

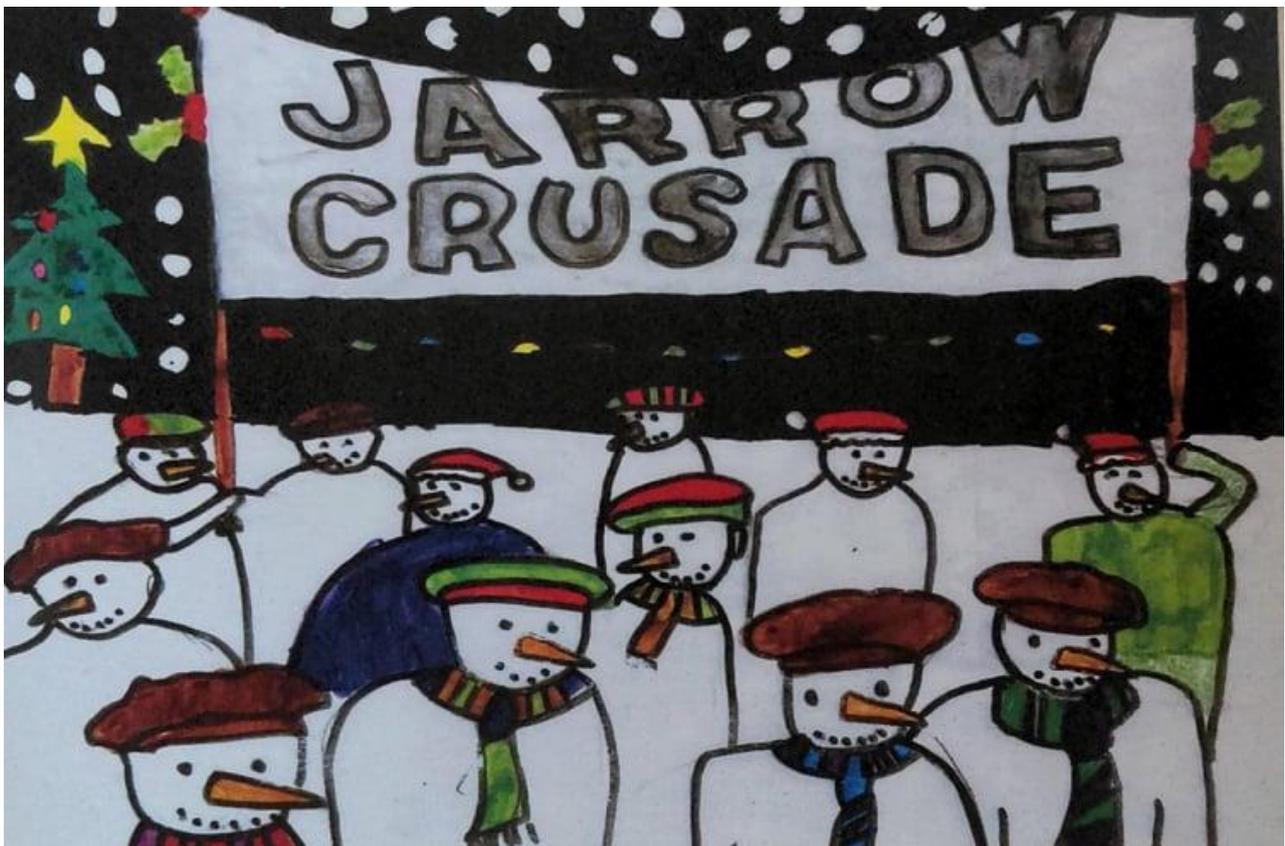


Kate Osborne MP

Jarrow Constituency

November-December Monthly Newsletter

2021



Dear _____

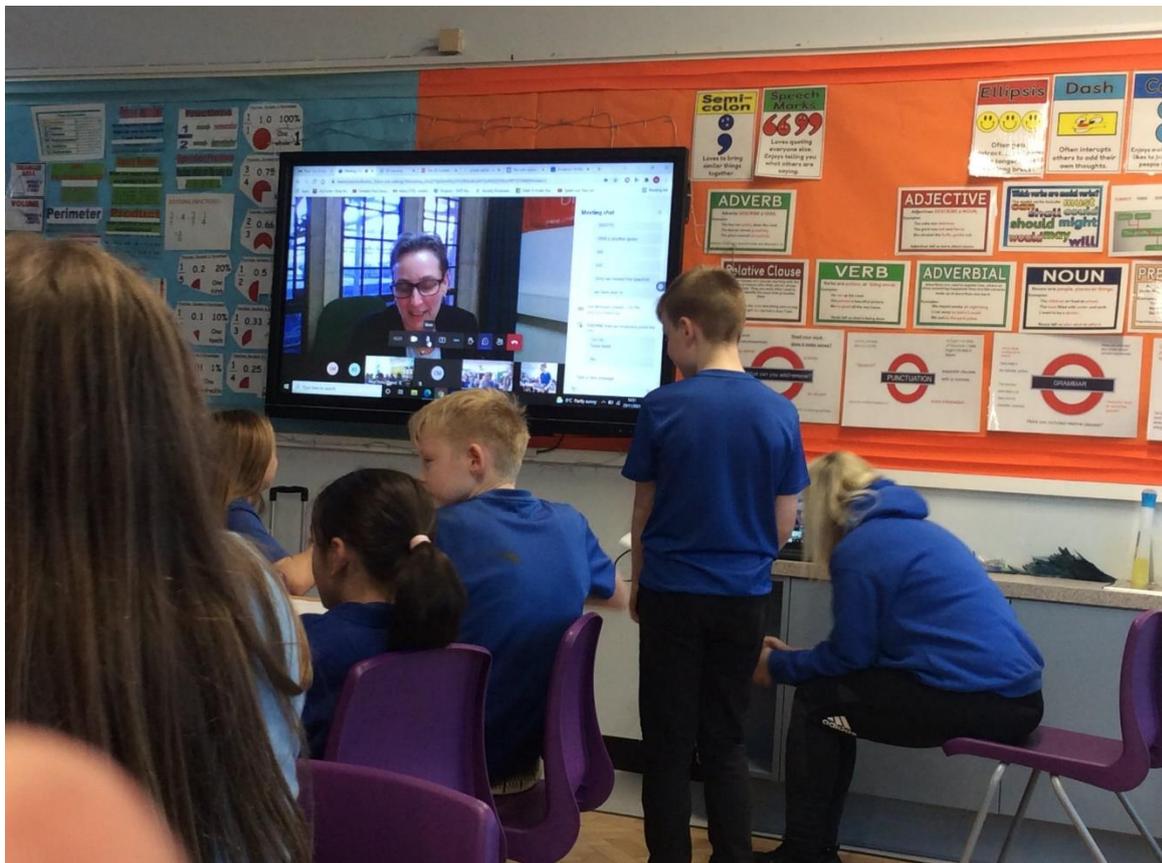
I am writing today to provide an update on my work in Parliament and around the constituency over the last month. I would also like to take this as an opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and happy 2022.

Constituency Visits

Visits to schools (virtual and in-person)

Over the last month, I have been pleased to have visited numerous schools throughout the constituency – both in person and virtually.

I was able to virtually speak to students at **St Matthew's RC Primary School** in Jarrow who had booked an Education & Engagement Digital Workshop. It is always great to see children learning more about Parliament and I am always happy to speak to them about the work that I do daily.



I was also fortunate enough to be able to visit students at St Matthew's in person, where the winner of my Christmas card competition is a student. (You can see the winning design at the top of this email) I dropped by the school to deliver Sam's prize for achieving first place and while I was there, I had a great Q&A with the students and was even able to meet the school's

Eco-Committee and speak to them about climate change and the environment.



I also visited **Fellgate Primary School** to deliver prizes to two of the runner's-up in the Christmas card competition. Both Jamie and Lacie's designs were fantastic and are printed on the back of my card!



One of my favourite parts about my role as MP, is being able to meet students from the constituency and speak with teachers about issues important to the education of our children. It is also extremely important to me that schools are given the guidance they need, particularly regarding Covid-19. It was excellent to meet with Headteachers from around the constituency to discuss how Covid has affected the schools and how the role of a Headteacher has changed.



Community visits:

It was great to call into Hebburn Helps recently, the volunteers there are continuing to do a marvellous job at such a busy time of the year. They really are a credit to our local community! Support your local foodbank if you can!



It was also lovely to call into Bede Helping Hands to see their amazing work. It is so much more than just a foodbank, providing a community support centre with a shop selling pre-loved items all for just £1. I am so grateful for the volunteers who do such important work within our community.



