

WELCOME TO MY

February 2024 Newsletter



Hello! I hope this finds you well.

I can't believe it's March already! Time is flying by. Thankfully we are not far away from the lighter nights, which I know will come as a relief for many.

As always, I hope you enjoy this update on my work and please get in touch with me if I can help you.

↓ **In this Newsletter you will find:**

My work in the Constituency, Parliament and Scottish Government updates.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

LGBTQ+ Flag Raising Ceremony

I was pleased to attend the flag raising ceremony in Clydebank with colleagues during LGBTQ+ History Month. The Rainbow Flag was flying at Solidarity Plaza in Clydebank for the month of February to highlight West Dunbartonshire Council's commitment to creating an inclusive and equal environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people living and working here.



WASPI Women

It was great to meet with Liz Daly from WASPI West Dunbartonshire to discuss the campaign. I will always stand with WASPI Women. We need to see action from the UK Government on this. Great work is being done by my colleagues in Westminster on this - Martin Docherty-Hughes MP and with Alan Brown MP's recent Ten Minute Rule Bill.

Whitehall BESS

So many of my constituents have expressed their concerns about this Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in East Dunbartonshire. I have met with the developers and visited the site personally. While BESS are vital for our future, I have concerns about the location of this site, so I have written to the Minister for Energy and Environment and formally submitted my objections to the site.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

OK Stay and Play

I had an excellent visit to OK Stay and Play this month. They have really created such an amazing group for parents and kids to interact with each other. They offer lots of different play including messy play, arts and crafts and dance groups, with lots more planned for the future. They are open on Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am.



Advice Surgeries

Despite the terrible weather we got out and about across Milngavie, Bearsden North, Radnor Park and Clydebank Centre for my Advice Surgeries at the end of the month. Pictured here at the Fraser Centre in Milngavie. It was also a pleasure to hold a joint Surgery with my colleague Councillor Sophie Traynor at Radnor Park Parish Church in Clydebank.

Virgin Money Store

I had a fab meeting at the Virgin Money store in Clydebank to discuss their collaborative National Databank programme with the Good Things Foundation. Anyone who doesn't have regular access to internet can pop into the store and pick up a SIM card with 20GB of free data. **THERE IS NO CATCH.** Please do pop in and speak with their team to find out more!



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Social Security in Scotland

In February, I spoke on two debates regarding Scotland's social security. One on the record investments into Social Security Scotland and the other on the inspiring plans for our social security system in an independent Scotland. In an independent Scotland we will transform the social security system and scrap punitive measures like the two-child cap and rape clause.



Ceasefire in Gaza

We need an immediate ceasefire and an end to the collective punishment of the Palestinian people now. The killing of civilians and slaughter of children **MUST** end. I was glad to speak in this recent debate, calling for the atrocities to end. We need the UK Government to act and call this out. It's gone on too long. Ceasefire Now!

McClures Solicitors

On behalf of several constituents, I recently spoke in a debate brought forward by my colleague Stuart McMillan MSP on McClures Solicitors. With McClures now in administration, thousands of people are left with significant difficulties in accessing assets. This has caused stress and financial difficulty for clients and their surviving families, who are often now having to pay extra to remedy any problems.



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Greyhound Racing Bill

I was pleased to join an event in Parliament hosted by Mark Ruskell MSP for his Bill to ban greyhound racing. I got the chance to meet the adorable Bluesy (pictured) and Bob, who were racing greyhounds. This was a useful information session to learn more about the Bill and find out about the welfare challenges presented by greyhound racing. I look forward to seeing this Bill progress.



Motions Submitted This Month

- **Milngavie's POTR Company Achieves International Success**
- **New MSYP's Elected for Clydebank and Milngavie**
- **Old Kilpatrick Author Overcomes Challenges to Publish First Book**
- **Old Kilpatrick Food Parcels Begin New Era**
- **NHS Golden Jubilee Research Paper Gains International Recognition**
- **Hillview Care Home Teams Up with Adopt a Grandparent Scheme**
- **A Tribute to the Late Hope Robertson of the Clydebank Asbestos Group**

Prescription Wig Provision

I recently asked the Minister what work has been done to improve accessibility to prescription wig provision for those affected by hair loss. After a constituent raised with me their problems switching between real hair and acrylic wigs, I enquired whether the Scottish Government plan to allow more flexibility in this approach, which they confirm they have done.



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Best Start Foods - Changes to a key Scottish Government benefit will see an estimated 20,000 people able to access money to help with the cost of food shopping for the first time.

Scottish Businesses Pay the Price for Brexit - Scottish businesses are paying an extra £170 million in Brexit red tape export costs.

Just Transition to Net Zero - The Scottish Government has announced £350 million cable factory inward investment by Japanese firm Sumitomo.

XL Bully Dog Safeguards - XL Bully dog owners are being urged to prepare for new rules which are coming into force.

Cancer diagnoses - Report shows impact of Scotland's first fast-track cancer diagnostic services.

Supporting Students - Higher education students can apply to spread their student financial support package over a 12-month period for the first time this coming academic year.

Improving the Nations diet - The public is being asked for views on proposals to restrict the promotion of food and drink high in fat, sugar and salt.

A New Scottish Public Services Broadcaster - With Independence the Scottish Government would establish a new Scottish public services broadcaster al care system.

Investing **£24.5 million** to create 330 new green jobs and help unlock **£350 million of inward investment** to drive forward Scotland's just transition to net zero.

