

Stirling Matters - January 2021 (15th Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

'To echo the words of our First Minister - we are at a critical juncture in the course of this pandemic. All across these islands, infection rates and hospitalisations have risen sharply since the turn of the year. News of additional restrictions at the beginning of the month may have been unwelcome in some quarters, but such action has not been taken lightly. The current lockdown, and the tightening of restrictions as announced on 13th January, remain essential to slow the spread of COVID-19. We urge all Stirling residents to once more: Stay Home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.'

- Bruce Crawford MSP and Alyn Smith MP

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

www.alynsmith.scot

I'm active at: @alynsmith

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

Twitter: www.twitter.com/alynsmith

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

www.brucecrawford.scot

I'm active at: @RHBruceCrawford

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Twitter: www.twitter.com/RHBruceCrawford

We must all play our part in pandemic

MSP Bruce Crawford and Stirling Councillor Evelyn Tweed have called on Stirling residents to do their bit to support new lockdown restrictions.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced on 5th January that restrictions would apply for the rest of the month to mainland Scotland, in an effort to stem the spread of COVID-19.

With infection rates spiking across the UK, there remains a real risk to the NHS and the lives of Stirling residents.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrowford.scot/local-politicians-urge-stirling-residents-to-play-their-part-in-new-lockdown/>

MP blasts broken UK £375 million promise

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has criticised the UK government for a major u-turn, as fresh support for Scottish businesses turned into farce.

On Tuesday (5 Jan), the Chancellor announced a £4.6 billion financial package, including support for businesses affected by lockdown restrictions. In a press release, the government detailed that £375 million of this package would be additional funding for Scotland.

However this was quickly retracted as an error.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/01/06/stirling-mp-blasts-broken-promise-of-375-million-support-to-scottish-economy/>

Stirling politicians back local business

Alyn Smith MP, Bruce Crawford MSP and local Stirling Councillor Evelyn Tweed have released a summary of the work undertaken to support businesses in the Stirling area.

Whilst once more under tight lockdown restrictions to suppress the spread of the virus, many businesses affected by the pandemic remain viable and require urgent financial support.

They urge further support from the UK Treasury to support local businesses.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/01/08/stirling-politicians-back-stirling-businesses/>

Lockdown restrictions tighten from 16th January

Alyn Smith MP and Bruce Crawford MSP have commented on the latest tightening of lockdown restrictions, following First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's announcement on 13th January.

Further tweaks to overall public health guidance have been necessary to slim down potential opportunities for the virus to spread.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/01/13/comment-on-13th-january-update-from-the-first-minister/>

Promise after promise has been broken on Brexit

Alyn and Bruce have condemned the UK Government's handling of the Brexit negotiations, and insist that the deal passed on December 30th 2020 will fail to prevent future disruption as was promised.

Already the effects of the agreed deal have been felt in the logistics and seafood sectors.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/12/30/stirling-politicians-comment-on-brexit-deal/>

MSP receives assurances from FM on vaccines

Bruce has received assurances from the First Minister regarding the ongoing rollout and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines.

The ambitious programme follows guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, in order to determine delivery priority for the population.

Watch it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/BruceCrawfordSNP/posts/1573009202890606>

Winter benefits: you could be entitled to support

Stirling politicians are urging Stirling residents to check their eligibility for specific social security benefits that may help ease the financial burden of winter.

Bruce Crawford MSP and local SNP Councillor Evelyn Tweed are encouraging take up of the Winter Fuel Payment and Cold Weather Payment.

Find out more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/winter-benefits-you-could-be-entitled-to-support/>

Teachers must get vaccine priority as soon as possible

Alyn has called for Scotland's teachers to get fast -tracked vaccine prioritisation, in efforts to ensure frontline staff working in schools and educational settings can be protected from COVID-19.

School closures have been in place for the month of January in Scotland except for the children of key workers.

Read more here:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/teachers-should-vaccine-priority-as-23271725>

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/>