

Adrian Sanders MP Annual Report

Dear Fellow Resident

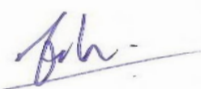
Since the 2010 General Election, I have continued to be a full-time MP for Torbay, active locally and speaking up for our area in Parliament.

Over the course of the last year, I have taken up many issues raised with me by constituents on a wide variety of local issues, such as the impact of Government cuts and the proposed reforms to the Health Service.

The Coalition Government has a very tough task in tackling the budget deficit and the threat of another financial crisis, all the while coping with an ageing population that requires ever more investment in basic services like the NHS. Budget cuts were inevitable whoever came into power in 2010 but I believe we have acted to limit the damage these will have on the lowest paid. Our raising of the tax free allowance and re-linking of pensions to earnings are two key Lib Dem manifesto pledges that we have implemented to protect as best we can those struggling to make ends meet.

As always I have put the interests of Torbay voters above everything else and when the Government gets things wrong, on things like tuition fees and the NHS, I have put forward local views in Parliament and voted against the proposals. I will continue to stand up for Torbay, fighting for the Kingskerswell Bypass, lower water bills and better ways to encourage industry into our area.

With thanks and best wishes,



Adrian Sanders MP



Supporting International Development

While the focus in the UK remains on the economy, Adrian has retained an interest in promoting better international development investment. With the Government implementing the Liberal Democrat manifesto commitment to make 0.7%, making sure aid reaches its intended destination is essential.

Adrian has been working with Ministers to ensure aid goes toward helping in the most serious humanitarian crises and also supporting the growth of stable democracies abroad. With stable countries able to become trade partners with the UK while reducing threats to national security, the investment made by the Government will pay dividends for years to come.

Here he is joined by Sir Steve Redgrave to support the Fair Trade movement.

Fighting for Animal Rights

One of Adrian's priorities has remained campaigning for better animal welfare standards.

He was part of the successful campaign that has prompted the Government to seek to ban wild animals being used for entertainment in circuses following harrowing footage of the treatment of Anne the Elephant who was being abused by her handler at Bobby Roberts Circus.

Other campaigns have focused on ensuring battery farming is brought to an end as soon as possible and that more progress is made to reduce the number of animals used in non-medical research experiments.



Fighting Diabetes

Adrian continues his advocacy for diabetics across the UK, being elected as Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the 13th year in a row.

With an estimated 1 million undiagnosed diabetics in the country and ever increasing pressures on healthcare budgets, ensuring people are managing their disease is crucial. Adrian's campaigns have involved fighting for access to insulin pumps for children with diabetes and improving awareness of the risks of developing type 2 diabetes.



Good news for coastal towns

A visit by Business Secretary Vince Cable was accompanied by news of a new Government initiative to support seaside resorts.

In recent months Adrian has been an integral part of the Government's round table forum on coastal communities, which is devising innovative policies to boost ailing economies as well as tackling deep rooted social problems such as high rates of teenage pregnancy.

The Government's first step has been to announce a fund of around £24 million to be distributed by the Big Lottery Fund to projects focusing on tackling deprivation in seaside towns. Adrian has urged the local authority and local voluntary groups to come together and put forward a bid for funding to boost Torbay in these times of funding cuts.



Adrian's year in Parliament

Since the Coalition Government came to office, Adrian has raised hundreds of different issues in Parliament.

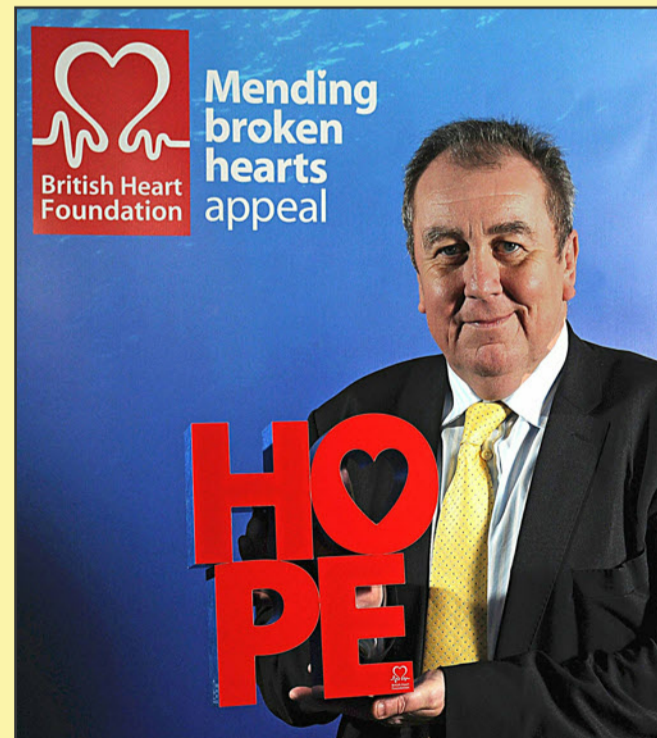
He has tabled 42 motions on issues from providing support to seaside towns to improving services for hearing-impaired people. He has sponsored one piece of legislation; his Private Members Bill to improve fire safety in rented properties.

Adrian has voted for:

- ✓ an increase in the tax free allowance
- ✓ the abolition of ID cards
- ✓ a referendum on the UK's membership of the EU

Adrian has voted against:

- ✗ raising tuition fees
- ✗ the Health and Social Care Bill



Adrian supporting the British Heart Foundation's Mending Broken Hearts campaign, helping to fund crucial research into repairing heart muscle after a heart attack

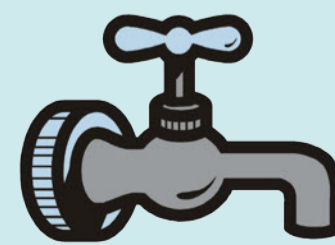
Protecting the NHS

Following serious concerns from medical professionals and patient groups, Adrian refused to give his backing to the Government's healthcare reforms, which look to continue the developments made under the last Government towards more involvement in the NHS from private companies.

While the reforms are likely to be implemented, the main change will be that local authorities and GPs will be able to shape services and decide whether to bring in providers from the voluntary and private sectors. Adrian is urging the Government to promote the model of Torbay's Care Trust that integrates health care and social services.



Success! Reduction in water bills on its way



Adrian's long campaign to get action on the South West's high water bills has finally paid off following the Coalition Government coming to power.

Ministers have now agreed to give the South West region around £40million a year to make the system fairer. For an average household this should mean bills fall by £50 a year. The legislation to implement this is likely to be finalised in 2012.

Phone Hacking

One of the biggest stories in recent months has been the revelations over the extent of illegal phone hacking at the News of the World. As a member of the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, Adrian has been instrumental in raising the issue in Parliament and questioning the Murdochs on their involvement and knowledge of the scandal.



Adrian originally called for a judicial enquiry in September last year after it became clear there were more victims of phone hacking than originally thought. Adrian raised questions over the links between the Metropolitan Police and News International. The scandal forced Rupert Murdoch to end the publication of the News of the World and drop his bid to become the majority shareholder in Bskyb.

Following two poor performing police investigations, which failed to expose the true level of criminal activity, a fresh investigation has been instigated, leading to the arrests of several key players in the scandal, including former News International chief executive Rebekah Brooks. Following pressure from Adrian and other MPs, the Prime Minister has set up two formal enquiries. One will look at the failures of the original police investigations and aim to uncover all the evidence over who knew what about phone hacking. This is likely to encompass many other tabloid newspapers.

Contact Adrian

Every year more than 4,000 people come to Adrian for help

As Member of Parliament, Adrian can intervene where problems arise with public sector bodies such as the tax office, the jobcentre and the police. Adrian also has a role scrutinising Government policy in Parliament and voting for new laws to be passed.

Every Torbay resident has the right to have their views heard at the highest level and Adrian raises a wide range of concerns in Parliament every year.

Many ways to contact Adrian

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