

Robin Walker MP  
Member of Parliament for Worcester  
The Guildhall  
Worcester  
WR1 2EY

Mr Christopher Rimell  
Worcester Conservative Association  
Churchill House  
15 Sansome Place  
Worcester  
WR1 1UA

3 March 2023

Dear Chris

I am writing to express my huge thanks for all your support over the last few years in your role as Chairman of the Worcester Conservative Association. I am grateful to have enjoyed the consistent support of Chairmen and members that I have been fortunate enough to work with since I first became Worcester's Conservative Parliamentary candidate in 2006. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together and that so many of the things I was elected to do for Worcester have been, or are in the process of being, delivered.

This includes securing fairer funding for our schools, delivering the first new primary school in the city, with plans for a new secondary underway and, just this week, securing investment in a new specialist school for the county. It includes multiple upgrades to our hospital including the breast unit, oncology centre, the £29 million in ward and facilities expansion at both Worcester and Redditch and, most importantly, the long awaited £15 million upgrade to the Emergency Department due for completion this Summer. Whilst I know that the NHS faces many ongoing challenges, I am proud that we have invested more in it and that we have more frontline staff, both in primary and Acute care, than when I was first elected, as well as improved facilities for patients.

Since 2010 we have created more jobs, increased wages and there are fewer people unemployed. There are more apprenticeship opportunities and strong support for the wonderful independent businesses on our high street through discounted business rates. On rail services we now have shorter journey times and more regular services between Worcester and London, we have delivered both the Worcestershire Parkway Station and the dualling of the Southern Link Road, the biggest transport investment in Worcestershire County Council's history. I am proud to have worked with Conservative colleagues in our local councils to secure investment through the Towns Deal, future High Streets Fund and Cultural Recovery Fund, totalling more than £40 million to regenerate our city and support the delivery of affordable homes.

I have been fortunate to serve as a Minister or PPS under 3 Prime Ministers and to have been able to serve in four Government Departments. I have also enjoyed time on the backbenches, serving on four different select committees and most recently winning the election to become chair the Education Select Committee, a role I have been enjoying immensely, and one in which I am able to make a real difference on some of the most important issues affecting young people's futures.

Having thought long and hard about the decision, however, I have come to the conclusion that my young family needs me to be more present and that the strains of living in two places and weekend commitments involved with the life of an MP, are not ones I can continue to sustain. With young children starting school and nursery respectively I want to be able to take more time to support them and watch them grow up. I will therefore not be seeking re-adoption as the parliamentary candidate for Worcester at the next General Election. I am confident that, with the strong team you have in place locally and the excellent talent in the party, you will be able to find a strong candidate and, with our party leadership in excellent

**LONDON OFFICE**                      **CONSTITUENCY OFFICE**  
Telephone: 020 7219 7196      Telephone: 01905 22401  
Email address: [robin.walker.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:robin.walker.mp@parliament.uk)

hands, the team will be able to secure a fifth consecutive Conservative victory in Worcester.

It has been the privilege of my lifetime to be able to serve the people of Worcester and I am honoured to have won their trust and support on four separate occasions. I am pleased to have been able to play a role in providing the referendum which so many wanted to determine our relationship with the EU and worked consistently to deliver on what my constituents voted for. As we demonstrated in 2019, delivering Brexit with a deal was the right thing to do and the Prime Minister's great success with the Windsor Agreement last week will help to complete this process successfully, resolving many of the thorny issues that I wrestled with in office.

On a personal note it was an honour I can never forget to be able to speak at my father's funeral as his successor as MP for Worcester. I know that many in the Association will be disappointed at my decision not to run again but I hope that a fresh candidate will be able to bring new energy to the task of representing Worcester and securing another Conservative victory.

In the meantime, I look forward to continuing my work as local MP and to speak up on ongoing campaigns such as securing funded places at our new medical school and securing the future of the Worcester Warriors in whatever time is available ahead of a General Election.

With my team I will continue to hold regular surgeries and support constituents wherever possible. I am looking forward to continuing my cross-party work as Chairman of the Education Select Committee, ensuring education policy delivers the best possible future for young people. Worcester is demonstrably better off with Conservative councils and I look forward to working with you and our excellent local candidates to secure a strong result in the upcoming local elections.

I wish to reiterate my thanks to everyone who has worked so hard over the years to enable me to serve this city, and to you personally for the support and wise counsel that you have always offered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Walker', written in a cursive style.

Robin Walker MP