



Published: Thursday 15 July 2021

Early Day Motions tabled on Wednesday 14 July 2021

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

315 **BBC regional political monitoring of Parliament**

Tabled: **14/07/21** Signatories: **1**

Ian Mearns

That this House is deeply concerned by proposals to reduce the number of staff working in the BBC Regional Political Unit based at Millbank by over a third; notes that the unit is the eyes and ears of the BBC English regions in Westminster, co-ordinating political newsgathering for the BBC's early evening regional TV news programme, as well as the regional breakfast, lunchtime and late evening TV bulletins and Sunday political programmes and across all local radio output; further notes that the unit is often the only part of the BBC watching backbench business and adjournment debates where hon. Members can raise important local issues which might not make it onto the national news; fears that such a staff reduction will have an impact on capacity to spotting stories, keeping the regions informed about what their hon. Members are doing and enabling public awareness of questions and contributions from backbench hon. Members; is concerned by BBC management's failure to identify the activities currently undertaken which will be withdrawn or diminished as a result of staff reductions; fears that such a reduction in staff numbers will substantially reduce the monitoring of backbenchers' contributions and threaten a substantial fall in the number of local clips of hon. Members speaking in Parliament provided for TV and radio; and therefore calls on the BBC to ensure that it continues to finance a properly staffed Regional Political Unit so that the public can be well-informed on debates in Parliament.

316 Legacy of Wyn Jones (Wyn Fflach)

Tabled: 14/07/21 Signatories: 1

Ben Lake

That this House notes with great sadness the passing of Wyn Jones, a Welsh musician and producer from Cardigan, at the age of 61; celebrates the legacy of Wyn Jones who, along with his brother Richard, founded the legendary Welsh language new wave band Ail Symudiad in 1978 and Fflach Records, an influential recording company, established in 1981 in the town of Cardigan, that went on to help nurture successive generations of Welsh musical talent and which now boasts a catalogue of more than 400 titles; acknowledges his deep love for the town and people of Cardigan and his passion for the Welsh language and Wales' vibrant culture; and passes on the House's sincere sympathy to his family and those who knew and loved him.

317 Tactile paving

Tabled: 14/07/21 Signatories: 1

Sarah Olney

That this House acknowledges the Rail Accident Investigation Branch report into the fatality of Cleveland Gervais, a blind passenger fatally struck by a train on 26 February 2020 after falling from platform 1 of Eden Park station; notes that 35 per cent of platforms are seriously dangerous for blind and partially sighted people due to the absence of the vital safety measure of tactile paving and that up to 15 per cent of people falling from platforms are blind or partially sighted; notes the work of Guide Dogs and Royal National Institute of Blind People in raising awareness of the importance of tactile paving; recognises Network Rail's commitment to ensure all train platforms have tactile paving by 2029, but laments that this commitment is far too slow; urges the Government to ensure the 100 per cent provision of tactile paving across all Network Rail stations by 2025 at the very latest; and calls on the Treasury to make the necessary financial provisions available for the installation of tactile paving.

318 Support for the coach industry in England

Tabled: 14/07/21 Signatories: 1

Emma Hardy

That this House is concerned at the level of support provided for the English coach industry during the covid-19 outbreak; notes that pre-pandemic the coach sector was a healthy sector with a viable future; recognises that sector's vital role in tourism, school transport, rural services and train and airport emergency support; further notes the sector's £14 billion total contribution to the economy; notes that unlike the bus sector, its investment in new Euro 6 emission compliant vehicles came without Government subsidy and as a result many operators had finance in place which they had to service through the pandemic restrictions; regrets that by the end of 2020, over 100 operators had closed for business and 7,000 jobs had been lost; notes the financial support which continues to be provided to the coach industry in Scotland and Northern Ireland is not matched in England; notes that the support made available to the train and bus sectors in England was not extended to coaches; notes that access to the Additional Restrictions Grant became a postcode lottery for operators; notes that the industry was excluded from Restart Grants; notes that the 12 month finance payment holidays have now ended for most operators; notes with regret the confusion and lost business arising from the Cabinet Office's decision to over-rule the Department for Transport's Safe Travel advice; and calls on the Government to work with the industry as a matter of urgency and to undertake necessary steps to prevent further business closures and job losses.

