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Early Day Motions tabled on Wednesday 7 February 2024

Early Day Motions (EDMs) are motions for which no days have been fixed.

The number of signatories includes all members who have added their names in support of the Early Day Motion (EDM), including the Member in charge of the Motion.

EDMs and added names are also published on the EDM database at www.parliament.uk/edm

[R] Indicates that a relevant interest has been declared.

New EDMs

372 20th anniversary of cockling deaths at Morecambe Bay

Tabled: 7/02/24 Signatories: 1

Tim Farron

This House solemnly notes the 20th anniversary of the death of 23 cocklers in Morecambe Bay on 5 February 2004; honours their memory and holds their loved ones in our thoughts and in our prayers; remains committed to maintaining safety in the Bay and supports legislation that has prevented a repeat of the tragedy; notes with concern however that restriction of access to the Bay has caused great hardship to local families who have cockled for generations; urges the government to reconsider the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority's licensing scheme; recommends local cocklers be given priority for these permits; and calls for family members to be allowed to pass their permits down to younger generations in order to maintain the safety of the Bay and the survival of the local cockling industry.

373 VAT on hair and beauty salons

Tabled: 7/02/24 Signatories: 1

Kirsten Oswald

That this House recognises the significant contribution made by hair and beauty salons to high streets across the country; notes the severe pressure which businesses in the hair and beauty sector are currently facing due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, increasing bills, and payroll pressures; understands that salons which operate a rent-a-chair model often do not reach the threshold at which they are required to pay VAT, but that traditional salons who are also employers are under significant pressure due to the VAT burden; highlights that the potential closure of a large number of traditional salons threatens the vibrancy of high streets, employment prospects, and the tax take for the Exchequer; further notes that salon closures jeopardise apprenticeship opportunities for people entering into the hair and beauty sector; further recognises the important wellbeing impact of hair and beauty salons and the services and support they provide; and calls on the Chancellor of

the Exchequer to act at the upcoming Spring Budget on 6 March 2024 by reducing VAT for hair and beauty salons to 10% support these vital businesses during this challenging period.

374 Jagtar Singh Johal

Tabled: **7/02/24** Signatories: **1**

Martin Docherty-Hughes

That this House notes that Jagtar Singh Johal, a Sikh activist and resident of Dumbarton, will be marking his 37th birthday on 9 February, his sixth in arbitrary detention in India since being abducted from the street during his honeymoon by unidentified assailants who turned out to be undercover police agents on 4 November 2017; notes that during his incarceration it is alleged that he was tortured both physically and through electric shocks to his nipples and genitals, something which led him to signing a confession, a confession that has subsequently been used when filing charges against him; supports the ruling of the UN Working Group on arbitrary detention which in May 2022 gave its opinion that Jagtar's detention was an arbitrary one; urges the Government to also support this opinion and do what it can to achieve Jagtar's immediate release to ensure that his birthday will be marked, in person, at home with his family.

375 St Leonard's Catholic School, City of Durham

Tabled: **7/02/24** Signatories: **1**

Mary Kelly Foy

That this House notes, with great concern, that St Leonard's Catholic School, in City of Durham, has been affected by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete for 161 days preceding the tabling of this Early Day Motion; condemns the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government for scrapping the Building Schools for the Future programme in 2010; further notes that, despite the egregious disruption to their education, pupils at St Leonard's have not been offered mitigating circumstances for their examinations this year; calls on the Government to bring forward legislation to allow for mitigating circumstances for the affected pupils of St. Leonard's; and pays tribute to the determination and resilience of parents, pupils and teachers of St Leonard's in light of this clear injustice.

376 Hospitality and VAT

Tabled: **7/02/24** Signatories: **1**

Alyn Smith

That this House recognises the immense challenges facing the hospitality sector during the cost of living crisis; notes that the Government implemented a temporary cut of 5% on VAT for hospitality businesses during the pandemic; further notes that VAT is not devolved and can therefore only be set by the UK Government; notes that the UK is an outlier for having a higher rate of VAT for the hospitality sector compared to other European economies; further notes that organisations such as the Scottish License and Trade Association, Scottish Beer and Pub Association and Scottish Hospitality Group support a cut of 5% on VAT as the most straightforward and effective policy measure to help many small and local businesses get through the current crisis; acknowledges that local hospitality businesses deliver an important social good to their communities as well as bring in vital income and jobs; and calls on the UK Government to implement a permanent cut of 5% on VAT for the hospitality sector to help hospitality businesses meet the challenges of the cost of living crisis.

