

Kevan Jones MP

Member of Parliament for North Durham



Parliamentary Update

June 2023

Nissan pensions debate

I secured an adjournment debate on 21 June to raise concerns on behalf of constituents about the Nissan pension plan.

These relate to a change made to Nissan's defined benefit pension scheme in 2011, affecting hundreds of current and former workers. The change means lump sums are paid from parts of the pension that receive the highest statutory annual increases. This change was not communicated directly to scheme members and was only vaguely mentioned in one sentence of an annual report.



This has left pensioners thousands of pounds worse off in retirement and at the mercy of discretionary annual increases. However, discretionary increases have been set at 0% for the last 23 years, in part due to Nissan not providing the funding required.

The first time some people found out about this was when they realised their pensions were not increasing as they expected. This is no way to treat people who have worked hard for their pension. I urged the Government to act to ensure that when changes such as this are made to pensions, they are communicated clearly and directly with scheme members.

You can watch a clip from my speech at fb.com/KevanJonesMP



Kept Animals Bill

On 21 June, I voted for an Opposition motion to force the Government to bring the Kept Animals Bill back to Parliament.

The Bill was intended to tackle the importation of cats, dogs and ferrets, the keeping of primates as pets, and the live export of animals for slaughter. It had already passed several Commons stages with unanimous support and only needed a few more hours of Parliamentary time to become law. However, the Government has dropped it.

These measures were promised many years ago and it is disappointing that the Government will not follow through with them. Sadly, the Government used its majority to block the attempt to bring the Bill back. I am a firm supporter of animal welfare and I will continue to push for these measures to be brought into law.

Mortgage and rental costs

With interest rates continuing to increase and as households re-mortgage, it is crucial that protections are in place for those struggling. In North Durham, 8,800 households will be affected, facing an extra £1,300 a year on their mortgage on average.

So far the Government has announced only voluntary measures with lenders. On 28 June, I voted for an Opposition motion calling on the Government to immediately adopt mandatory measures guaranteeing support from lenders for those struggling to pay their mortgage, and to strengthen the rights of renters. Again, the Government used its majority to block these measures, leaving around one million homeowners at risk of missing out on support.

Privileges Committee

I voted to support the report of the Privileges Committee, which found that Boris Johnson lied to Parliament. It is a fundamental principle of parliamentary democracy that we can trust the information given by Ministers in the House of Commons.

That a Prime Minister lied to Parliament is incredibly serious and worthy of serious sanction. That the current Prime Minister failed to vote either way on this matter shows weakness and lack of integrity.

Intelligence and Security Committee

On 26 June, I made the case during consideration of the National Security Bill for a stronger Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) of Parliament.

Unfortunately, the Government has been making the ISC's work harder over recent years. Constituents will remember the long and unnecessary delay to the publication of the Russia Report.

Sadly, this unhelpful approach is continuing. Independent oversight of our intelligence and security services is vital and the Government must facilitate it.



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.

 kevanjonesmp@parliament.uk  [fb.com/KevanJonesMP](https://www.facebook.com/KevanJonesMP)

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