Trade Minister to answer to calls to suspend Colombia's membership of the UK-Andean trade agreement. See my question and the Minister's response in full [here](#).

#### **Budget Debate**

The Budget had nothing to do with levelling up or building back better, it is the same old Tory economic policy that will squeeze people on low and middle incomes, while giving a tax cut to the super rich. It does very little for the North East and for constituencies such as Jarrow. You can see my full speech in this debate [here](#).

#### **Prime Minister Questions:**

I was fortunate to be selected in the draw meaning I was able to ask the Prime Minister a question during PMQ's. It is clear the Prime Minister isn't serious about "levelling up" and is just using it as a meaningless, populist slogan. See my question and the Prime Minister's response in full [here](#).

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### **Early Day Motions and Joint Letters**

#### **NHS Health and Care Bill**

I was happy to support Margaret Greenwood MP's (Wirral West) letter to the Minister for Health and Social Care calling on the Government to protect the pay and pensions, and other important terms and conditions of our NHS Staff in the Health and Care Bill. If you want to read the letter in full, you can do so [here](#).

#### **Letter to the Secretary of State for Education**

With Covid cases rising, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Education in support of Unite the Union, GMB Union, The National Education Union, NASUWT The Teachers Union and Unison's call for the Government to give all education settings the guidance and resources they need to ensure education settings are safe for all, staff, and students alike. You can read the letter in full below:



**Kate Osborne MP**  
Member of Parliament for Jarrow  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education

(Correspondence sent via email)

20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing today in support of the recent correspondence that you have received from trade unions Unite, GMB, NEU, NASUWT & Unison regarding the need to give all education settings the guidance and resources they need to keep pupils learning safely for the rest of this term.

In recent weeks, we have seen the number of COVID-19 cases rise rapidly through education settings and as we move into the winter months and with infection rates expected to rise even further, there is a need to ensure that education settings are safe for all.

By putting in place proportionate mitigation measures such as face coverings, quarantine of close contacts whilst rolling out a vaccination programme, staggered start times and finishes, classroom bubbles, combined with the need of properly ventilated schools, it will ensure that as many children as possible stay in school to get the best education they can as well as not compromise the health of staff, parents, carers and other family members.

I would appreciate a full response to the above issues as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Osborne'.

Kate Osborne MP  
Member of Parliament for Jarrow

## Leamside Line:

Following on from my question to the Prime Minister at PMQs, I have also signed a joint letter raising concerns about the East Coast Main Line and calling the Minister for State to consider the reinstatement of the Leamside Line to ensure infrastructure meets the needs of both today and the future. You can read the letter in full below:



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Chris Heaton-Harris MP  
Minister of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

5 November 2021

Dear Chris,

We are writing ahead of the anticipated Integrated Rail Plan to ask for serious consideration of reinstating the mothballed Leamside rail line.

As you know the East Coast Main Line is at capacity for freight and rail services between Newcastle and Northallerton. As a key economic route, the ECML is the only rail artery linking the North East with Scotland, the rest of the North, the Midlands and London.

Major timetable change consultations have shown how the rail link is not fit for today's demands, with trade offs between services meaning communities losing out and interregional connectivity suffering across the North.

The proposal for a separate corridor for freight trains to pass through the Leamside rail line, which has been mothballed since 1992, would provide the urgent extra capacity potential that the ECML needs to meet current needs and ensure the line can meet the needs of the future.

Reinstating the line in full could be delivered relatively quickly as all land belongs to Network Rail.

Capacity would increase by 50% for this stretch of the line – the economic impact of this would be felt across England and Scotland.

We therefore ask that you give serious consideration to the Leamside line as the only viable way of ensuring rail in the North East can successfully serve both the regional demands and the national demands of today and the future.

