

Stirling Matters - May 2020

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

'We're in the midst of a global crisis that remains blind to borders. Rightfully, we've closed up shop to safeguard public health, and stop the spread of this awful disease. Many are anxious for the future. But rest assured, we'll get through this together. The team are working hard remotely to respond to the situation here in the constituency, and provide assistance where we can.' - Alyn Smith, MP for Stirling

### Alyn to Rees-Mogg: Action Needed on Business Insurance

'There has been a failure of regulation. There is a need for state intervention on this.'

Alyn has urged the UK Government to take action over business insurance claims, as many coronavirus-related cases across Scotland and Stirling are denied payouts.

This is despite some firms possessing policies specifically designed for pandemic-related disruption.

Alyn put to the Leader of the House of Commons, Jacob Rees-Mogg, that urgent action is required.

Watch the full footage here:

<https://twitter.com/AlynSmith/status/1255563937757741056?s=20>

### COVID-19 Requires an Extension to Brexit Talks

'Tory ministers must cast aside the Brexit dogma, take their responsibilities seriously, and agree an extension of the maximum two years on offer, so we can get to the other side of this emergency.'

In the Herald, Alyn argues securing an extension to negotiations between the UK and EU remains essential to safeguarding economic recovery from coronavirus.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18404372.uk-running-clock-brexit-talks-snp-demand-extension/>

### BBC Scotland interview: Foreign Office struggling to repatriate after decade of cuts

'We need the UK to step up, we've not seen enough action on this.'

After 10 years under Tory austerity, and reductions in available resource, Alyn questions the present capacity of the UK to look after it's citizens overseas and get them home safely.

Listen to the interview here:

<https://twitter.com/BBCScotlandNews/status/1251038357838233601?s=20>

### Haulage Industry in Need of Support

'From food and medicines, to key industrial supplies; this is an important part of the chain of supply that we all rely on.'

Alyn is calling for the UK Treasury to consider an urgent support package for this vital industry, including cash grants, time limited tax exemptions and tax claim-backs.

Read more here:

<https://www.stirlingsnp.com/mp-supports-call-for-haulage-support/>

### The National: 'Pandemic highlights just how vital vaccines are'

In his regular column, Alyn highlights the important work carried out by the World Health Organisation, and of the United Nations 'World Immunisation Week'.

Scotland can play it's part in promoting vaccination programmes for children worldwide.

Read more here:

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18411868.alyn-smith-pandemic-highlights-just-vital-vaccines/>

Keep up-to-date with current campaigns and news on my new website:  
**[www.alynsmith.scot](http://www.alynsmith.scot)**

I'm active at: @alynsmith

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP>

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/alynsmith](http://www.twitter.com/alynsmith)

'These are unprecedented times, and I know many of our constituents are worried for their families and businesses. I've been heartened by the brilliant response from our emergency services, frontline workers and communities right across Stirling. It's only by working together that we can beat this deadly virus.' - Bruce Crawford, MSP for Stirling

Forth Valley NHS praised in motion submitted by Bruce.

See it here:

<https://twitter.com/RHBruceCrawford/status/1255465221520531458?s=20>

### Social Media

View more about on-going campaigns and work:

[www.brucecrawford.scot](http://www.brucecrawford.scot)

I'm active at: @RHBruceCrawford

<https://www.facebook.com/BruceCrawfordSNP>

<https://twitter.com/RHBruceCrawford>

### Alyn & Bruce Launch Mental Health Campaign

'It's okay not to be okay'

Protecting your own wellbeing, and that of others, is important during these difficult times.

Alyn Smith MP and Bruce Crawford MSP have helped launch a new campaign by the Scottish Government called 'Clear Your Head'.

Highlighting the need to safeguard your own mental and physical wellbeing, the new website is full of handy tips and tricks to stay well during these unprecedented times.

The website acts as a landing site to further signpost users keen to look after themselves and others.

Find out more at

<https://twitter.com/RHBruceCrawford/status/1254831842605379584?s=20> or visit <https://clearyourhead.scot/>

### Scottish Government Reassurance on PPE supplies for frontline

'Bruce has received reassurances from Jeane Freeman, Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport, on supplies of personal protective equipment for frontline staff.

Adapting to the circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak, and the necessary work-from-home measures, questions were put to ministers via video teleconference.

Watch the clip here:

<https://www.facebook.com/435524353305769/posts/1362279243963604/?vh=e>

### Support For Domestic Abuse Victims During Lockdown Announced

Crawford promotes key organisations and resources.

Domestic violence can happen anywhere, and campaigners remain concerned over levels due to lockdown. Bruce has remained a firm advocate for victim support, and has urged anyone affected to come forward to seek support.

Read more here:

<https://www.stirlingsnp.com/support-for-domestic-abuse-victims-in-lockdown/>

Watch the latest advert here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rGwjLG-5eA>

### Bruce Welcomes Student Hardship Funding

'We're proud of the fantastic contribution students make to our communities, city and villages'.

The Scottish Government has announced additional measures to support students during this crisis, as they remain financially vulnerable.

Read more here:

<https://www.stirlingsnp.com/bruce-crawford-msp-welcomes-additional-student-hardship-funding/>

### Construction industry concern raised at FMQs

The construction industry remains vital to the wider economy of Stirling, helping to deliver on key government objectives, such as schools and housing.

Raising these points directly with the First Minister, Bruce was comforted by her response.

Watch the clip here:

<https://twitter.com/RHBruceCrawford/status/1255191613980258305?s=20>

For further help & support, visit:

NHS Inform: COVID-19

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Scot Gov: Business Support

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

Stirling Council: Guidance

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/planning-building-the-environment/emergencies-emergency-planning/coronavirus/>

Ready Scotland: Volunteering

<https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/>