



New campaign to protect our NHS and Social Care Workers

The NHS COVID vaccination programme continues to make good progress and, at the time of writing, the Government are keeping to their plans for the final stage of relaxing lockdown restrictions on 21 June, despite concerns over the Indian variant of COVID. This month the Government finally announced a full statutory Public Inquiry into the COVID pandemic. However, no work will start on it until Spring 2022, meaning that the final answers on why over 127,000 lives have been lost – so many needlessly - will not appear until well after the latest possible date for the next General Election. By December 2020, some 850 NHS and Social Care staff had died from COVID and I feel strongly that never again should these workers be put in the scandalous position that they faced early in 2020. That's why I raised in Parliament the need for an NHS, Social Care and Emergency Services Workers' Covenant to protect the workforce, similar to the current Armed Forces Covenant and the Police Covenant that is being planned – see [here](#). I will pursue this campaign vigorously.



Freedom from Fear

I am a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee and we have been holding an inquiry into violence and abuse suffered by retail staff, which has sadly increased during the COVID pandemic. This has been highlighted by the excellent 'Freedom from Fear' campaign by shopworkers' union USDAW – see [here](#). Just as Parliament recently increased the penalties for attacks on emergency services workers, I support action to make retail staff, so vital to our communities, safe in their workplaces.



Ban 'Fire and Rehire'

In common with all Labour MPs, I support the 'End Fire and Rehire' campaign being run by Unite, the GMB and others in the Labour Movement against existing legal loopholes that allow some of the worst employers, such as British Gas and Centrica, to unilaterally sack workers who refuse to accept worse pay, terms and conditions and then rehire. With no plans in the Tory Government's Queen's Speech for the Employment Bill that they previously promised, this campaign will continue. I will raise the issue in Parliament whenever the opportunity arises.



A Queen's Speech

On 17 May, I spoke in the Commons in the Queen's Speech debate, which contained 30 Bills for the new session of Parliament. I used the speech to highlight the bogus Tory promises about 'levelling up' and supported setting up a Community Wealth Fund to help communities in the most deprived neighbourhoods, such as Bransholme and Orchard Park in Hull North. See the full speech [here](#).



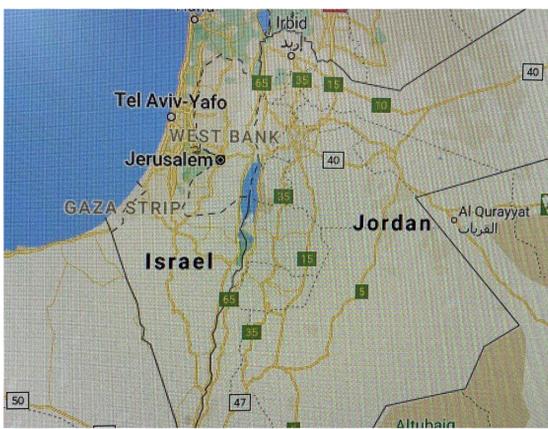
Hull Paragon Station – again!

On 26 May, Hull West and Hessle MP Emma Hardy and I met the Rail Minister and representatives of TransPennine, who run Hull Paragon Station, to discuss the continuing neglect and under-investment in the Station. For three years I have pursued a campaign to remedy the supposedly 'improved' waiting room and toilets and fill the empty shop units. After the Government's recent review of the rail industry we demanded investment for Hull Station, and improved rail services.



Football's cartel of greed

After the recent aborted attempt to set up a European 'Super League' and the protests by football supporters, the Government has now announced a 'fan-led' review. I questioned the Culture Secretary about this in the Commons on 20 May, referring to the specific experience of Hull City fans – see [here](#). It has subsequently emerged that the 'fan-led' review panel of ten members will have only one actual fan representative on it.



Give peace a chance

I have received a wide range of views from constituents about the on-going conflict between Israel and Palestine. I have raised all these concerns with the Foreign Secretary. I am appalled at the killing of innocent civilians in Israel and Palestine and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The use of heavy-handed policing by the Israelis at holy sites and wrangling over historic property rights has inflamed tensions between communities. It is very disturbing to see the rocket attacks into Israel and the role Hamas is playing, funded by Iran, who have called for the destruction of Israel. I am pleased that the US Biden Administration has helped to obtain a ceasefire, but the longer term peace process, and the essential two-state solution, remains a distant goal. I am also very concerned to see a disturbing rise in anti-semitic hate crimes and incitement on some of the public demonstrations in the UK.



dianajohnson.co.uk
[unsubscribe](#)

