



Richard Graham CMG

2023

MP for Gloucester's Annual Report

Report back to residents

Annual Report 2023 Introduction

Welcome to my annual report on the work I've done with others in 2023 to help make Gloucester Britain's best small city.

Last year started by us welcoming Ukrainians into our city and ended by helping individuals and staff during the short closure of GL1 and Oxstalls. Our support for families and local businesses was helped by the government reducing the impact of energy bills, and then recently cutting National Insurance and increasing the living wage, pensions and UC.

In Parliament, I continue to champion a specific criminal offence on Spiking, to help family safety; to work on National Security Strategy and increase our exports to the Far East as the PM's Trade Envoy.

Locally, 2024 will see the University of Gloucestershire's new City Campus open, with a variety of health courses and a new library. Nearby, The Forum will have new retail space, a business hub and Gloucester's first four-star hotel. Meanwhile, work will start on the re-development of the indoor market and a new food market opening beside Greyfriars which itself will be brought back to life. That comes from our second successful £11 million Greyfriars Levelling Up bid. And the new railway underpass will open!

Ultimately all regeneration is human, shown by the successes of Gloucester's schools, including a 'Good' Ofsted rating for Holmleigh Park, 'Outstanding' for Abbeymead and Gloucester Academy becoming the 11th most improved school in the country for GCSEs.

I continue to attend many events - Church fairs, public demonstrations, charities and businesses - to volunteer at the GRH, play cricket for Gloucester, to chair the Gloucester History Festival and do plenty of litter picking!

Please get in touch if you would like to get my regular e-updates, raise casework or anything else.



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Richard Graham CMG MP's
Gloucester Annual Report

Let's Make Gloucester Britain's the best small city!

2023

Joining in over 125 of our community events



Visiting 31 schools, celebrating their successes and encouraging tree planting



Litter picking wherever possible



Welcoming guests to the Philippines and Polish heritage days



Always supporting Ukraine events



Running 5k twice for Ramarni and speaking at the Knife Angel



Playing cricket for the seventeenth year running for Gloucester CC



Celebrating links with St Ann Jamaica



Encouraging through events and meetings ...



Punctual bus services



More brownfield fund development



Better Royal Mail services



The first Gloucester 50PLUS Choices Event



Volunteering at GRH



Police recruitment



Aspiration for under 18s at the Gloucester Academy Opportunities Fair



Skills and apprenticeships in construction

Re-opening GL1 and Oxstalls

Giving people their community facilities back under the new leadership of Freedom Leisure

This could not have been achieved without incredible work by Gloucester City Council, working closely with many organisations

Good luck Freedom Leisure in giving residents even better leisure resources!



Up and running Interim operator found to reopen city leisure sites*

* Gloucester Citizen

Completing my 2019 General Election pledges

New Health Care Centre at Quayside & in Hucclecote

Improved results & opportunities at Holmleigh Park & Gloucester Academy

More police officers to fight crime across Gloucester

A new every 30 minutes train service to Bristol

Green energy & eco park in Hempsted

New & energy efficient housing in Matson & Podsmead

Action on My Pledges (1)

Quayside Health Centre opened in September 2021

New Hucclecote Health Centre approved and will be open in 2025



Holmleigh Park and Gloucester Academy had the 10th and 11th most improved results in England respectively in 2022

Every Sixth Form pupil at Holmleigh Park is going to University or into a good apprenticeship

Holmleigh Park rated 'good' by Ofsted in 2023

Over 300 new Officers in Gloucestershire since 2021

30% increase to the Constabulary since 2021 (largest percentage increase in the country)



Action on my pledges (2)

Gloucester City Homes is installing energy improvements on 16 Matson housing blocks following a £1.5m award from the government

Podsmead regeneration plan goes for planning approval in 2024.

7,250 trees planted by 5 schools.
Corridor Treescape planted at Hempsted.

Phase one 90-acre solar panels with installation starting in 2023



New every 30-minute train services to Bristol began in May – adding 174 services a week

Worcester services increased and an extra Saturday service to Weymouth



Working with the Health Services



Volunteering on wards to see first-hand the dedication of GRH staff



Gardening at GRH to help maintain green spaces for staff

- **Dentistry:**

- From November, several local dentists will provide additional urgent capacity on a new commissioned contract for both in and out of hours work.
- I called in Parliament for new NHS dentist contracts and for dentistry to be clearly devolved to local NHS bodies to resolve the issue of dentists not doing NHS work.

