

# eNews

from Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP

May 2023

Bentley & Darlaston North - Darlaston South - Pleck - Palfrey - Paddock - St. Matthew's - Pheasey Park Farm



## eNews May 2023

This month there were celebrations on the Coronation, a break for the Whitsun holiday and local elections in May. I hope everyone enjoyed the extra Bank Holidays.

### Victims and Offenders Rights in the Criminal Justice System



I secured a debate in Westminster Hall on Tuesday 9 May 2023 to raise a case I have been dealing with which has left the victim/survivor with fewer rights and in a worse position than the offender. Government policy is to pursue deportation on grounds of criminality, but the Government stated the offender has rights under article 3 of the Human Rights Act. The victim has article 2 rights, the right to life, but the offender gains article 3 rights. The victim is crying out for justice. There is a conflict in my view in Government policy. You can read my full speech:

<https://www.valerievazmp.co.uk/written-parliamentary-questions-to-the-health-secretary/>

### National Security Bill Vote



On 3 May 2023 the House considered the Lords' amendments to the National Security Bill. The Bill will replace existing counter-espionage laws with a comprehensive framework for countering hostile state activity analogous to the counter-terrorism framework established since 2000. The Bill, introduced in the Lords on 17 November 2022 was significantly amended in Committee and at Report stage. Motion to disagree with Lords Amendments 122. I voted against this Motion, which was passed, Ayes: 254, Noes: 136. The Bill moves to the next stage.🌀

## **Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill Vote**



The House voted on an amendment to the Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill at Report Stage on Wednesday 3 May 2023. The Bill establishes a new method for calculating the maximum level of tuition fees that providers could charge students for higher education courses and modules. The new clause would require the Secretary of State to conduct and publish a review on the impact of the Act. I voted in favour of this Motion, which was not passed, Ayes: 89, Noes: 253. 🌀

## **Written Parliamentary Questions to the Health Secretary**



# Department of Health & Social Care

parliamentary-questions-to-the-health-secretary🌀

I tabled four Written Questions about Coronavirus. One of my questions was 'To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many deaths recorded in (a) England and Wales and (b) Walsall were attributed to covid-19 in (i) October 2022, (ii) January 2023 and (iii) the most recent 30-day period for which figures are available.' I also asked about the number of people admitted to hospital due to covid-19 and how many tested positive since January 2023. The responses are here: <https://www.valerievazmp.co.uk/written-parliamentary-questions-to-the-health-secretary>🌀

## **Written Parliamentary Question to the Education Secretary**



# Department for Education

I also tabled Written Question about teachers in Walsall South: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teachers in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in Walsall South constituency do not have qualified teacher status. The responded was that "Most teachers in all schools, including academies, have QTS and have undertaken initial teacher training. In the 2021/22 academic year, the latest data available, 14,771 teachers (headcount) did not have qualified teacher status, equivalent to 2.9% of teachers." 🌀

## **The King visits Westminster Hall**



King Charles III visited Parliament and met with Parliamentarians and staff in Westminster Hall. I spoke to him about issues that concern us. I and my colleagues waited as the King spoke to those attending. The event took place before the Coronation held later in the week. 🌀





## The Wholestar Awards



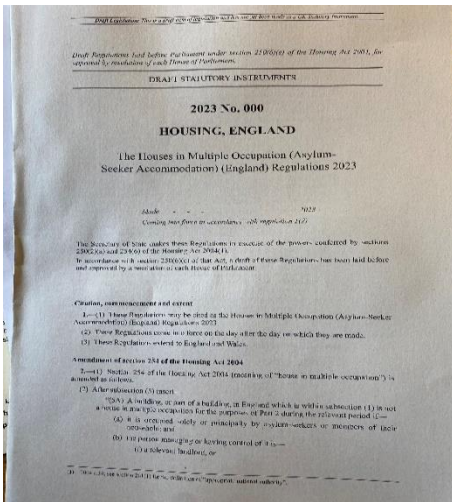
The Skills, Training and Apprenticeship awards, the Wholesale Stars, were held again in Parliament on 18 April 2023. The awards celebrated and rewarded employees who are investing in developing their skills through apprenticeships, training, or academic study, with the support of their employer. I was delighted that a local company AF Blakemore in Darlaston had two winners, Daniel Smith, and Kelly Burrows. 🌀

