



Alex Brewer MP

Monthly Newsletter

April Highlights:

Speaking Up for Rural Households in the Heating Oil Debate



Alex speaking in the Westminster Hall Debate on heating oil.

April has been a full and varied month.

It was wonderful to welcome Sir Ed Davey to Fleet last Friday. I have also been busy in the chamber voting on significant legislation including the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, holding surgeries across the constituency, and quizzing ministers on investment in female entrepreneurship ([linked here](#)).

As a particular highlight, I was proud to speak in the Westminster Hall debate on heating oil, and I want to explain why this felt so important right now.

We live in a globalised world, and the ripple effects of every geopolitical shift are felt far and wide. Trump's war with Iran is causing devastating instability with global consequences, and those consequences reach all the way to rural homes in North East Hampshire. When oil prices spike, it is not an abstract figure on a screen. It is a real and serious cost landing on the doorsteps of families who have no alternative.

Rural communities have been overlooked and underserved by this Labour Government. They are uniquely exposed to global energy price shocks, and yet their situation barely gets a mention. I was determined to change that, even for one debate.

You can find the full debate linked [here](#).

A Lib Dem Win: Breaking the Link Between Gas and Electricity Prices



Ed Davey visited Alex and local Lib Dems in Fleet, ahead of this month's local elections.

Last July, Ed Davey called for the UK to break the link between gas and electricity prices, moving older renewable generators onto fixed price contracts.

We adopted this as party policy at our Bournemouth conference in autumn last year. It tackles the cost of living and the climate crisis at the same time. And I'm pleased to say the Government is finally hearing our calls.

It is a real win for households across the country. When Liberal Democrats push for the right thing consistently and loudly, it makes a difference.

Casework Wins:

Clarity on a Leasehold Flat Demolition

A resident in North East Hampshire contacted me after learning that their leasehold flat was due to be demolished.

They were struggling to get clear information about the timeline and the next steps for the property buyout, and the uncertainty was causing real stress.

My team and I stepped in to help secure updates and support the individual through the process, making sure they were not left in the dark at such an unsettling time.

If you are facing a similar situation, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thames Water Made to Fix the Damage They Caused

A private lane in a local village was used as a diversion route while Thames Water fixed a burst water main on the main road. The lane had been professionally resurfaced in 2024 and was in excellent condition before the diversion.

Within days, the surface had deteriorated significantly, and potholes had begun to form. Thames Water denied responsibility and refused to act.

Residents contacted me, and I got in touch with Thames Water directly to demand a full investigation. After further scrutiny, Thames Water instructed their traffic management contractor to fund the repairs to the lane.

One resident wrote to say: *"I believe your support for members of the community directly contributed to the successful outcome of our claim. Thanks again!"*

This is exactly the kind of outcome that makes the work of my team and I worthwhile.

Blue Badge Issued the Very Next Day

An individual applied to renew his Blue Badge after receiving a reminder, but delays at every stage meant he was at real risk of being left without one when his current badge expired.

It took six weeks to be asked for a GP letter, and a further six weeks for the GP to provide it. Despite warnings about the delays, the Blue Badge team did not respond.

I contacted the relevant department to ask for the application to be expedited. The Blue Badge was issued the following day.

The resident wrote: *"I received my new Blue Badge yesterday, so thank you for your help with this."*

Simple, swift, and exactly what should have happened from the start.

If you know anyone else who might need my help, please do get in touch by emailing **alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk**

Due to the volume of cases I receive, I have to prioritise responding to those who require my most urgent assistance. If you are currently waiting for a reply to your question, please know that I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Other Stories:

Reflections on Legislation

You may have heard the term "ping pong" mentioned this week, and I promise it has nothing to do with a table and a little white ball.

When a Bill is being passed between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, both sides can suggest or make changes, and the Bill gets sent back and forth until both Houses agree.

It is an important part of how our laws are properly scrutinised and shaped. But it does mean things get very busy in Westminster, with votes interrupting select committees, meetings and pretty much everything else.

With a new King's Speech coming in a matter of weeks, the Government is racing to get all current Bills over the line in time, which means the chamber has been particularly lively.

Here is a summary of some of the key votes I have cast recently:

On the **Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill**, I voted to:

- push the Government on a firm timeline for the social media ban,
- introduce a uniform price cap,
- properly regulate smartphones in schools.

These are issues that matter enormously to parents and young people across North East Hampshire, and I will keep pressing for the strongest possible protections.

On the **Crime and Policing Bill**, I voted to:

- expand the grounds on which an offence can be treated as aggravated beyond race and religion,
- ensure courts are properly consulted when a youth diversion order application is being considered.

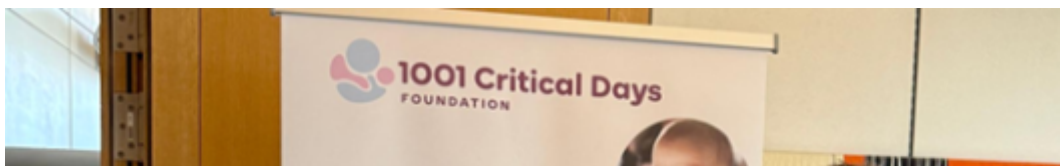
Getting the balance right between protecting communities and supporting young people is vital.

