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Reporting Back

As we begin to embrace the festive spirit, I am delighted to share with you my highlights from November in this latest edition of my monthly report.

In the State Opening of Parliament, His Majesty the King delivered the first King's Speech in over seven decades. The address emphasised initiatives to grow the economy and keep people safe. I was especially pleased to see commitments to introduce bills on key policy areas that I have personally worked on in my recent ministerial roles, including a bill resulting from the fan-led review of football and a bill to bring into force our new membership of the Indo-Pacific Trade bloc (the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, or 'CPTPP').

Adding to this excitement, I was honoured to be appointed as the new Financial Secretary to the Treasury by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Transitioning from my role as Minister for International Trade, I am relishing the opportunity to work closely with Chancellor Jeremy Hunt MP and the new Treasury team. Within a mere 15 hours of my appointment, I found myself addressing Treasury Questions at the despatch box in the House of Commons and contributing to the development of the Autumn Statement.

I watched eagerly from the front bench as the Chancellor unveiled a comprehensive set of measures in our Autumn Statement for Growth. The package of more than 110 measures included: the biggest business tax cut in modern British history; a raise in the National Living Wage; permanent full expensing; an extension of business rate reductions; the establishment of a West Midlands Investment Zone; increases in pensions, welfare payments, and housing allowances; and strategic reforms aimed at enhancing employment opportunities.

While it was a bustling month in Westminster, I continued to monitor developments overseas. The recent temporary ceasefire facilitated the release of some hostages and enabled more humanitarian aid to get into Gaza. My ministerial colleagues at the Foreign Office are working tirelessly alongside international partners to ease tensions and restore stability in the region.

In Mid Worcestershire

Balancing the demands of my ministerial priorities with my commitment to serving constituents remained, as always, a key priority in November. Alongside progressing individual casework matters raised with me, I was fortunate to visit a number of local businesses, schools, charities, and events throughout Mid Worcestershire, including:

- Featured on Evesham Noticeboard's The Vale Matters podcast
- Visiting Blackminster Middle School during Parliament Week
- <u>Visiting International Metals & Cable Recycling in Long Marston</u>
- Touring St Richard's Hospice near Worcester
- Participating in Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce business event
- Watching the Evesham Christmas lights switch on
- Visiting Prince Henry's High School
- <u>Discussing transport with Cllr Richard Morris and Cllr Mike Rouse at</u>
 Droitwich Station

In addition, I took part in various Remembrance events to honour the sacrifices of our armed forces. It is essential that we reflect on their courage and the sacrifices that they have made to safeguard our freedom and nation:

- Attending the Armistice Day ceremony in Broadway
- Participating in the Remembrance Sunday ceremony in Droitwich
- Paying my respects at the War Memorial in Evesham
- <u>Planting a cross for Mid Worcestershire in the 'Constituency Garden of Remembrance' at the Houses of Parliament</u>
- <u>Presenting a Remembrance Wreath on behalf of Mid Worcestershire as part of GWR's 'Poppies to Paddington' campaign</u>

To stay connected and engaged with my work as your MP, I encourage you to visit my **website** and follow me on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram**.

Parliamentary & Ministerial Responsibilities

In my capacity as Financial Secretary to the Treasury, I recently introduced the Finance Bill in the House of Commons—a significant moment marked by a unique parliamentary tradition. If you are curious about the intricate steps involved, you can witness the process <u>here</u>.

The Finance Bill includes measures designed to bolster British businesses by cutting and simplifying taxes. Notably, the Bill makes full expensing permanent, resulting in a substantial £11 billion annual corporate tax cut. Additionally, it simplifies R&D processes and extends the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trust schemes by an extra decade each to 2035. This strategic move aims to ensure that burgeoning companies can secure the funding today to evolve into the unicorns of tomorrow.