377 International Court of Justice Ruling on Gaza and the UK's duties under the Genocide Convention

Tabled: 7/02/24 Signatories: 7

Zarah Sultana
Apsana Begum
Richard Burgon
Imran Hussain
John McDonnell
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Ian Byrne

That this House notes the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 26 January 2024, which found that it is plausible that Israel's ongoing attacks on the Palestinian people in Gaza are in breach of the Genocide Convention; further notes that the ICJ issued provisional measures, including ordering Israel and its military to prevent acts against Palestinians in Gaza prohibited by Article II of the Genocide Convention, such as killings of Palestinians in Gaza, as well as ordering Israel to prevent and punish incitement to genocide and to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza; supports the ICJ call for the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages; notes that as a signatory to the Genocide Convention the UK has a duty to prevent genocide and to ensure that the Convention is not breached; believes the UK has a responsibility to act to ensure this ruling is upheld, and not to undermine it; therefore calls on the UK Government to support the ICJ's provisional measures; further believes that it is not possible for Israel to fulfil the ICJ's order without an immediate end to its military assault on Gaza; and therefore, in light of plausible breaches of the Genocide Convention, further calls on the UK Government to demand an immediate ceasefire and suspend all arms exports to Israel.

378 Gellings Riding School

Tabled: 7/02/24 Signatories: 1

Ian Byrne

That this House supports Gellings Riding School in its efforts to acquire the land it is situated upon in order to secure its existence for future generations; notes that the school is a vital community asset which has been an integral part of the West Derby community for 30 years, providing inclusive opportunities for education, health and wellbeing to residents in the entire Liverpool City Region; specifically notes its provision of visually impaired riding facilities and the use of its stables for neurodiverse young adults and those experiencing poor mental health; reflects on a recent devastating report on inequality in public health in Liverpool from the city's Director of Public Health which revealed that people living in the poorest areas of the city, including many in West Derby, live an average of 15 years less than those in the most affluent areas and live with poor health for 18 years longer; further reflects that residents in the most deprived areas of the city are also living with major illness from around 10-15 years earlier than those in the most affluent areas, that around 1,900 residents die young - under the age of 75 - and that 1,100 of these deaths are preventable; supports the view that against this backdrop access to outdoor spaces and sporting facilities for Liverpool City Region residents is vital; and further notes that Gellings supports the mental and physical health, education and social and environmental development of people across the entire Liverpool City Region.

Added Names

Below are EDMs tabled in the last two weeks to which names have been added. Only the first 6 names and any new names are included.

317 Support for families of British Palestinians

Tabled: 24/01/24 Signatories: 23

Drew Hendry
Deidre Brock
Pete Wishart
Anne McLaughlin
Patrick Grady
Chris Law

Chris Stephens

That this House absolutely condemns the ongoing conflict in Gaza; further condemns the futile and tragic loss of life and the impact on all Palestinians; notes with specific concern the situation of Salim Ghayyda's 40 immediate family members who have been forced to abandon their homes in Gaza City and move to a tent city in Rafah with limited access to basic necessities including food, water and sanitation; and urges the UK Government to take immediate action and create safe, viable routes for the family of British Palestinians to evacuate and seek safety in the UK.

318 Postural Tachycardia Syndrome awareness

Tabled: 24/01/24 Signatories: 12

Cat Smith
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon
Jeremy Corbyn
Hywel Williams
Ben Lake

Chris Stephens

Christine Jardine

That this House notes that Postural Tachycardia Syndrome (PoTS) is an autonomic nervous system abnormality where sitting, standing and exercise can cause symptoms including shortness of breath, chest pain, brain fog, dizziness, pain, fainting, vomiting and fatigue; recognises that many people suffer a combination of symptoms, which can be chronic and debilitating, in some cases, leaving people bed ridden; further notes that while there is currently no cure for PoTS, studies indicate that 90% of people with a diagnosis of PoTS have improved or managed symptoms due to medically guided treatments and lifestyle changes but awareness of the condition is still low which may explain why the average time from first presentation of symptoms to diagnosis is seven years; and recognises the need to both raise awareness of the condition amongst medical professionals, and increase the support offered to those who suffer from PoTS.