Yours sincerely,

**Sharon Hodgson MP**  
MP for Washington and Sunderland West

**Paul Howell MP**  
MP for Sedgefield

**Nick Brown MP**  
MP for Newcastle upon Tyne East

**Alex Cunningham MP**  
MP for Stockton North

**Julie Elliott MP**

MP for Sunderland Central

**Mary Kelly Foy MP**

MP for Durham City

**Ian Lavery MP**

MP for Wansbeck

**Catherine McKinnell MP**

MP for Newcastle upon Tyne North

**Grahame Morris MP**

MP for Easington

**Kate Osborne MP**

MP for Jarrow

**Mayor Jamie Driscoll**

North of Tyne Combined Authority

**Cllr Martin Gannon**

Leader, Gateshead Council

**Cllr Nick Forbes**

Leader, Newcastle City Council

**Cllr Graeme Miller**

Leader, Sunderland City Council

**Henri Murison**

Director, Northern Powerhouse  
Partnership

**Dehenna Davison MP**

MP for Bishop Auckland

**Kevan Jones MP**

MP for North Durham

**Emma Lewell-Buck MP**

MP for South Shields

**Ian Mearns MP**

MP for Gateshead

**Bridget Phillipson MP**

MP for Houghton and Sunderland South

**Chi Onwurah MP**

MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central

**Mayor Norma Redfearn**

North Tyneside

**Cllr Amanda Hopgood**

Leader, Durham County Council

**Cllr Tracey Dixon**

Leader, South Tyneside Council

**John McCabe**

Chief Executive, North East Chamber of  
Commerce

**Helen Golightly OBE**

Chief Executive, North East Local  
Enterprise Partnership

## MP Pension Fund:

Along with many MPs from across the house, I am pleased to have signed this letter coordinated by Zarah Sultana MP (Coventry South), calling for the MPs' Pension Fund to divest from the fossil fuel industry. We must stop funding the climate disaster we face.



8 November 2021

Dear PCPF Trustees,

**RE: Divest Parliament from the Fossil Fuel Industry**

This month Britain hosts COP26, an historic global summit addressing the gravest threat facing humanity – the climate emergency. As hosts, we have a responsibility to rise to this challenge, showing leadership on the world's stage. That is why we, a group of cross-party MPs, write to urge you to divest the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) from the fossil fuel industry.

Ahead of the summit, the UN emphasised the urgent need to rapidly cut fossil fuels, warning that the planned extraction of coal, oil and gas “vastly exceeds” the limit needed to keep global heating to 1.5°C, the target mandated by the Paris Agreement.<sup>1</sup> This mirrors the view of the UK government’s COP26 Climate Champion, Nigel Topping, who said that the climate commitments of fossil fuel companies “are insufficient and don’t align with global climate goals”. It is for this reason that these companies have been barred from official COP26 engagements.<sup>2</sup>

As PCPF trustees, you have shown you are able to respond to the climate emergency, reducing investments in fossil fuel companies. But we believe you must go a step further, divesting from the fossil fuel industry in its entirety, as quickly as possible. This commitment is complementary to recent positive actions by the trustees to allocate 5% of the fund’s investments to renewable infrastructure.

Without this, our pensions are contributing to temperatures rising above 1.5°C. If this limit is exceeded, then by the time younger members are old enough to draw our pensions, a full-blown climate catastrophe will have struck, with ice caps melted, food systems collapsed and deadly extreme weather becoming the norm.

So-called investor “engagement” with fossil fuel companies will not get us the change we need at the speed required. There are no historical precedents for it significantly altering the core business models of any organisation. But significant change is needed, with renewables accounting for just 1% of capital expenditure from fossil fuel companies last year.<sup>3</sup>

The call to divest the PCPF from the fossil fuel industry has been backed by more than 360 current and former members, from right across the political spectrum. It is recognised that as elected representatives, we have a responsibility to show leadership on the climate emergency and ensure that our pensions are not funding climate disaster. Let us get our house in order by aligning our pension investments with a green and prosperous zero carbon future that helps to contain global heating to below 1.5°C.

The world’s eyes are on us. It is time that we show true leadership and divest Parliament from the fossil fuel industry.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zarah Sultana".