Third Annual Boldon Christmas Lights Switch-on:

I was grateful to have been invited along to the third annual Christmas light switch on at the Boldon Community Centre. Although the weather meant we were unable to go ahead as planned, those involved managed to adapt the plans quickly and were able to run the event from inside the Community Centre.



It was lovely to meet so many people, particularly the small business owners who had stalls in the market! Thank you to all of those involved who made the event so wonderful!



Local Issues:

In the past month some very important local issues have risen and myself and my team are working hard to ensure we get what is best for the constituency.

The Lord Nelson Pub:

After being contacted by several constituents, I wrote to the Stonegate Group to relay the concerns voiced to me. You can read the letter in full below.



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

Stonegate Group

(Correspondence sent via email)

23rd November 2021

Dear Whom it may Concern

RE: Lord Nelson, Monkton Lane, Monkton Village, Jarrow, NE32 5NN

I am writing today in relation to the above pub located in the constituency of Jarrow of which I represent.

I have been contacted by a number of local residents with concerns relating to the forthcoming management restructure of the Lord Nelson with the Stonegate Group.

The main concern that has been raised is that of the tenancy of the current landlady, Lesley, not being renewed and that the pub will revert to managed status in January 2022. I have received many emails from residents with fantastic testimonies to Lesley of the great work that she has done in turning the pub into a fantastic venue that services the local community and is far more than just a pub. Residents have stated that Lesley has been at the Lord Nelson now for around 14 years and has helped to put on many events including bands and a leek show as well as create a great food menu.

Residents are concerned that their beloved pub, which holds a historic and valued place in the community of Jarrow, will be turned into a pub chain style venue and events such as mentioned above will stop.

I therefore would like to ask for further information on the proposal the Stonegate Group have for the Lord Nelson and assurances that resident's concerns that are noted above about how the Lord Nelson may be managed in the future are taken into consideration and a response provided to these. I would also like to request further consideration given to the Lord Nelson being managed under a tenancy rather than a managed status and if this is at all possible.

I look forward to receiving your response as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Kate Osborne MP
Member of Parliament for Jarrow

Following sending this letter about the forthcoming management structure of the Lord Nelson Pub, I met with a representative of the Stonegate Group to further express the strength of feeling from residents that the Lord Nelson should remain a community pub and discuss the concerns around the future of the current landlady, Lesley. Although the restructure will go ahead, the Stonegate Group have provided reassurances

that the pub will remain a community pub and that Lesley will be joining the team after the restructure. It is so important that we protect and maintain the strong sense of community that the Jarrow constituency has held for so long and I hope that this outcome will help in preserving that.

DVSA Test Centre on the Bede Industrial Estate

After concerns being raised by constituents about the possible closure of the DVSA Test Centre on the Bede Industrial Estate in Jarrow I immediately raised this matter with the Chief Executive of the DVSA. I have received responses that are wholly unacceptable, and I am working to take this matter further.

I have received correspondence from the Transport Minister and the Chief Executive of the DVSA and I am informed that the DVSA would be happy to meet with the local approved driving instructor community. I am currently working on arranging a meeting as soon as possible. I encourage as many driving instructors as possible to attend this meeting to demonstrate their overwhelming concerns regarding this matter. Please contact me at kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk with your name, address and contact details and I will make the necessary arrangements for you to join this meeting.

Campaigning work:

I continue to work alongside multiple campaign groups to lobby Government to do the right thing, whilst raising awareness for important issues that affect us all.

Paid Leave for miscarriage

I have lent my support to a legislative campaign to extend paid leave protection for families experiencing miscarriage at an earlier stage of pregnancy. It is so important that families who suffer the loss of a baby are given the time to grieve and mourn their loss. You can read more about the campaign [here](#).

North East Bus Services

It is so important that the Government act to prevent a bus funding crisis from hitting our communities hard with reduced services and routes being slashed. I will continue to urge the Government to save our busses.



Fix Streaming Bill

I was happy to join Kevin Brennan MP (Cardiff West), along with other MPs and campaigners outside of Parliament to support Kevin's Fix Streaming Bill. Artists must be paid properly for their work!



World Aids Day

The fight to tackle HIV remains as important as ever. It is clear that a global and collective effort is the best effort to tackle the crisis to ensure that lives can be saved, and transmission can be prevented.



