

Caroline Dinenage

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Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

Welcome to the latest update on all my activities in the Gosport Constituency and in Westminster.

I want the Gosport area to make the most of its brilliant coastal location. I recently met with the Chief Executive of the British Marine Federation who has agreed to send a team to advise us on how to promote and grow our thriving maritime sector. In the House of Commons I questioned the Business Minister on what efforts the Government is making to help the marine industry. With half a job per working adult in our area, it is vital that we make the most of our assets to drive growth and job creation.

I am dedicated to speaking up for our Armed Forces in Parliament. Successive governments have let these brave men and women down and it is time we rebuilt their trust and supported their families. In the recent Armed Forces Covenant debate I spoke in favour of making a tangible commitment to honour the sacrifices they make. This will make sure they are safer abroad and valued at home.

The Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme allowed me to get a taste of Navy life. It lets MPs experience the work of the Armed Forces so that we have a better idea of their needs and the challenges they face. I was fascinated to see the work of FOST (Flag Officer Sea Training) whilst on board HMS Albion and to visit HMS Raleigh and HM Naval Base Devonport.



On the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme



Presenting pupils' letters to Michael Gove



With a student at the first surgery at St Vincent College

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*Looking through the periscope on board
HMS Trenchant*

It was great to learn more about military life, especially as the Navy is so important to Gosport. I've continued to press home the case for securing HMS Sultan in the long-term. Its immediate future was guaranteed in October, but I recently urged the Defence Minister in Parliament to commit to moving more military training to the area.

It's been a busy month in the Commons, with a vital debate on votes for prisoners provoking strong reactions. I supported the motion that prisoners should not be able to vote. Criminals betray the trust of

society when they break the law and it would be an insult to the wider community to give them a say in who governs the country.

At the recent 'Have Your Say on Crime' event in Gosport I had the chance to hear your concerns about crime in the community. It was great to hear from key local figures in fighting crime and meet the community organisations that have overseen a drop in crime of 11%.

I have also continued my visits to local schools this month, including Crofton Anne Dale Infant School, Brockhurst Infants, and Baycroft School. The children at St John's Primary School even presented me with letters for the Education Secretary, which I duly handed to Michael Gove in Parliament! I've also launched a new surgery to be held with the pupils at St Vincent College every two months, which is a great way for me to hear their views and get them involved in the political process.

Finally, I took the opportunity when meeting with the Managing Director of First Hampshire & Dorset Buses to quiz him on the new Bus Rapid Transit system. I was also keen to talk about the bus routes in our area and concessionary fares to ensure that they meets local needs.

I hope that's given you a taste of some of the things I'm working on. Don't forget that you can get in touch with me at any point with your issues and concerns.

Best wishes,

Caroline



*Discussing buses with First Hampshire &
Dorset Bus Company*

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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