



This month I returned to Parliament and have been busy scrutinising policy on the Finance Bill Committee, the Housing, Communities and Local Government (HCLG) Committee and on the back bench in the House of Commons. I've also been active in the community, meeting with local community groups, responding to hundreds of emails about government policy and meeting with constituents to assist with urgent casework issues.

Over the past month we have faced some difficult issues as a country and we have also seen some great successes. I'm pleased that the Government u-turned on free school meal provision over the summer holiday. This was a much needed campaign by the Labour Party and Marcus Rashford and will benefit at least [3,759 young people in Erith and Thamesmead](#).

I have been vocal in Parliament about the key issues constituents have raised regarding COVID-19. It is essential that operations and routine appointments can begin again within the NHS and that all staff and patients feel safe. In my role on the HCLG Committee I [questioned Ministers](#) about problems within the Test and Trace app. I also raised concerns about access to testing and PPE for NHS and Social Care staff.

I have also been working hard to represent the many constituents who have contacted me with concerns about their jobs at British Airways. [BA's plans to cut 12,000 jobs](#) is irresponsible and I will be working with colleagues, unions and the Government to prevent this. I've also been active in my role within the Shadow Treasury Team to develop a [jobs first approach](#) to economic recovery from COVID-19. Nearly 1 in 4 people of working age in Erith and Thamesmead

As you may know on Friday 19th June there was an explosion on the industrial estate in Erith. Since this incident occurred, I have been in regular contact with the local fire service, local councillors and the local businesses, particularly the one that was most directly affected by the incident. I have made it clear that the local businesses and the three people injured in the event have my support and I hope all are on their way to a swift recovery.



The Black Lives Matter movement has been active in Erith and Thamesmead and the wider UK. Nearly 200 of you have written to me about your concerns on this topic. I have made my support for the Black Lives Matter movement clear and been vocal on issues such as the sad death of [Belly Mujinga](#). This month I attended the opening of a 'Black Lives Matter' crossing in the Borough of Greenwich. Symbols are a welcome sign of support for this movement but we also need actions. That is why I will continue to be [vocal in Parliament](#) all forms of racism and discrimination.



Schools across the constituency have started to re-open for some students. Parents/ Guardians, teachers and unions contacted me with concerns about this and over 300 of you filled out a survey. You can read the results of the survey [here](#). Almost 300 students also took part in a survey with many raising concerns about the effects on their education. I want to support students in Erith and Thamesmead in their education so I've set up a designated area on my website just for students. Find educational resources, mental health support and the schools student survey [here](#).

