

NEWSLETTER JULY 2021



SIR GRAHAM BRADY

Member of Parliament for Altrincham and Sale West

Dear all, welcome to July's Newsletter,

How was Freedom Day? Has lockdown lifted for you? Do you feel different?

I'm privileged, after 11 years, to have been re-elected as Chairman of the 1922 Committee and, all being well, I'm now due to exceed Edward Du Cann's record of 12 years chairing the Committee, I have led it through some complex and turbulent times with three different Prime Ministers, I wonder what the year ahead will bring?

3rd July Victoria and I were delighted to attend to the wedding of my former assistant Sacha to Dom, in Kent. The event had been rearranged about three times due to government restrictions, but a lovely time was had by all.



Sacha and Dom's wedding

7th July I attended the NHS Parliamentary Awards Ceremony and was delighted that my constituent and Altrincham Grammar old boy Dr Rajiv Sethi (nominated by me) won the NHS rising Star Award: He told me that we first met when I presented him with a progress award at school!



Sir Graham Brady MP with Dr Rajiv Sethi

The NHS Rising Star Award, sponsored by Fujifilm UK – Dr Rajiv Sethi

Dr Rajiv Sethi, began his career with the NHS by volunteering at Trafford General Hospital aged 16. Now 28, he has become a junior doctor in the North West of England, clinical entrepreneur fellow at NHS England and honorary research fellow at Heath Education England. Alongside his clinical training he has led widening participation and diversity efforts to develop the health workforce nationally since 2017.

He has also established the UK's largest widening participation programme supporting over 4,500 aspiring and current healthcare professionals.

During the pandemic, Rajiv and his team supported healthcare students and professionals virtually through a series of virtual events bringing together 2,500 people from 74 countries to learn more about career opportunities in the NHS.

During the month I spoke to the Corporate Affairs Supper Club; Corporate Affairs Directors of some major British businesses about the political and economic landscape and gave an online lecture to Italian politics students at various universities talking to them about the 'Westminster Model.'

Steroid Inhalers - an immediate victory!

In Sajid Javid's first statement as Health Secretary, I raised for the umpteenth time why the Government was not making use of this safe and effective treatment for COVID. I was pleasantly surprised that he announced that he was going to change the guidance immediately to allow GPs to prescribe it. The DHSC had already told me that the treatment reduces symptoms by an average of three days so this can make a real difference to treatment and to pressures on the NHS.



Graham Brady, Conservative Party 1922 Committee

Steroid inhalers, of the type used by millions of asthma sufferers worldwide, are known to be safe and cheap, and trials show that they are also very effective in reducing the severity of covid symptoms and the length of time they are suffered. Will my right hon. Friend take rapid steps to revise the guidance to ensure that this becomes an immediate part of GPs' armoury in dealing with people who present with covid symptoms?



Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

When my hon. Friend wants something done rapidly, I listen very carefully to him. I am pleased to tell him that the clinical guidelines have been published today that allow the central alerting system to recommend to clinicians that they prescribe inhaled steroids on a case-by-case basis for exactly the purpose that he set out. I hope that is quick enough for him.

Compulsory vaccination in Care Homes:

I spoke against compulsory vaccination of Care Workers, both because it sets a worrying precedent (the UK hasn't forced people to be vaccinated since the 19th Century) and on the grounds of religious freedom. Lime Tree House in Sale is one of only two Christian Scientist care homes in the country and I think it would be appalling to disregard the religious scruples of both residents and staff.

First, I intervened during the minister's opening remarks with what I was pleased she agreed was a perfectly reasonable question:

Graham Brady Chair, Conservative Party 1922 Committee

Can the Minister explain why the draft regulations do not distinguish between those workers who actually come into contact with residents and those who do not?

Helen Whately, Minister of State, Departments of Health and Social Care

My hon. Friend asks a reasonable question. We consulted on exactly that point. There are two reasons relevant to the breadth of the policy, which covers not only care workers, but others coming into the care home, such as hairdressers, health professionals and tradespeople.

