



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

Councillor Simon Henig  
Labour Group Office  
County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UL

14<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

**Council review of monuments in County Durham**

On Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, you announced that Durham County Council are in the process of conducting “an audit of all statues and monuments.”

The overwhelming majority of monuments that exist within County Durham are dedicated to the memories of those who fought - and in many cases died – in the service of our country, in conflicts from the Napoleonic Wars, where the 68th (Durham) Regiment of Foot fought in the battles of the Peninsula War, to the recent service of The Rifles, in Helmand.

They represent the incalculable sacrifice of those who were prepared to give - and in many cases gave - everything for our freedom. They also serve to remind us of our service men and women serving across the world today. For the people of County Durham, they are not merely metal and stone but an enduring focal point for remembrance. These monuments are a reminder of the debt we owe those who’ve gone before in the battle against tyrants and totalitarianism.


In your review of monuments, we have one request and that is that you immediately ensure that:

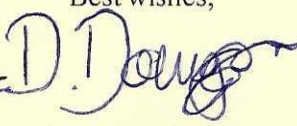
1. All monuments to those who fought for our country be excluded from the Council’s ‘review’


and that you write back to us to confirm this.

More broadly, given the difficulties faced by the local healthcare sector and local economy during the Coronavirus pandemic, we question why valuable resources have already been diverted to “review” monuments – many of which will have stood for decades without incident. We urge you to ensure that our council’s resources are focused on the immediate needs of our county at this moment, particularly to help our local economy bounce back.

We look forward to your swift reply.

  
Richard Holden MP

Best wishes,  
  
Dehenna Davison MP

  
Paul Howell MP