Mineworkers Pension Scheme

To my disappointment, the recent Budget saw no action on the Mineworkers Pension Scheme. As a group of MPs who represent Coalfield communities, we have once again written to the Chancellor calling for an end to the Government profiting from Miners Pensions. You can read the letter in full below.



Stephanie Peacock MP
Member of Parliament for Barnsley
East
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
Tel: 0207 219 4129

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Westminster
London
SW1A 2AA

29th November 2021

CC: Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Rishi Sunak

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you once again regarding the terms and conditions of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme.

As the group of MPs who originally signed a letter calling for an inquiry on the Scheme, we strongly welcomed the cross-party report published by the BEIS committee earlier this year and were disappointed to see the Government take no action on its recommendations.

This report, informed by evidence sessions with former miners, trustees of the scheme, and union representatives, analysed the sharing agreement set up in 1994 which allows government 50% of any surplus from miners' pensions.

Having received over £4.4 billion from the scheme to date without having contributed a penny, whilst former miners average a pension of £84 a week, the report concluded that the government should not be in the business of profiting from miners' pensions.

Yet, despite clear and implementable recommendations, (i) for the surplus sharing arrangement to be changed to give more to pensioners, and (ii) for the £1.2bn reserve fund to be given back to pensioners immediately, no action has been taken.

As we emerge from COP26 and consider how we move towards the renewable energy sources of the future, those who powered our country over the last century deserve adequate support.

Coalfield communities have made an enormous contribution to the UK's economic and industrial development. They face specific and unique challenges and many former mineworkers and their families are facing significant financial hardship.

Giving former miners the financial settlement they deserve will not only directly support those who worked tirelessly for decades, but it will also have a significant impact on the local economies of struggling coalfield communities.

As a collective, we call on the government to implement the inquiry's recommendations as soon as possible, bringing justice to former mineworkers and coalfield communities across the country.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Peacock MP

Alex Davies-Jones MP

Ed Miliband MP

Mike Amesbury MP

Marie Rimmer MP

Chris Elmore MP

Christina Rees MP

Yvonne Fovargue MP

Dan Jarvis MP

Barbara Keeley MP

Gerald Jones MP

Conor McGinn MP

Charlotte Nichols MP

Beth Winter MP

Sarah Champion MP

Ian Lavery MP

Sharon Hodgson MP

Emma Lewell-Buck MP

Charlotte Nichols MP

Clive Betts MP

Grahame Morris MP

Kate Osborne MP

Nick Smith MP

Kevin Brennan MP

Toby Perkins MP

Yvette Cooper MP

Nia Griffith MP

Nick Thomas-Symonds MP

Ian Mearns MP

Mary Foy MP

Chris Bryant MP

Wayne David MP

Julie Elliott MP

John Healey MP

Stephen Kinnock MP

Louise Haigh MP

Nick Smith MP

Dame Rosie Winterton DBE MP

Constituency Office:

6 King Street, Hoyland, Barnsley, S74 9JP

Email address: stephanie.peacock.mp@parliament.uk

Phone number: 01226 743483

Twitter: [@Steph_Peacock](https://twitter.com/Steph_Peacock) Facebook: [StephaniePeacockMP](https://www.facebook.com/StephaniePeacockMP)

Website: www.stephaniepeacock.org.uk

Helping Hands Volunteering

I volunteered along with Florence Eshalomi MP (Vauxhall) with the 'Helping Hands' campaign which aims to provide more than 2000 free hot meals during the Christmas week to elderly, lonely and homeless people in Lambeth.



My work in Parliament

Private Parliamentary Secretary

I am pleased to announce that I have accepted the position of Private Parliamentary Secretary (PPS) to Peter Kyle MP the Shadow Minister of State for Northern Ireland. I am looking forward to working alongside Peter and Tonia (Shadow Northern Ireland Minister) at a crucial time for Northern Ireland. You can learn more about the role of a PPS [here](#).

Levelling up, Housing and Communities question

Local authorities are expected to meet housing investment requirements of the Government's energy performance targets, despite suffering over a decade of cuts. I was able to ask the Minister for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, how local authorities are expected to do this without the funding that they need from the Government. You can see my question and the response I got [here](#).

Department for Health Question

With the recent discovery of the Omicron variant, I asked the Health Secretary what steps the Government has taken to mitigate time out of education, to ensure that our children can stay in school and remain in education. You can see my question and the response I got [here](#).