321 Children's Mental Health Week 2024

Tabled: 25/01/24 Signatories: 23

Munira Wilson
Mary Kelly Foy
Wendy Chamberlain
Sarah Dyke
Gavin Robinson
Jamie Stone

Chris Stephens

That this House commemorates Children's Mental Health Week 2024 which runs from 5 to 11 February; notes with concern that one in five children between the ages of seven and sixteen have a probable mental health disorder; acknowledges the negative impacts that poor mental health can have on children's present and future wellbeing; further acknowledges the impact poor mental health is having on persistent absence in schools; recognises that this year's theme is My Voice Matters reflecting the importance of listening to children and young people; and further recognises the urgent need to provide early intervention and universal mental health support to children and young people.

328 Nicholas Allan and WordSkills UK Medal

Tabled: 26/01/24 Signatories: 6

Marion Fellows
Dr Philippa Whitford
Chris Stephens
Allan Dorans
Jim Shannon
Owen Thompson

That this House congratulates Nicholas Allan on his silver medal at the WorldSkills UK National Competition this past November in Manchester; recognises Nicholas' impressive and innovative fire detection and alarm system; wishes Team UK great success at WorldSkills Lyon 2024; further recognises the value of benchmarking UK skills through international skills competitions; supports the work of WorldSkills UK to raise standards and participation in apprenticeships and technical education; and notes the importance of world-class skills to young people, employers and the UK economy.

334 High Income Child Benefit Charge

Tabled: 29/01/24 Signatories: 13

Douglas Chapman
Jonathan Edwards
Allan Dorans
Dr Philippa Whitford
Paul Girvan
Jim Shannon

Chris Stephens

That this House expresses deep concern that the High Income Child Benefit Charge (HICBC) continues to create unfairness and anomalies such as discriminating against a family with one earner who earns in excess of £50,000 compared with a family whose joint earnings may exceed the £50,000 threshold; remains concerned that it has not been increased to reflect pay inflation from 2013 and discourages claims to child benefit through the need for higher earners to undertake a

self-assessment tax return and potentially negatively impacts on National Insurance Contributions; and calls on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to review the HICBC at the first opportunity with a view to removing the anomalies or make arrangements to devolve responsibility and related funding for Child Benefit to the Scottish and Welsh governments and the Northern Ireland administration.

336 NHS dental services in Northern Ireland

Tabled: 30/01/24 Signatories: 6

Paul Girvan
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon
Carla Lockhart
Mr Gregory Campbell
Gavin Robinson

That this House expresses alarm that NHS dental services in Northern Ireland are changing how they operate, resulting in patients either remaining with the practice as a private patient or having to seek to register with a practice which will provide NHS treatment; and calls on the Government to ensure that adequate NHS provision is provided throughout local communities to meet the need.

337 Childhood cancer

Tabled: 30/01/24 Signatories: 16

Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck
Claudia Webbe
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon
Mary Kelly Foy
Jon Trickett

Mr Rob Roberts
 Marsha De Cordova

Charlotte Nichols
 Allan Dorans

Jeremy Corbyn
 Claire Hanna

That this House notes that over 4,000 children and young people are diagnosed with cancer in the UK every year; further notes that cancer is still the biggest killer by disease of children and young people in the UK; recognises the unique medical and psychosocial impacts of cancer on children and young people as compared to cancer in adults; expresses concern that the Major Conditions Strategy is being driven by adult-focused conditions and will be insufficient to address these unique impacts; highlights the Children and Young People's Cancer Plan proposed by the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group and Young Lives vs Cancer; and urges the Government to adopt the provisions of the Plan to comprehensively address the needs of children and young people with cancer.

