

Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



November 2022

The Autumn Statement

This month, MPs packed into Parliament to hear the Chancellor deliver his Autumn Statement. In response to the rising cost of living, he set out how the Government will support the most vulnerable people, invest in our public services, especially health and social care and education, and deliver long-term growth. Tackling inflation and bringing it back down is the number one priority for the Government, because inflation makes everyone poorer, pushing up costs for households and businesses and eating into the budgets of public services. This is easier said than done, as inflation around the world is being driven by a shortage of energy, particularly natural gas. This began as economies reopened after covid, causing the demand for energy to shoot up everywhere. But it has been made much worse by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the way it has weaponised both gas supplies and food supplies, blockading grain shipments from Ukraine. Below is a summary of some of the key measures set out by the Chancellor

Supporting the vulnerable

The National Living Wage will be increased by 9.7% to £10.42 an hour, giving a full-time worker a pay rise of over £1,600 a year

The Energy Price Guarantee, which is capping typical energy bills at £2,500, will continue to provide support from April 2023 with the cap rising to £3,000

The Pension Triple Lock will be protected, meaning pensioners will also get a rise in the State Pension and the Pension Credit in line with inflation

Working age benefits will rise by 10.1%, boosting the finances of millions of the poorest people in the UK

More than 8 million UK households on eligible means tested benefits will receive additional Cost of Living Payments totalling up to £900

More than eight million pensioner households across the UK will also receive an additional £300 Cost of Living Payment for pensioners

Over 6 million people across the UK on eligible 'extra costs' disability benefits will receive a further £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment

DWP will provide further detail on timing of the above 3 payments in due course, but you can see if you are eligible here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-cost-of-living-support-factsheet/cost-of-living-support-factsheet>

Investing in our public services

The Chancellor's plan also lays out how we will continue to protect and invest in our public services.

Funding for the NHS and social care is being increased by up to £8 billion in 2024-25. This will enable the NHS to improve access to urgent and emergency care, get waiting times down, and will mean double the number of people can be released from hospital into care every day from 2024.

The schools budget will receive £2.3 billion of additional funding in each of 2023-24 and 2024-25, enabling continued investment in high quality teaching.

All other departments will have their Spending Review settlements to 2024-25 honoured in full.

Delivering Long-Term Growth

The Chancellor also committed to protecting the long-term growth of our economy.

Recommitted and protected the £20 billion R&D budget

Solvency II, which was an EU directive retained in UK law will be reformed. Solvency II regulates the insurance industry and outlines the amount of capital that insurance firms must hold to reduce the risk of their financial collapse. The difference between an insurer's best estimate of its liabilities and the market value of its liabilities, known as the risk margin, for long-term life insurers will now be cut by 65%, unlocking tens of billions of pounds to invest in our economy.

Sizewell C Nuclear plant will go ahead and will provide reliable, low-carbon power to the equivalent of 6 million homes for over 50 years

Supporting the roll-out of fast, reliable 5G broadband

Of course, this plan needs to be fiscally responsible and set out how we will pay for these measures. It is right that the companies who have benefited most from the increase in energy prices pay their fair share - the Energy Profits Levy on oil and gas companies will therefore increase from 25% to 35%, with the levy remaining in place until the end of March 2028. A new, temporary 45% levy will also be introduced for electricity generators.

The changes to personal taxes have been chosen on the basis that those who are most able to pay more do so. The 45p tax threshold will therefore be reduced from £150,000 to £125,140

The above two measures will raise over £55 billion from this year until 2027-28.

You can read more about the Autumn Statement [here](#).

Supporting local jobs and businesses

This month, I met with local businesses at Nottinghamshire Golf and Country Club in Cotgrave for a roundtable organised by NatWest to discuss some of the challenges businesses face. Business owners were encouraged to share

their views on the local economy and business environment within Rushcliffe.

Some of the main issues discussed included meeting net-zero targets; education, apprenticeships, recruitment and retention; planning regulations; and; how the business community, policymakers and banks can better work together nationally and locally.

I am always eager to engage with businesses in Rushcliffe, so if you are having any issues you would like me to know about or help you with, please email me at ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk.

