

Funding the Future

We need more people like Hannah Spencer

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I [was amused by this tweet](#):



I am sure that all of that is true. People are, I suspect, saying those things.

But there is something more important to say about Hannah Spencer, and that is that if she comes to parliament, as now looks likely, then she does so with a skill that she can fall back on if she needs to do so. Her trade is hers to keep. It is something she knows she can do if her days in Westminster come to an end. And that makes her independent of the political process.

That will make her a rare individual in parliament, where far too many now are either

career politicians, having followed the university/think tank/politics route, or who have adjusted their lifestyle to the Westminster salary and expense style and then are terrified of losing it, because they know there is nothing else they can do that will make them remotely as well off. The result is that they, of course, become fodder to be abused by their whips, doing whatever is demanded of them because they have no choice. Politics is so much poorer as a result.

If Hannah Soencer avoids that situation by using her knowledge that she always has a plan B, she will become much more powerful as a politician. The ability to take a stand, knowing you can walk away, is vital to anyone who wants to hold an ethical position. She can do that. Very few in Westminster really share that freedom. We need more people who can think freely in that way. We would have better politics if we did.