343 Barnet mental health union disputeTabled: **31/01/24** Signatories: **11**

John McDonnell
Jim Shannon
Mary Kelly Foy
Jon Trickett
Dawn Butler
Beth Winter

Jeremy Corbyn

That this House notes with grave concern the ongoing industrial dispute over recruitment and retention payments with Barnet Council and UNISON in relation to the deeply disturbing endemic staffing crisis that exists within frontline mental health services in Barnet; further notes that this dispute is now the longest-running mental health social worker dispute in UNISON's history; observes that Barnet Council has refused to negotiate since they were first notified of the strike dates on 1 September 2023; believes that Barnet Council has a duty to its staff and mental health service users to try to expedite a resolution that will ensure a safe service with no waiting lists; and calls on Barnet Council to enter into meaningful negotiations with Barnet UNISON, the local trade union, to try and resolve this dispute constructively in order to allow mental health social workers to feel safe and secure in their workplace.

345 Letter from American rabbis to President BidenTabled: **31/01/24** Signatories: **4**

Neale Hanvey
Kenny MacAskill
Angus Brendan MacNeil
Jeremy Corbyn

That this House welcomes the powerful and moving open letter entitled Sorrow and fury: a letter from American rabbis to President Biden, which was sent by the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council; recognises the importance of the voice of moderate Jewish people across the world in opposing the actions of the Israeli Government; expresses concern that such voices are largely being ignored by the mainstream media to balance the narrative set by the Israeli Government, the UK Government and the US administration; reaffirms its sorrow over the more than 26,000 lives lost in Gaza; notes the mounting case that war crimes are being perpetrated in Gaza, as set out in the recent ICJ ruling; expresses its concern over risks to the UK Government of culpability with regard to acts of war crime, facilitating or enabling acts of war crime, and omissions to intervene to prevent the execution of war crimes; and further notes the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council's call to end U.S. complicity in Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people and their assertion that, for the words never again to have any meaning, they must mean never again for anyone.

346 Hope Robertson, Clydebank Asbestos Group

Tabled: 31/01/24 Signatories: 9

Martin Docherty-Hughes
Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Christine Jardine
Ian Lavery
Allan Dorans

Jeremy Corbyn

That this House pays tribute to Hope Robertson, the prominent campaigner against the use of asbestos, and champion for people suffering at home and abroad due to exposure to asbestos, who died on Saturday 27 January 2024; recognises that, as the former Secretary, stalwart supporter and contributor to the work of Clydebank Asbestos Group, Hope ensured that, across the political and health spectrum, the campaign to end the ongoing exposure of people to asbestos remains a key commitment for many; and sends its deepest condolences to Hope's family, friends and fellow campaigners.

349 Jay Abatan

Tabled: 1/02/24 Signatories: 21

Caroline Lucas
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Sir Peter Bottomley
Nadia Whittome
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Jeremy Corbyn

Martyn Day
Daisy Cooper

Allan Dorans
Sarah Green

Stuart C McDonald

That this House expresses concern that 25 years after Jay Abatan was killed in a racist attack in Brighton his murderers have still not been brought to justice; notes that Sussex police have apologised to Jay Abatan's family for the multiple failures in the way the investigation was conducted, as revealed by subsequent reports into his murder; further notes that a 2010 inquest into Jay's death returned a verdict of unlawful killing; considers that not all the overarching issues raised in the Macpherson report appear to have been addressed; recognises that Michael Abatan has been campaigning since 1999 for justice for his brother and that there are countless other families of the victims of racially motivated murders who have been let down by the criminal justice system; calls on the IOPC to conduct an independent investigation into Sussex Police's handling of Jay's death and for a different police force to take over the investigation; and further calls on the Secretary of State for the Home Department to establish and chair a Race Equality Steering Group to help ensure oversight of progress in addressing race equality across all police forces in England and Wales, as recommended by the Home Affairs Select Committee.

