

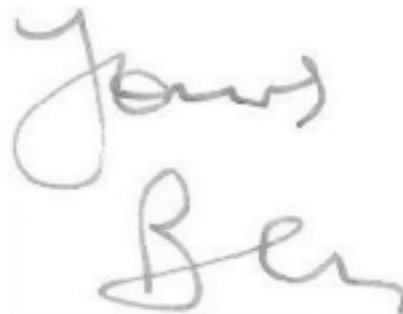
## *News from Westminster*

My recent month-long jury service has meant I have been away from Westminster. I have, however, been working (in between sittings in court) on a number of issues, such as the closure of Lower Heswall and Lancelyn Court Post Offices. Although a review of Post Office's decision to close these branches is not likely, I have done my utmost to ensure that this decision is fought.

Last week I co-sponsored a Ten-minute Rule Bill on an "Allotments (Planning) Bill". The Bill encourages Local Authorities to make provision for allotments and to require them to consider opposing duties on developers and to provide land for statutory allotments when determining planning applications and connected purposes. Whilst the permission was given to introduce the Bill, by its nature it is unlikely to progress. Ten Minute Rule Bills are used to make a point rather than to make changes to the law, as they are not awarded time for Parliamentary scrutiny. They do, however, provide an opportunity to raise an issue on the floor of the House and thus can in some instances lay the foundations of a later successful attempt.

In the same week I was in Parliament supporting a Private Members' Bill on which Andrew Millar leads but on which I am one of eight sponsors. The Bill seeks to end the exploitation of temporary agency workers: a current and pressing issue which warrants a legal framework to prevent worker exploitation.

I continue with my duties on the Intelligence and Security Committee, as noted in satirical form recently in the Daily Post.



James  
Ben