When somebody, including a tradesperson, comes into a care home, they might spend significant time in the care home, move around and move from room to room, so they might be a significant infection risk to the care home. They might also move between one care home and another, particularly if they are a specialist who serves multiple care homes. We know there is a risk when individuals are moving between care homes, so there is a clinical case for the regulations.

Here is my subsequent contribution to the debate:

I want to focus in the brief time available on a specific point: the importance of respecting religious freedom. Lime Tree House in Sale in my [constituency](#) is one of only two [Christian Science](#) care homes in the country. The rights of [Christian Scientists](#) were protected by the [Labour Government](#) when the Care Standards Bill was introduced in 2000. The then [Minister, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath](#), gave an explicit assurance in the [House of Lords](#):

“Perhaps I may say right at the start that the Government have no intention of preventing or discouraging people from being cared for in accordance with the principles and practices of the [Church of Christ, Scientist](#). The Care Standards Bill will not mean that Christian Science houses or their visiting nurse services will have to give medical treatment to their patients, or do anything else which would go against their religious principles...The [Department of Health](#) will consult and work with the Church of Christ, Scientist, to ensure that regulation by the commission is compatible with the church’s principles and practices.”—[Official Report, House of Lords, 28 March 2000; Vol. 611, c. 741.]

Christian Scientists responded to the consultation in May. Since then, they have written to the Minister and indeed the new [Secretary of State](#)—obviously, that was very recently—but have not received a response. Clearly, there is no provision in the legislation to protect this important principle.

May I ask the Minister when she responds to give an absolute assurance that the principle of religious freedom will be respected by the Government, as it was by previous Governments? Will she undertake either to introduce an amended statutory instrument in the House or, if not, will she commit to including matters of conscience in the exemptions provided for in the measure? I am talking about two small care homes, a handful of residents and a situation in which both residents and carers might prefer not to have a medical [intervention](#) inflicted on them against their will, but a very big principle is at stake.

Bingo



Calling the numbers at Mecca Bingo, Sale

I went to the bingo on Friday 9th July; it was the Mecca Bingo Hall in Sale to discuss the impact of the pandemic on colleagues and local jobs, their business is still suffering very badly because of the number of their former 'regulars' who are too afraid to go out, even in the distanced and airy bingo hall . As you can see from the photo, they got me to call a few numbers while I was there!



GB on GB News

Nigel Farage

I was interviewed on a new show on GB News, (236 on Freeview!) where Nigel Farage sinks a pint with his guest and interviews you at the same time; here is his tweet:

Nigel Farage (@Nigel_Farage) Tweeted: My thanks to @SirGrahamBrady for being the very first guest on Talking Pints. A good sport. <https://t.co/8XkylPv8CV>
https://twitter.com/Nigel_Farage/status/1417219793673867265?s=20

15th July we welcomed Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt, Paymaster General, to speak to us over dinner; the event was at Mere, Golf and Country Club; Penny proved a very popular and thought-provoking speaker.



Penny Mordaunt speaking to Altrincham and Sale West Patron's Club

I wrote an article for the Mail on Sunday on 18th July regarding the impact on society of mask wearing:

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-9798365/GRAHAM-BRADY-believe-real-purpose-masks-social-control-time-stop-fear.html?ito=email_share_article-top

It's remarkable how mask wearing has become a matter of ideology rather than science. The French have even banned the sale and use of the kind of flimsy masks typically used by the British public because they give a false idea of protection. The idea of requiring masks as a reminder of social distancing has been discussed frequently by advisers and policy makers – but some people think we should pretend otherwise!

20th July I spoke to the United and Cecil - a very old political dining club, about the challenges of modern politics and economics.

The House rises later today, to return in September. I hope that you have a healthy and enjoyable summer in the meantime. If you would like to go away for a holiday, I hope that you can do that too without too many tests and periods of isolation!

With best wishes,

Sir Graham Brady MP