



Kate Osborne MP
Monthly Newsletter
September 2022

Dear Constituent,

This past month we have seen a period of great change. We have marked the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and Liz Truss was elected as the new leader of the Tory Party and Prime Minister. Truss's agenda is openly hostile to working people and those most in need. Not since George Osborne introduced his budget of austerity in 2015 have the Tories so clearly shown how they know the price of everything but the value of nothing. That much is evident in today's unashamed budget for the rich.

Budget:

Today's budget does nothing for our communities. Tax cuts for the wealthiest, removal of the bankers bonus cap, handouts to big business and energy giants - whilst attacking part time workers, attacking trade unions, reducing benefits for the most vulnerable and reducing stamp duty - which always leads to higher house prices and does nothing to address the housing crisis.

The Tories expect people to be grateful that energy bills are not now quadrupling when they have already doubled. Families in my constituency of Jarrow are struggling and crying out for help - instead we have the same old Tories paying for tax cuts for the wealthy few by creating debt for the many.

The Tories cannot be trusted with our economy, they cannot be trusted with our NHS, they cannot be trusted to look after our communities and the Tories certainly cannot be trusted with our money.

Passing of Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II was our longest-serving monarch, stretching more than 70 years and she quite rightly will always have a place in our proud history.

I was honoured to represent my constituents at the presentation of addresses to King Charles III from both Houses of Parliament in Westminster, marking the start of his reign as King. I also signed the Book of Condolences in Jarrow Town Hall to pay my respects.



Parliament Return After Recess

As Parliament returned after the summer recess, I have pledged to continue to take this shameful Government to task over their callous disregard for our communities and failure to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. You can read more about this in my article for the Shields Gazette [here](#).



KATE OSBORNE: We would freeze bills and not people, saving households £1k this winter by freezing the energy cap

NHS

With 3 Health Secretaries in 6 months & the Government have abandoned their workforce long-term plan for our NHS because the Treasury said there was not enough money. Yet there is plenty of money in the budget for tax cuts for the richest. Our NHS will not be fit for the future unless we invest directly and value our NHS staff.

Our NHS is being failed. We are facing a grotesque situation where care homes and hospitals are saying they are unable to pay their energy bills. It is vital we stop energy companies taking excess profits and drive private companies out of our NHS. You can read more about this in an article by the Morning Star [here](#).

NHS staff are also being forced to take yet another real terms pay cut by this Government. I stand firmly with our NHS heroes in their demands for a pay rise.



RUNAWAY ENERGY COSTS TO PLUNGE NHS INTO CRISIS

by Roger McKenzie

CAMPAGNERS warned yesterday of a crisis in patient care as hospitals are forced to find more cash to meet the record fuel price surge.
An article published yesterday in the British Medical Journal revealed some hospitals may be forced to pay more than 200 per cent extra for fuel costs.
Campaigners fear that patient care could be compromised without action from the government to protect the health service from the record increases in energy costs.
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust said it was expecting to pay an extra £2 million a month for electricity and gas in January and February 2023 compared with the same months this year. Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust said it has budgeted for a 24 per cent increase in electricity and gas costs for 2023.
Meanwhile, Great Ormond Street Hospital in London said it was expecting costs to almost double.
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust is expecting a 200 per cent increase in energy bills for 2023 to be a whopping 120 per cent higher than in 2022.
Health unions said they were worried that the extra fuel costs could impact on already strained budgets.
NHS general secretary and chief executive Pat Gannon said: "If the new price list approved by the NHS to pick between staff and heating bills this year, they will face a severe pay



UNDER PRESSURE: London's Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children left, among those expected to find the pressure this winter. Above: Sara Gorton of Unison, called governments to intervene to protect the NHS.