**Zarah Sultana**

Member of Parliament for Coventry South

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/20/planned-fossil-fuel-output-vastly-exceeds-climate-limits-says-un>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/21/no-formal-con26-role-for-big-oil-amid-doubts-over-firms-net-zero-plans>

<sup>3</sup> <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/5e6b3821-bb8f-4df4-a88b-e891cd8251e3/WorldEnergyInvestment2021.pdf>

## October-November Newsletter 2021

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|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Diane Abbott MP           | Preet Kaur Gill MP     | Cat Smith MP           |
| Debbie Abrahams MP        | Kate Green MP          | Jeff Smith MP          |
| Rushanara Ali MP          | Lilian Greenwood MP    | Karin Smyth MP         |
| Tahir Ali MP              | Margaret Greenwood MP  | Alex Sobel MP          |
| Rosena Allin-Khan MP      | Louise Haigh MP        | Wes Streeting MP       |
| Fleur Anderson MP         | Emma Hardy MP          | Sam Tarry MP           |
| Tonia Antoniazzi MP       | Helen Hayes MP         | Gareth Thomas MP       |
| Paula Barker MP           | Sharon Hodgson MP      | Nick Thomas-Symonds MP |
| Apsana Begum MP           | Rachel Hopkins MP      | Jon Trickett MP        |
| Hilary Benn MP            | Rupa Huq MP            | Karl Turner MP         |
| Olivia Blake MP           | Imran Hussain MP       | Valerie Vaz MP         |
| Paul Blomfield MP         | Diana Johnson MP       | Catherine West MP      |
| Kim Leadbeater MP         | Kim Johnson MP         | Matt Western MP        |
| Kevin Brennan MP          | Ruth Jones MP          | Alan Whitehead MP      |
| Lyn Brown MP              | Sarah Jones MP         | Mick Whitley MP        |
| Karen Buck MP             | Afzal Khan MP          | Nadia Whittome MP      |
| Richard Burgon MP         | Stephen Kinnock MP     | Beth Winter MP         |
| Dawn Butler MP            | Emma Lewell-Buck MP    | Mohammad Yasin MP      |
| Ian Byrne MP              | Clive Lewis MP         | Deidre Brock MP        |
| Liam Byrne MP             | Tony Lloyd MP          | Alan Brown MP          |
| Dan Carden MP             | Rebecca Long Bailey MP | Joanna Cherry MP       |
| Sarah Champion MP         | Seema Malhotra MP      | Ronnie Cowan MP        |
| Bambos Charalambous MP    | Rachael Maskell MP     | Patricia Gibson MP     |
| Feryal Clark MP           | Kerry McCarthy MP      | Patrick Grady MP       |
| Rosie Cooper MP           | Andy McDonald MP       | David Linden MP        |
| Yvette Cooper MP          | John McDonnell MP      | Kenny MacAskill MP     |
| Jeremy Corbyn MP          | Alison McGovern MP     | Stuart McDonald MP     |
| Stella Creasy MP          | Anna McMorrin MP       | Brendan O'Hara MP      |
| Alex Cunningham MP        | Ian Mearns MP          | Anum Qaisar-Javed MP   |
| Janet Daby MP             | Ed Miliband MP         | Tommy Sheppard MP      |
| Geraint Davies MP         | Navendu Mishra MP      | Chris Stephens MP      |
| Alex Davies-Jones MP      | Grahame Morris MP      | Wendy Chamberlain MP   |
| Marsha de Cordova MP      | Charlotte Nichols MP   | Daisy Cooper MP        |
| Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP | Kate Osamor MP         | Ed Davey MP            |
| Stephen Doughty MP        | Kate Osborne MP        | Layla Moran MP         |
| Peter Dowd MP             | Taiwo Owatemi MP       | Sarah Olney MP         |
| Rosie Duffield MP         | Sarah Owen MP          | Caroline Lucas MP      |
| Julie Elliott MP          | Matthew Pennycook MP   | Ben Lake MP            |
| Chris Elmore MP           | Jess Phillips MP       | Claire Hanna MP        |
| Florence Eshalomi MP      | Yasmin Qureshi MP      | Colum Eastwood MP      |
| Bill Esterson MP          | Jonathan Reynolds MP   | Carla Lockhart MP      |
| Vicky Foxcroft MP         | Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP   | Gavin Robinson MP      |
| Mary Kelly Foy MP         | Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP | Derek Thomas MP        |
| Barry Gardiner MP         | Tulip Siddiq MP        | David Warburton MP     |

