

Nigel Huddleston's January Report

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January Report

Welcome to my first newsletter and thank you for subscribing. I hope that this will be the first of many, and that you will find each of them useful and informative.

January began with a statement from the Prime Minister following the European Council meeting in December. Responding to a question I asked about the need to move away from the principle of 'ever closer union' as part of the UK's renegotiation, the Prime Minister reasserted his belief that Britain should be 'in Europe for the trade and the co-operation and the security that we require, but we do not want to be part of some federalising project'. I know this is an issue that many constituents feel strongly about; you can read my views on renegotiation and the subsequent referendum [on my website](#). I also welcome your

views and opinions.

I have met with many groups, bodies and charities this month, including the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#), the [British Heart Foundation](#), the [Royal British Legion](#) and Visit England. I also visited the Holocaust Educational Trust to sign their Book of Commitment for [Holocaust Memorial Day](#), this month being the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

In addition, I have met with Broadway Trust, Evesham Abbey Garden Trust, Worcestershire Works Well and the Local Enterprise Partnership, plus a number of local businesses including Amcor Flexibles, Plan B Computers whose new shop I opened in Evesham, and the launch of Mid Worcestershire Business Breakfast Club.

I have asked Parliamentary Questions of the [Economic Secretary to the Treasury](#) on access to bank accounts, the [Minister for Schools](#) on the 'Clean for The Queen' campaign and the [Lord Chancellor](#) on the threat of extremism in prisons. In addition I asked the [Leader of the House](#) for a debate on the positive contribution of the UK's regional airports, following the news that a record 10.2 million passengers passed through Birmingham International Airport in 2015.

My work with the [Culture, Media and Sport select committee](#) has continued apace with the committee looking at issues including the [BBC Charter Review](#), [Cyber security](#), [Connectivity](#) and [Blood Doping In Athletics](#).


Amongst the topics debated in Parliament this month was the Government's upcoming Childhood Obesity Strategy. In the debate I called on Ministers to 'consider all options' when it comes to tackling childhood obesity. In my remarks I focused on food marketing, food standards in schools and physical activity. You can read my speech and the debate in full [here](#).


I also backed the NHS (Charitable Trusts Etc.) Bill, a Private Members' Bill brought forward by my colleague Wendy Morton, the MP for Aldridge-Brownhills. If this Bill becomes law, it will reduce the involvement of the Department of Health in NHS charities. NHS charities, of which there are 260, raise funds to provide additional facilities, services and equipment within the NHS, they have a combined income of £327 million. I was pleased to have the opportunity in the debate to name-check the [Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Charitable Fund](#). During this debate I also had the opportunity to try my hand at 'Telling' for the first time. Tellers are appointed to verify the count when there is a division in the Commons and to report the result back to the House. Two tellers - one from each side - are present in each division lobby to ensure a fair count. Again the debate and my speech can be found [here](#).


Ending on a lighter note, earlier this month I visited Evesham Nursery School. The children taught me some of their favourite songs and gave me Pebbles, the Nursery's Teddy Bear, to bring back to Parliament

- where he was lucky enough to meet the Secretary of State for Education, who sent her best wishes to the children. Pebbles is now safely back in Worcestershire.



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