350 Independent Panel Inquiry into the death of Zane Gbangbola

Tabled: 1/02/24 Signatories: 26

Ian Byrne
Richard Burgon
Liz Saville Roberts
Caroline Lucas
Chris Stephens
Apsana Begum

Jon Trickett

That this House notes that the Post Office Horizon scandal has reemphasised the need for a Hillsborough Law; acknowledges that more tragedies would benefit from a duty of candour on public servants and a parity of arms; supports the call for an independent panel inquiry with full powers to compel disclosure into the death of seven-year-old Zane Gbangbola, who died during floods in 2014 from poisoning by hydrogen cyanide detected by Fire Services HAZMAT; further notes that Zane's family home was adjacent to likely contaminated landfill from which floodwater flowed and which necessitated the area being evacuated; notes that the coroner ruled Zane died after inhaling carbon monoxide from a petrol-powered pump hired by his parents to clear water from the basement, despite no carbon monoxide being detected; observes that Zane's father is paralysed from hydrogen cyanide poisoning; commends the family's decade-long campaign following Zane's death; is concerned that victims and bereaved in this case have been blamed, abused and scapegoated; reflects on the lack of proper investigation and the masses of evidence undisclosed or ignored and a flawed judicial outcome; notes that Zane's family were refused legal aid for his inquest, whilst legal support for public officials was paid from the public purse and the coroner received legal aid; and calls on Government to urgently establish an independent panel inquiry so that all evidence can be reviewed by experts and the truth about what really happened to an innocent seven-year-old boy can finally be told, heard and recorded.

351 Withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty

Tabled: 1/02/24 Signatories: 6

Wendy Chamberlain
Richard Foord
Sarah Dyke
Jonathan Edwards
Christine Jardine
Jeremy Corbyn

That this House notes the growing number of European countries withdrawing from the Energy Charter Treaty including France, Germany, Spain and Italy; is deeply concerned about the increasing number of legal cases from fossil fuel companies brought against countries introducing climate policy; notes with concern the impact these legal challenges have on the cost and speed of energy transition; further notes that attempts to modernise the Energy Charter Treaty have failed; recognises the need for a new global framework to incentivise global investment in the renewable energy sector to meet global targets to reduce emissions and reach net zero; and calls on the Government to withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty and back a new framework replacement Renewables Treaty to drive innovation, cooperation and the greater adoption of renewable energy.

355 Fuel poverty and the private rented sector

Tabled: 1/02/24 Signatories: 13

Caroline Lucas
 Claire Hanna
 Jonathan Edwards
 Richard Burgon
 Dr Philippa Whitford
 Mick Whitley

Jon Trickett
 Jeremy Corbyn

Chris Stephens

Dan Carden

That this House believes it is a national scandal that in 2022-23 almost 5,000 excess winter deaths were caused by people living in cold and damp homes; is deeply concerned that 6.5 million UK households are experiencing fuel poverty following the energy price cap rise in January 2024; urges the Government to provide emergency support for families struggling to pay their energy bills and to alleviate energy debt; notes that the private rented sector (PRS) has the least energy efficient homes of any tenure in the UK and that over a quarter of renting households live in fuel poverty; expresses alarm that the Government has scrapped the planned upgrade to Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for the PRS which, according to the Climate Change Committee, would save tenants £255 per year, even under so-called normal energy prices; calls on the Government to reverse this decision and require private landlords to bring their properties up to EPC C by 2028; further notes that, according to National Energy Action, introducing effective regulation for landlords would lead to an £8 billion reduction in the central investment required to meet the target for all fuel poor households in England to reach EPC C by 2030; observes that 80% of landlords are in favour of stricter energy efficiency standards; and further believes that improving the UK's leaky housing stock would create numerous benefits for public health, the economy and the climate, whilst delivering genuine energy security and ensuring that everyone has a warm, comfortable home.

357 Ninewells Hospital 50th anniversary

Tabled: 1/02/24 Signatories: 7

Chris Law
 Allan Dorans
 Dr Philippa Whitford
 Anne McLaughlin
 Jim Shannon
 Chris Stephens

Owen Thompson

That this House celebrates the 50th anniversary of the opening of Ninewells Hospital in Dundee; notes that the first patients were admitted on 31 January 1974, with the official opening held later that year in October; thanks the thousands of current and former staff who have worked in the hospital, providing treatment to millions of patients from across Dundee, Tayside and beyond over the last 50 years; recognises that the medical and nursing schools at Ninewells Hospital have been and continue to be instrumental in bringing through generations of healthcare professionals; further recognises the important role that Ninewells Hospital has played in the advancement of medical science; and wishes all at the hospital well in their anniversary year and for the coming future.

