

May 2020

STIRLING | MATTERS

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

'We're beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel. Through a huge collective effort, the situation in Scotland and elsewhere is slowly improving. Whilst it's still early days, I welcome the Scottish Government's latest publication, outlining a roadmap to a considered easing of the lockdown. Let's stay the course, and build a new normal, together.'

Bruce Crawford, MSP for Stirling



Routemap to lockdown ease welcomed

"While we need to move carefully and gradually, the route map laid out today by the First Minister clearly sets out the steps that will take us there."

Bruce Crawford MSP and Alyn Smith MP have welcomed the announcement by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, on the careful and considered approach to the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

Publishing detailed plans, the Scottish Government will make stringent use of data to monitor any infection rate increases.

 [Read more information here.](#)

Major business site confirmed, despite coronavirus economic worry

Proposals by the Ambassador Group have confirmed intentions to proceed with ambitious development in the Craigforth area.

Offerings include offices, retail, leisure, pubs, restaurants, residential, a hotel, a care home, distillery, a visitor centre, nursery and other infrastructure across 110 acres of land.

 [Read more here.](#)

Plan for schools to re-open in August

Bruce and Alyn Smith MP have welcomed recently published plans, indicating a phased return for schools in August.

This follows close working between the Scottish Government, trade unions and local authorities to ensure staff and pupil safety when learning recommences.

 [Read more here.](#)

Stirling politicians urge support for fly-tipping action

A range of Stirling politicians have joined calls for local Stirling residents to play their part in the fight against fly-tipping.

SEPA and Zero Waste Scotland remain concerned over increasing levels of left-behind refuse.

 [Read more here.](#)

Bruce and First Minister discuss a post-coronavirus future



'As we all know, the current fiscal arrangements in the UK leave the devolved Governments with very little room for manoeuvre.'

In questions following the First Minister's recent statement to the Scottish Parliament, Bruce raises the important matter of recovery beyond the immediate health impact of the virus.

 [Watch the full footage here.](#)



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'The team of SNP MPs and I at Westminster continue to hold the UK government to account. Whilst progress is being made against this awful virus, far-reaching and profound decisions will need to be taken soon to prevent an economic calamity. We can't afford a lost generation - now is the time for bold policy, fresh ideas and to invest in our people. Together, we can build a new normal.' - Alyn Smith, MP for Stirling



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www.alynsmith.scot

'Join me online to help shape the future'

'I'm of the view that a global pandemic proves the need to work with our friends and allies, not bask in a delusion of exceptionalism. There are some who would contend this applies only up to the borders of the UK and no further - I would disagree.'  [Read the full National article here.](#)



Alyn questions Dominic Raab on quarantine measures

Alyn has called upon the Foreign Secretary to provide further details on proposals to screen and quarantine UK arrivals at airports and other incoming transport nodes in the near future.

In his address to the nation on Sunday 10th May, Prime Minister Boris Johnson left heads scratching as he announced the introductions of such measures in the coming weeks.



[Watch the full footage here.](#)

The National: Scotland should look to Europe for good practice in easing lockdown

In his regular column, Alyn underlines the need for different places, at different stages of the coronavirus pandemic, to do different things. Countries right across Europe have adapted their responses regionally, and have tailored approaches based on what works best where.



[Read the full article here.](#)

'Use the European Data' Alyn asks of Matt Hancock, as UK struggles against COVID-19



'Worryingly, the head of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has confirmed that the UK is among five European countries not making substantial progress on cutting the overall rate of infections.' (as of May 5th)

Alyn puts to the UK Health Secretary that his government must make best use of all the data available.



[Watch the clip here.](#)

Calls for urgent student support

Alyn and Bruce Crawford MSP have called for Universal Credit criteria to be relaxed, allowing students to claim during the summer months - especially if jobs are scarce.

The Scottish Government have already put in place £5 million in extra support - but argue the UK Government must do more.



[Read more here.](#)

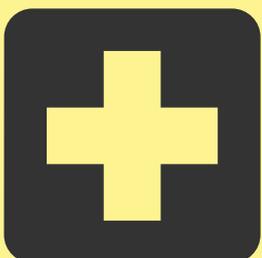
Care worker compensation concern

Alyn raises with the UK Government concerns over payments to the families of care home workers who have tragically died of COVID-19 - and if this may negatively affect any future negligence claims.



[Watch here.](#)

For further help & support, visit:



[NHS Inform: COVID-19](#)



[Scot Gov: Business Support](#)



[Stirling Council: Guidance](#)



[Ready Scotland: Volunteering](#)