319 BBC Scotland Studios at Pacific Quayside

Tabled: 14/07/21 Signatories: 1

John Nicolson

That this House recognises the importance of BBC Scotland's control of the studios at Pacific Quayside; congratulates BECTU and SNP colleagues who have defended Scottish based jobs against a potential London takeover thus maintaining the broadcasting ecosystem that provides employment for freelancers in Scotland; and looks forward to seeing the new Scottish based creative talent that will be nurtured in these studios.

320 Studio 32 Theatre Company in East Kilbride

Tabled: 14/07/21 Signatories: 1

Dr Lisa Cameron

That this House celebrates the fundraising efforts of members of the Studio 32 Theatre Company in East Kilbride; namely Colin Stewart, Darren England, Paul Gray, Adam Macguiness, Conor Meechan, Alan Dickson, Dougie Hannah, Benjy England, Aaron Hannah, Adam Stewart, Martin Docherty and Jake Docherty and pays particular tribute to the money they have already raised for the Beatson Cancer Charity in preparation for their participation in the Glasgow 10km men's event and wishes them all the best in their run which is due to take place on the 29th August; also draws attention to the additional fundraising efforts undertaken by Peter Gough over the years and recognises his contribution to the theatre and entertainment community in East Kilbride; and finally draws attention to the strength shown by Peter and John Davis in their battle with cancer and thanks Beatson's Cancer charity for all the support they give to families in the Glasgow and Lanarkshire area.

321 Euan McIlwraith and BBC Scotland's programme Landward

Tabled: 14/07/21 Signatories: 1

Richard Thomson

That this House notes that Euan McIlwraith is stepping back from his presenting role on BBC Scotland's Aberdeen-made farming and rural programme, Landward having been a constant presence on-screen for 30 years; recognises the wide range of subjects covered by Euan during his time on the series including the catastrophic foot and mouth disease outbreak of 2001; welcomes the window the programme provides for viewers into issues affecting rural Scotland; further notes that Euan's natural story-telling abilities and warm style have made the programme a must-see for many people; and wishes Euan all the very best going forward where his new priorities will be his grandchildren, sailing and writing.

322 DSEI arms fair 2021

Tabled: 14/07/21 Signatories: 1

Caroline Lucas

This House notes that the DSEI arms fair 2021 is scheduled to take place from 14 to 17 September at London Docklands, with an anticipated 30,000 attendees; further notes that DSEI is organised by Clarion Events and the Government's arms sales unit, Defence & Security Exports, and is expected to play host to more than 1,600 arms companies selling everything from guns and bombs to fighter jets and warships; recognises that Government support is crucial to the success of DSEI and its continued existence; is concerned by the inherent conflict between the Government's promotion of military exports and both its stated desire to help protect human rights overseas and the climate emergency

demanding unprecedented international co-operation as a global priority; and therefore calls on the Government to end the promotion and export of military equipment, to withdraw its support for DSEI and to undertake a complete overhaul of security policy to replace military sales with diplomatic collaboration.

323 **40th anniversary of Mandela's Freedom of Glasgow**

Tabled: **14/07/21** Signatories: **7**

Chris Stephens
Anne McLaughlin
Patrick Grady
Alison Thewliss
David Linden
Carol Monaghan

Stewart Malcolm McDonald

That this House notes the upcoming 40th Anniversary of Nelson Mandela being granted the Freedom of Glasgow; further notes that 4 August 1981 was the day Glasgow City Council presented the Freedom of the City to Nelson Mandela in absentia, since he was still on Robben Island, and Dr. Alex Ekwueme, Vice-President of Nigeria, accepted the award from Lord Provost Michael Kelly on Mandela's behalf; notes this significant anniversary which the City of Glasgow plan to mark; encourages individuals to contribute to the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation appeal to bridge the remaining financial gap to allow the launch of the Nelson Mandela statue competition; and recognises Glasgow's special place in the history of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

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.

264 **Families of children with extremely rare chromosome and gene disorders**

Tabled: **30/06/21** Signatories: **26**

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Andrew Gwynne
Stewart Malcolm McDonald
Alan Brown
Patricia Gibson

David Mundell

That this House recognises the challenges faced by parents of children with unique or extremely rare chromosome and gene disorders in receiving tailored medical care and locating support groups specific to their situation, as well as in being able to know what to expect or gauge against; commends the work of Unique, whose database helps to track down and pair families with extremely rare chromosome and gene disorders; notes that Unique was founded in 1984 by Edna Knight after two of her four daughters were born with a rare chromosomal disorder; and welcomes significant progress in recent years in helping families overcome diagnostic obstacles through DNA sequencing.

