



### **COVID-19 UPDATE FOR ERITH AND THAMESMEAD**

The whole of London was placed into Tier 2 restrictions on Thursday 15th October in response to the rising number of positive cases of Coronavirus. I met with Government Ministers and Scientific Advisors who detailed the restrictions in place, full details of which can be [found here](#). I can confirm that Tier 2 restrictions apply to all Erith and Thamesmead constituents.

Whilst further restrictions are concerning for many people, I do believe that we need to take action in response to the rising cases. However, I believe the government's actions do not do enough to protect public health, jobs or the economy. In order to protect the lives and wellbeing of my constituents I am calling for a national circuit breaker. This would curb the spread of COVID cases and mean that businesses can re-open in a fair and manageable timeline. I am also continuing to hold the government to account over the lack of financial support for businesses severely impacted by COVID restrictions.

### **PRIORITISING CLEAN AIR FOR CONSTITUENTS**

I have long opposed the implementation of a second incinerator in Belevedere, my main concern being the harmful impacts of air pollution on constituents' health. Unfortunately, after a long campaign Mayor of London Sadiq Khan decided [not to go ahead](#) with a judicial review of the incinerator due to the high

cost to tax payers paired with legal advice that the review would likely be unsuccessful.

Clean air is an absolute priority for me which is why I am continuing to campaign against the second Belvedere incinerator. Jon Cruddas MP and I [wrote to environmental charities](#) in an effort to fundraise the costs of the judicial review, we are still waiting to hear back from these charities. [Last week I reaffirmed](#) my commitment to opposing the incinerator and will be continuing to work with charities, local groups and constituents to take this campaign to the next level.

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In October I raised a mug in support of all those affected by cancer. If you can please support Macmillan by donating here:  
<https://donation.macmillan.org.uk/wbcm/one-off>



On Tuesday 20th October I made my first appearance at the dispatch box during Treasury Questions. I asked what support is available to struggling businesses who are not legally required to close.

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## **SHADOW EXCHEQUER SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY APPOINTMENT**

On Friday 16th October I was appointed to the role of Shadow Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury. This will give me the opportunity to really support businesses, employees and those struggling financially through COVID-19 in Erith and Thamesmead and the wider UK.

I've been working with the Shadow Treasury Team since April this year to address issues arising from COVID-19 and challenge the Chancellor on his shortfalls in providing economic support. I've seen the impacts on businesses in Erith and Thamesmead who have been left out of the Chancellor's financial

support packages. In my new role I'll be working with businesses to put forward the best solutions to recover our economy and save jobs.

I made my [first debut at the dispatch box](#) on Tuesday 20th October to ask Ministers what support would be made available to help businesses who are struggling financially but are not legally required to close.

### **HISTORIC BLACK HISTORY MONTH DEBATE**

On Tuesday 20th October I also held my last business as a backbench MP, the first debate on Black History Month in five years. It was an honour to be able to bring this debate forward and engage Members from all sides of the House.

In my contribution to the debate [I recognised important Black British people](#) in their contributions to British history. I also called on the government to implement a race equality strategy and action plan that will cover areas such as education, health and employment. I also, alongside many of my colleagues, called for Black history to be taught as a mandatory part of the school curriculum. [You can watch my full speech here.](#)