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# **Reporting Back**

As we bid farewell to summer and embrace the autumn season, it is with great pleasure that I present the latest edition of my monthly report, covering the highlights of September.

September saw the House of Commons return from its summer recess (20 July -4 September 2023), subsequently rising again for the annual conference period (19 September -16 October 2023).

My September in Mid Worcestershire was filled with community engagements and local visits. From exploring nature at All Things Wild in Honeybourne to celebrating our heritage at the Almonry in Evesham, it was a month of appreciation for our beautiful local community.

September also brought significant national and international responsibilities. As a minister, I represented the UK at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Commerce Ministers' summit in Oman, where discussions revolved around a potential Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that could substantially boost trade by 16%. I also addressed Parliament on the topic of UK export performance, emphasising the importance of exports as a key driver of our economic growth.

### In Mid Worcestershire

Throughout September I visited a number of local organisations in addition to progressing individual casework matters raised with me. Some of these activities included:

- Celebrating Karndean Designflooring's 50th anniversary in Evesham
- Visit to All Things Wild in Honeybourne
- <u>Touring Squab Storage's site in Evesham</u>
- <u>Visit to the Church of the Sacred Heart and Saint Catherine of Alexandria in</u>

  Droitwich
- Celebrating Heritage Open Days at the Almonry in Evesham
- Visit to Broadway Food Festival
- Visit to Salt Fest in Droitwich
- Starting the Riverside Sponsored Walk
- Visit to Parks Candles at Hartlebury

## Parliamentary & Ministerial Responsibilities

September brought forth significant national and international responsibilities. In my role as a Government minister, I had the honour of representing the UK at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Commerce Ministers' summit in Oman. The discussions focused on a potential Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that could boost trade by an impressive 16%. This FTA holds immense potential for both our country and the GCC, fostering innovation, investment, and growth. You can read more about my visit here.

Additionally, I addressed the UK Parliament on the crucial topic of UK export performance. During my speech, I emphasised the Government's strategic approach to economic growth, highlighting the pivotal role of exports in achieving our ambitious goal of £1 trillion in exports by 2030. Read the transcript <u>here</u>.

Furthermore, I attended a Board of Trade event celebrating London Fashion Week, discussed business and trade issues in Essex and Bury St Edmunds, commemorated 50 years of UK-Vietnam relations at a reception and concert organised by the Vietnam-UK Network, met with representatives from the International Steel Trade

Association, and attended the UK-UAE Business Council reception. Amongst key meetings this month, I met with the Government of Jersey's Minister for Treasury and Financial Services, Ian Gorst, and discussed the travel and tourism sector in the context of international trade with ABTA.

Since the beginning of last month, I have answered more than <u>40 Written</u> <u>Parliamentary Questions</u>.

## **Christmas Card Competition**

Today, I announced the launch of my 2023 Christmas Card Photography Competition, a fantastic opportunity for talented photographers of all ages within Mid Worcestershire to showcase their skills and celebrate the constituency's picturesque landscapes.

- **Theme:** The photograph must be taken within the Mid Worcestershire constituency, highlighting its unique charm and character.
- **Eligibility:** This competition is open to all Mid Worcestershire residents, welcoming seasoned photographers and beginners alike.
- **Prize:** The winning photograph will be featured on the front of Christmas cards personally sent out by me, including one to the Prime Minister.
- Deadline: To ensure your entry reaches us on time, please submit it by Friday
   10th November 2023.

For full details on the competition, see my website.

# **Photos for September**































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