358 Allied Steel and Wire workers' pensions

Tabled: 1/02/24 Signatories: 6

Hywel Williams
 Ben Lake
 Liz Saville Roberts
 Mick Whitley
 Jonathan Edwards
 Jon Trickett

That this House recognises the 22 year injustice experienced by Allied Steel and Wire (ASW) workers in relation to their pensions; notes that around 1000 ASW pensions were lost in 2002 despite decades of contributions because their employer went bankrupt; acknowledges that despite having paid for 100% of their pensions, ASW workers were only promised 90% of their value by the UK Government; further notes that the Government's financial assistance scheme fails to protect money paid in before April 1997 from inflation, allowing their value to further erode over time; is concerned that some ASW workers are only receiving half of what is owed to them; welcomes retrospective action beginning to finally right the wrongs of the Horizon Post Office scandal; and calls for the UK Government to similarly address this injustice experienced by ASW pensioners without delay.

359 LGBT History Month 2024

Tabled: 1/02/24 Signatories: 41

Kate Osborne
 Dawn Butler
 Nadia Whittome
 Bell Ribeiro-Addy
 Ian Byrne
 John McDonnell

Jon Trickett

Dan Carden

Daisy Cooper

That this House recognises and celebrates February as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Month 2024; welcomes this month-long celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans history; notes that LGBTQ+ people have a long history of making incredible contributions to the UK; further notes that LGBTQ+ History month is much needed to challenge discrimination and educate; commemorates the progress we have made in the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights and related civil rights through the past decades; further celebrates the increasing freedoms and equality afforded to the LGBTQ+ community in recent years; notes that there is still a lot of work needed to challenge discriminatory rhetoric and attitudes in society; acknowledges that hate crime against the trans community is on the rise and the LGBT community is still discriminated against in many areas of society; and pledges to fight for full equality for all members of the LGBTQ+ community to allow LGBTQ+ people achieve their full potential and contribute fully to society.

360 200th anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Tabled: 2/02/24 Signatories: 19

Mr Alistair Carmichael
 Sarah Dyke
 Jonathan Edwards
 Kim Johnson
 Ben Lake
 Liz Saville Roberts

Jeremy Corbyn

That this House celebrates the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), formed on 4 March 1824; recognises that as a charity, the RNLI has throughout its history worked in the most challenging situations to protect lives at sea; notes that the RNLI operates 238 lifeboat stations with thousands of lifeboat and shore crew, has lifeguards watching over 200 beaches across the UK, and relies upon thousands of hardworking fundraisers; understands that the RNLI has saved more than 144,000 lives over the course of its work since its founding; further recognises that more than 600 people have died in the RNLI's service; further notes that the RNLI maintains a close relationship with coastal communities around the United Kingdom; believes that the RNLI represents some of the best of this country's charitable principles; and wishes the organisation the very best for its future.

361 Support for bereaved children

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 14

Christine Jardine
 Hywel Williams
 Ben Lake
 Liz Saville Roberts
 Jonathan Edwards
 Jamie Stone

Wendy Chamberlain
 Jeremy Corbyn

Chris Stephens

Sarah Green

That this House notes with sadness that, on average, a child loses a parent every 20 minutes in the UK; further notes with concern that support services have no way of knowing exactly how many children suffer a bereavement each year, or where they live; recognises the work of charities in providing specialist support for children who lose a loved one; applauds the wide range of services they provide including support groups, hotlines, online chats and email support; commends charities including Winston's Wish, Childhood Bereavement Network and Child Bereavement UK for collecting over 11,000 signatures on their petition calling for better recognition of bereaved children; and calls on the Government to introduce a new protocol for authorities and public bodies to inform children of local, national and online support services available to children following a bereavement.

362 Mortgage prisoners

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 11

Martin Docherty-Hughes
Hywel Williams
Ben Lake
Liz Saville Roberts
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon

Gavin Robinson
 Chris Stephens

Ian Blackford
 Owen Thompson

Dr Philippa Whitford

That this House notes the new campaign launched by the UK Mortgage Prisoners Action Group which calls for urgent and sweeping legislative reforms to mortgages to avert further homeowner crises and go some way to righting the current wrongs; understands that there are nearly 200,000 mortgage prisoners who are still suffering severe financial hardship due to decisions made by the Government and regulator in the course of bailing out the banks following the 2008 global financial crash; and believes urgent action must be taken to address the injustice that so many have suffered through no fault of their own and rather as a consequence of sales of mortgages to non lenders, repeated securitisation and regulatory changes further trapping many thousands of historic interest only customers.

