



2009 PRESS RELEASE

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DATE 1st December 2009

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MP to get Bill through?

North East Bedfordshire Conservative MP Alistair Burt has drawn lucky in the ballot for Private Members' Bills this session. The ballot, which comprises all Members of Parliament except Government Ministers, provides an opportunity for up to twenty MPs to pilot legislation through the House of Commons. Usually only a very few are able to see their Bills become law, as Parliamentary procedure makes it very difficult for a highly contentious Bill to be successful.

Mr Burt has been drawn number seven in the Ballot for the present session of Parliament which must end with the General Election next year.

Mr Burt said "It is wonderful to be drawn so high in the Ballot, but slightly frustrating that the present session must be the shortest one of this Parliament. Only a Bill which has widespread approval of everyone in the House and the good will of the Government is likely to succeed. I have been inundated with messages from all over the country suggesting topics to take forward, and I am giving them all very careful consideration. At present I am thinking of taking through an amendment to the last Sustainable Communities Bill, a measure which was promoted by one of my Conservative colleagues, and was designed to make more transparent the use of public money in each local authority area, and give some extra opportunity for the public to have more say on expenditure in their area. A number of Parish Councils, including local ones, have contacted me about promoting this measure which I believe is in line with the public's demand to be more involved in policy-making and engaging with the democratic process.

I will make my decision as quickly as possible and submit the necessary documents to the House of Commons".

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