



**Nigel Huddleston MP**

Member of Parliament for Mid Worcestershire



## Reporting Back on April 2024

Tobacco & Vapes Bill Voted For in Parliament

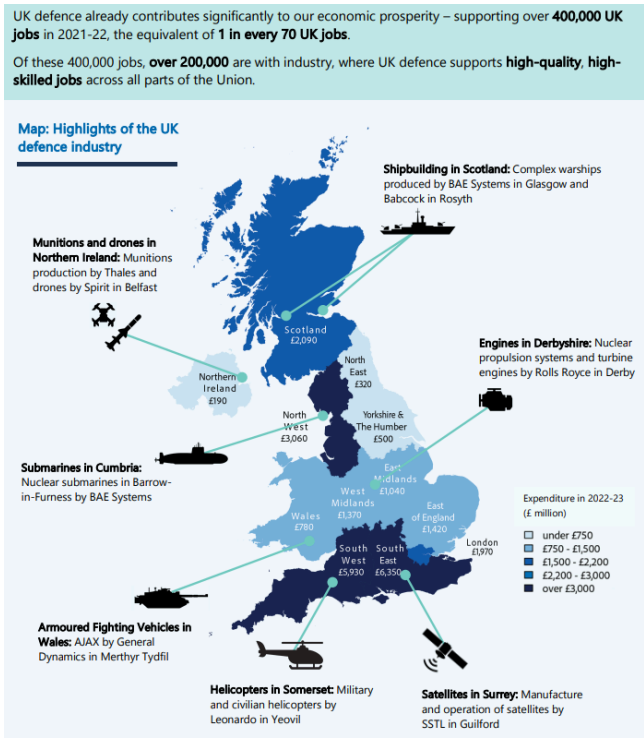
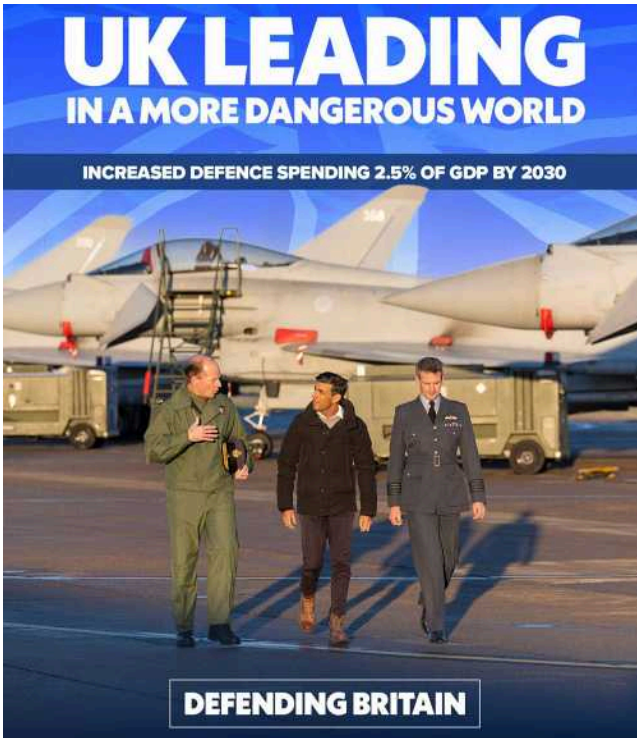
I voted in favour of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill in Parliament, as it passed its second reading with 380 votes to 66. The Bill stands to be the most significant public health measure introduced in this country in a generation. This Bill will allow us to create the first smoke-free generation through banning the sale of tobacco products to anyone born after 2009, crack down on the rise of youth vaping, reduce the pressure on the NHS, and - most importantly - save lives.

I have discussed the Bill with constituents extensively over the last few months and know there is strong, but not unanimous, support for it – including with young people who will be most affected by it. Many smokers also told me that they wished they had never started smoking and wish that such an intervention had happened earlier. I have a great deal of sympathy with those who object to the measures on freedom and personal choice grounds. But smoking is truly exceptional. There is no safe level of smoking. This is also a public health issue because the cost of dealing with the consequences of smoking is borne by everyone through the tax system. This Bill will remove this enormous burden from our future generations.