363 Barry John, 1945 to 2024

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 8

Jonathan Edwards
Hywel Williams
Ben Lake
Liz Saville Roberts
Sir Mike Penning
Jim Shannon

Dr Philippa Whitford

Chris Stephens

That this House mourns the sad passing of the great Welsh rugby union outside half Barry John, born and raised in the Gwendraeth Valley village of Cefneithin in Carmarthenshire; notes that Mr John played his club rugby with Llanelli and Cardiff, was capped for Wales for the first time in 1966 and represented his country on 25 occasions before retiring in 1972 aged 27; acknowledges that he is recognised as the greatest Welsh outside half; further notes that Mr John toured with the British and Irish Lions to South Africa in 1968 and New Zealand in 1971, winning five test caps; also notes that during the momentous 1971 Tour, Mr John scored 30 of the 48 points scored by the Lions in the series, the only time the Lions have won a series in New Zealand; remembers that during the tour Mr John was labelled the King by the New Zealand media and supporters; and recalls that Mr John is immortalised in the Max Boyce poem named the Outside Half Factory – Disaster struck this morning, when fitters mate Ron, cracked the mould of solid gold, that once made Barry John.

364 The Pioneers display and Peter McLagan

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 8

Martyn Day
Hywel Williams
Ben Lake
Liz Saville Roberts
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford

Chris Stephens

Jeremy Corbyn

That this House commends the temporary display entitled The Pioneers: The First Asian and Black MPs, which is being transferred to form part of the permanent hang in Admissions Order Office Corridor; reflects on the protracted process of permanently acknowledging our groundbreaking Asian and Black MPs; notes with dismay the exclusion of Scotland's first mixed-race MP, Peter McLagan, who served the Linlithgowshire constituency from 1865 to 1893; further notes that Peter was the longest-serving Scottish Member during the reign of Queen Victoria; and calls on the Parliamentary authorities to rectify the omission of Peter McLagan from The Pioneers display at the earliest opportunity.

365 Fetcha Chocolates

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 10

Brendan O'Hara
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon
David Linden
Stewart Hosie
Ronnie Cowan

Drew Hendry
 Chris Stephens

Richard Thomson

Dr Philippa Whitford

That this House congratulates Fiona McArthur, owner and creator of Fetcha Chocolates from Campbeltown in Argyll and Bute on being selected to provide dairy-free, vegan chocolates which will be included the 2024 Academy Awards ceremony gift bag; understands that Fiona who started the business from her mum's kitchen in 2019 will create boxes of 24 handmade chocolates which will feature six different flavours inspired by six of the Oscar nominated movies, Barbie, Oppenheimer, Killers Of The Flower Moon, Poor Things, The Holdovers and Maestro; recognises that Fetcha Chocolates have been chosen for inclusion at the Oscars because in addition to being handmade and being free of dairy products, Fiona's chocolates contain no egg, gluten, soy or palm oil, are alcohol-free, and come in packaging that has no plastic content; and sends Fiona McArthur and Fetcha Chocolates very best wishes for the future.

366 Vanity Hair Salon, City of Durham's Small Business of the Year

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 4

Mary Kelly Foy
Grahame Morris
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Vanity Hair Salon in Gilesgate, County Durham, on winning the City of Durham's Small Business of the Year 2023; commends Katie, Courtney, Georgia and Lynsey for their cosmetology; values their contribution to the local community and the local economy; and wishes them every success for the future.