Taking up new roles in Parliament

This month, I took up two new roles in Parliament. I was delighted to be asked to become the Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Oliver Dowden. In this role, I will support Oliver (or CDL as he is known in Parliament) and the Cabinet Office with their engagement with Parliament.

You can find out more about what a PPS does here:

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/parliamentary-private-secretaries>

I also joined the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Select Committee, which scrutinises the work of this Department. The Committee meets every Tuesday at 10.30am and you can watch our meetings live [here](#). My particular interests are energy and the security of our supply chains, specifically in regards to critical minerals.

I recently asked the Prime Minister about the resilience of our supply chains, especially in areas such as critical minerals and semiconductors. This was during the Prime Minister's statement after the latest G20 meeting.

The G20 is a forum comprising 19 countries and the EU and works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

Following every G20 meeting, the Prime Minister updates Parliament with a statement in the House of Commons. I wanted to know about the Prime Minister's discussions regarding the decoupling of our supply chains with authoritarian regimes. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shown just how important it is to have resilient and dependable supply chains and I am pleased achieving this is a priority for the Government. Rushcliffe will play a central part in securing our supply of critical minerals as it is home to the British Geological Survey's Critical Minerals Intelligence centre. You can learn more about their work [here](#).

Watch [here](#).

Asking the Prime Minister about our support for Ukraine and the resilience of our supply chains

During Prime Minister's Questions last week, I asked the Prime Minister about our support for Ukraine this winter. This was in the wake of Russia's barbaric and targeted strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, which has left around 10 million people without power as we move into the freezing winter months.

I was glad to hear about the support the UK is providing, this includes £10 million to the international Ukrainian Energy Support Fund and £7 million for over 850 generators, so that vital facilities like hospitals can continue to have power. You can watch my question and the Prime Minister's response [here](#).

Remembering Rushcliffe's wartime legacy

Each year, I mark Remembrance Day by highlighting and honouring the

wartime stories from our communities. This year, I remembered in particular No. 207 Squadron who were based at RAF Langar in Rushcliffe from 1942-43.

They flew raids in Berlin across occupied Europe in the iconic Lancaster Bomber. 251 airmen from this squadron died on missions flown from Langar. I planted a stake in Parliament's Garden of Remembrance in their honour.



In Rushcliffe, I took part in Remembrance Sunday services at St Giles Church and the war memorial in West Bridgford. It was very moving to see our community come together to remember all those who have lost their lives in the service of our country, and to give thanks for their service and sacrifice.



I also joined the Colston Bassett, Owthorpe, and Cotgrave branch of the Royal British Legion in West Bridgford's Asda to sell poppies. The Royal British Legion do a fantastic job in Rushcliffe and beyond and I want to thank them for letting me join them.



Celebrating UK Parliament Week

This month, we celebrated UK Parliament Week, which takes place every year and invites schools and other organisations to learn more about our Parliament and democracy.

This year, I visited Rushcliffe Spencer Academy and Jesse Gray Primary School to talk to students about my job as their MP and to answer their questions about life in Parliament and key policy issues like climate change, energy, migration and much more. If you want to book a tour of Parliament for your school, please email me at ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk and I can help organise one for you.



Did you catch me on GB News, BBC Politics East Midlands, or NottsTV this month?

This month, I appeared on GB News, BBC Politics East Midlands, and NottsTV. On GB News, I was reviewing a session of Prime Minister's Questions with Labour MP Barry Gardiner, which saw the Deputy Prime Minister taking questions due to the Prime Minister being away at COP27 in Egypt. You can watch that [here](#).

On BBC Politics East Midlands, we discussed my new role on the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee, as well as pressing issues

such as the asylum system, inflation, and what the Autumn Statement will do for people and businesses across the UK. You can watch that [here](#):

On NottsTV, I joined campaigner Nicky Brindley to talk about our recent J9 event in Parliament. We discussed how important this event was in taking the J9 campaign to another level to support survivors of domestic abuse across the UK. Moving the campaign forward, we have all of the MPs that joined us for the event to attend a J9 trainer training session so their constituencies can have their own J9 lead to deliver the safer spaces training in their communities. You can read more about this [here](#).