273 Service reductions at the British Council

Tabled: 1/07/21 Signatories: 26

Chris Stephens
Wera Hobhouse
John Nicolson
Marion Fellows
Allan Dorans
Stephen Farry

Gavin Robinson

That this House acknowledges the vital role of the British Council in promoting education, training and language across the globe; notes that it was created in 1934 to improve global cultural relations and social mobility and currently works with over 100 countries worldwide changing the lives of millions and helping people to understand other cultures as well as promoting British values; is aware that the British Council employs over 11,000 people across the world with over 1000 being UK based staff; is further aware that ordinarily the British Council generates 85 per cent of its income through teaching and examinations but has faced major difficulties due to the covid-19 pandemic; further notes that in 2020 thanks to the campaigning efforts of the PCS Union and other supportive organisations and individuals, additional money was secured from Government to see the organisations through its financial difficulties; is concerned that the loans provided as well as emergency funding has come with stringent and detrimental conditions determined by the FCDO including the sale of a section of its commercial business in India, a restructure resulting in a 15 to 20 per cent cut to staffing and estates related to the organisation potentially resulting in the loss of around 2000 skilled and vital jobs; and therefore calls on the FCDO to halt the redundancy process and support the British Council in future strategic and detailed planning which retains jobs and the valued reputation of the organisation across the world.

290 APPG Report on UK funding facilitating human rights abuses in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia

Tabled: 7/07/21 Signatories: 19

Brendan O'Hara
Marion Fellows
Allan Dorans
Jim Shannon
Chris Law
Deidre Brock

Amy Callaghan

That this House expresses concern at the findings of the July 2021 report by the APPG on Democracy and Human Rights in the Gulf which shows that at least £53.4 million in public funds have benefited Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states since 2016; is shocked that beneficiaries of UK-funding include institutions in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia accused of facilitating and perpetrating human rights abuses and potential war crimes; is alarmed by the considerable lack of transparency and accountability surrounding the Integrated Activity Fund (IAF), despite the government recommending a root and branch overhaul to strengthen the transparency, accountability and governance of the IAF as early as 2019; is concerned that £10 million has been allocated to GCC states through the IAF's successor, the Gulf Strategy Fund (GSF), for 2021-22, including support for abusive Bahraini oversight bodies; maintains that funding assistance to those bodies places the Government at risk of complicity in their abuses; raises concern over claims made by Ministers regarding the IAF and GSF; notes serious problems with the Government's human rights due diligence process which the report finds is flawed, improperly applied and entirely absent in

some cases and urges that it should be replaced with binding statutory safeguards; affirms that the Government's pursuit of closer ties with the region must not come at the expense of human rights; and asks the Government to seriously consider responding to and implementing the report's recommendations, including suspending the GSF pending an independent investigation.

292 NHS Highland and Raigmore Hospital

Tabled: 7/07/21 Signatories: 5

Jamie Stone
Mr Alistair Carmichael
Jim Shannon
John McDonnell
Christine Jardine

That this House is aware that NHS Highlands' largest hospital, Raigmore, has received code black status; is concerned that health staff in the Highlands are facing unprecedented levels of demand due to the increase in covid-19 cases and hospital admissions; notes that those pressures are in part due to the downgrading of other local healthcare facilities in the Far North; and calls on the Scottish Government and UK Government to work together to support NHS Highland.

293 Access to cash

Tabled: 7/07/21 Signatories: 45

Marion Fellows
Owen Thompson
Kirsten Oswald
Navendu Mishra
Allan Dorans
Dr Philippa Whitford

Amy Callaghan

Christine Jardine

That this House recognises the importance of access to cash for the UK population; notes that due to bank branch closures and the loss of free-to-use ATMs across the UK, millions are at risk of losing access to cash; further notes that all communities should be guaranteed a right to cash services including withdrawal and deposits to cash and that these services should be available to the penny and free at the point of use recognising the importance of cash to those most vulnerable and small businesses; supports the services offered by all Post Offices for cash withdrawals and deposits under the current banking framework; further supports the Post Office's Save Our Cash campaign which highlights the importance of access to cash; and calls on the Government to introduce legislation to ensure access to cash is protected by law.