On the **Pension Schemes Bill**, I voted to

- stop the Government mandating how contribution schemes invest,
- prevent mergers that do not genuinely improve outcomes for members,
- make sure that innovation and competition are properly taken into account.

People's pension savings deserve real protection, not political interference.

Investing in Our Youngest Children: Early Years and Education





Alex at the 1001 Critical Days event in Parliament.

This month I attended a parliamentary event hosted by 1001 Critical Days, whose work focuses on the period from pregnancy to age two.

Those 1001 days shape a child's lifelong health, wellbeing and opportunity, and I am proud to support their mission. Every baby deserves the best start in life, and quality early years education is the best investment we can make in the future of this country.

Flexible, affordable childcare is critical economic infrastructure. It gives parents more choice, helps them return to work, supports those who want to spend more time at home, and tackles the gender pay gap. But the current system is under serious strain.

Some nurseries are already telling parents they may be unable to sign the new early years funding contract due to financial pressures. This is unacceptable. The Government's National Insurance hike is squeezing providers who already operate on the thinnest of margins, and new guidance restricting charging flexibility is making things worse.

I am calling on the Government to urgently review funding rates to reflect the real cost of delivering high quality early education, exempt early years providers from the NICs rise, and commit to a long-term plan that supports both sustainability and staff retention across the sector.

Liberal Democrats have also tabled an amendment to the National Insurance Contributions Bill to exempt early years providers from the NICs rise entirely. Without urgent action, more settings will close, and families will pay the price.

Standing Up for Water Bill Fairness

17th April 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to request your support for the **Water Industry Act 1991 (Amendment) (Payment of Fines) Bill** that was introduced into Parliament this week.

The Bill's purpose is **'to omit from the Water Industry Act 1991 provision enabling water companies to make an application for a change to the date by which a penalty**

or portion of a penalty must be paid or to appeal to the High Court in respect of such a date; and for connected purposes.'

Section 22A and 22E(1)(c) of the Water Industry Act 1991, introduced under the Blair Government in the Water Act 2003, were originally intended to give water companies the right to appeal and offer flexibility in the case of an unreasonable penalty. However, it is evident organisations are using the appeals process to subvert fines, and these sections should have faced greater scrutiny by the government of the day.

Last year, Thames Water were fined £122.7M by Ofwat following two investigations which revealed breaches of its rules on wastewater operations and dividend payments. This was the largest penalty Ofwat has ever issued.

The legislation mentioned above currently allows water companies to apply to Ofwat to request an enforcement plan if a penalty is received. The fine was due to be paid in full by August 2025, but Ofwat granted a delayed payment plan to Thames Water with a backstop date of 31st March 2030.

More recently, Thames Water has been in conversation with Ofwat about a proposal that would waive fines going forward for the next four years if the company commit to investing into fixing issues that would usually incur penalties.

This is unacceptable and it cannot go on; legislation lets water companies off the hook and Ofwat is doing nothing to stop it. This is a failure to the British public, the Government promised a new, capable regulator yet has failed to deliver it. Please can you outline when we can expect to see the new regulator in place?

Thames Water continues to harm communities and individuals, polluting waterways and further increasing bills. Consumers are forced to pay for years of mismanagement, whilst Thames Water has negotiated away yet another fine. Without enforceable consequences for water companies' actions, nothing will change.

I hope you will consider supporting the Bill and announce the inclusion of similar legislation in the King's Speech. We would be very happy to work with you to take this forward as government legislation. As elective representatives, we must close loopholes in legislation that are currently abused.

Alex signed this letter to the Prime Minister calling for new legislation to close water regulation loopholes.

My position on water companies is clear: they must face real, enforceable consequences for their actions.

Thames Water had a £122 million fine, the largest Ofwat has ever issued, effectively written off. Consumers are being forced to pay for years of mismanagement while companies negotiate away their penalties. That is simply wrong.

I want to see a new, more robust regulator replace Ofwat, mutual ownership of water companies so they are accountable to customers rather than shareholders, stronger environmental protections, and a social tariff to end water poverty once and for all.

Here is what I am doing about it:

- I have signed a letter directly to the Prime Minister calling on him to support new legislation to close the loopholes that let water companies off the hook.
- I have signed an Early Day Motion led by Lib Dem spokesperson Tim Farron ([here](#)), urging the Government to include comprehensive water measures in the upcoming King's Speech.
- I am scrutinising the Government's Water White Paper, as a member of the cross-party All-Party Parliamentary Group on Water, and holding them to account every step of the way.

Our rivers, our bills, and our communities deserve better, and I will not stop pushing until we get it.

Do You Need Help with an Issue? Contact Me

It's an honour and a privilege to serve as your MP for North East Hampshire, and I'm committed to working hard to repay this trust by being the best MP I can be.

My number one priority will always be helping and supporting my constituents. If you live in the North East Hampshire constituency, you can contact me via the channels listed below, and my team and I will get back to you as soon as we can.

- You can email me at: **alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk**

- You can leave me a voicemail at: **020-7219-7560**

- You can write to me at: **Alex Brewer MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**

I'm here to represent you, and this monthly update is just one way I hope to keep you informed and engaged.



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