



A new Prime Minister

Following the resignation of Rt Hon David Cameron MP as Prime Minister, Rt Hon Theresa May MP was appointed as the new Prime Minister on 13 July 2016. Theresa May is Britain's second female Prime Minister.

Valerie visits Kashmir Meat & Poultry inPleck



On Saturday 16 July 2016, I met with Jamal Hussain, owner of Kashmir Meat & Poultry, to offer my support. The shop was badly damaged in a firebomb attack on Monday 27 June 2016 and Mr Hussain was forced to close. I raised this in the House of Commons at the Hate Crime Statement on Wednesday 29 June 2016: "On Monday, an incendiary device was thrown into a halal butchers shop in Wednesbury Road, Pleck, in my constituency—there is a photograph in The Guardian today of the inside of the shop. Will the Minister confirm how much extra funding will be available for local police forces so that they can investigate and tackle such crimes?". I will follow this up with the new Minister and the Minister at DCLG.

Speaker's School Council Awards

I was delighted to host the Speaker's School Council Awards on Wednesday 6 July 2016. Each school recognised by the Speaker's School Council Awards are making a positive impact on society. There were four categories and four award winners. Award winning projects included a Fairtrade tuck-shop in which profits supported the education of two children in Sierra Leone and the setting up of a 'rainbow room', a facility that provides support for bereaved children and their families.



Valerie calls for an urgent statement on Care.Data

The Government announced the ending of the care.data scheme on Wednesday 6 July 2016. I raised this at Business Questions to the Leader of the House on Thursday 7 July 2016: "May we have an urgent statement on care data? The Government announced today that they were scrapping the scheme. We need to know how much it cost the public purse, and whether all our constituents' information will be shredded." I also asked a written question to the Secretary of State for Health: "what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the cancellation of the care.data scheme; and what plans he has for the deletion of all constituent information under that scheme." The Minister responded and said that the expenditure is not known and the evidence and groundwork from the care.data programme will be incorporated into the paperless 2020 programme. I am not assured that there is consent and the patients' data remain confidential.



British Farming at National Farmers Union event



The UK's decision to leave the European Union has tremendous implications for British agriculture. There are 11 farms in Walsall South which will be effected. Famers in Walsall need assurances that the Government will provide them with the support needed to increase their competitiveness, profitability and productivity. On Tuesday 5 July 2016, I attended a reception in Westminster on British agriculture after the EU referendum result and signed the NFU's post-referendum pledge to Back British Farming. As a member of the EFRA Select Committee, I will help work to build a domestic agricultural policy which is adapted to our needs, easy to understand and simple to administer.

Valerie meets UK's top fastest-growing Indian companies



It was a pleasure to attend a high-profile CEOs delegation led by Dr Naushad Forbes, President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Co-chairman, Forbes Marshall, on Wednesday 6 July 2016. Indian companies invest more in the UK than in the rest of the EU combined, and India is the third largest investor in the UK economy. 10% of the fastest-growing Indian companies are situated in the Midlands, like Jaguar Land Rover which is ranked 49 in the UK's top fastest-growing Indian companies. The CII aims to reinforce the vibrant

and dynamic India-UK economic engagement.

Srebrenica Memorial Day



Monday 11 July 2016 was the 21st anniversary of the genocide of Srebrenica in 1995, when over 8,000 men and boys were murdered because of their faith. I signed the Srebrenica Memorial Book of pledges to remember those who were killed, and the survivors who were left to grieve their loss, and rebuild their lives with courage and dignity.

Meeting with delegates of the Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan

I was delighted to speak to the members of the Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan on Tuesday 12 July 2016 about the Governance of the House Committee, of which I was a member in 2014. The Committee looked at all aspects of the House, and was tasked with trying to find a governance arrangement to reflect the modern House of Commons.



Valerie chairs Westminster Hall debate on North Middlesex Hospital Trust



On Tuesday 12 July 2016, I chaired the Westminster Hall debate on North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust. The debate was secured by Joan Ryan MP, following a Care Quality Commission report which found that the hospital's emergency services are 'inadequate', medical care 'requires improvement' and patient safety at the hospital has been 'compromised'.

Whitehall Nursery and Infant School

On Friday 15th July I cut the ribbon at Whitehall Nursery and Infant School new playground. The new playground is an excellent addition and provides a safe area for the children to play. I was delighted to be there with staff, parents and the children who were entertained by the School Choir. The children can learn while playing in all weathers. Whitehall Nursery and Infant School was rated outstanding by Ofsted in January 2015.