Protecting our communities and countryside

Protecting our countryside is one of my key priorities, so when The Campaign For the Protection of Rural England asked MPs to support them and become a #HedgerowHero, I was more than happy to say yes. Their aims are to promote the expansion and restoration of hedgerows in the UK due to their huge, positive, impact on biodiversity. They act as wildlife corridors, creating a safe habitat for all sorts of species. You can learn more about the Hedgerow Hero campaign [here](#).

Out and About!

I visited the QMC this month to meet with their new Chief Executive Anthony May and visit the maternity unit.

The team there is working really hard to support new parents and it. Nottinghamshire MPs met with Donna Ockenden last month who is undertaking a review into maternity care at QMC over the last 10 years. Findings from the review will be shared with the Trust as they are discovered so if you have an experience you want to share either as a member of staff or a patient please contact Donna at nottsreview@donnaockenden.com

I was pleased to be invited to speak at Chatham House on a panel discussing cybersecurity and the global cyber workforce. We are well and truly in the Digital Age and cyber security is a rapidly growing industry. Getting the professionals and experts to fill the jobs needed is the challenge we are currently facing.

Getting people into cyber security jobs is currently a challenge. With my cybersecurity background, I know how rewarding it is to work in the sector, but we need to encourage cyber more people to consider a career in it. Many think you need technical skills to qualify, but human experience and soft skills are far more important. They can teach you the technical side so keep a look out for the opportunities if interested.

The President of South Africa has been visiting the UK this month. On his visit, he came to speak to MPs and Peers about the transformation in the relationship between the UK and South Africa and the opportunities we have to work together to face big challenges like climate change.

I was really pleased to see the announcement of the creation of a new partnership between the UK and South Africa on minerals for Future Clean Energy Technologies. It is vital that we work with our allies to secure our supply of critical minerals including those used in the production of hydrogen and batteries.



We celebrated Back British Farming day this month, which is organised by the National Farmers Union (NFU). I met with the NFU to discuss how we can best support farmers across the UK. We have some fantastic farmers and farming business in Rushcliffe and I will always champion them in and out of Parliament.



I welcomed a group of students from Nottingham College to Parliament for a tour and to talk to them about their Uniformed Protective Services studies at the college. I always like to see constituents when they come down to the House of Commons so if you want a visit or a tour, please get in contact with me at ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk



Earlier this month, I attended a West Leake Parish meeting. It was a pleasure to meet the residents there and to hear first-hand about the issues of most concern, such as the potential impact from increased traffic in local villages as a result of the new freeport being developed at the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station site. Since then, I have written to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment on Nottinghamshire County Council, Neil Clarke, to ask for an in-depth Transport Feasibility Study, with a full impact assessment on the local transport network. If there are any concerns or issues you have in your community that I could help with, please email me at ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk.



I really enjoyed my first meeting as part of HMP Nottingham's Employment and Advisory Board this month. The Board works with other community organisations, such as businesses and charities, to ensure people leaving prison have good job prospects and the tools to succeed outside of prison.

I was pleased to visit Evans Pharmacy in Ruddington this month, to meet with the staff there and the Chair of the Nottinghamshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee. We discussed some of the issues and difficulties local community pharmacies are currently facing. Many people rely on our community pharmacies, so it is vital we do all we can to support them. I will be meeting health ministers to raise their concerns in the coming weeks.



And Finally...

It was 'AskHerToStand' month, which is an initiative set up by the 50:50 Parliament campaign to encourage women to stand for public office. Research suggests that women need to be asked three times before they'll consider standing. If you know a woman who would be a great MP, ask her to stand and send her [this link](#) to get started.



RUTH EDWARDS

MP FOR RUSHCLIFFE

IS SUPPORTING #ASKHERTOSTAND

RESEARCH SUGGESTS WOMEN NEED TO BE ASKED THREE TIMES
BEFORE THEY'LL CONSIDER STANDING.

SO MAKE TODAY THE DAY YOU ASK THE BRILLIANT WOMEN YOU
KNOW TO STAND FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

5050PARLIAMENT.CO.UK/ASK-HER-TO-STAND



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