- **Waiting times:**

- Drop in waiting list size since July – over **65%** of people waiting less than 18 weeks: further to go

- **NHS Briefings:**

- Meeting NHS trusts' management every month on strategic and casework challenges, seeking solutions to constituent and NHS issues.

Working on regeneration and services

City Council regeneration

Delivering **£31m** of two
Levelling Up Fund projects

Finishing **£107m** City Council
The Forum development
project

Cyber-Security

Continued partnership on
system resilience post cyber-
attack through work on the
National Security Strategy.

County Council Infrastructure

£12 million from the Transport Levelling Up
Fund for:
Llanthony Rd, the A38
Cycle route across Gloucester

£30 million CityFibre super-fast broadband
being installed

Heritage & cultural funding

£1.9 million from English
Heritage towards the Heritage
Action Zone in the Cathedral
Quarter between 2021 and
2023

Green Energy & Eco Park

Encouraging phase 2 of
solar and other renewable
energy opportunities

National Roads

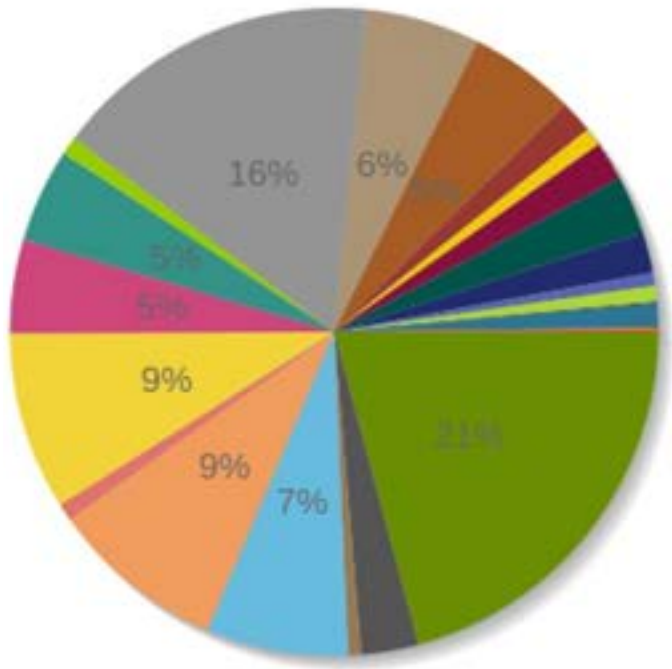
Helping secure **£460 million** for the A417 Air
Balloon new road

*... down to securing 25 cherry trees gifted by Japan for
Gloucester Park!*



Casework: Helping 8 constituents a day with serious issues

2,272 cases opened since June '22



Asylum, immigration and nationality	Social services and social care
Child Maintenance	Local Government
Crime, civil law, justice and rights	Economy and finance
Health services and medicine	Transport
Business, industry and consumers	Communities and families
Housing and planning	Education
Social Security and pensions	HMRC
Employment and training	Agriculture, animals, food and rural affairs
Energy, utilities and environment	Unmapped Case Type
Parliament, government and politics	Culture, charities, media and sport
Party issues	International affairs
Defence	Science and technology

Common issues:

- Asylum & Immigration
- Housing & Planning
- Health
- Crime
- Local Government

My role on national and international issues

- PM's Trade Envoy to Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and ASEAN – growing UK exports and investment and helping create jobs
- Member of the Joint Committee on National Security Strategy – reviewing and recommending to the government on issues including cybersecurity and pandemic resilience
- Chair of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) – government-funded organisation supporting democracy in 30 countries, including in Ukraine and Jordan.
- Work to change laws on onshore wind and spiking.
- Chair of the All-party Marine Energy group – working for and achieving the first dedicated government funding in the world for this UK asset on powerful tides.
- Chair of the All-Party China Group – focusing on engagement to reduce global tensions
- Awarded Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the first King's New Years Honours



Discussing a new WFD democracy programme with the Jordanian Speaker



Speaking in Parliament and making the case for a spiking law



Highlighting UK aviation and aerospace skills to Philippines President Marcos at Gatwick Airport

Gloucester History Festival

- Founding chair in 2011, building on Gloucester Day and Heritage Open Days
 - Spring weekend
 - September festival
- New King's Talks in 2022
- First festival talk by Theresa May after the publication of her book 'Abuse of Power'



Arguably the best history festival in Britain

14th Gloucester MP's Christmas Card

Winner



Isabelle – Barnwood Park School

Runners Up



Gowri – Gloucester Academy



Paulina – Barnwood Park School



Congratulations to Isabelle, Gowri and Paulina and thank you to all who took part from Gloucester Academy and Barnwood Park School!