### Extra £75 billion for Defence Spending until 2030

The Prime Minister announced the Government's commitment to increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030. The UK spent 2.1% of GDP on defence according to official figures from last year, which is expected to rise to 2.3% this year. This immediate increase will mean £75 billion over the next six years, made possible without borrowing thanks to our management of the economy. The spending increase will consolidate our position as the second biggest defence power in NATO, only behind the USA.

The investment focuses on stimulating the UK industrial base, including £10 billion on the new munition's strategy; ensuring that the country's Armed Forces are benefiting from the latest technology, and guaranteeing our long-term support to Ukraine.



## The Safety of Rwanda Act receives Royal Assent

The Government has prioritised stopping the arrival of immigrants through small boats crossing the Channel, and we have managed to decrease such arrivals by a third in 2023. However, this number is not enough. This is why the Government has been focused on passing the Rwanda Act through the House of Lords in order to remove the incentive to come to the UK illegally.

Rwanda has now been designated as a safe third country, removing grounds for any objections in our domestic court for the deportation of illegal immigrants. The first flight to Rwanda will be leaving soon once the casework can be completed.

## Renters' (Reform) Bill introduced in Parliament

The Renters' (Reform) Bill, introduced to Parliament on May 17, delivers the Government's manifesto commitment to abolish Section 21 'no fault' evictions which will empower renters to challenge poor landlords without fear of losing their home. The new Bill also protects over 2 million landlords, making it easier for them to recover

properties when they need to – so they can sell their property if they want to, move in a close family member, or when tenants wilfully do not pay rent.

The overhaul of housing laws will allow eleven million tenants across England to benefit from safer, fairer and higher quality homes. [The full details of the Bill can be found through here.](#)

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In my ministerial role, I opened the Finance (No.2) Bill debate in Parliament. This Bill builds on the Spring Budget to reward work, boost the housing system, and improve the tax system.



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#### **Other updates from Westminster and my Ministerial Duties:**

- [Meeting the President of the Colombian Chamber of Representatives Andres Calle in Parliament](#)





- Visiting the Royal Academy of Engineering Enterprise Hub in Northern Ireland



- Visiting the Ormeau Baths Entrepreneurial Campus





- Visiting Poli Productions Set in Belfast





- Meeting Senior Representatives from the BioIndustry Association



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**This month in Worcestershire**



April has been another busy month in Westminster, with the introduction of the Finance Bill and plenty of important votes. But the weekends and especially Easter recess gave me ample opportunity in Worcestershire to make many visits to local businesses, engage with local projects and initiatives, and meet face-to-face with constituents to work on solutions to a variety of problems.

Amongst recent celebrations, I was delighted to attend the 50th anniversary service of Wychavon District Council at Pershore Abbey.

With the sun shining as the weather starts to improve, I have been able to make many outdoor visits across our beautiful countryside. This has included a wonderful trip on a canal boat as well as a visit to Spetchley Park Gardens.

We've also had a great result for my constituency with Active Travel Funding provided for Westlands, with £460,000 allocated towards the pedestrian crossing across the A38. This figure will be topped up by both Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council to the required total of roughly £1 million.

Amongst other visits this month, I attended an art exhibition in Broadway, visited Mucknell Abbey and Blue Print Mail Order in Droitwich.

It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to celebrate our relationship with Japan, and the Sakura Cherry Tree Project, where Stagecoach Performing Arts Evesham put on a great performance at an event organized by the Valley in Evesham.

Further visits and events are highlighted in the links and pictures below:



- Visiting Mucknell Abbey



- Attending Wychavon's 50th Year Celebration



- Visiting Spetchley Park Gardens





- Visiting Blue Print Direct Mail



- Celebrating the Sakura Cherry Tree Project





- Spending time with the Canal & River Trust



- Vale of Evesham Art Society Annual Exhibition





- Active Travel Funding for Westlands



- Visiting Headway Worcestershire







Lastly, to stay connected and engaged with my work as your MP, I encourage you to visit my [website](#) and follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



  
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