295 Bryn Hauxwell, Young Fundraiser of the Year

Tabled: 8/07/21 Signatories: 7

Mr Alistair Carmichael
Chris Stephens
Anum Qaisar-Javed
Marion Fellows
Alison Thewliss
Margaret Ferrier

Christine Jardine

That this House congratulates Shetlander Bryn Hauxwell for being awarded the Young Fundraiser of the Year award at the 2021 Pride of Scotland ceremony; notes that Bryn has raised around £10,000 for Ability Shetland across the last 18 months during two separate challenges; that these challenges included a gruelling 1,679 mile effort, the length of the coast of Shetland, and 16 half-marathons in May; and welcomes the funding and awareness Bryn has raised for Ability Shetland in its remit to support the efforts of disabled people to realise their full potential in all areas of life.

296 Access to safe and legal credit

Tabled: 8/07/21 Signatories: 7

Sir David Amess
Chris Stephens
Jonathan Edwards
Wera Hobhouse
John McDonnell
Margaret Ferrier

Christine Jardine

That this House recognises the serious harm caused by illegal money lending and a lack of access to safe and legal credit; notes the rise in vulnerable women becoming victims of sexual exploitation and being forced into prostitution by loan sharks; further notes that the demise of the home collected credit market will only see an increase in loan sharks forcing vulnerable women into debt bondage; and supports the preservation of legal and regulated credit for vulnerable people.

297 Nutrition aid

Tabled: 8/07/21 Signatories: 10

Alyn Smith
Chris Stephens
Hywel Williams
John Nicolson
Allan Dorans
Jonathan Edwards

Amy Callaghan

That this House urges the Government to recognise the importance of investment in nutrition to support its aims for girls' education; notes that impacts of malnutrition are particularly heavy on women and girls and that cases of anaemia, stunting and malnutrition are correlated with poor school performance; stresses that the UK was previously considered a leader in combatting malnutrition and now risks undermining its international reputation in addition to putting millions of lives at risk; and calls on the Government to incorporate nutrition aid into its focus area of girls education.

298 VAT on sunscreenTabled: **8/07/21** Signatories: **17**

Patricia Gibson
Marion Fellows
Chris Stephens
Deidre Brock
John Nicolson
Carol Monaghan

Navendu Mishra

Amy Callaghan

Christine Jardine

That this House calls for sunscreen to be reclassified as an essential healthcare item and therefore be exempted from VAT, given the important role it plays in preventing serious health conditions such as skin cancer; understands that sunscreen is currently classified as a cosmetic product in the UK and is therefore subject to 20 per cent VAT, which adds around £1.50 to the cost of each bottle; recognises that Cancer Research UK has concluded that being sunburnt once every two years can triple the risk of melanoma skin cancer, and that melanoma skin cancer incidence rates have more than doubled in the UK since the early 1990s; and calls on the Government to therefore take action to remove VAT on this essential product to make it more affordable and to encourage people to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.

299 Pride of Scotland Lifetime Achievement Award awarded to Professor Sir Geoff PalmerTabled: **8/07/21** Signatories: **21**

Owen Thompson
Marion Fellows
Amy Callaghan
Martin Docherty-Hughes
Chris Stephens
Joanna Cherry

Christine Jardine

That this House expresses its profound congratulations to Professor Sir Geoff Palmer on being awarded a Pride of Scotland Lifetime Achievement Award; notes that Professor Sir Geoff Palmer has made significant contributions to fields as diverse as brewing and human rights activism; recognises that he discovered the barley abrasion process, which was subsequently adopted by the UK's biggest breweries; notes that in 1998, he became the fourth person to be honoured with the American Society of Brewing Chemists Award of Distinction; further notes that he became Scotland's first black professor in 1988 and is now serving as emeritus professor in the School of Life Sciences at Heriot-Watt University as well as the University's chancellor; understands that he lived in Jamaica until shortly before his fifteenth birthday before moving to England to join his mother, who had moved here as a member of the Windrush generation; commends his role over the past year as a powerful voice in the movement for change prompted by Black Lives Matter, including leading the successful campaign for a reinterpretation of the Melville Monument in Edinburgh honouring Henry Dundas.

304 England national football team Euro 2020 runners up

Tabled: 12/07/21 Signatories: 10

Ed Davey
Tim Farron
Daisy Cooper
Andrew Gwynne
Jamie Stone
Wera Hobhouse

Christine Jardine

Wendy Chamberlain

That this House celebrates the incredible achievements of the England men's football team in the UEFA Euro 2020 championship, reaching the final of a major tournament for the first time in 55 years; expresses deep pride and great respect for the way that team's players and manager conducted themselves on and off the pitch; thanks those players and that manager for the way that they inspired, excited and united the nation after such a difficult 18 months; strongly condemns the racist abuse directed towards that squad's Black players; and looks forward with anticipation to that team's future success.

305 DVLA and Department for Work and Pensions' help for Personal Independence Payment claimants

Tabled: 12/07/21 Signatories: 3

John Nicolson
John McDonnell
Allan Dorans

That this House recognises how difficult, long and arduous form filling can be for people with disabilities, especially when those forms are in hardcopy; and advocates for improved communication between DVLA and the Department for Work and Pensions in order to make the 50 per cent reduction in vehicle tax, for those in receipt of the standard rate mobility component on Personal Independence Payment, an automatic process.

306 150th Anniversary of the Durham Miners' Gala

Tabled: 12/07/21 Signatories: 17

Mary Kelly Foy
Grahame Morris
Kate Osborne
Paula Barker
Mick Whitley
Navendu Mishra

Ian Mearns

Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck

That this House celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Durham Miners' Gala or the Big Meeting; expresses severe regret at the cancellation of the Gala for the second consecutive year but commends the Durham Miners Association for prioritising public health; welcomes the news that County Durham Miners Banners Groups will instead organise events in communities across the county this summer; recognises the important historical and cultural ties between the mining industry and County Durham; further recognises miners and the National Union of Mineworkers for their contributions to the labour movement, trade unionism, and the Labour Party; thanks miners for their economic and cultural contribution to Durham and Britain across centuries; looks forward to the refurbishment of Redhill's Durham Miners Hall and transformation into a cultural centre;

further looks forward to the resumption of the Big Meeting in 2022; commends the Marras for the announcement that all banner groups will be paid double band allowance next year to help with the financial stress caused by the covid-19 outbreak; and encourages everyone to become a Marra.

308 Dame Carol Black's independent review of drugs

Tabled: 12/07/21 Signatories: 10

Grahame Morris
Kenny MacAskill
Alison Thewliss
Jonathan Edwards
Crispin Blunt [R]
Tommy Sheppard

Kim Johnson

Hannah Bardell

That this House thanks Professor Dame Carol Black for her comprehensive Independent Review of Drugs, Part 2 which outlines a clear way forward on drug treatment and recovery to bring hope and real change to the many individuals, families and communities whose lives are blighted by drug addiction and by the criminals who exploit it; welcomes her recommendations to achieve this, presented as concrete proposals deliverable within this Parliament; agrees with her analysis that the current situation is intolerable and that a whole-system approach, with cross-departmental co-ordination and commitment, is required; supports her view that substance misuse disproportionately affects our most deprived communities; acknowledges her call for improved pathways from criminal justice settings and for enabling the diversion of drug users into treatment; recognises that, although Part 1 of her review showed that the societal costs of drug misuse are £20 billion each year, in 2020 to 2021 only £650 million was spent on drug treatment; notes that every £1 currently spent on harm reduction and treatment saves £4 from reduced demands on health and justice; endorses her call for significantly increased investment in drug treatment and wider support; further notes her conclusion that ring-fenced, focused funding for treatment is absolutely necessary; notes that drug deaths are at record levels; and calls on the Government to adopt and implement the Review's recommendations in their entirety.

309 England and Euro 2020

Tabled: 12/07/21 Signatories: 28

Mr Clive Betts
Dan Jarvis
Dame Angela Eagle
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Paul Blomfield
Ian Byrne

Tony Lloyd

That this House congratulates the England Football Team, manager Gareth Southgate, the players and all the back room staff for the way that they have represented the country with dignity and commitment; particularly commends that manager, those players and those staff for the clear and demonstrable opposition to racism and discrimination which they have shown before every game and throughout that whole tournament; and believes that they should be proud of themselves as this House is proud of them.