backlash. Health and care services need the funding for sufficient levels of fully paid staff, without threat of other cuts."
NHS head of health Sara Gorton told the Star: "Increased costs will have a direct impact on already stretched budgets for vital NHS services. Ministers must find ways to protect trusts from the price shock."
The surge in fuel costs alone means staff are now paying out of their own pockets to care for patients in the community. The NHS risks being workers who can't afford to subsidise home visits, and employers who help out with petrol costs have to spend on other areas."
Labour's shadow health secretary Wes Streeting said: "The NHS is in the biggest crisis in its history, and it's set to get worse this winter."
Labour's Kate Osborne told the Star: "The NHS is being failed."
She added: "We now have the grotesque situation of care homes and hospitals saying they can no longer pay their energy bills and begging from government that cancer, maternity and mental health medical needs will no longer be classed as a priority."
Trust leaders are also worried about the impact of rising fuel bills.
Sallymore Gundry, interim chief executive of NHS Practices, said: "The government's failure to fully fund the NHS pay award has meant that vital resources are now being diverted from planned developments for front-line care at a time of unprecedented operational pressure."
She are already seeing the knock-on effects of this for patient care with planned cuts to community diagnostics and digital innovations, but this could just be the tip of the iceberg."
Bery Doughton, senior adviser at the NHS Confederation, said: "This isn't an abstract problem as the gap in funding from rising inflation will either have to be made up by fewer staff being employed, longer waiting times for care, or other areas of patient care being cut back."
A government spokesperson said: "The NHS Confederation has provided local NHS organisations with an additional £1.5 billion in 2022 to cope with inflation and other cost pressures, including rising energy prices."
Sara Gorton of Unison, called governments to intervene to protect the NHS.

Violence against women and girls

Three in four recorded domestic abuse cases are closed due to evidential difficulties or because the victim feels unable to continue. During questions to the Home Office this month I asked the Minister to commit to bringing forward plans to support victims taking action and introducing a domestic abuse perpetrator register. You can watch the full clip of my question [here](#).

Tory Sewage Crisis

Following on from my work in this area, I spoke in the Chamber this month on the issue of sewage. Water companies in England and Wales are polluting for profit, making £2billion per year since privatisation. With 1248 sewage dumps across 48 sites in the Jarrow constituency. I asked the Secretary of State if he was content with this environmentally criminal behaviour. You can see this question in full [here](#).

Truss's Energy Announcement

Liz Truss first move as Prime Minister fails to address the energy crisis long term or in the short term.

These plans do not help the thousands of people who already can't pay their bills, people who are paying twice as much for their energy bills this year than they were last year – instead they are giving yet more money to companies who have already earned excess profits of £170 billion.

The Government are seemingly content to allow private companies to take obscene profits at the expense of working people – once again leaving the public to pick up the bill. It should not be working people paying the price for Tory chaos. Polling today shows that 73% of the public believe a freeze on energy bills should be paid for by taxing oil and gas companies.

We need a freeze on energy bills – paid for by energy companies – paid for by a windfall tax but most importantly – we need to bring our essential services back into public ownership to put a stop to private companies profiting at our expense

Liz Truss's record does not inspire confidence, nor do the announcements she has made in the short time she has been Prime Minister. Already she has brazenly stated she does not care if she isn't popular and openly acknowledged that her policies will directly benefit the wealthy few more than the working people in this country.

The recent announcement on energy bills being capped for businesses is too little too late.

Businesses are already going under, unable to cope with increased costs they are facing. Businesses have been waiting for months for assistance – instead they get

a sticking plaster - temporarily pausing further increases for just the next six months leaves businesses, schools, and charities facing an uncertain future.

The Tories are once again bringing forward policies that only help the minority of already very wealthy people in this country – like their cronies in big oil companies who continue to make billions in profit. Plans to lift the cap on bankers' bonuses, reducing tax for the wealthy and ruling out a windfall tax on the excess profits of energy companies to finance support for those struggling do little for businesses and the people in the Jarrow constituency.

Truss and her Government are content to leave working people and small and medium sized businesses to foot the bill for this Tory cost-of-living crisis.

Women and Equalities

During her Cabinet appointments, Truss appointed a Minister for Equalities – dropping women from the brief. As I sit on the Women and Equalities Select Committee, I feel very strongly that women must remain at the forefront of the equality's portfolio. During a Women and Equalities Committee meeting which I chaired, I gave a statement on the appointment of a new Equalities Minister which you can watch in full [here](#).

Whilst it's welcome news that Truss has U turned following pressure and appointed a Minister for Women, we should be very clear that this is still a downgrading of the previous role. The Minister for Women is a junior role in the directorate and means there is no longer a voice in cabinet on women's equalities. Women are always an afterthought for the Tories. Read more [here](#).

Hebburn Helps Surgery

I held an advice surgery this month at Hebburn Helps and was grateful to be joined by Northumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness. I will be holding another advice surgery at Hebburn Helps on 6th October. If you have an issue which you'd like to speak to myself and my team about, please do pop along or email kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk to organise an appointment.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
KATE OSBORNE
THE JARROW CONSTITUENCY

Kate Osborne MP & team
Drop-in-surgery
@ Hebburn Helps
Thursday 6th October 12pm-1:30pm

Please email kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk if you plan to attend.
Report to the reception area of Hebburn Helps (St John's Precinct, Hebburn, NE31 1LQ).
Appointments will last no longer than 15 mins & are only open to residents of the Jarrow constituency. Appointment may be with a caseworker.

