

DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Pleasure to speak to the brilliant engineers at Arup Newcastle

LE ROY LE VEULT – THE FIRST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT CLOSES WITH A RAFT OF NEW BILLS

On April 29th Parliament was 'prorogued' signifying the end of the first Parliamentary session under Labour since 2010, and we stayed late in the Chamber voting through new legislation which will really make a difference to people's lives in Newcastle, legislation like the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill which is designed to improve educational standards and child protection, as well as reducing uniform costs, legislation like the Crime and Policing Bill which gives police the powers to tackle the epidemic of serious violence, child sexual abuse and violence against women and girls that stains our society, legislation like the Renters Rights Bill, which ends "No fault" evictions, and brings in fairer rent rules offering stronger protection and greater security for people in their homes.

April was also the month when measures taken earlier this year became law. So, on April 1st the minimum wage rose to £12.71 per hour, on April 6th the two child benefit cap was abolished, lifting half a million children out of poverty, and the basic pension went up by 4.8%.

When Bills pass into law Parliamentary tradition has it that the Clerk in the Lords says le Roy le veult – the King wants it. Well, I think we all do! There is a lot more to do and a lot further to go but Labour is making progress, standing up for working people and improving lives right here in Newcastle.

Constituency Work

This month I was fortunate to visit three schools in Newcastle Central and West - English Martyrs, Hilton and Thomas Bewick schools. I also celebrated our creativity at Alphabetti Theatre, and joined the Prime Minister for a fantastic tour of Newcastle United Foundation NUcastle. I enjoyed the fabulous Blueberry cake at the community coffee morning and the Spring Market at St James and St Basil in Fenham, which really showcase the strength and warmth of local community life in the constituency.

I visited a range of businesses including PureGym Westerhope, Morrisons West Denton, and Caviar Studios. It was an honour to welcome businesses from across the region to the Heathrow Business Summit at St James' Park, placing Newcastle firmly at the heart of national and global conversations about growth and opportunity.

It was particularly moving to speak at the Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, an occasion that honoured remembrance while also reflecting the power of community and hope, and Newcastle's strong connections locally, nationally and internationally.



Pleasure to visit the fabulous Alphabetti theatre to discuss preparations for their relaunch



Great to meet the dedicated team at PureGym Westerhope. I even had the chance to try out some of the equipment myself!

CORRESPONDENCE

I continue to engage with Ministers, Government Agencies, Newcastle City Council, the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Universities, the NHS, and others regarding welfare benefits, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, delays to asylum applications, social housing repairs, housing and homelessness, antisocial behaviour, health appointments, road repairs, bus services, local authority powers for rubbish and fly tipping, SEND funding, Zero Emissions Vehicle mandate, Newcastle United Foundation Partner Schools, MedTech funding, and more.

MEDIA

I was interviewed for and quoted in a wide range of print and broadcast media, including BBC, Politics Home, the Telegraph, Parliament News, Critical Factor in Newcastle, ITV, Radio News Hub and more.

ORGANISATION

The team continue to work hard to serve the constituents of Newcastle Central and West.

Parliamentary Activity

SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT: 7

Middle East (13 April) Homelessness Among Women (13 April) Crime and Policing Bill AI Chatbots (14 April) Neuroscience and Digital Childhood statement (16 April) Point of Order: Lobby Voting Outage (16 April) Government Procurement: Palantir (22 April) Point of Order: PMQs/Badenoch (29 April)

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS: 27

DSIT: Artificial Intelligence and Digital Service Providers EU Law (27 March) DSIT: Digital Service Providers USA (27 March) DWP: Employment Schemes: Lone Parents (27 March) ICT: Expenditure (27 March) DSIT: Science and Tech: Diplomatic Relations (16 April) DESNZ: Wind Power: North Sea (15 April) DESNZ: Electricity: Data Centres (15 April) DWP: Social Security Benefits: AI (20 April) DBT: Business: Finance (20 April) DBT: Venture Capital (20 April) DBT: British Business Bank (20 April) DSIT: Diplomatic Relations (21 April) DSIT: AI Growth Zones: North East (21 April) HO: Police: Finance (21 July) DCMS: Arts: North East (22 April) Treasury: Ox-Cam Arc (24 April) DESNZ: Wind Power (24 April) DESNZ: Electricity: Data Centres (24 April) DESNZ: Energy: Infrastructure (24 April) DWP: Social Security Benefits: Fraud (24 April) HCLG: Combined Authorities: Industry (27 April) DSIT: AI Growth Zones: North East (27 April) DSIT: AI and Tech: North East (27 April) DHSC: GP: Research (28 April) DHSC: Medical Records: Data Protection (28 April) DSIT: AI Growth Zones: Investment (28 April) DHSC: Clinical Trials (28 April)

