

Kevan Jones MP

Member of Parliament for North Durham



Parliamentary Update

May 2023

Leasehold reform

On 23 May, I took part in an Opposition Day debate on leasehold reform. I gave several examples from across North Durham showing why reform of the system is desperately needed.

The current leasehold system is arcane and unfair. It denies too many people the power, control or even a say over things as fundamental as the safety, security and future of their own home and community.

People should not have to wait any longer for basic rights over their own homes. The Government has promised for years to reform the system and it should act on this quickly.

You can watch my full speech at fb.com/KevanJonesMP



TransPennine Express

We learned on 11 May that TransPennine Express would not have its contract renewed at the end of this month.

I welcome this news and it is something I have long been calling for. My constituents using Chester-le-Street station have suffered too long from the appalling service offered by TransPennine Express.

Any new operator needs to engage closely with customers so they are not let down any longer and so that my constituents in Chester-le-Street and across North Durham are given regular train services that they can rely upon.



NATO Parliamentary Assembly

As a vice president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I spent a weekend at its spring session in Luxembourg this month. The assembly is made up of parliamentarians from across all NATO states and scrutinises what the Alliance is doing and makes recommendations.

There were strong calls at the spring session for NATO states to speed up delivery of weapons and support to Ukraine, strengthen defence production, and ensure Russian war criminals and their enablers are held to account.

Post Office executive bonuses

I secured an urgent question in the House of Commons on 10 May about bonuses awarded to Post Office executives.

It was revealed that the chief executive was given a £455,000 bonus, part of which was linked to helping the public inquiry into the Horizon accounting scandal “finish in line with expectations.” However, the inquiry has not yet finished and the Post Office is required by law to comply with it.

These bonuses are obscene and unjustified at a time when postmasters who were victims of the scandal are still waiting for compensation.

I believe they show that the culture at the Post Office is still rotten to the core.

I called on the chief executive and members of the board who signed off on the bonuses to resign or be sacked. You can watch my urgent question here: [fb.com/KevanJonesMP](https://www.facebook.com/KevanJonesMP)



War Graves Week

20-28 May is War Graves Week. Many will be aware of the iconic sight of war graves in northern France but the Commonwealth War Graves Commission also look after 150,000 war graves throughout the UK in local cemeteries and church yards like these ones in Stanley.

To find out more about the commission or to support the work of the foundations please visit: cwgc.org or foundation.cwgc.org

I hope this parliamentary update has been of interest.

Best wishes,

Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP



Get in touch

If you are a constituent and need help or would like to arrange an appointment, please contact me.

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