



*I hope this report will give you
a flavour of my work on your
behalf.*
John Barrett

www.johnbarrettmp.com

How to contact your MP...



Contact details

Write: John Barrett MP
1A Drum Brae Avenue
EDINBURGH
EH12 8TE

Tel: 0131 339 0339

Fax: 0131 476 7101

Email: johnbarrettmp@parliament.uk

Surgeries

John Barrett MP holds advice surgeries at his office at 1A Drum Brae Avenue on Fridays from 4pm and Mondays at 9am.

In conjunction with Margaret Smith MSP, he also holds surgeries on the first Saturday of every month in Kirkliston, South Queensferry and Muirhouse.

Appointments (to avoid a long wait) can be made by phoning 0131 339 0339.

John can also arrange home visits for those with mobility problems.

Website

For latest news and information, to tell John your views on local and national issues or to vote in John's online polls, visit John Barrett's website at:
www.johnbarrettmp.com





John Barrett MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Friend,

Many people tell me how angry they get when politicians promise one thing and do another. That is why I think it so important to deliver on the promises I made to you at the last election.

One of the promises I made was to produce, in addition to the regular local newsletters, an annual report. In this, my third annual report to you since being elected your local MP, I hope to give you a flavour of the work I have done over the last 12 months.

It has been a busy year, both in Edinburgh and at Westminster. Between international issues such as Iraq, national issues such as immigration and local issues such as the expansion of the airport, there has been a lot to do. However, I never forget that my responsibility first and foremost, is to help the people and communities that make up West Edinburgh.

I always try to be as accessible as possible and to keep you up to date with my work. I hope this annual report will help achieve both these aims, as part of my year round work promised to you three years ago.

With best wishes

John Barrett MP

Issues John can help with

As your MP, I can help with any issue reserved to Westminster. These include:

- Taxation and the economy;
- Pensions and benefits;
- Foreign Affairs and International Development;
- Defence;
- Immigration and asylum;
- Constitutional matters;
- Energy policy;
- Cross-Border transport issues.

The Scottish Parliament is responsible for issues such as health, education, crime and

housing. As a result, these issues are best dealt with by Margaret Smith MSP, with whom I work closely. You can contact Margaret on 0131 348 5786 or write to her at the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

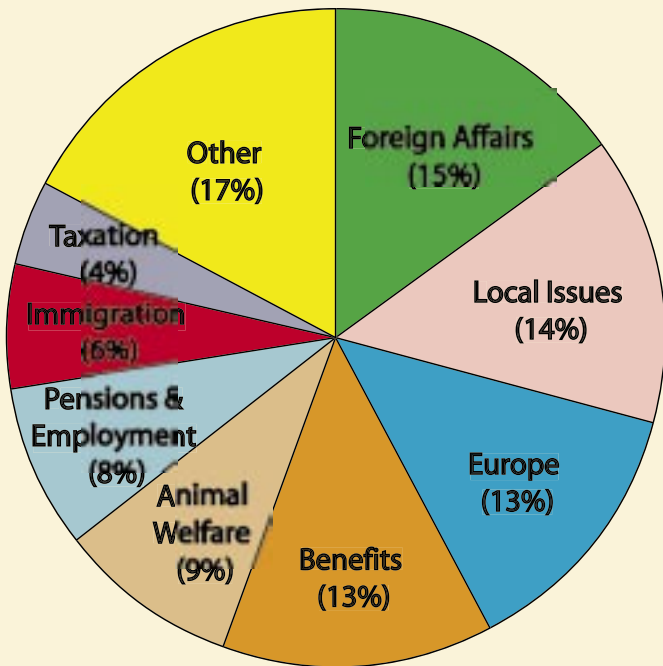


Working in West Edinburgh

Helping Local People

It is vital that West Edinburgh has an open and accessible MP who can help individual people with their individual problems. In the past year alone, I have helped hundreds of local people with their specific cases.

The breakdown of issues people have contacted me about is shown in the chart below.



In the past 12 months, I have held over 100 advice surgeries to ensure people are able to come and explain their problems or concerns. In 2003, I introduced 'street surgeries' where I visit certain streets, giving people a chance to speak to their MP in their own home. I have made a point of rolling this out across West Edinburgh and I have now covered over 6,000 homes including streets in Queensferry, Blackhall, Muirhouse and Ratho.

Supporting the Community

I believe it is important to support the many local organisations that play such an important part in the local community. I have made a point of keeping in touch with 350 such organisations, informing them about help available through lottery funding, the Edinburgh Volunteer Centre and the B&Q awards. In the past 12 months, I have met with the Ferry Folk Lunch Club, Corstorphine Dementia Project, North Edinburgh Drug Advice Centre and the Muirhouse Millennium Centre, to name just a few.

In September, I raised money for Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland by abseiling off the Forth Rail Bridge. In January, I swam with sharks at Deep Sea World as part of my environment competition for local school children.



I have also had the pleasure of attending many local events, including galas in Davidson's Mains and Drumbrae as well as the Corstorphine Fair. If you are organising an event and would like to publicise it on my website, please contact my office.

Campaigning on the Issues

I am tremendously grateful for the support I have received from local people for the major campaigns I have been running in the last year. These include saving pension books, ending VAT on church repairs and my ongoing campaign to protect the gift aid rules that benefit charities like Edinburgh Zoo. I also ran a high profile campaign with the SSPCA on ending the trade in dog and cat fur, which attracted over 20,000 signatures.



Working at Westminster

My work in Parliament prompted a local newspaper to name me “Lothian’s Busiest Backbencher”. I believe one of my most important jobs is representing your interests in your Parliament. The concerns and views of Edinburgh West must be heard loud and clear.



In the past 12 months, I have:

- asked over 370 parliamentary questions, the highest of any Lothian MP. I have questioned each and every Government Department on issues ranging from pensions to post offices and from Iraq to identity cards;
- tabled 10 motions to Parliament, on such issues as the trade of dog and cat fur, tax credits and Edinburgh Zoo. I have added my name to over 400 backbench motions since the beginning of the parliamentary session last October;
- made over 34 contributions in Commons debates on such issues as trade justice, tax credits and small businesses. I also initiated 5 backbench debates of my own, including debates on Edinburgh Airport, the movement of financial services jobs abroad and the impact of stamp duty on our City. I also co-sponsored an important Bill on tackling the arms trade.

In the last year, I voted

FOR:

- ✓ a major increase in the state pension;
- ✓ abolishing the unfair council tax;
- ✓ new laws to tackle firework misuse;
- ✓ a full judicial inquiry into the war in Iraq;
- ✓ a referendum on the European constitution;
- ✓ the introduction of a complete ban on fox hunting.

AGAINST:

- ✗ post office closures;
- ✗ university tuition and top up fees;
- ✗ the degrading means testing of pensioners.

Work on Committee

I continue to be a member of the powerful House of Commons Select Committee on International Development. As part of the committee, I have been involved in inquiries into and produced separate reports on Trade and Development, Arms Export Rules and the humanitarian situation in Palestine.

Along with other committee members, I travelled to Ethiopia to see first hand the difference that overseas aid can make. I also formed part of the UK parliamentary delegation to the World Tuberculosis conference in India. This is an important issue in light of the new figures showing TB levels now on the rise.

