

WELCOME TO MY

January 2024 Newsletter



Hello! I hope this finds you well and Happy New Year!

It's great to be back in Parliament after the Christmas Recess.

It's been a busy few weeks for me, but as always, if I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

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



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Walk-Well EDLC Leisure Group

It was great to start of the New Year visits by joining the Walk-Well EDLC Leisure group on their walk in Milngavie. This is a great way to get more active whilst boosting your mental health and well-being. The group meet at Milngavie Library every Monday at 1.30pm. For some extra encouragement, the group usually end the walk with a coffee shop visit!



Clydebank Stepping Stones

It was great to get a catch up with John Mooney from Stepping Stones, at their new premises on Kilbowie Road, Clydebank. John updated me on the charity's plans for the year ahead. They do amazing work providing mental health support to our constituents. If you are struggling please think about getting in touch with them on 0141 941 2929. Thanks to everyone in their Team!



Engagement Letters

My Team and I got out and about delivering engagement letters across Duntocher and Bearsden North this month. It certainly blew the cobwebs away! I always like to get out and about across different parts of the Constituency, as we often come away with cases from the doorstep. These letters also ensure my constituents have my details on hand when they need them.



IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Constituency Advice Surgeries

My first Advice Surgeries of the year took me to The Fraser Centre in Milngavie, Skoolz Out in Bearsden North, Whitecrook, St Josephs and St Marys in Fairley and Duntocher. It was good to meet with Councillor Calum Smith in Bearsden North to jointly help our constituents. My Team and I picked up numerous cases and will be back in touch with everyone we spoke to.



Milngavie Football Club

It was good to get a catch up with Craig Lister at the Club to discuss the progress of the Club and future plans. It was also helpful to get a visit to Lennox Park to see how it could be used as a grass pitch. The Club have been doing great work with others in the community, such as the Community Council and Milngavie in Bloom.

Clydebank Ladies FC

It was great to make the journey through with the Clydebank Ladies for their cup game against Glenrothes Strollers. Unfortunately it wasn't the result they hoped for but the ladies work so hard and it was an achievement to reach the last 16 of the Scottish Women's Football League Cup. Not only that, but they topped their group having won four games, drawing once and only losing once.



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Scottish Gas Cost of Living

When in Parliament I attended the Scottish Gas Cost of Living Event. It was great to hear more about their Scottish Gas Energy Trust which lets constituents apply for grants of up to £2,000 through the Energy Support Fund. You can find out more on the Scottish Gas website if you think you may be eligible.



Social Security Scotland

I had a very informative day with Collette Stevenson MSP at Social Security Scotland in Dundee. We got the opportunity to see how the new Adult Disability Payment is processed from start to finish, which is really helpful for dealing with future casework. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me should you need any assistance with these matters.

Culture Budget

I am pleased to see that the Scottish Government is increasing the culture budget. In light of this, during the first week back, I asked the Minister for Culture what approach the Scottish Government is taking to ensure the additional investment will be shared fairly across all communities. If you are interested to watch the response, you can find this on the Scottish Parliament TV page.



IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Visitor Levy Bill

As a Member of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee a huge part of our work recently has been consulting on the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill. The Stage 1 report was published just before Christmas and the majority of the Committee confirmed they are in support of the general principles of the Bill. It was good to speak in support of the Bill and see it passed at Stage 1.



Motions Submitted This Month

- **Linnvale Primary School Receives Seventh Green Flag Award**
- **Clydebank Salvation Army Celebrates 130 years of Charity in the Community**
- **Flourishing Faifley Receives People's Health Trust Funding**

Virgin Money Databank

It was great to attend Virgin Money's Databank event in Parliament. I am so pleased they have expanded their Databank programme to the Virgin Money store in Clydebank. This programme helps those who are digitally excluded. So, if you don't have regular access to internet you can visit the store and pick up an O2 SIM card with 20GB of free data.



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Scotland's Renewables - Scotland's renewables produce more than 100% of Scotland's electricity demand for the first time.

Social Security Payments - The Scottish Government is uprating social security payments by 6.7% to tackle poverty.

Baby Boxes - New figures show that 283,118 baby boxes have been delivered to families across Scotland.

XL Bully Dogs - The Scottish Government has confirmed they will introduce new safeguards in reaction to XL Bully dogs.

Visitor Levy Bill - Legislation which would give councils the power to introduce a visitor levy to raise funding for local tourism facilities and services has passed its first vote in Parliament.

Tobacco and Vapes - The Scottish Government plans to ban single use vapes and raise the tobacco age of sale so that no one born on or after 1 January 2009 can ever legally be sold tobacco in Scotland.

International Visits - Overseas visitors are coming to Scotland in greater numbers than before the pandemic, ONS figures show.

Rent protections - The Scottish Government plans for the process for rent adjudication to be temporarily modified for one year.

Scotland's renewables produce more than 100% of Scotland's electricity demand for first time



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OUR PLAN TO REDUCE BILLS, RAISE INCOMES AND BOOST ECONOMIC GROWTH

UPRATING SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS BY 6.7% TO TACKLE POVERTY



SNP | SCOTTISH BUDGET 2024-2025



SNP ACTION SEES NEARLY 284,000 BABY BOXES GIVEN TO YOUNG FAMILIES



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