

# Marie Goldman



MP for Chelmsford

POINTS OF VIEW

## Taking stock of what I have done in nearly half a year since my election

**T**HIS is my last column for 2024. I'll be taking a break over the Christmas period, so I thought I'd spend some of this edition doing a little round-up of my five-and-a-half months as the Member of Parliament for Chelmsford.

Since July, my small team have been handling all sorts of emails and other correspondence from constituents on all manner of subjects.

Through our casework management system, Caseworker, we have received 5,721 emails and sent out 3,249. From these, we have created 3,259 pieces of casework on a whole range of subjects.

Top of the list have been issues related to health services and medicine, taking up 26 per cent of all the cases. In second place (perhaps a little surprisingly for Chelmsford), at 14 per cent, are issues related agriculture, animals, food and rural affairs, and in third place, at 11 per cent of all cases, are issues related to international affairs.

In Chelmsford, I've attended lots of community events and visited various businesses and other organisations. I've visited the new Beaulieu Park station and the soon-to-be-open new Beaulieu Heath Centre.

I've been to meetings to discuss the Army & Navy junction redevelopment, pushing for better flood prevention and safety in this area.

I've met with parents of children with special educational needs and taken their concerns and ideas for a better system into Parliament where I've advocated many times for change.

I've listened to the concerns of Chelmsford residents about issues affecting the city and the area around it, such as the proposed great swathe of pylons being planned from Norwich to Tilbury.

I've worked cross-party with other East of England MPs to argue for a better solution that doesn't destroy the countryside in its wake.

I've worked with Chelmsford constituents on building and fire safety issues and had some success in pushing for building owners to take more responsibility for what they have built, although there is still far more to do.



Marie Goldman joins postal worker Jackie on her delivery round in Chelmsford



Postal workers Jackie and Claire at the Royal Mail Chelmsford Delivery Office



Marie Goldman MP delivering mail in Chelmsford



The Royal Mail's Chelmsford Delivery Office  
PHOTOS: MARIE GOLDMAN MP

In Parliament, I've spoken in the House of Commons chamber about the importance of listening to residents' building safety concerns and not allowing developers to get away with shoddy workmanship.

I've become a member of the House of Commons Commission, the Modernisation Committee and the Restoration & Renewal Board.

In their different guises, each of these focus on different aspects of how Parliament works.

The House of Commons Commission is responsible for the internal, day-to-day workings of Parliament, with responsibility for staff, maintenance, catering and digital services.

The Modernisation Committee is a new committee set up by the Labour government to look at the standards, culture and working practices of Parliament and how these might be brought more into

the 21st Century (some have argued that bringing them into the 20th Century would be a good start - I have some sympathy with that point of view!).

Restoration & Renewal (R&R) is about working out the best way to preserve, protect and prolong the life of the Palace of Westminster.

As a UNESCO World Heritage site, and arguably one of the most easily recognisable and iconic buildings in the world, the Palace of Westminster is of huge cultural significance, but it's falling apart and, in some places, literally sinking into the Thames.

An enormous project is required to fix it and to ensure it can still be used as the seat of our democracy.

At some point towards the end of next year, R&R will be asking the Houses of Parliament to vote on how best to proceed with that, which may include temporarily moving out to allow the works to take place. More on that in 2025!

And then, of course, there's legislation. As a Liberal Democrat, I've been playing my part in supporting the Government where we agree with them, voting against them

when we don't, and abstaining where we want to encourage improvement without throwing the baby out with the bath water.

We've put forward our amendments to legislation and proposed our own Private Member's Bills, including on important subjects such as changing the voting system. And in January, I'll be supporting the Climate & Nature Bill, being brought by my Lib Dem colleague Roz Savage MP.

There's lots coming up in 2025, but before we get there, there's plenty of fun and festivities to be had as we celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

And of course at this time of year, some people's jobs get incredibly busy, especially our beloved posties, who deliver so many of our Christmas parcels and cards to loved ones.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit the Royal Mail Chelmsford Delivery Office and have a look behind the scenes at the big operation they have there to get our deliveries out to us.

I was lucky to be shown the ropes by Jackie, who has been doing the

job for many years, currently looking after parts of the city centre. Jackie showed me how she sorts out her letters and small tracked parcels in her 'frame', and then bundles them up every day to go out on delivery.

We chatted about the importance of her role, especially during the pandemic when she was often the only contact some people had with another human being for the entire day.

Really, posties play a kind of community support role - they get to know their rounds so well that they notice when something isn't quite right and can alert others to issues - perhaps an elderly resident who has had a fall.

It was lovely to join Jackie briefly on part of her delivery round behind the station in Chelmsford city centre, even delivering a few letters and parcels myself!

I hope Santa brings you everything you wish for this Christmas and that whatever you've got planned, you manage to have a good break with your loved ones. Thanks for reading. See you in 2025.

Marie

“Posties get to know their rounds so well that they notice when something isn't quite right.”  
Marie Goldman MP