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Question

Human rights abuses are continuing at an appalling rate across Colombia, with more than 100 instances of people being blinded because of police firing projectiles at protesters during the national strikes earlier this year. I was able to ask the Minister about this at the FCDO questions. You can see in full my question and the Ministers response [here](#).

Health and Care Bill

The Health and Care Bill is a major risk to the future of our NHS. I firmly opposed this Bill and voted against it in Parliament. It will lead to more NHS privatisation, more Tory cronyism and damage our NHS. We must continue to urge this Government to protect our NHS, not privatise it.



Letter to the Home Office

I have sent a letter to the Home Secretary to call for an urgent investigation around the length of time it is taking for the Home office to process asylum

applications in the UK. This letter was signed with cross-party support by 92 MPs and Parliamentarians who share my concern. 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 Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

6th December 2021

Dear Home Secretary,

We are writing to you today with concerns around the length of time it is taking for the Home Office to process asylum applications in the UK.

Many of us who are signatories of this letter have dealt with or are dealing with constituents who have long delays to their asylum applications. When contacting the Home Office on their behalf, we are simply told that there are delays to asylum applications and constituents will be notified of any updates when they have them, causing further anxiety. This is simply not good enough.

Recent figures published on 25th November 2021 by the Home Office indicate that on 30th September 2021, 64% of asylum applications have been waiting 6 months or more for a decision.

As you will be aware, those who have claimed asylum in the UK have often left their home country to seek safety in this country having fled war, terror, ongoing conflict, and persecution. For those seeking sanctuary to then be faced with months, if not, years of delays on their asylum application is grossly unfair and can have a serious detrimental impact to their mental health and wellbeing.

On 2nd July 2021, Refugee Council raised this concern in a report that they published, stating that it is common for Refugee Council staff to see people becoming increasingly unstable as the years of delays to their case and the corresponding uncertainty damages their mental and physical health. It also exposes that in some cases, it has led to self-harm and suicidal thoughts.

Refugee Council also stated in their report that people caught up in the asylum backlog for years on end also lose any work based skills they arrived with, damaging the integration and employment prospects for the majority of cases that go on to be granted status.

We therefore would like to ask that you urgently investigate the delays into processing asylum applications in the UK and provide a response to this correspondence as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Kate Osborne MP
Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency

And all those here undersigned:

Afzal Khan MP
Alex Cunningham MP
Alex Davies-Jones MP

John McDonnell MP
Julie Elliott MP
Kate Hollern MP



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

Alex Sobel MP
Alison McGovern MP
Alison Thewliss MP
Allan Dorans MP
Andrew Slaughter MP
Andy McDonald MP
Angela Crawley MP
Angela Eagle MP
Angus Macneil MP
Apsana Begum MP
Barbara Keeley MP
Baroness Christine Blower
Baroness Pauline Bryan of Partick
Baroness Shami Chakrabarti
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP
Beth Winter MP
Caroline Lucas MP
Cat Smith MP
Charlotte Nichols MP
Chi Onwurah MP
Claire Hanna MP
Claudia Webbe MP
Clive Lewis MP
Daisy Cooper MP
Dan Carden MP
Darren Jones MP
David Linden MP
Dawn Butler MP
Debbie Abrahams MP
Deidre Brock MP
Diane Abbott MP
Dr Philippa Whitford MP
Dr Stephen Farry MP
Feryal Clark MP
Florence Eshalomi MP
Gavin Newlands MP
George Howarth MP
Geraint Davies MP
Ian Lavery MP
Ian Mearns MP
Jamie Stone MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP
Jessica Morden MP
Kate Osamor MP
Kenny Macaskill MP
Kerry McCarthy MP
Kevin Brennan MP
Kim Johnson MP
Lilian Greenwood MP
Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP
Lord Davies of Oldham
Lord Hendy
Luke Pollard MP
Marion Fellows MP
Martin Docherty-Hughes MP
Martyn Day MP
Mary Glendon MP
Mary Kelly Foy MP
Mick Whitley MP
Mohammad Yasin MP
Munira Wilson MP
Navendu Mishra MP
Olivia Blake MP
Patrick Grady MP
Paula Barker MP
Peter Dowd MP
Rachael Maskell MP
Rachel Hopkins MP
Richard Burgon MP
Rosena Allin-Khan MP
Rupa Huq MP
Ruth Cadbury MP
Ruth Jones MP
Sarah Champion MP
Sharon Hodgson MP
Siobhain McDonagh MP
Tahir Ali MP
Tan Dhesi MP
Tim Farron MP
Tonia Antoniazzi MP
Tony Lloyd MP
Tulip Siddiq MP
Vicky Foxcroft MP
Virendra Sharma MP
Wera Hobhouse MP
Zarah Sultana MP