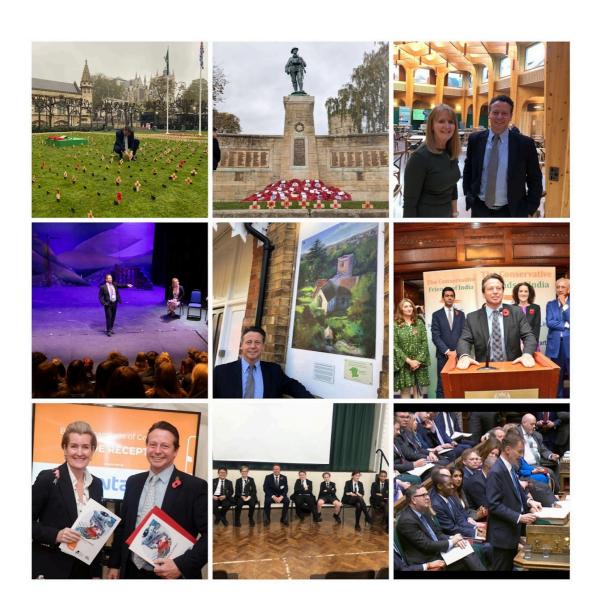
Additionally, I led the National Insurance Bill through the House of Commons. This significant piece of legislation introduces the largest ever tax cut to National Insurance for 27 million employees from 6 January 2024, offering the average employee and self-employed individuals an extra £450 and £350 per year, respectively.

Lastly, I answered more than <u>60 written parliamentary questions</u>, ensuring transparency and accountability in my role.

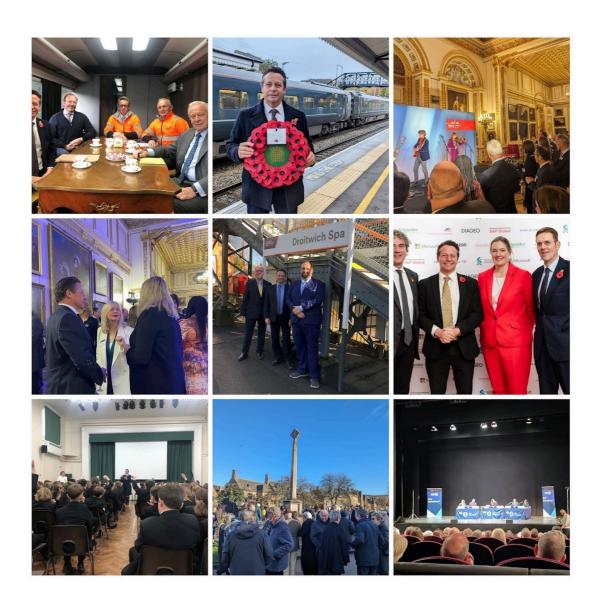
Promoted by Nigel Huddleston of Unit 3, 103 High St, Evesham, WR11 4EB

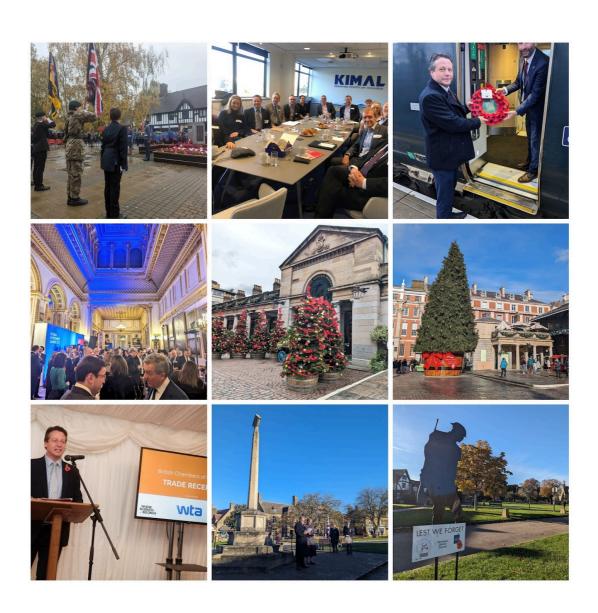




















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