367 50th anniversary of the loss with all hands of the trawler fishing vessel Gaul

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 8

Emma Hardy
Jonathan Edwards
Sir Mike Penning
Jim Shannon
Mary Kelly Foy
Jon Trickett

Chris Stephens

Jeremy Corbyn

That this House notes with solemnity and sadness the 50th anniversary of the loss of the fishing vessel Gaul, with all hands, on the night of 8-9 February 1974 in storm conditions in the Barents Sea, north of Norway; remembers the 36 crew who lost their lives; further notes that this remains the worst peacetime disaster to befall the British commercial fishing industry; offers its sincere condolences to their families, friends, relatives and the fishing community of Hull; deeply regrets the failure of the Government to locate the wreck following the sinking; notes that it took a further 23 years for the wreck to be located; recognises the distress and suffering of all those affected by the tragedy in the intervening years of uncertainty; further recognises the determination of all those who continued to campaign for answers to the tragedy; thanks the Dispatches team led by the late documentary filmmaker Roger Fenton whose work resulted in the discovery of its final resting place; further notes the series of events taking place in Hull between 8 and 11 February to commemorate the anniversary; acknowledges the eternal debt of gratitude owed by the nation to the generations who risked their lives at sea as part of the British fishing fleet; and honours the memory of all those who did not return.

368 Apprenticeships

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 5

Jim Shannon
Jonathan Edwards
Carla Lockhart
Paul Girvan
Gavin Robinson

That this House notes the importance of apprenticeships throughout the UK in helping young people achieve their full potential through employment; highlights that in the 2021 calendar year apprenticeship uptakes were sitting at 1,640,300 and in the most recent financial year increased to 1,719,600 across the UK; further notes that in Northern Ireland specifically 57% of people doing apprenticeships achieved a level 2 qualification and 38% achieved a level 3; underlines the important role apprenticeships play in holding up our economy and in giving young students the opportunity to explore the world of work throughout all industries, such as agriculture, engineering, manufacturing, accounting, business and so much more; encourages all young people to take advantage of these opportunities offered to them; and thanks local businesses and industries for giving young people a chance through apprenticeships.

369 2,000th edition of Sound Around Ards

Tabled: 5/02/24 Signatories: 3

Jim Shannon
Carla Lockhart
Gavin Robinson

That this House notes the important milestone for Sound Around Ards, a talking newspaper service for the Ards peninsula in Strangford constituency, which last week recorded its 2,000th edition since its launch in 1980; highlights that each week, volunteers record 40 minutes of the highlights from local newspapers onto CDs, as it aims to assist those within the sight impairment community but now serves for all those who feel they would benefit from the service; further highlights the incredible work of the volunteers and the secretary Alison Coyle who go above and beyond to provide this service for so many who depend on it; and wishes the team all the best for the future and many more episodes to come.

370 Provision of council homes at social and living rents

Tabled: 6/02/24 Signatories: 4

Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Jim Shannon
Jon Trickett
Jeremy Corbyn

That this House notes that providing grants to enable councils to deliver much-needed homes at social and living rents would save the exchequer money in the medium and long-term; recognises that, under the self-financing settlement package for council housing introduced in 2012, councils were made to take on over £8 billion of national debt through tenants' rents based on the assessment at the time that councils did not need the money; further notes that due to the current housing crisis the money is urgently needed by councils and that the original £8 billion has inflated to the equivalent of over £11.7 billion by 2023; and urges the Government to commit to return the money through £11.7 billion in social housing grants to councils which would enable approximately 120,000 additional homes to be provided at social and living rents, help tackle the housing crisis and save public money through reduced housing income support in the medium and long-term.

371 Local government servicesTabled: **6/02/24** Signatories: **8**

Helen Morgan
Jim Shannon
Jonathan Edwards
Jon Trickett
Sarah Dyke [R]
Richard Foord

Christine Jardine

Jeremy Corbyn

That this House notes with concern that the funding provided in the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement has decreased by over £5,575 million since 2016 in real terms; understands that councils are facing a funding gap of £4bn over the next three years; notes that the 2024/25 Settlement reduces the Services Grant by £406 million despite councils already being forced to make cuts to local services such as closing libraries and leisure centres; further notes that the Settlement fails to recognise the unprecedented levels of inflation and demand for services which has driven up council outgoings; understands that in order to pass balanced budgets many councils will be forced to charge higher council tax for reduced services; is concerned that almost one in five council leaders in England say they are likely to issue a S114 notice in the next 15 months; and urges the Government to provide adequate funding to local government to ensure councils have the means to deliver both statutory services and economic and cultural enrichment for their residents.