



**David  
Baines**

Member of Parliament for  
**St Helens North**



## Newsletter **October 2024**

Representing Billinge and Seneley Green, Blackbrook, Haydock, Moss Bank, Newton-le-Willows, Parr, Rainford and Windle

Dear Residents,

Welcome to my October newsletter with an update on the latest news and my work in Westminster and St Helens North in recent weeks.

### **Employment and Renters Rights**

This month I was proud to vote for legislation that will make a real difference to many people across St Helens North.

The Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner introduced the second reading of the [Employment Rights Bill](#) - the biggest improvement of workers' rights in a generation, with an end to zero hours contracts and fire and rehire, strengthening sick pay rights, strengthening protection against unfair dismissal, introducing entitlement to bereavement and parental leave from day one, and much more.

For the past fourteen years, too many people in our constituency have been drawn into a race to the bottom, denied the security they need to raise a family while businesses are unable to retain the workers they need to grow.

In [Parliament](#) during the debate I made the point that good employers have nothing to fear, and working people have a huge amount to celebrate. We've heard the same arguments against from the Tories that they used in 1997 against the minimum wage. They were wrong then, and they're wrong now.

[Renters](#) too will benefit from new legislation on evictions. Many people in St Helens North live day in, day out with the knowledge that they and their families could be uprooted from their home, but by abolishing section 21 evictions and moving to a simpler tenancy structure we will give people the stability they need for the future.



# The Budget for St Helens North

The [Budget](#) delivered this week will fix the foundations as we begin to deliver the change people in St Helens North and the country voted for. Ahead of the Budget I visited Downing Street to raise the issues that matter to St Helens North.

We are fixing the NHS, investing in our schools and other essential public services, and rebuilding Britain brick by brick while ensuring working people in St Helens North don't face higher taxes in their payslips.



## Here are 10 ways in which the Budget will help people in St Helens North:

1. Giving a pay rise to more than 5000 working people in St Helens with our increase in the National Living Wage – including a record breaking 16.3% increase for 18-20 year olds – and no tax increases in your payslip
2. **Maintaining the fuel duty freeze, saving drivers in St Helens North money**
3. Providing the biggest cash boost ever for over 2000 carers in St Helens North
4. **Continuing our commitment to the state pension Triple Lock, making nearly 20,000 pensioners in St Helens North better off by up to £470 next year**
5. Helping patients in St Helens North with huge extra £22.6 billion in health spending nationally – the biggest cash boost to our NHS since 2010 outside of Covid – for more beds, more operations and more appointments, alongside reforms to get the NHS back on its feet for good
6. **Working to give every child the best start in life with a £2.3billion increase in the core schools budget including £1bn for SEND, employing more teachers, more funding to rebuild schools, and funding free breakfast clubs at Primary Schools**
7. Supporting small businesses by increasing the employment allowance from £5000 to £10500, meaning many won't pay any employers' National Insurance at all; providing 40% relief on business rates for the retail, hospitality and leisure industry to help boost our high streets; and cutting draught duty by 1.7% to help our local pubs
8. **Making more than 4000 households in St Helens better off by around £420 a year by introducing a new Fair Repayment Rate for Universal Credit**
9. Helping people in St Helens North find work or training as part of a new £240m package to join up work, skills and health support and implement the Youth Guarantee – ensuring that all 18-21 year olds in St Helens North are earning or learning
10. **Ending the historic injustice of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme, raising the pensions of more than 500 ex-miners in St Helens North by an average of £29 a week**

# Parliamentary Update

I've had numerous meetings in Westminster. It was my pleasure to meet with the [Fair Education Alliance](#) to discuss how we can work together to help tackle inequality and ensure all children reach their potential in St Helens North. I have also had meetings with Speech and Language UK as well as the National Autistic Society about the work they are doing with schools.

I met Minister Chris Bryant to raise the concerns of some residents regarding new telegraph poles in our communities, and I met with Foreign Office Minister [Hamish Falconer](#) to discuss the extremely concerning and escalating violence in the Middle East, the work being done to bring about a ceasefire and release the hostages, and the urgent need to get more aid to where it is needed in Gaza and elsewhere.

I have met with both Virgin and LUMO, with both companies bidding for open access routes through the North West to London – Virgin through a new station at Golborne, and LUMO through Newton-le-Willows. I have offered my support to both bids, and in Virgin's case I have urged them to consider including Newton or Earlestown in their thinking. It would be fantastic for our communities to have a London service on our doorstep.

In addition to the Employment Rights Bill mentioned earlier, I have also voted to end the right of 92 hereditary peers to sit in the Lords and decide our laws.

I have been continuing to work with colleagues on APPGs on issues that matter to people in St Helens North. I'm delighted to have been elected as the new Chair of the [Rugby League APPG](#). As a lifelong rugby league supporter, I am honoured and excited about the opportunity to help promote and support the sport.

I have attended meetings with the Labour Growth Group as well as the Liverpool City Region about how we can deliver on the economy, and as part of the Coalfield Communities group we have been involved in discussions about the mineworkers' pension scheme. I was delighted to hear the announcement in the Budget that justice would finally be delivered for the 500 ex-miners in St Helens North and the thousands nationwide.

You can also listen to my appearance on [Radio Merseyside](#) recently to discuss the Week in Westminster. I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak about the upcoming budget, the NHS as well some of my APPG work.

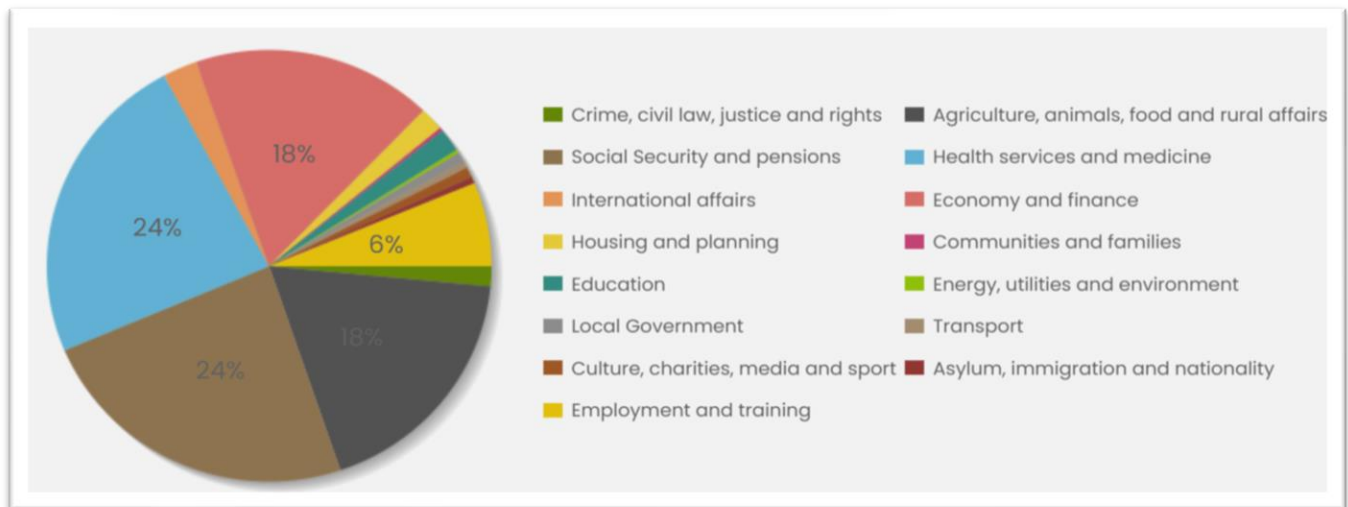


## Casework Update

Since becoming our MP in July my small office team and I have now helped more than 1300 constituents across St Helens North with various problems and have answered hundreds more emails, calls and letters asking questions.

As the chart below shows, the most frequent casework issue I've helped people with in October has been on health, transport and the economy.

I have been working with constituents across St Helens North to solve their immediate concerns from issues securing school places to successfully fighting for compensation for house repairs and securing urgent access to Mental Health support. These are just a few of the hundreds of cases that I am currently supporting constituents with.



## Have your say on the NHS

This month the government launched the biggest consultation about the NHS since its founding in 1948. The Chancellor announced the biggest cash injection for the NHS since 2010 in this week's Budget, but to fix it for good it will need reform to make sure it meets the needs of patients here and elsewhere.

You can now share your experiences, views and ideas via [Change.NHS.uk](https://www.change.nhs.uk), which will be live for five months.

The platform asks people what they like about the NHS, what their frustrations are and what their priorities for change. Please do send in your thoughts about how we can deliver improvements to the NHS for people in St Helens North in the long term.



# In St Helens North

I held my latest advice surgery in Chapel End Labour Club where I met with residents to discuss various issues including anti-social behaviour and policing.

I met with St Helens College Principal [Simon Pierce](#) to discuss the challenges facing our Further Education colleges. The Labour government is determined to deliver the investment and new jobs our region needs and it was my pleasure to hear about the work that the students are doing.

I also had the pleasure of visiting Cannington Shaw to see the progress being made on preserving this proud symbol of our industrial past. John Tabern and the rest of the dedicated team of trustees are doing a fantastic job in regenerating and repurposing our heritage.

I met with [Steve Rice](#) from the GMB Union to discuss the concerns of trade unions and their members in the ambulance service about significant delays in patient handover at hospitals in our region. We are determined to fix our NHS for both workers and patients.

I welcomed the recent news of plans for a new police station in [Earlestown](#). I've been pushing for this with others for a long time as both council leader and now MP. It will help to ensure Newton gets the police representation and presence it needs and deserves, and it's a crucial piece of the regeneration jigsaw in Earlestown too. On that note, I am delighted to have received confirmation in the Budget that the £20m Newton town fund will be progressing. The Tories committed all sorts of funding they simply didn't have to various different schemes but Labour recognise the importance of investing in communities like ours and will see it through.

I am also delighted to see the plans progressing for the regeneration of St Helens town centre, including confirmation that Hampton by Hilton is the global hotel brand which will be operating the hotel in the rejuvenated town centre.

All these plans began when I was council leader and they are continuing to progress thanks to a lot of hard work by our fantastic local Labour team.



There is going to be a vote on a Private Member's Bill in parliament on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November titled the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. Lots of constituents have already contacted me about it and this is an extremely important and emotive topic for people in our community and I don't take the vote lightly.

I am taking the time to read all correspondence carefully as well as seeking the views of local and national organisations and experts from both sides of the debate before deciding firmly how to vote.

I intend to weigh up all the arguments, the evidence and the potential implications before I make my decision which will be a matter of personal conscience. Please contact me to share your thoughts on this via my email below.

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I am looking forward to more advice surgeries, meetings and community visits in the weeks ahead. Please remember you can stay up to date with my work on social media @DavidBainesMP, and please do contact me using the details below if I can be of help.

Best wishes,

David



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