

eNEWS

from Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP

April 2026

Birchills Leamore - Blakenall - Bloxwich East - Bloxwich West
Paddock (Part of Ward) - Palfrey - Pleck - St. Matthew's



Parliament Prorogued King's Speech 13 May 2026

Vaisakhi Celebrations at 10 Downing Street



I was delighted to attend the Vaisakhi celebrations on 13 April at 10 Downing Street with members of the Sikh community. My guest was Jag Mavi BEM, on the board of the Gurdwara in Caldmore and is Deputy Governor of the Women's Estate. Vaisakhi marks the founding of the Khalsa in 1699, espousing values of community and sacrifice. The Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer MP spoke about the values of the Sikh community and our values that we look out for our neighbours.🌀

Valerie Chairs Energy Prices Delegated Legislation Committee



I chaired the second Delegated Legislation Committee on Tuesday 14 April: The Draft Energy Prices Act 2022 (Extension of Time Limit) Regulations 2026. This extends the power granted to the Secretary of State by the Energy Prices Act 2022 to give support for meeting energy costs. The Government will use this power to extend its 'Renewable Obligation to Exchequer' policy. The legislation was passed and the regulations will come into effect on 24 April 2026.🌀

Crime and Policing Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments



Lords Amendments to the Bill returned to the Commons on 14 April. Amendments 261 and 262 give effect to the Government's commitment to criminalise the possession and publication of pornographic images that depict strangulation and suffocation, a key part of the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. 9 Lords amendments were rejected. On 20 April there were further votes, and the Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026.🌀

Hillsborough Disaster: 37th Anniversary



A memorial was held on 15 April 2026 in St Mary Undercroft, the Chapel in the Palace of Westminster to remember the 97 children women and men who died on 15 April 1989 at Hillsborough. The names of the dead were read out by their MPs. There was a minute silence and the Speakers Chaplin said prayers to remember their lives. We then sang the Liverpool FC anthem "You'll never walk alone."🌀

Pension Schemes Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments



On 15 April the Bill returned to the Commons. As the Pensions Minister noted, this is a complex piece of legislation with one simple goal: higher returns for pension savers. The Bill will build a resilient, efficient and fair pension system to deliver both for savers and the economy as a whole. 8 Lords amendments were rejected, and after further consideration from the Lords, the Bill returned to the Commons on 22 April. The Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026.🌀

EFL Community Awards 2026



The Awards were held in Parliament on 15 April to celebrate the charitable work carried out across the EFL. I visited the Walsall FC Foundation in February and saw the work they do in the community across Sport & Participation, Health & Wellbeing, Engagement & Inclusion and Education & Enrichment. The club has made a huge impact in the past year, supporting residents back into employment and raising over £3000 for foodbanks.🌀

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments



The Bill returned for further consideration in the Commons. The Government agreed to some important amendments from the Lords, including on the right of children in care to maintain contact with their siblings, school allergy safety policies, social media bans for children and mobile phones in schools. The Commons rejected four Lords Amendments through votes, and was sent back to the Lords. The Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026.🌀

Valerie meets Prestur, the Icelandic Horse



I was delighted to meet Prestur, the Icelandic horse on 21 April at Speaker's Court. Partly due to the isolated nature of Iceland, the horse breed is one of the world's purest. These horses are renowned for their intelligence, gentleness and intuition, and have been used to support neurodivergent children and adults, building confidence, emotional connection, and inclusive participation in equestrian sport and beyond. Prestur was 2017 Icelandic Horse World Champion.🌀

Valerie Chairs Registered Land Delegated Legislation Committee



I chaired the Committee on 22 April: the Draft Provision of Information (Contractual Control) (Registered Land) Regulations 2026. It will require transparency about certain contractual arrangements that give parties control over dealings with registered land. It will increase visibility of land control arrangements and exclude short-term, security related, planning, and other specified exempt rights. The legislation was passed and will come into effect on 6 April 2027.🌀

Vaisakhi in Walsall 2026



The procession on 26 April was joined by the WMCA Mayor Richard Parker and the PCC Simon Foster. The procession also included the Indian Muslim Association and representatives from the Hindu Temple. I spoke to the Sikh media and said that given the events national and international, I was pleased that the Hindu and Muslim communities came together with the Sikh community to show we would not be divided. This show of unity gives us hope for the future.🌀

Valerie Chairs Vaping Duty Delegated Legislation Committee



I chaired the Committee on 27 April on the draft Vaping Duty Stamps Regulations 2026 to give effect to the vaping products duty regime introduced by the Finance Act 2026; the legislation introduces the concept of vaping product producers and UK representatives of overseas businesses for duty stamps purposes, ensuring that decisions made by UK representatives are subject to rights of review and appeal. The legislation passed and came into force on 1 April 2026.🌀

International Workers' Memorial Day



International Workers Memorial Day is the day we remember all those who died because of work. Around 50,000 people die every year in the UK because of work. Every year across the world more people are killed at work than they are in wars. IN the UK in 2024/5 124 people died at work. There are other work related illnesses or accidents. On Workers Memorial Day which is on 28 April we remember the dead but fight for the living.🌀

Prorogation of Parliament Session 2024 -2026



Prorogation is the parliamentary process whereby the Government signifies the end of the Parliamentary session. The Commons are summoned to the Lords to hear the Government's end of Session report including the Assent of Bills. The first Parliamentary session of the Government ended on Wednesday 29 April 2026. Since the 2024 General Election, 50 Acts of Parliament have been passed, including:

- The Employment Rights Act, the biggest upgrade in workers' rights in a generation.
- The Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Act, established Great British Rail, a publicly owned, accountable body to improve rail services & keep fares low.
- The Great British Energy Act, establishing a publicly owned organisation to bring clean energy and cheaper bills to British consumers and industry.
- The Renters' Rights Act, providing renters with security and dignity in housing by outlawing no-fault evictions amongst other protections for private renters.
- The Removal of Two Child Limit Act, to bring 450,000 children out of poverty, giving security to working families removing the arbitrary two-child benefit cap.
- The Water (Special Measures) Act, reversing the Tory decline in environmental standards and accountability in the water industry, empowering consumers and holding water bosses to account.
- The Crime and Policing Act, tackling violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour and retail crime, whilst rebuilding public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system.
- The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act, making good on our promise to give back control to local communities and provide mayors with unprecedented powers to deliver growth.

