

Richard Burden MP

Member of Parliament for Birmingham Northfield

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Dear Constituent,

As you will no doubt be aware, the General Election will take place on May 7th 2015. Parliament will be dissolved from March 30th and it will not sit again until after the result of the General Election is known.

As we have been in touch during this Parliament, I thought I should let you know how the dissolution of Parliament affects you.

From the moment Parliament is dissolved, I am no longer your MP. I become the Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Birmingham Northfield for the duration of the election campaign. I am still able to take up any concerns you may have but the dissolution means that I am no longer allowed to use any facilities within Parliament to do so - such as fast track routes like MP Hotlines to Government departments. My local office team will still be around to help you too and I will, of course, still try to help you with problems you face.

During the dissolution, you can still write to me by e-mail or post to the House of Commons. Your e-mail will automatically redirect to reach me and any letters will be forwarded to Birmingham for me to deal with. Election or no election, I will always do my best to help where local people need assistance. However, because during dissolution I will not have access to all the information I have now, it may sometimes take a bit longer to get replies from and other agencies or organisations who provide help. I hope you will bear with me when this happens and I want to assure you that I will continue to deal with all cases as effectively as I can while Parliament is dissolved.

If I win on May 7th, as I hope I will, I am re-elected immediately as your MP. I will continue to represent you and the Birmingham Northfield constituency in Parliament and I will continue where I left off. I'll carry on working on all my existing cases and take up the new ones which come in.

If I am not re-elected, it would mean that I would no longer be able to represent you in Parliament. I would have a short period of time to wind things up but the House of Commons authorities have advised that outstanding case files should be destroyed promptly and not passed to the new MP, except in exceptional circumstances. This is for Data Protection reasons. In that situation you would need to write to your new MP and explain your concerns once again. If you do not wish me to destroy my records of your case, but to pass them on, I must ask you to let me know, in writing. If you wish to do that please write to me at 946 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LQ or email me on richard@richardburden.com by May 11th at the latest.

Obviously, all of that depends on the result of the General Election on May 7th - but I wanted to explain what would happen in different circumstances.

Thank you again for being in touch during this Parliament. I hope you don't mind that I may continue to contact you from time to time during dissolution - if not, please contact me using the details above.

With best wishes,

Richard Burden

Labour MP for Birmingham Northfield