### £15 an hour, Early Day Motion:

I signed my name to an Early Day Motion calling for a £15 an hour minimum wage. A £9.50 living wage is simply not enough. This Government needs to pay people properly. Read the motion in full [here](#).

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### Fire and Rehire:

Tory MPs showed their lack of care about workers and their rights in October as they talked out and subsequently blocked Barry Gardiner's (Brent North MP) Private Members Bill which would have banned the abhorrent practice of Fire and Rehire. The Tories vote has killed off any chance to go further in Parliament. They condemned fire and rehire yet proved once again they simply provide an empty rhetoric and failure to act when given the opportunity. I am proud to have supported Barry's Bill and I will continue to fight for this disgraceful tactic to be outlawed.



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### Increasing Reports of Spiking:

The recent reports of spiking via injections are horrific. I released a statement on my website highlighting my concerns which you can read in full [here](#). I have also written to the Home Secretary to demand that this Government do more than place the responsibility on women and girls to take measures to protect themselves. It is not enough to tell people who have been spiked to report it, there needs to be action taken by the Government to change the toxic culture

that results in these attacks being commonplace. I will update you of the Home Secretary's response as soon as I can.

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### COP 26:

Ahead of COP26 it was hard to believe that the Chancellors Budget contained little more than a reference to the climate emergency. The Government and world leaders must do more to combat the climate crisis. It is not enough to simply use climate change buzzwords and take performative actions. The government and world leaders must act now and work together to ensure meaningful steps are taken worldwide to reduce the impact we have on the climate.

For one of my regular columns in the Shields Gazette I wrote on about the significance of the COP26 conference, you can read the column in full [here](#).

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### Tory Corruption

Boris Johnson and his Government have been embroiled by further reports of corruption. I have written a column in the Shields Gazette on these appalling scandals which you can read in full [here](#). This Government is rotten to the core, the large overwhelming public outrage has reminded this shameful Government that they cannot continue to force through votes and corruption. We will continue to keep exposing their shameful behaviour and put pressure on them to do the right thing.

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### Free Nazanin:

Richard Ratcliffe was on a hunger strike outside the Foreign Office for a total of 21 days to urge the Government to take proactive steps to get his wife Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe home. I visited with Richard on day 16 of his hunger strike to support him.

Nazanin is being arbitrarily detained in Iran and has been for over 2000 days. I visited Richard on day 16 of his hunger strike.

I will continue to urge the Government to do more to help free Nazanin. This has gone on for far too long.



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### Remembrance Day:

I was invited to place a poppy in the Constituency Memorial Garden on the Parliamentary Estate in New Palace Yard. I dedicated the cross to Private Thomas Young who was born in Boldon Colliery and Served as a stretcher bearer on the western front. He was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1918 for his bravery as he put his own life at risk to save nine lives, with the citation for his Victoria cross stating 'the great skill he showed in dealing with casualties is beyond praise.' I also wanted to pay tribute to all of those from the Jarrow constituency who have served in our forces. We are eternally grateful for their dedication and sacrifice. Lest we forget.





### Remembrance Sunday

I was proud to attend the Remembrance Sunday service in Jarrow. 'They shall not grow old, as we that are left to grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'





**Advice Surgeries:**

Make sure to check my social media channels to find out when my upcoming surgeries are!

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.

Visit my website or social media to keep up to date with my work throughout the month.

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

Facebook: @kateosbornejarrow

Twitter: @kateosbornemp

Warmest wishes,

**Kate Osborne MP**

Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency