



Nigel Huddleston MP

Member of Parliament for Mid Worcestershire



Reporting Back on February 2024

£209 million of reallocated HS2 funding for
Worcestershire

February came with good news for Worcestershire as £209 million of funding was announced as part of the Government's commitment to levelling up transport in Mid

Worcestershire. Millions of people across the North and Midlands are set to benefit from £4.7 billion of further investment in local transport, made possible by the reallocation of HS2 funding.

The reallocation is aimed at smaller cities, towns, and rural areas, and therefore is particularly beneficial for our constituency. By redirecting money that would have been spent on HS2, we are already seeing more investment in local transport in Mid Worcestershire, including more money to fill potholes and extending the £2 bus fare cap.



Government announces plan to back British farmers

The government has announced a plan to provide further assistance to farmers. The plan comprises a range of measures set out to help make farming sustainable and resilient. £427 million will be invested in productivity, innovation, infrastructure and improving the health and welfare of our farmed animals. The plan also includes improvements to digital infrastructure and planning deregulation. Representing a predominantly rural constituency, I recognise how integral our farmers are to our community. This is why our Government has invested £5.4 million for farming in Mid Worcestershire alone. I look forward to continue working alongside farmers in Worcestershire to achieve our shared objectives.



Government announces significant plans to improve health services throughout the country

Announced earlier this month, the NHS Dental Recovery Plan, backed by £200 million of Government funding next year, sets out a package of measures to deliver 2.5 million additional NHS appointments over the next 12 months. The NHS will also offer a 'New Patient Premium' to support dentists to take on new patients and attract dentists into areas of need with 'Golden Hello' payments. The plan will also introduce dental vans. [The full plan can be found here.](#)

February also saw the launch of the 'Pharmacy First' campaign. 'Pharmacy First' allows patients in England to get prescription-only treatment for seven common conditions at their local community pharmacy, without the need for a GP appointment or prescription. At least 114 pharmacies have signed up to Pharmacy First across Herefordshire and Worcestershire ensuring that our local people can easily access care. [Further details can be found here.](#)

We are sticking with the plan to improve access to care and cut NHS waiting lists, delivering on the Prime Minister's priority so that that everyone can access the treatment they need.

February was a busy month behind the scenes in my ministerial role, as our team in the Treasury has been working on the Spring Budget.

I have responded on behalf of the government to a series of questions and debates in the House of Commons this month. If you are so minded, you can still see all these debates on [ParliamentLive.TV](https://www.parliamentlive.tv) and they are also fully reported and recorded in Hansard.

Amongst my activities this month, I responded to a debate on financial support for the hospitality industry and also responded to a debate on education standards and the VAT exemption for independent schools. An excerpt from my speech can be found below.



I also responded to proposed amendments to the Finance Bill, where I outlined our tax policies which aim to lower the tax burden for our citizens and businesses.

An excerpt can be found below.



Other updates from Westminster:

- [Fourth Round of the Cultural Development Fund launched](#)
- [British Holiday and Home Parks Association Conference](#)



- Phase Two Capital Funding of Swimming Pool Support Fund commences
- Visiting the Darlington Economic Campus



- [Government Launches 'Stop! Think Fraud' Campaign](#)
- [Interview with the Financial Times](#)



This month in Worcestershire

It was also a pleasure to be out and about in the constituency throughout February, in particular during the half term recess - and I was able to visit many events, organisations and businesses in Mid Worcestershire. With spring approaching, I also appreciated spending time enjoying our beautiful countryside.

A particular highlight was meeting Openreach and local residents in Charlton, as full-fibre broadband continues to be rolled out as part of Project Gigabit. This was a great example of the investment in the digital infrastructure of the rural areas in Worcestershire, allowing for businesses and residents to access faster broadband.

I was also delighted to attend a Winter reception at Hartlebury Castle in the far north of my constituency and lend my support to the campaign to reopen the Kings Arms pub in Cleeve Prior in the far south of the constituency.

Further visits and events are highlighted in the links and pictures, below.



- Visit to a local optometry business



- Attending an Evesham United FC half-term session



- Visit to the Theatrebarn



- Campaign to reopen Kings Arms



- Visit to Cleeve Prior CE Primary School



- Visit to Droitwich Golf Club



- Business breakfast at Grafton Manor



- Preservation Trust Winter Reception at Hartlebury Castle





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