

# Caroline Dinenage

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Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

It's been another busy month with so much going on in the constituency and in Westminster. However, I started the month overseas, in Bulgaria, where I represented the Government at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. It was a unique opportunity to learn more about issues as diverse as cyber terrorism and energy security, particularly nuclear power, in the wake of the recent tragic events in Japan.

Back home it's been a hectic month of visits and meetings in the constituency. I was honoured to present the first year awards to the students at the new Gosport College. I was also impressed by the talent of BMX whiz & 2016 Olympic hopeful Ayesha McClelland who I met at the launch of National School Sports Week at Bridgemary College!

I am always amazed by how many exciting ventures are springing up in our area. It was great to be invited to open the Historical Diving Society museum and have a chance to see the fascinating exhibits. I was very pleased to join the celebrations for AWESOME's third birthday, to reflect on the success of this networking group for female entrepreneurs! It's always good to be able to show colleagues what's so great about my constituency too, as I did recently when the Defence Minister Gerald Howarth visited the Submarine Museum.

I also took the views of my constituents straight to the Prime Minister, as I helped to deliver the Have a Heart petition to Downing Street. Over 200,000 local people have signed up to save the world-class children's heart unit at Southampton General Hospital from closure.



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Launching National School Sports Week

Back in Parliament I've been campaigning for businesses in the South of England to receive a fair share of support from the Government. I've been really frustrated that so much money has been diverted north when our area so badly needs investment and employment. Gosport for example has less than half a job per working adult – one of the lowest figures in the country. I led a debate in Westminster on this subject and even managed to take the Minister, Mark Prisk, on a helicopter tour of the area from Daedalus to demonstrate the scale of ex-defence property needing regeneration.

I've also been pressing the Government to continue taking a tough line on crime, and tackling the issue of drugs in particular. I want to see the dealers and low-lives off of our streets for good. I asked a question about this in Home Office Questions and have met with Theresa May to discuss what more can be done to tackle this blight.

It is vital that we talk seriously about fuel policy as the threatened double digit energy price rises is set to hurt families and pensioners, so I've been urging the Government to take more action.

I was glad to support a number of other events in Parliament recently, during Carers Week we were able to express our gratitude for the invaluable and often unnoticed work that carers do. We also welcomed home the 16 Air Assault Brigade from Afghanistan and had a valuable opportunity to not only thank them for their service but find out exactly how things are progressing over there.

Any regular reader of this newsletter will know how much I love welcoming my constituents to Westminster. This month I was delighted to bring students from Bedenham School to Parliament. I also threw a reception for various volunteers, community group leaders and charity workers from across the constituency. I funded the event myself as my small way of saying 'thank you' to the people who give so much to our area. I was ably assisted by Gosport's very own Town Crier in full costume and brilliant musicians from St Vincent College, who all helped to make the evening a huge success. It's so important for us all to recognise the tireless and selfless work of so many in our community – they are a true inspiration.

Best wishes,

*Caroline*



Helicopter Tour of Daedalus Site

## GET IN TOUCH

I receive a huge amount of emails, calls and letters every week – I have built up a super little team in Westminster and Gosport who help me respond to people as fully and as quickly as possible. I spend most Thursdays and every Friday working in the constituency and have a weekly surgery which has proved to be very popular! Feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is.

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