

# Marie Goldman



POINTS OF VIEW

MP for Chelmsford

## I'm keen to get my Maiden Speech done as soon as I can after recess

IT'S hard to believe, but the General Election was already four weeks ago. And now Parliament has 'risen' for the summer recess. MPs will return on September 2 - in about a month's time.

After a very long campaign that, for many, started months before the General Election was called, and in some cases years, I know many MPs will be taking a break with their families during the recess period. I hope constituents will understand when I say that number includes me.

Of course, there is plenty that will still be going on, and I will still be taking my laptop with me while I'm away, but I am looking forward to a bit of downtime.

Over the summer recess, I'll also be getting my new office set up and procedures in place for booking surgeries. For the moment, I'm happy to do ad hoc advice surgeries online. To arrange a date and time, please send an email with your name, address and a brief summary of the issue that you want to discuss.

My team and I will be prioritising urgent casework, so if you can wait a bit longer to contact me about something that isn't time sensitive, it would be appreciated.

As I have previously said, since I was elected on July 4, I have written to the Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting MP, about the NHS and some of the key issues affecting Chelmsford constituents, including the need for more trained doctors, proper funding for GP practices and a call for the NHS to engage better with Local Plans and planning applications.

I have also written to the Secretary of State for the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) about help for Chelmsford to build much-needed affordable housing, the importance of infrastructure delivery, support for the planning system, as well as the need for district councils (including Chelmsford City Council) to be involved in devolution discussions.

Several constituents have asked when I will be making my Maiden Speech. For those who maybe aren't so well-versed in the practices and procedures of the House of



Chelmsford MP Marie Goldman supporting the National Education Union's Free School Meals campaign in Parliament Square  
MARIE GOLDMAN MP

Commons, a Maiden Speech is the very first speech that a new MP makes in the House of Commons chamber. It's very formulaic

- MPs are expected to use it to thank their predecessor for their work, to say nice and informative things about their constituency (which of course will be easy to do for our wonderful city), and above all, NOT to be controversial or

party-political. Several MPs, including quite a few from my own party, have already made their Maiden Speech and done an excellent job, but there wasn't time for everyone to do theirs before recess, so I hope to do mine in September, or in October at the very latest.

There isn't too much that you aren't allowed to do before you make your Maiden Speech, but it is less likely that the Speaker will call on you when you bob up and down in the Commons trying to attract the Speaker's attention to ask a question (and yes, 'bobbing' is the official term for the very strange activity).

You also aren't allowed to intervene on another MP's speech on a particular subject before you've done your Maiden Speech, so I'm keen to get mine done as soon as possible after recess.

Back in Chelmsford, I've been meeting with the police, as well as representatives from the NHS, the fire service and others.

I'll be organising regular meetings with many of the organisations that help to keep Chelmsford a safe and happy place to live and work on an on-going basis.

To be honest, aside from helping constituents with issues that are

directly affecting them, this is the part of the role of MP that I am looking forward to the most. I see the role of an MP to be someone who gathers a broad view of what's going on across their constituency and helps to bring people together to solve problems and, where they can't, to raise those issues with the Government in Parliament.

I am keen to work constructively with all stakeholders to achieve this. And where things have gone wrong, I would always prefer to spend far more time working out how to prevent a recurrence of a problem than pointing the finger of blame. We'll see how that works out, but I certainly hope everyone will join me in that aim.

In my five-year role as deputy leader of Chelmsford City Council (from which I have now stepped down), I was fortunate to visit lots of third-sector organisations (charities and other non-for-profit organisations) to find out more about how they contribute to life in Chelmsford.

I'm looking forward to doing lots of that in the coming years, and then reporting it back to you.

Several constituents have been in touch to ask my position on the Norwich to Tilbury powerline proposals.

In summary, I am against them. Of course I want us to achieve net zero, but I don't think this is the best way of doing it. I think it is ill thought through, isn't a good long-term solution and will do irreparable damage to great swathes of beautiful countryside across East Anglia.

I very much hope the Government will engage with the region's MPs who are putting forward constructive proposals and suggestions to find a better way and I will be supporting the cross-party work on that.

Chelmsford City Council has provided a detailed response to the consultation (which closed recently), and I fully support that response which I have also written to the consultation to confirm.

You can read Chelmsford City Council's response to the consultation on the city council's website.

I'm going to take a break from this column over August, but I'll be back in September once Parliament is back in session.

Whatever you're up to, I hope you are all able to enjoy some sunshine and blue skies.

Keep well.

Marie

Of course I want us to achieve net zero, but I don't think this is the best way of doing it.

Marie Goldman MP