



VALERIE RAISES WOMEN IN SCIENCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER



At Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, Valerie asked the Prime Minister to reinstate funding for the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (UKRC).

Valerie said: "The UKRC does vital work to tackle the serious under-representation of women in science, engineering and technology. I am dismayed that by 2012 the UKRC will have had 100% of its Government funding withdrawn. Overall, women account for just 12.3% of people in science, engineering and technology occupations. The UKRC works directly with women and with organisations to support women in these professions."

"The Prime Minister has since written to me. He said support has been provided to other organisations to promote diversity in science. I will continue to take this forward. Women in the science, engineering and technology sectors need the UKRC's unique expertise."

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VISIT TO ALUCAST



Valerie with Managing Director, Mr Tony Sartorius.

Alucast Limited has recently been awarded a contract to produce components for the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay. Valerie visited the company's foundry in Wednesbury.

Valerie said: "It is small companies such as Alucast which will drive economic recovery and they should be congratulated for their vision and innovation."

VALERIE APPEARS ON THE SUNDAY POLITICS

On the first edition of The Sunday Politics West Midlands on BBC One, Valerie appeared as a guest to discuss metal theft and High Speed 2.

Valerie said: "I was pleased to be able to discuss these important matters. High Speed 2 has the potential to bring new business to Walsall, if it is implemented properly."

"Metal theft is proving to be a big problem, costing the UK up to £770 million per year, and it is vital that the Police and local authorities work to combat it."

HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The House of Commons Health Select Committee, of which Valerie is a member, has published its latest report into Public Expenditure.

Valerie said: "This report comes at a time when the Government is pushing ahead with a drastic reorganisation of the National Health Service. The Bill has not yet completed its passage through Parliament, yet we are already seeing great changes on the ground."

"We found that the need to save money to reinvest in the Health Service is more important than management change. The Health and Social Care Bill is a distraction at a time when efforts need to be focused on how to cope with existing challenges. The Government's reorganisation will be disastrous for the NHS. I hope that this report persuades the Government to think again. External experts estimate the cost of the changes at between £3-4 billion."

VALERIE QUESTIONS HEALTH SECRETARY ON CANCER DRUGS FUND

At Health Questions in the House of Commons Valerie asked the Secretary of State for Health, the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP, whether patients currently receiving treatment through the cancer drugs fund would continue to receive these drugs under the new scheme.

The Secretary of State for Health said that all patients receiving drugs under the current scheme will continue to do so.

VALERIE HOLDS DROP IN SURGERY

The first in a series of supermarket drop-in surgeries has been held by Valerie at Darlaston Asda.

Valerie said: "This was a new way for me to meet with constituents. It was well attended and worked very well. I hope to hold further such drop-in surgeries elsewhere in Walsall South in the near future."



Valerie with constituent, Minnie Cooper.

Surgeries

Valerie holds regular surgeries. To arrange an appointment, please call the Constituency Office on 01922 635835