## Mullivaikkal Tamil Remembrance Day



On the Anniversary Day 18 May 2023, I signed the book of condolences to remember all those who died. I hope peace will come to this beautiful country. It is held each year on 18 May, as this is the date on which the civil war ended in 2009. The day is named after Mullivaikkal a village on the north-east coast of Sri Lanka which was the scene of the last battle of the civil war. 🌀

## Statutory Instrument on HMOs , England 2023



I was a member of the Committee that scrutinised the Statutory Instrument, (SI) The Houses in Multiple Occupation (Asylum Seeker Accommodation) (England) Regulations 2023. This piece of legislation has been rushed through. It removes the requirement for landlords of HMOs to obtain a licence from the local authority. A licence ensures that the licence holder is a fit and proper person, the management standards are satisfactory, and the HMO is suitable for the specified numbers of occupiers. If the Government provided the appropriate support, it would not have been necessary to exempt the HMOs. I asked why the Government are taking away an important safeguard for very vulnerable people. 🌀

## Yemen: Humanitarian Situation and Children's Rights



The situation in Yemen was discussed in Westminster Hall on Tuesday 9 May 2023 secured by Carol Monaghan MP. I was born in Aden, and I was pleased to speak about having lived there and the peace negotiations that are taking place. Yemen will never be completely safe until everyone is around the table and accepts the rule of law—but at the heart of this debate is the fact that there are children suffering and people starving. 🌀

## **APPG for Gardening and Horticulture and Portugal**



I attended AGMs of the Gardening and Horticultural and Portugal, All Party Parliamentary Groups. I am a Vice Chair of both the APPGs. I was also a Vice chair of the Music and Treasurer of the Archaeology APPG. 🌱



## **Human Rights and Business**



I attended an event in the Jubilee Room on 16 May 2023 to find out about the campaign for a new due diligence law to protect human rights and the environment. A new law would:

- Demonstrate UK leadership on business and human rights
- Ensure people and the planet are protected from human rights abuses and environmental destruction.
- Provide a level playing field including for responsible businesses at risk of being undercut by less scrupulous competitors. 🌱

## **NATO Parliamentary Assembly May 2023**



I attended the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Luxembourg on the 19 -22 May. The UK group held bilateral meetings with Ukraine and Belarus delegation. We met the British Ambassador Fleur Thomas. We considered and agreed at the Plenary 2 declarations; accelerating NATO's adaptation at the Vilnius Summit including establishing a Centre for Democratic Resilience and a declaration on Ukraine which called for recognizing the Wagner Group as a criminal and terrorist organisation condemning its action in Ukraine and other parts of the world. We also welcomed Finland as a member and looked forward to Sweden as a member before the Summit. 🌱



## **Opposition Day – Leasehold Reform and School Buildings**



The Opposition debates on Tuesday 23 May 2023 were on Leasehold and School Building. In the 2nd debate I raised the waste of school resources for schools to keep bidding for funds for central heating. Joseph Leckie Academy was allocated funds under Building Schools for the Future but it must keep rebidding. I asked if the Minister was confident that the assessments are correct as David Smith, Head of Blue Coat Academy has said that there are material errors in some of the assessment's reviews, which is why the school has been turned down. Leasehold debate: I voted Aye: Ayes:174 Noes: 0. School Buildings: I voted Aye. Ayes: 174: Noes: 296

## **Retained EU Law Amendment**



On 24 May 2023, the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill returned to the Commons: I voted in favour of the Lords Amendments and voted No against the Government's motions to disagree with the Lords. Motion to disagree with Lords Amendment Lords Amendment 6 - Ayes: 296 Noes 215 Amendment (a) to Lords Amendment 1 - Ayes: 298 Noes: 216 Motion to disagree with Lords Amendment 15 – Ayes: 294 Noes: 217. Motion to disagree with Lords Amendment 42 - Ayes: 294 Noes: 217 🌀

## **Patients Choice Statement**



The Secretary of State attended the Commons to make a statement on Patient Choice. At the start I paid tribute to a former colleague: "Karen Lumley was indeed a wonderful woman. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this difficult time. I asked the Minister: "the statement is admirable, but how will patients have a choice if the Secretary of State does not address the workforce issue? When will he do that? When will he speak to the junior doctors?" 🌀

## **Save our Pubs**



Many constituents have written to me about "Saving our Pubs." Please see my website for a full response on my position. You can find it here: <https://www.valerievazmp.co.uk/save-our-pubs/>