KATE OSBORNE MP PROUDLY REPRESENTING...
Jarrow / Hebburn / Boldon / Cleadon / Delaw / Heworth / Bill Quay / Leam Lane / Wardley

Kate Osborne MP



The Coffee Station

I dropped into The Coffee Station in East Boldon recently to pick up my morning coffee before a busy day in my constituency office. I highly recommend popping in if you get the chance!



#StandWithSam

It was great to join Sam Tarry MP for a canvassing session as part of his campaign for reselection as Labour's candidate for Ilford South.

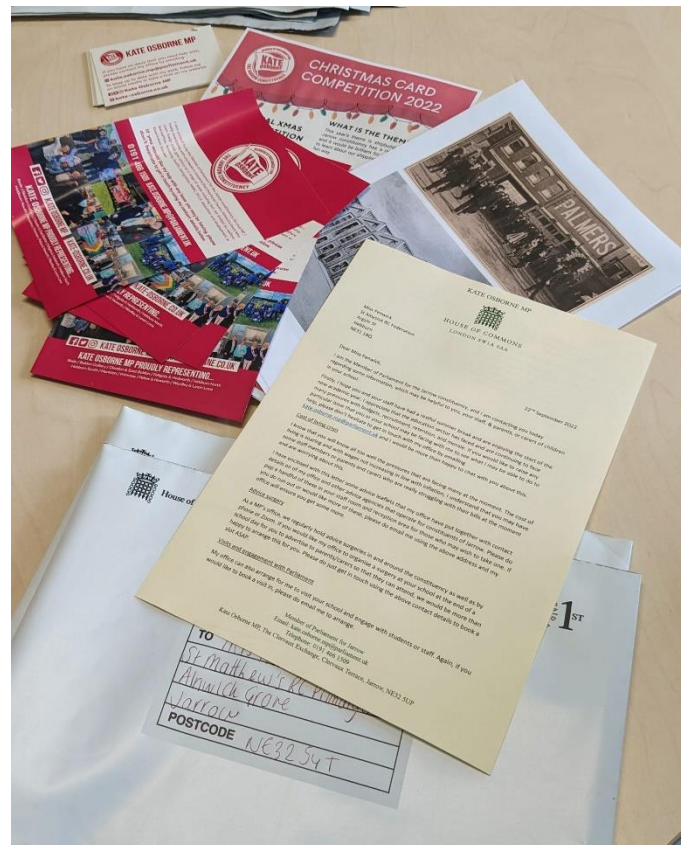


Letter pack for Primary Schools

This month my office has prepared a letter pack which was sent to all primary schools across the Jarrow constituency. Education has always been a huge priority for me, our schools are feeling the weight of the cost-of-living crisis and I want to ensure that our schools, their staff, parents, carers, and children know that I am here to support them in any way that I can.

In the packs, I have included information on services myself and my office can provide in order to give as much support as possible through the difficult times ahead.

On a much lighter note, also included in these letter packs was information about my third annual Christmas card competition in which children are asked to design a Christmas card, the winning design will then be used on my Christmas cards!



Abuse: My statement on sentencing (dated from 16th September)

Last month, I attended South Tyneside Magistrates Court to give evidence as a victim of harassment from a local constituent and welcomed the findings of the court.

The defendant was found guilty of harassment without violence, with the judge remarking on the homophobic content.

This morning, the defendant was sentenced to 18 months Community Order, £80 compensation and an 18 month restraining order to not contact me and my office directly or indirectly as well as not refer to me either directly or indirectly on social media.

I will be donating the compensation that will be to a charity within the Jarrow constituency who among other services offer support to LGBTQ+ people in the community.

Homophobic abuse has no place in our community or society as a whole. It is important that where we can, we stand up to this and report abuse and hate crimes to the relevant authorities. I will continue to use my platform as a MP to campaign for a better, more tolerant society, not just in the Jarrow constituency, but nationally too.

I would like to thank again my family and my team for the support they have given me throughout this stressful time as well as the police and the CPS for their help in pursuing this case.



Advice Surgeries:

As I have outlined already, I will be hosting an advice surgery at Hebburn Helps on 6th October from 12pm-1.30pm for any constituents who need assistance. I will also be advertising other upcoming surgeries across my social media channels so keep an eye out for other appointments. @KateOsborneMP

As always, if you need assistance, please contact by office on kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk or 0191 466 1509

Yours sincerely,

Kate Osborne MP