

## Stirling Matters - October 2020 (10th Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

*'Fighting this dreadful disease has meant much hard work and sacrifice from businesses, workers and communities across Stirling. The news of additional restrictions across the Forth Valley area will be unwelcome, but are vitally important to slow the spread of COVID-19, and head off potentially tougher measures in the future. We've already come so far, and it's only working collectively that we can minimise the spread and save lives. Times may seem bleak, but this pandemic won't last forever. Our best days really do lie ahead.'* - **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.brucecrowford.scot](http://www.brucecrowford.scot)**

I'm active at: @RHBruceCrawford

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

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

## **University prepared for COVID**

Alyn has spoken to Central FM on the ongoing COVID-19 developments at the University of Stirling. Campuses and students across Scotland have seen local spikes in infections, and are taking robust action to protect their staff, students and the wider community. Speaking to University management and student leaders, Alyn is confident in the joint response being undertaken to reduce infections and keep people safe.

Listen here:

<https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP/posts/3910048962342090>

## **MP launches Covid-19 survey**

Alyn Smith MP has launched a constituency-wide survey to Stirling households, asking their thoughts on the current Covid-19 pandemic. Residents are asked to share their views on current events, and their hopes for the future. The survey is available both online and in paper form, and aims to capture the views of the diverse communities that make up Stirling:

[www.alynsmith.scot/howareyou](http://www.alynsmith.scot/howareyou)

Find out more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/10/05/stirling-mp-to-launch-constituency-wide-pandemic-survey/>

## **Forth Valley NHS funding boost**

The Scottish Government has increased healthcare funding, to support further action during the ongoing pandemic. Health and social care services across Forth Valley will see an uplift of £29.5 million, as part of a wider £1.1 billion investment into Scotland's health services. The announcement comes ahead of the winter period for health services, where demand is typically stronger.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/extra-funding-to-boost-nhs-forth-valley-pandemic-response/>

## **New restrictions vital to slow spread**

Alyn Smith MP and Bruce Crawford MSP have called for the public to follow the newly updated health guidance, following increased restrictions for the Forth Valley Area. Businesses and communities across Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire will face tougher rules

from Friday 9th October, aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19. Measures will be in place for just over two weeks.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/10/08/stirling-politicians-support-new-localised-restrictions/>

## **Protections urged from 'hire and fire' practices**

Alyn has joined parliamentary colleagues in calling for urgent action to tackle poor employment practices and pay cuts. The UK Government has a responsibility to support businesses, and head off a jobs crisis. The undermining of pay and conditions only weakens the overall economy.

Find out more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/09/29/stirling-mp-calls-for-hire-and-fire-employment-protections/>

## **Funding for Albert Halls and Tolbooth venues**

Bruce has welcomed additional funding from the Scottish Government, to support local performing arts venues. The Tolbooth and Albert Halls will receive a share from £4.7 million in funding, earmarked to support the cultural sector during the current pandemic.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrowford.scot/tolbooth-and-albert-halls-msp-welcomes-emergency-funding-for-local-performing-arts-venues/>

## **Cautious relief over TSB bank closures**

Alyn and Bruce have expressed cautious relief that Stirling's local TSB branch will not be included in recently announced closures, but will seek further assurances for the long-term future. Banking giant TSB recently announced the closure of over half of their Scottish branches.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/10/01/stirling-politicians-concerned-over-tsb-closures/>

## **Miners to have historic criminal convictions quashed**

An independent review established by the Scottish Government has recommended that convictions stemming from the 1980s miner strikes should be pardoned. Hundreds of former miners in the Stirling area are set to benefit, and local politicians have warmly welcomed the news.

Read more here:

[https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/hundreds-former-miners-convicted-during-22728163?fbclid=IwAR1SraJiEo\\_G2UxH5dtsCO7tgtFJ\\_fggnG63LgeVTu-maFfxqQVQ48txg8](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/hundreds-former-miners-convicted-during-22728163?fbclid=IwAR1SraJiEo_G2UxH5dtsCO7tgtFJ_fggnG63LgeVTu-maFfxqQVQ48txg8)

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/>