

Edition 8 - September 2020

STIRLING MATTERS

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

'Recent events in Glasgow and surrounding communities drives home the importance of public health guidance. Rules remain in place for legitimate reasons, and local clusters must be contained to prevent further, larger outbreaks. Stirling's schools, businesses and residents depend on us all heeding the advice, and to continue doing the right things. Elsewhere, pressure is mounting on the UK Government to listen to voices from every walk of life calling for the furlough scheme to be extended. We'll continue to do our bit to champion Stirling's businesses, workers and residents.'

- Bruce Crawford MSP and Alyn Smith MP



@alynsmith
 01786 471899
 www.alynsmith.scot
 alyn.smith.mp@parliament.uk



@brucecrawfordsnp/@RHBruceCrawford
 01786 471899
 www.brucecrawford.scot
 bruce.crawford.msp@parliament.scot



Vigilance urged as cases begin to rise

Alyn and Bruce have urged Stirling residents to remain vigilant and to follow national guidance, after NHS Scotland's Test and Protect programme identified a new local cluster.

Affected persons have been contacted by local teams, and risk to the general public remains low.

This instance serves to underline the speed at which COVID-19 can spread and cases can become clusters.

[Read more here.](#)



'Youth Guarantee' scheme announced

Bruce has welcomed a new Scottish Government scheme aimed at supporting young people aged 16-24, guaranteeing a job, a place in education or further training.

The £60 million programme is reinforced by the new Job Start Payment to help cover the costs of starting a new role, and builds on continuing work to support apprenticeships in local businesses.

The Scottish Government remains determined that no young person should be left behind.

[Read more here.](#)



Furlough scheme hangs in balance

Alyn has argued the UK government must either extend the job retention scheme or give Scotland the powers to do so ourselves - or risk economic devastation.

As of the end of August, millions of workers remained furloughed and reliant on government support to make ends meet.

With the scheme set to end by October 31st 2020, UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak is under immense pressure from a range of stakeholders to extend support.

[Read more here.](#)



Alyn and Bruce welcome Scottish Government plans

Alyn and Bruce have welcomed the launch of the 'Programme for Government', the ambitious and bold plans set out by the Scottish Government for the coming year.

With measures ranging from economic recovery, infrastructure investment and record health spending, the Scottish Government continues to deliver for Scotland.

[Find out more here.](#)



Praise for local 12-minute testing breakthrough

A £6.7 million deal between NHS Scotland and firm LumiraDx will see vital test components manufactured at their local Stirling facility.

New instruments, designed with portability in mind, will boost efforts to track COVID-19 infections across Scotland, and enhance containment efforts.

[Read more here.](#)



Boost for care experienced young people in Stirling

Stirling Council will receive £218,400 in Scottish Government funding to provide targeted support to care experience young people.

Designated to support attainment projects, the funding will help break down barriers. The overall national fund pledged stands at £11.6 million.

[Read more here.](#)



Unelected Tory Lord lectures on importance of democracy

Alyn Smith MP has debated with Tory Lord Finkelstein regarding the franchise of a future independence referendum and who would be eligible to vote.

Taking part in the BBC show Politics Live, Alyn reiterated: "The people best placed to make decisions about Scotland are people who live in Scotland".

[Watch the clip here.](#)



Girrafic Park: Blair Drummond locals are high maintenance

Alyn visited Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park to meet the management team, and see how new public health measures have been embedded in daily life.

The staff and animals are doing well, and are keen to greet visitors back safely and responsibly.

[Read more here.](#)



[Scot Gov: Business Support](#)



[NHS Inform: COVID-19](#)



[Stirling Council: Guidance](#)