



Caroline Dinenage

**MP for Gosport,
Lee-on-the-Solent,
Stubbington and
Hill Head**



*David Cameron & family waving
farewell from 10 Downing Street*

Following Britain's vote to leave the European Union on June 23rd, July has seen a whirlwind of political activity: a new Prime Minister, a restructuring of Government departments and a transformative cabinet reshuffle.

I retained my post as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women & Equalities but no longer have responsibilities in the Ministry of Justice. Instead, I have moved to the Department for Education. I am excited for the challenges & opportunities ahead but as ever, being a good constituency MP & strong local voice remain my utmost priority.

I think Theresa May will make an excellent Prime Minister. Her strength of character is helping unite our nation following the divisive EU referendum campaign. Besides her unequivocal commitment to Brexit she has a clear vision for leading this country. She has prioritised fighting injustices, like the difference in life chances between rich and poor.

The Government is now preparing for Brexit negotiations, alongside the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland governments. In the meantime, Theresa May has created a new Department for Exiting the European Union to begin the preliminary work on negotiations to leave the EU and establishing the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

However in the meantime behind the high profile political headlines, my work for the Gosport constituency continues unabated.

The Solent LEP has now submitted its bid for Government funding to complete the Stubbington Bypass. I welcome Hampshire County Council's decision to contribute £8.5m to the project, which thanks to Cllr Woodward and Fareham Borough Council will be paid back through business rates from the Daedalus Enterprise Zone. A 25-30% local contribution is essential for the project to stand the best possible chance of receiving central Government funding.

This new peninsular access route is vital to address our crippling local congestion problems. In recent years I have raised our traffic issues at every level including with the Chancellor, helping to secure the funding necessary to carry out the preliminary work for the Stubbington Bypass to make the project 'shovel ready'. Over the past few months, I have frequently met with the Solent LEP to support their bid for the remaining funds. I was pleased to galvanise the support of other Hampshire MPs, who wrote to Hampshire County Council in favour of the project. We now await central Government's decision, which should be made in the Autumn.

I was pleased to be invited onto Sunday Politics South to discuss national and local transport issues. You can watch the footage [here](#).

Continuing on the transport theme, Network Rail updated me on their priorities for our rail infrastructure. I was pleased to learn that improving transport links in the Solent is high on the agenda. In the longer-term, large-scale transformation work at Woking is considered essential for improving Portsmouth Harbour & Fareham rail services.



*Discussing transport issues on
Sunday Politics South*



*Supporting the BLF's
#listentoyourlungs campaign*

I met with local councillors to discuss the proposed IFA2 Interconnector at Daedalus. Fareham Borough Council is still accepting comments on this planning application. National Grid opened an office at Gosport Basepoint on 18 July in order to engage with residents who have questions about the proposals.

I met Vector Aerospace to discuss recent worrying developments at their Fleetlands site, particularly regarding contracting and apprenticeships. I was sure to re-emphasise my support for this key local employer and have met with Union Reps to discuss their concerns.

In Parliament, I submitted evidence to the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry into Service Family Accommodation. I receive many complaints from local service families concerning disrepair and maintenance issues with some SFA properties. This month I also met with the Naval Families Federation at HMS Collingwood to discuss their concerns along with MOD Personnel & Veterans Minister, Mark Lancaster. I will continue to pursue this matter with the Government and will be meeting Carillion Amey, who run the Government contract, shortly.

In education news, I met with Dominic Herrington, our Regional Schools Commissioner, to discuss Brune Park School, which was put into special measures last month. I also received an update on the Solent Area Review process and its implications for St Vincent College from officials in the Department for Education. In Stubbington, it was great to visit Crofton Anne Dale Infants to hand out Citizenship Awards to excellent Year 2 pupils. Following an internet safety assembly I took part in at Haselworth primary, I met the General Manager of Internet Matters. Info for parents about keeping children safe online is available [here](#).

I sought an update on Southern Health from the Minister for Public Health. Failures of leadership and governance at Southern Health have endangered patient safety and are grossly unacceptable. The Trust's new interim director has now issued a recommended transformation plan.



Presenting citizenship awards to Year 2 pupils at Crofton Anne Dale Infant School

In Parliament, I supported the British Lung Foundation's #listentoyourlungs campaign. You can take the free online Breath Test [here](#). I also visited Cancer Research UK to discuss the charity's ongoing efforts to beat cancer sooner. While there, they measured my BMI (21) & we discussed the simple changes to diet, exercise & lifestyle that can help people avoid cancer.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the Gosport Probus Summer Lunch. This great community group provides wonderful fun, fellowship and social activity for those who have retired from work.

Across the harbour, I attended Portsmouth Family Court and met some of the judges. Family justice issues, like divorce and adoption, make up some of my most challenging casework as an MP. It was really helpful to get an insight into how these are dealt with by the courts.

Some great news this month, the Gosport-based, Falkland Veterans Foundation will receive £550,000 from fines levied on banks for manipulating the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) financial benchmark. This funding will help the group subsidise flights for veterans and relatives of those killed in action so that they can visit the Islands and pay their respects to those 'still on patrol'.

Hampshire County Council launched an eight-week public consultation on local government structure. You can take part [here](#). Gosport Borough Council is seeking views on the redesign of the Falkland Gardens. You can get involved [here](#).

Two new community radio stations available in the Gosport area have been awarded licenses. [BFBS Portsmouth](#) is designed for the military community of the Naval Base and Royal Navy ships. [Angel Radio](#) is a community service for people aged 60+.

Recently a number of constituents have contacted me concerned about a rise in xenophobic and race related hate crime. I unequivocally condemn any such abuse and urge victims and witnesses to report it immediately to the police on 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-emergencies. Further information can be found on Hampshire Constabulary's website [here](#).

Best wishes

Caroline

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for my constituents. Please contact my office at least three months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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