

# Stirling Matters - September 2020 (9th Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

*'We've continued campaigning for increased support for businesses, joining with voices across these islands to urge the UK Government to listen to industry. The furlough scheme and other support programmes must be extended as we head into winter. With cases rising, and localised restrictions increasing, now is the time for Westminster to turn words into deeds and back business across Scotland. As more of life has resumed some normality, a rise in cases was to be expected - but we must monitor the situation carefully. We each have the power to do our bit and follow the rules.'*

*- Bruce Crawford MSP and Alyn Smith MP*

Keep up-to-date with current campaigns and news on my 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)

Keep up-to-date with current campaigns and news on my website:

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

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

## **UK Gov must act on gaps in support**

Alyn has spoken in the House of Commons, during a debate on the growing gaps in support within COVID-19 employment support schemes. Groups such as Excluded UK and Forgotten Ltd have organised business owners, the self-employed and employees who have not

qualified for support under current plans. Alyn has liaised with groups across Stirling to hear their experiences.

Watch the clip here:

<https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP/posts/3872399322773721>

## **'Protect Scotland' app launched**

The Scottish Government have launched the new app, aimed at boosting contact tracing efforts under the 'Test & Protect' scheme. Anonymous, private and easy to use, the app has already surpassed 1 million downloads. The app will notify users when to take action to protect themselves and loved ones from the coronavirus, if they may be at risk of recent exposure.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/local-msp-urges-people-in-stirling-to-download-protect-scotland-app/>

## **UK Internal Market Bill Needs Rethink**

Alyn has reemphasised the deep concerns expressed by many across Scottish civic society, on the Bill's impact on devolution. Working with parties and groups from across the UK, Alyn has joined with parliamentary colleagues to defend the current powers of the Scottish Parliament and other devolved institutions. The UK Government admitted the Bill would breach international law relating to the Withdrawal Agreement.

Read more here:

<https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP/posts/3866220716724915>

## **Students welcomed back for new semester**

The new semester has begun at the University of Stirling, with Forth Valley College having resumed earlier in the month. Alyn, Bruce and Keith Brown MSP have wished new and returning students well as they navigate the new normal and a mixed learning model.

Find out more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/09/14/stirling-politicians-welcome-back-students/>

## **What to expect from an NHS Contact Tracer**

Test and Protect continues to help individuals and communities across Scotland cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Assisting public health authorities to contact trace, T&P can aid in curtailing clusters before they escalate into wider outbreaks.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrowford.scot/what-to-expect-if-youre-called-by-an-nhs-contact-tracer-2/>

## **5,650 households supported with Council Tax**

Over 5,000 households across the Stirling area have benefited from the Scottish Government Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Newly published figures reveal the extent to which low income households and families have been supported.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrowford.scot/council-tax-reduction-scheme-supports-5650-local-households/>

## **Stirling households in superfast broadband surge**

The percentage of Stirling households connected to superfast broadband rose to 91.7% in 2020, an increase of 35% from 2014. As part of the R100 programme, the Scottish Government has committed £600 million in funding to boost Scotland's connectivity.

Watch the clip here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/35-more-households-in-stirling-connected-to-superfast-broadband/>

## **200-year anniversary of Baird and Hardie marked**

Councillor Alasdair MacPherson and Alyn Smith MP have marked the 200th anniversary of the execution of John Baird and Andrew Hardie, in Stirling. Both men took part in the short-lived 1820 Radical War, a worker-led uprising for increased Scottish autonomy, workers' rights and democratic representation.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/09/08/local-politicians-mark-200-year-baird-and-hardie-anniversary/>

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/>