Women and Equalities Question

I asked the Women and Equalities Minister to confirm whether a conversion therapy ban will cover non-physical conversion practices in religious settings. I received a disappointing answer from Liz Truss MP and have written to her for further clarification, you can read the letter I've sent in full below.



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

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Minister for Women and Equalities
King Charles Street, Westminster, London, SW1A 2AH
(Sent via email only)

25th November 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Conversion therapy

I am writing to follow up on the question I asked you on Wednesday during the Women and Equalities oral question session regarding potential loopholes in the plans to ban conversion therapy in England and Wales. I welcome that the Government support the ban on conversion therapy, but the consent loophole will leave many LGBTQIA+ people at risk of harm.

The National LGBT Survey found that 51% of conversion therapy happens in religious settings, and the Government's commissioned research found that adult victims often undertake religious conversion practices voluntarily. If informed consent for conversion therapy is permitted, this abuse will continue, and it risks introducing consent defences to other forms of abuse like domestic violence. That is why I asked you to confirm if a conversion therapy ban will cover non-physical conversion practices in religious settings, including prayer, and whether the dangerous consent loophole would be removed.

I agree that we must ensure that people are not coerced into conversion therapy. You also said "it's also important that we protect freedom of speech, the ability for adults to consent and the freedoms to express the teachings".

I would appreciate it if you could explain to me why you referred to freedom of speech in your answer, and whether it is the case that religious settings can say whatever they want under that banner when conversation therapy could be banned in other settings?

I hope you will agree that ending conversion therapy is not about freedom of speech; it's about ending abuse.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Osborne MP
Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency

It is vital that a ban on the abhorrent practice of conversion therapy leaves no loopholes that would allow the practice to continue. If you would like to read more about this issue and why it is dangerous, you can read about it via the [BBC](#) or via [Pink News](#). To see my question and the response in full you can click [here](#).

Votes on Covid-19 Restrictions

Unfortunately, as I was in close contact with someone who tested positive for Covid, I was self-isolating while awaiting the results of a PCR test and therefore I was unable to participate in the votes on Covid restrictions. My vote was paired, and the Whips were aware of the circumstances. You can read my statement in full [here](#) in which I outline my stance on these matters.

My Column's for the Shields Gazette

The Government's integrated rail plan fails to deliver on the levelling up agenda and the much-needed commitment for transformational projects for the North. I discussed these issues in one of my column's this month, which you can read in full [here](#).

I wrote my other column on the social care cost change, which will hit the least-well-off the hardest. This change is unfair and will cost those less well-off and northern people more in care home fees. You can read the column in full [here](#).

Two Years since my election

I am proud that 2 years ago I was elected as MP for the Jarrow constituency. It has been a difficult two years, but I feel positive and optimistic for the year ahead. It is an honour to represent the great people of our community and I will continue to do so to the best of my ability.

I send out these newsletters with updates of the work I do, but what I don't share often is the work myself and my team do behind the scenes in the office helping constituents daily, with any issues or concerns that they have.

Just this year alone, my team has helped constituents with thousands of cases and answered thousands of enquiries about policy issues and campaigns.

Some of issues that we have helped constituents with are:

- Residents being rehoused or having their banding changed due to a change of circumstances
- Being awarded a back payment of benefits

- Being awarded compensation by DWP/HMRC for errors/delays made on claims.
- Liaising with the Home Office re. immigration cases
- Help with issues about health services

If you or a family member need help with anything at all, please do get in touch with my office by emailing kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk and myself and my team will be happy to help.

Advice Surgeries:

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

Finally, I would like to wish you and yours, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to continuing my work both in Parliament and around the constituency to hopefully make 2022 a better year.

As always if you need any assistance from me or my team please contact me at 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.

Facebook: @kateosbornejarrow

Twitter: @kateosbornemp

Website: www.kate-osborne.co.uk

Warmest wishes,

Kate Osborne MP

Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency