



# Catherine West MP



Annual Report 2016

Labour Member of Parliament for Hornsey & Wood Green

## MY RESPONSE TO THE EU REFERENDUM

**"75% of my constituents voted to remain in the EU. I stand with them on this issue and I will vote against Brexit in Parliament."**

Catherine West,  
Member of Parliament  
for Hornsey & Wood Green



I'm desperately sad and disappointed by the referendum result. Haringey secured the fifth highest remain vote in the country and more people here have signed the petition calling for a second referendum than anywhere else.

*I stand with my constituents and will vote against Brexit in Parliament and speak out about the serious implications of this decision for the country and for our communities. I will be pushing the Government to provide concrete assurances that the status of the many thousands of EU citizens living and working in Hornsey & Wood Green will be protected.*

I have sponsored an Early Day Motion calling for a second referendum once the terms of the UK-EU exit package are known. I've also held a public meeting at Hornsey Town Hall attended by over 400 people on how we fight back post referendum and spoken to 30,000+ people at the peaceful March for Europe in Parliament Square.

You can read my article for The Times on why we must keep up the fight on my website at [www.catherinewest.org.uk](http://www.catherinewest.org.uk)

**It is a privilege to be your Member of Parliament and your voice in Westminster.**

I was elected last year to fight for an NHS for people not profit, a proper living wage for all working people and action to tackle the desperate housing crisis facing our city.

In this, my first annual report, you can read about some of the things I've been doing to fulfil these pledges and stand up for the things that matter to my constituents. Having a Conservative Government nationally makes my job very hard, but I am delighted that London now has a Labour Mayor Sadiq Khan committed to tackling the housing crisis, improving our polluted air and keeping travel costs down.

Thank you to the thousands of local people who have written, emailed or visited my advice surgeries over the past year. If you'd like to know more about what I'm doing in Parliament, you can read my weekly blog or sign up to my monthly e-news at [www.catherinewest.org.uk](http://www.catherinewest.org.uk)

*Catherine West*

**"I for one am willing to support calls for a second referendum if necessary. Nigel Farage would not have given up if he had lost a referendum this close, and we shouldn't either."**

Catherine West MP, Shadow foreign minister,  
The Times 30/06/16



Together with Keir Starmer MP, I hosted a reception at Parliament for the fantastic Lauderdale House.



I strongly oppose the Government's plans to cut over £170 million from community pharmacies. I met with local pharmacists to hear their concerns and have made urgent representations to the Health Secretary to reconsider these misguided proposals.

## TACKLING TAX AVOIDANCE

With so many hard working families struggling to make ends meet, I'm furious that there are companies and super-rich individuals who want to avoid paying their rightful share of tax. The Panama Papers have highlighted the scale of the problem, but it's something I've been raising in Parliament for many months as Shadow Foreign Minister with responsibility for the Overseas Territories. The Government are not doing nearly enough to tackle tax evasion and crack down on the secret financial arrangements, which take money away from our schools and hospitals.

**"The Government are not doing nearly enough to tackle tax evasion and crack down on the secret financial arrangements, which take money away from our schools and hospitals."**

Many of the tax havens fuelling the problem are British Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies so the UK has a responsibility to act. I'm pushing for a central register of beneficial ownership that's transparent and open to public scrutiny and will continue putting pressure on David Cameron and his Government to take leadership on this important issue. You can find out much more about what I've been doing at [www.catherinewest.org.uk](http://www.catherinewest.org.uk)

## Our children's education spending needs protecting

I challenged David Cameron in Prime Minister's Questions on the Tories ill-thought out forced academisation plans for schools. In the face of overwhelming opposition, the Tories now seem to be partially backtracking, but such a terrible idea should never have got so far.

Our schools don't need costly reorganisations. What they need is for this Government to tackle the problems they have created of falling budgets for the first time in twenty years, chronic teacher



shortages, a lack of good school places and confusion in the exams system. There's a real risk that the Tories new national funding formula could take £245 million out of London schools - a move that would have a devastating effect here in Hornsey & Wood Green.

**As Secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for London I am fighting for London's school funding to be protected.**



I spoke out about the desperate need for better mental health services when my colleague David Lammy MP secured a welcome Westminster Hall debate on mental health services in Haringey. The Government has promised parity between mental and physical health, but in reality we're seeing cuts in mental health spending. Locally, I've met with St Ann's Hospital to raise concerns over the failings reported by the Care Quality Commission.



I celebrated International Women's Day at Hornsey School for Girls and hosted an event in Parliament to discuss issues affecting refugee women. We're making progress but there's so much still to do.



I showed my support outside the Whittington Hospital and in Parliament for Junior Doctors let down by this Government's shambolic handling of the contract negotiations.

## We must do more to help refugees

I supported the call for the UK to provide sanctuary to 3,000 lone refugee children. We should be taking leadership in this deepening humanitarian crisis - not turning our backs.

I've met with Haringey Refugees Welcome and Citizens UK to offer my support for their campaign and spoken out in Parliament on behalf of the thousands of local people who have contacted me to urge the Government to do much more. I've also been campaigning for increased scrutiny of our Immigration Detention Centres to improve conditions for detainees. Find out more on my website at [www.catherinewest.org.uk](http://www.catherinewest.org.uk)



# London in Crisis: We need more homes

PHOTO: DAVID HOLT/Flickr

We face a housing crisis in Hornsey & Wood Green, with the average home price now an astronomical £803,000. This Tory Government is only making it worse. By forcing councils to sell off high-value homes and allowing developers to build fewer affordable houses, it will be even harder for families on average incomes to live in areas like ours. Council tenants are under attack, with future lifetime tenancies banned and rent hikes potentially up to market level for families earning over £40,000.

**As your MP I voted against the Tories' Housing & Planning Act in Parliament every step of the way and am appalled that this mess of a Bill is now law.**

The answer to London's housing crisis isn't to make it less affordable and less secure. Housing concerns are the number one issue people come to see me about and there's a clear link between poor housing and mental health. The Tory Government have no answer to this growing crisis and the previous Tory Mayor let Londoners down - last year delivering the lowest number of new affordable homes since current records began.

London's new Labour Mayor Sadiq Khan has pledged to make tackling the housing crisis his number one priority - using Transport for London land to build new homes and setting a target for 50 per cent of all new homes to be genuinely affordable.

I welcome this and have invited him and his team to Hornsey & Wood Green to find out more about the problems we face here.

## NEW WOOD GREEN HOMES MUST BE GENUINELY AFFORDABLE

Exciting regeneration plans for Wood Green could provide thousands of new homes over the coming years, but it's essential these are homes that local people can afford to live in – not sold off-plan to investors overseas. I'm calling for a minimum of fifty percent of all these new homes to be genuinely affordable including homes to rent. Sign my petition to send a message to the developers at [www.catherinewest.org.uk](http://www.catherinewest.org.uk)



*I successfully persuaded the Pensions Minister to meet with a delegation from the National Pensioners Convention to discuss the WASPI campaign for fair pensions for women. She'd been refusing to meet them for months.*

# Standing up for a fairer wage

When I was a Council Leader I set up the country's first Fairness Commission and slashed top pay to give cleaning staff a decent, living wage. As your Member of Parliament I'm continuing that fight for a fairer future for all. Since my election I've uncovered the scandalous pay gap for cleaners in different Government departments - with many earning way below the real London Living Wage. I also exposed the shocking failure to pass tips onto waiting staff in Parliament's own restaurants - and forced a review of this unfair practice.

## Waiters who serve politicians at Parliament don't see a penny of tips left for them on cards

Evening Standard, 19 January 2016

## Labour slams pay gap for cleaners at Government departments – with some stuck on minimum wage

Mirror, 28 March 2016



## Save our Post Offices

Our precious Crown Post Offices in Crouch End and Muswell Hill are under threat. The Post Office wants to sell them off in plans that threaten the quality of the service, accessibility and jobs. I've strongly opposed these plans since they were first announced and have met with Post Offices bosses, spoken out in Parliament and called on the Business Secretary Sajid Javid to meet me – but he's refused. Join hundreds of local people in opposing these unpopular plans and sign my petition to Save our Post Offices at [www.catherinewest.org.uk](http://www.catherinewest.org.uk)

## NORTH MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL A&E

A&E services at North Middlesex are in meltdown. In Prime Minister's Questions I called on David Cameron to take swift action and commit to protecting and improving the emergency care at North Midd that many of my constituents rely on. Together with other local MPs I met the Health Minister to demand the Government intervene to resolve this crisis now.

## Contact and surgery details

If you'd like to contact me about any of the issues in this newsletter, or if you've got a problem I can help with please do get in touch.

### GET IN TOUCH

- ✉ Catherine.west.mp @parliament.uk
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### SURGERIES

Visit one of my advice surgeries on the second and fourth Friday of the month from 10am-11.30am at Wood Green Library. I also hold pop-up surgeries across the borough. Please note surgery dates in August and December vary so check my website or call for details.