



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

To my constituents,

Last September I announced I would not be standing at this year's General Election. I was first selected as the Conservative candidate in Wimbledon in 1999 and having contested every General Election since then it is an honour to have been elected and re-elected on five occasions. I have therefore had the privilege of representing Wimbledon in Parliament since 2005.

I set out my reasons for standing down in September and do not intend to repeat them now.

People often ask me what my proudest achievement is. I am particularly proud of the fact that I have been part of a government which has transformed school standards across Britain thereby creating life opportunities for many who would have not had them before. I am proud to have been part of a government that rescued our economy which had been left in a bankrupt state by the last Labour Government. I am very proud to have served in government as PPS to Eric Pickles, as Minister for Rail and Road in the Coalition, and it was a great honour to serve as Minister of State for Health under Theresa May.

However, what I particularly remember was a visit to my first surgery on 13 May 2005. A constituent came to that surgery because water from the flat above had flooded her flat. For six months she had been asking for a piece of carpet to replace the carpet that had been taken away. That piece of carpet cost £77. She came to me as her last resort. She had been to Citizens Advice, to the local council, and had phoned her local councillor. I took up the issue with the council and two weeks later a cheque for £77 arrived.

That help to a constituent along with help to thousands of others is my proudest achievement. MPs should never forget that, when we are elected to serve, alongside the excitement, the pressure, and the gossip of Westminster, it is our work and help to our constituents that changes their lives. I am grateful to successive Ministers at the Department for Education who have listened to campaigners and me and changed the guidance on summer born children to local councils at least three times. Although it is not law, the guidance which is now in place has benefited children up and down the country.

Politics is often said to be a brutal trade but the aim of those who participate in politics must always be to implement policies that are in the best interests of our country and all its citizens. I am proud to have tried to follow the ideal of compassionate Conservatism in the One Nation tradition and always tried to act in what I believe is my constituents' best interests.

Finally, I want to thank my family, my office team, and the people of Wimbledon. Thank you for putting your faith in me to represent you. I am hugely privileged and thankful for having had that opportunity for so long.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Hammond".

Stephen Hammond MP, Member of Parliament for Wimbledon, 2005 - 2024