

## View from the House

On 8 May 2013 Parliament assembled for the start of the third Session. The first session was the marathon 2010-2012 Session and the second from May 2012-2013.

The Health Select Committee, of which I am a member, concluded our evidence sessions on the response to the Francis Report into the failings at Mid Staffordshire. The Secretary of State for Health appeared before us. It also gave me the opportunity to ask about the children's heart surgery at Leeds. I asked the Secretary of State to provide a timeline of events and information. In this way everyone will be aware of what evidence was used and who knew what and when before the surgery was suspended.

The Secretary of State was proposing a new initiative of Chief Inspectors. But neither the Francis Report nor the Select Committee had suggested this. I asked him about how this would work and where the finance for the posts would come from. It seems the CQC would have to find this out of their budget. But he did not know how much this would be nor whether they would need extra money. My concerns are that the NHS has had enough new initiatives and this one has not been properly costed or thought through. The Secretary of State should at least have had figures for the Committee.

The saga of the Gala Baths continues. I understand that users of the Baths had a petition at the reception desk but this was ordered to be removed. The Council should be actively seeking out the views of the people who use the Baths. Banning a petition so that users of the Baths have to smuggle it into the changing rooms in their swimming costumes is undemocratic and quite bizarre.

What is the Council doing? Why the uncertainty and secrecy around the process? It is the only brine pool in the West Midlands, used by many of you, and easily accessible where it is. Moving to another area is not the answer.

And as a new Parliamentary Session starts, the football season comes to an end. This was an important year for the Saddlers. 125 years old is a fantastic record. I attended the end of season Awards and 125th Anniversary Celebration. Finishing 6 points from the playoffs and with many young players coming through, Saddlers fans are certainly looking forward to the new season.

**Valerie Vaz MP**

**5 May 2013**