311 Racism following the Euro 2020 final

Tabled: 12/07/21 Signatories: 26

Mary Kelly Foy
Andrew Gwynne
Jeremy Corbyn
Grahame Morris
Kate Osborne
Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck

Ian Mearns

Kim Johnson

Christine Jardine

That this House unequivocally condemns the racist abuse aimed at the England men's football team after the UEFA European Championship Final on 11 July 2021; notes that 19 year old Arsenal forward Bukayo Saka was forced to take down his Instagram account as a result of that racist abuse; further notes that the mural of 23 year old Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford in Withington was defaced following that match; further condemns the abuse suffered by fans outside the stadium and the violence that broke out before and after that game; recognises the work of Show Racism the Red Card in its 25th anniversary year and supports its call for the Government to hold social media companies and individuals to account; and calls on the Government to display leadership on that issue and to match its rhetoric with action, to tackle the rising threats of online hate crimes and to acknowledge that some Ministerial statements on the booing of taking the knee are incompatible with eradicating racism from all walks of life.

312 Tom Stoltman 2021 World's Strongest Man

Tabled: 13/07/21 Signatories: 5

Neale Hanvey
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon
Kenny MacAskill
Margaret Ferrier

That this House offers its profound congratulations to Scotland's Tom Stoltman on his incredible achievement of winning the 2021 World's Strongest Man competition in Sacramento, California last month; notes that 27 year-old Tom finished three points clear of the hugely experienced Brian Shaw, a four-time champion considered by many to be one of the greatest strength athletes of all time; further notes that Tom has made history in becoming the very first Scot to be crowned World's Strongest Man, and only the fourth British citizen to achieve this feat since the great Geoff Capes in the 1980s; acknowledges that Tom and his older brother Luke, who finished seventh in this year's final, are wonderful ambassadors for British sport; and recognises that Tom, who has spoken openly about his struggles with his Autism Spectrum Disorder, is a true role model and someone from whom we can all draw huge inspiration.

313 De La Salle Academy

Tabled: 13/07/21 Signatories: 8

Ian Byrne
Paula Barker
Kim Johnson
Maria Eagle
Dan Carden
Mick Whitley

Jim Shannon

John McDonnell

That this House recognises that there is a shortage of secondary education places in Liverpool and that the De La Salle Academy is facing possible permanent closure; notes that De La Salle has served generations in the community for over 100 years; further notes that the school has opened up opportunities for young people to access an education and careers they would never have had; recognises that the kitchens of De La Salle supported the community and all their pupils throughout the covid-19 outbreak; notes that the sports facilities and swimming pool provide vital, year round, access to the community and local groups and plays an important role in improving both physical health and mental wellbeing; further notes that the buildings and grounds along with the training school offer the potential for direct careers from school age; believes that the community needs support and investment; further believes that existing resources provided by De La Salle need to be further utilised and not threatened with closure; and calls on the Government to take urgent steps to protect De La Salle for pupils and the community

314 Reductions to the regional political monitoring of Parliament

Tabled: 13/07/21 Signatories: 15

Ian Mearns
Navendu Mishra
Mick Whitley
Paula Barker
Jim Shannon
John Spellar

Layla Moran

Alex Norris

Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck

Valerie Vaz

Kim Johnson

Mary Kelly Foy

Rebecca Long Bailey

Christina Rees

Grahame Morris

That this House is deeply concerned by proposals to slash the number of staff working in the BBC Regional Political Unit based at Millbank by over a third; notes that the unit is the eyes and ears of the BBC English regions in Westminster, coordinating political newsgathering for the BBC's early evening regional TV news programme, as well as the regional breakfast, lunchtime and late evening TV bulletins and Sunday political programmes and across all local radio output; further notes that the unit is often the only part of the BBC watching backbench business and adjournment debates where hon. Members can raise important local issues which might not make it onto the national news; fears that staff cuts will inevitable impact on capacity to spotting stories, keeping the regions informed about what their MPs are doing and enabling public awareness of questions and contributions from backbench hon. Members; is concerned by BBC management's failure to identify the activities currently undertaken which will be withdrawn or diminished as a result of staffing cuts; fears that the cuts will substantially reduce the monitoring of backbenchers' contributions, and threaten a substantial fall in the number of local clips of hon. Members speaking in Parliament provided for TV and radio; and therefore calls on the Government to ensure that the BBC continues to finance a properly staffed Regional Political Unit so that the public can be well-informed regarding debates, about their area, in Parliament.