

Dear Isaac,

My party was allocated six places on the Treasury Committee, and I had to put myself forward for election by my party colleagues for one of those places. I wanted to be on the Treasury Committee because the issues it deals with such as the strength of the economy and the fairness of the tax system are critical for the country, and they also directly impact the constituents I represent. Each member of the committee is an MP, I am the Member of Parliament for Central Devon, and have been since 2010.

Speaking to people in the constituency is a great way to learn about the issues that people are trying to deal with. Speaking in the Chamber of the House of Commons for the first time made me nervous, but it is important to be able to speak about the matters that are concerning by constituents. I will not be an MP forever, however, I think I will always want to contribute the experience and skills I have built up even if it is not in a full time role.

Being on a Committee involves working as a team, so my tip would be to listen to the other members of the Committee and to be kind to them even if you do not agree with everything they say. There are a number of ways to raise money, schools in my constituency have recently held, for example, cake sales and raffles to raise extra funds. My job is hard, with a lot of demands on my time. But more importantly it is rewarding, and I really enjoy it.

I hope this reply is helpful and thank you again for your email.

With best wishes,

Mel

**Rt Hon. Mel Stride MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Central Devon**