All Party Parliamentary Group's

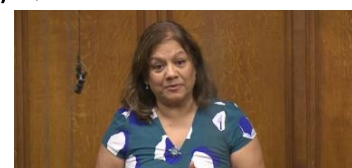
I was reappointed as chair of the APPG on Epilepsy at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 7 July 2016 and am pleased that new officers joined the APPG.



On Tuesday 12 July 2016, I attended the Indo-British All-Party Parliamentary Group AGM and was pleased to be one of the vice-chairs of the APPG. The APPG is chaired by Virendra Sharma MP. The APPG on Kashmir, which I am a member of, had its AGM on Wednesday 20 July 2016.

Valerie raises accountability of public funds at Treasury Questions

I intervened at Treasury Questions on Tuesday 19 July 2016: "The Minister has reeled off a list of moneys going to infrastructure projects in the West Midlands. Will he publish a list of all those moneys that he is delivering? Who is going to be accountable for this public money—the local enterprise partnerships, the combined authorities, the local authorities, or HS2 Ltd?" The Minister said that he would send a list to me.



Valerie raises the issue of Kashmir at FCO questions



With recent instances of violence and tension between the two countries, India and Pakistan, most recently, on Monday 11 July 2016 in which 30 protesters were killed and 200 more injured in clashes with security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir, I asked the Minister at FCO questions on Tuesday 12 July 2016 the following question: "On the diplomatic front, what discussions has the Minister had with the Indian Government about the recent events in Kashmir?" I have signed a letter, with members of the APPG on Kashmir, to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for an update on the situation in Kashmir and what steps the FCO is taking.

Westminster Hall Debate on Student Loans

On 27 June 2016, I secured an Adjournment debate on student loans repayments. The Westminster Hall Debate on the e-petition was debated on Monday 18 July 2016. I have been appointed to Higher Education and Research Bill Committee, an opportunity to tackle retrospective changes to student loans terms and ensure that students' interests and rights are protected and promoted in any higher education reform.



EFRA Select Committee: Future Flood Prevention



The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee of which I am a member, held an oral evidence session on Future Flood Prevention on Wednesday 20 July 2016. I asked the Minister whether the "£2.3 billion has definitely been allocated and definitely been committed in the budget" and whether there was "any committed EU funding for any of this?"

Vote on the Trident Nuclear Deterrent

On 18 July 2016, the House of Commons debated the Government's motion to upgrade Britain's nuclear weapons system by replacing the current Vanguard class submarines with four Successor submarines. We live in an uncertain climate in which defensive stability is vital. The decision to renew our nuclear deterrent will demonstrate to United Nations and NATO members that the UK remains committed to effective defence. Above all, people wish to feel secure and protected in the face of global instability, and maintaining the UK's Nuclear Deterrent is fundamental in achieving this. I voted in favour for the motion and the policy of HM Opposition. The results were: Ayes: 472 Noes: 117. There needs to be a multi-lateral disarmament.

Summer Adjournment Debate



I spoke in the Summer Adjournment Debate on Thursday 21 July 2016 and raised the concerns of my constituents in relation to Walstead Road, Great Barr, the Broadway campus of the University of Wolverhampton. The Council have installed road humps on Walstead Road despite residents' objections. Residents have had problems when exiting their driveways, personal injuries and their cars have been damaged. I organised a meeting on Friday 22 July 2016 between residents of Walstead Road and Delves Crescent. It was clear that residents want better alternatives to the humps. The Great Barr Planning Application is for the construction of 59 houses on green belt land and the redevelopment of Great Barr Hall as a hotel, wedding and conference venue. This goes against both local and national policy and should either be refused or withdrawn. The Broadway Planning Application which proposes an exit from the University of Wolverhampton on to Broadway is a waste of University funds and an unnecessary nuisance to local residents. I will be writing to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton and the Council. The residents are in the process of making a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Keep Britain Tidy

Recently, I was at Caldmore Green, Walsall, and saw large amounts of litter on the street. At the Summer Adjournment Debate I called on the Government to take action on litter and restart a national anti-litter public information campaign. I was pleased to have been contacted by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy who suggested partnering with Walsall MBC to tackle litter. The scheme's 'charity bins' incentivise people to do the right thing, as with more litter disposed in the bins, more money is donated to local charities. I have contacted the Council about Keep Britain Tidy's 'Bin It For Good' campaign.