

Dear friend,

Not so silly...

It is good to be back home after being in Sierra Leone although I was not so sure when I realised we are in the middle of the 'silly season'. News about the Olympics (which I'm thoroughly enjoying) is great but I draw the line at Peaches Geldof's elopement (did it really warrant front page of coverage in our newspapers?!) Even in the "silly season", the business of government goes on. And I am really pleased with the announcement about changes to the Minimum Wage, which bucked the trend to give us something a little more serious to think about.

One of the government's biggest achievements, and one of which I am incredibly proud, was the introduction of the Minimum Wage against bitter opposition in Parliament and in the world of big business. It has improved the wages and living standards of thousands of people, especially those working in our excellent local restaurants. Unfortunately, some unscrupulous employers have been exploiting a loophole in the legislation.

When we go to a restaurant or have our hair cut, and we leave a tip, we expect it to go to the staff member in addition to their pay, and not for it to go through the payroll to make up the Minimum Wage. This has not been the case for many employees, as their employers pay them below Minimum Wage and then use their hard-earned tips to top their wages up to 'legal' levels.

The new announcement reinforces the Minimum Wage rules on tipping, to ensure that in the future any tips received by workers, will be in addition to their salary, closing the loophole that has allowed unscrupulous employers to pay below Minimum Wage.

I have personally been disgusted by the way many workers are treated by their employers, and have worked hard with trade unions to campaign on this issue and in Parliament to get these new rules introduced.

I'm proud of this victory, which will be a big boost for many of the lowest paid workers in our community and the country. I am still however concerned that many people in Tooting will not be aware of the changes, or are being paid below Minimum Wage illegally.

If you think an employer is not paying up then get in touch with me at sadiqkhanmp@parliament.uk and I will do what I can to ensure that their employees receive the wages they deserve.

Hope Walk

This Sunday I attended a congregation with the Yahweh Christian Fellowship, prior to their 'Hope Walk' to promote unity in the community against knife crime. Pastor Noel McLean and his team do a great job. Since moving into the Fairlight Christian Centre I have seen them and our local community go from strength to strength.

There really is no better example of the Tooting community coming together and standing up to the evils of knife crime than the Hope Walk, now in its second year.

The Yahweh Christian Fellowship, working with local Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams, are doing an excellent job channelling the energies of local youngsters into constructive, and positive, activities.

Groups like these are the glue that holds Tooting together and helps make it such a successful example of how such a diverse community can flourish.

I was proud to speak at the event (for the second year running) and encourage as many of you as possible to get involved groups like this. The more of us that do, the stronger our community will become.

Until next time.

Best wishes,

Sadiq

To read more about my work in our community and in Westminster, read my diary by clicking [HERE](#)

CONTACTING ME

I hold four advice surgeries every month around the constituency. For more information about making an appointment click [HERE](#).

Whether it's a local issue or government policy, I'm here to help (whatever your politics). Click [HERE](#) for details of how to contact or meet me.

For more details on my work for Tooting constituency residents, please see my website: www.sadiqkhan.org.uk.

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