

Trusted Committed Capable Reliable and Competent

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Worthing Herald Article

20th August 2020

When there is progress or success in a constituency case, my team and I thank the good people who have the responsibility and the opportunity to review a decision that may need to change. Benefit that comes when there is stability and commitment amongst those who lead and support our community.

There are many in the commercial sector; I enjoy working with the next generation who take on their parents' businesses. Our charitable services, from support for new parents through the middle decades of life and to end-of-life care, gain with volunteers, trustees and professional staff who stay in post.

The leaders and teachers in education and in our varied faith groups are often able to remain in place, caring for the next generation as well as they served the parents. We warmly welcome newcomers who can pick up and add to our cooperative culture and who can challenge any complacency or blindness to better ways to do things.

Be confident that when my caring case colleagues or I ask for help for a constituent facing injustice, there will be a sympathetic review. This week I have been mightily impressed by the cooperativeness of a housing officer. This is common. Additionally, because of the thorough preparation by a leaseholder, there has been the welcome news of substantial progress in a claim following inadequate construction of parts of a residential building. There was a change of decision by the responsible commercial organisation.

On 'A' level assessments and GCSE issues, advice I received from teachers and from college principals made it possible to feed into ministers the scale and the intensity of impact on too many people. I have also asked that the growing value added by the admirably increasing effectiveness in our sixth form college be recognised, not artificially reduced by the consequences of an algorithm. Outstanding advanced vocational learning matters. Together we overturned a previous government agency initiative that produced bizarre results; we can do it again.

The difference between anticipated grades and algorithm-adjusted 'results' went up 2 ½ times from under a quarter to nearly two-thirds. The additional point I made privately is that it cannot be right just to rely on the relative position of any student for all purposes. In every other field of life there are standards. We do not fail reasonably competent new drivers just because a growing number learn to drive. We are delighted when every child in a group learns to swim; we do not declassify the lowest 20 percent. In youth activities, we are pleased if everyone reaches a level of competence in cooking or map-reading or growing flowers.

It is reasonable to have different ways for university departments and colleges to select students when there are more qualifiers than places. On Monday I was with a graduate who was accepted for a course that quickly turned out to be wrong. Three years later, having restarted elsewhere, this happy top-rated graduate has begun a career that builds on the qualification and matches talents and interests.

Some parents hope for great success. A mother named Molly played tennis. Her husband was a county second team cricketer. Their son was born on a tea plantation in Sri Lanka, then Ceylon. His father Ernest did not delay in applying for him to join the MCC, giving him the initials MCC: he was (Michael) Colin Cowdrey, later the England captain and member of the House of Lords. He kindly launched an election campaign for me. He too was trusted, committed, reliable and more than competent.