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

At the end of April, I commented on reports of a data breach at UK Biobank, warning that inadequate controls over sensitive public data suggested limited progress in improving information security. I said the incident raised serious questions about whether lessons had been learned from previous breaches and cautioned that failures of this kind risk undermining public confidence in the government's wider digital transformation agenda.

During the month, the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee held a pre-appointment hearing with Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz and subsequently endorsed his appointment as chair of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

The Committee also launched two inquiries, including a major inquiry into neuroscience and digital childhoods. The inquiry is examining how children's exposure to digital technologies affects brain development, eye and vision development, and physical and mental health. We also launched a short inquiry into the potential of low-energy computing to address the rapidly rising energy demands of artificial intelligence. Such demands included the environmental impacts associated with electricity and water use by data centres, and how quickly the benefits of low-energy computing could be realised in practice.



Great to visit NUcastle to meet young people from the Trailblazer programme



Parliamentary Activity

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

This month, I was invited to speak at the German Embassy by the German Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Susanne Baumann, to mark a visit by the Munich Center for Machine Learning (MCML). Our discussion focused on strengthening UK-German collaboration in technology and innovation.

I made a statement in Westminster Hall to highlight the Science, Innovation and Technology Select Committee's newly launched inquiry into Neuroscience and Digital Childhoods. This significant research programme will explore a wide range of issues relating to the impact of digital technology on children's mental and physical development.

In April, I met with representatives of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) to discuss the organisation's latest report and its proposals to support research and innovation in the UK's life sciences sector. I met with representatives of Syrian organisations to discuss the deteriorating security situation in northeast Syria. I also met with the Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Africa to discuss the group's priorities and future programme of work.



Great visit to Thomas Bewick to see their therapeutic learning spaces



Pleasure to visit St James and St Basil's cafe for a great coffee morning

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

British-German AI and Tech Collaboration and its Commercialisation; Statement on the launch of digital childhoods inquiry; Plastic Warriors; ARUP; Commemoration of 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda; Heathrow Business Summit



Incredibly moving to join the Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

MEETINGS AND VISITS

CMA (Cloud services); Jo Miller (Financial Times); Department of Education; Claremont Road Issues; German Ambassador; Open UK; UK's Kurdish Community representatives; ABPI; Minister Smyth (NHS England); Leo Rees (No 10 Office); PiPP (Elswick South); Naomi Weir (CBI); James Carroll (No 10 Office); Minister Murray DCMS; Hannah Brown (Wild Cat films); Virgin Media (Cyber Security); Jonny Oats (APPG Africa); Surgery with Councillor Irim; Puregym Westerhope; Caviar Studios; Anand Bhatt's farewell celebration; Morrisons West Denton;

Brentford's FC's First 11 Black Players exhibition; Newcastle University showcase; BAPG essay competition; Victoria Starmer's summer reception; DSIT Cyber security briefing; Jazz FM awards; Newcastle beer and cider festival; Member mobilization event; NUcastle; Alphabetti Theatre; Hilton Primary Academy; English Martyrs Primary School; Thomas Bewick School; Spring Market St James and St Basil; End cross-border hire; Sahel Exhibition; Trade Association Forum parliamentary lunch; AI, data centres and UK investment; Coffee Morning St James and St Basil.

DEAR NEWCASTLE,
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MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Great to meet with the staff of Hilton Primary Academy to hear about their Free Breakfast Clubs

REACH OUT

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Please note surgeries are by appointment only.

Chi holds four advice sessions every month. If you are a constituent and would like to arrange an appointment, please email chi.onwurah.mp@parliament.uk or phone: 0191 232 5838.

We will need your name, address, post code and brief details of the issues you wish to discuss.

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TOP FACEBOOK POST IN APRIL:

Great start to the Arthur Hill Super Saturday with members and trade unionists joining the hardworking local @NCLCentralWest team getting out the postal vote in support of our fantastic candidates Hannah, Hayder and Joanne. #VoteLabour

49,106 views, 192 likes, 928 comments

