

Marie Goldman

MP for Chelmsford



A very busy past year for me and my team, and another one ahead

HAPPY New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and lots of fun at New Year celebrations, whatever you were up to.

For my part, the Christmas break was an opportunity to catch up on some sleep, reconnect with friends and spend some quality time with family. I hope you got to do that too.

2025 was a very busy year for me and my small team. I received 100,572 emails into my official MP inbox. This generated 1,616 pieces of individual casework where a constituent needed help with something.

It also generated 1,188 policy cases where constituents enquired about my or my party's stance on a particular issue.

And it created 2,946 campaign cases, where I was contacted by constituents lobbying me about any number of different issues.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the single biggest campaign issue that I was contacted about related to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill (also known as the Assisted Dying Bill), as it progressed through Parliament. Having been voted through by the House of Commons, this Private Member's Bill is now being scrutinised by the House of Lords and we wait to see whether it will progress any further.

The top policy issues raised with me were in connection with Israel, Gaza and Palestine, which is probably not a surprise either.

There was a much bigger spread of issues in my individual casework, with the top three issues relating to health services and medicine, transport and housing and planning.

Over the course of the year, I visited numerous businesses and other organisations around the Chelmsford constituency and beyond, meeting fabulous people who touch the lives of my Chelmsford constituents in one way or another in the work that they do.

I also met with a huge number of organisations in Westminster, learning about the work they do and, crucially, what support they need to do more to help move our country forward and improve people's lives.



Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey speaking during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons last month
HOUSE OF COMMONS

In Parliament, I'm proud that my party, the Liberal Democrats, played a critical role as a proper, constructive opposition. We largely ignored the pantomime of insult-trading that tends to happen at Prime Minister's Questions, and put forward our own sensible, genuine ideas for making the world a better place.

We held the Government to account, agreeing and finding common ground where we could, yet criticising and suggesting alternative courses of action where we couldn't. With so many challenges facing the country, indeed the world as a whole, I think we need far more of that – and far less of the performative, petty politics that some of the other parties seem to have descended into.

We got things done too. There's a misplaced theory held by some political pundits that you can't get

anything done from the opposition benches, especially if you're the third party. But the Liberal Democrats are the largest third party for 100 years and, with 72 MPs, we have been making a real difference.

Whether that's through the Climate & Nature Bill proposed by my colleague, Roz Savage, the MP for South Cotswolds, which won important concessions from the Government in driving forward climate change initiatives, or the Anti-Puppy Smuggling Bill proposed by my colleague, Danny Chambers, the MP for Winchester, which gained Royal Assent in December and will help to prevent animal cruelty.

And then there was the Ten-Minute Rule Bill about creating a new EU-UK Customs Union put forward by my colleague Al Pinkerton, the MP for Surrey Heath, which progressed to the next stage in Parliament with the very slimmest of margins.

In short, while the shouting match otherwise known as PMQs shown on TVs every Wednesday lunchtime can undoubtedly provide entertain-

ment for some, it really isn't at all productive and, I would argue, not what we need. Which is why I'm grateful and proud that the tone adopted every week by my party leader, Sir Ed Davey, is considered, constructive and as cooperative as possible – yet still challenging where it needs to be. I'm confident I'm in the right party.

Looking forward to 2026, we are expecting a White Paper on special educational needs, which has been delayed from the autumn.

This can't come soon enough – I only hope it contains some sensible, well-thought-through proposals that can – most importantly – actually be implemented and will make a genuine, positive difference.

Coming up in Parliament in the first two weeks back is the Second Reading of the Cyber Security and Resilience Bill, debates on the Finance Bill (essentially legislating the tax changes proposed by the Government), and the remaining stages of the Public Office (Accountability) Bill.

This latter Bill is very important

for many as it's otherwise known as the Hillsborough Law and comes after decades of campaigning by the families of the victims of the tragedy at Hillsborough.

The law would include a duty of candour for those in public office to act with honest and integrity at all times.

I'll admit that my mind is slightly blown at the idea that this isn't already a thing – but there we go. I'm keen to help make sure this applies to all the situations where you would expect it to. I think the currently proposed law doesn't do that, so I'll be working with others to try to rectify that.

In short, 2026 will be another busy year. At some point there will be another King's Speech when we get to hear what the Labour Government is planning for the next parliamentary session. Interesting times.

So, I hope you are keeping well and wrapped up warm in the chilly start to January.

Thank you – as always – for reading.

Marie

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