

Stirling Matters - March 2021 (19th Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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.brucecrowford.scot

I'm active at: @RHBruceCrawford

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

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RHBruceCrawford

Comment on 16/03 Covid Update

Stirling MP Alyn Smith and MSP Bruce Crawford have offered their views on the First Minister's Covid update, on 16th March.

In a statement to the Scottish Parliament, Nicola Sturgeon outlined the indicative timetable for moving Scotland back towards a revised Strategic Framework Levels system.

Many factors remain uncertain, but the news has been welcome, inspiring some hope of a pathway back to a new normality.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/03/16/stirling-politicians-comment-on-16-03-21-covid-restrictions-update/>

UK Gov must ratify Istanbul Convention

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has joined calls for the Prime Minister to stop failing women and girls in the face of violence, by ratifying the Istanbul Convention and scrapping the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

The UK signed the Council of Europe's Convention on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence – the Istanbul Convention – almost 9 years ago but is one of the few EU countries yet to ratify it and is therefore not legally bound by its provisions.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/03/16/ratify-istanbul-convention-to-help-prevent-violence-against-women/>

Bruce gives final speech in Holyrood

Local MSP Bruce Crawford has given his final speech in the Scottish Parliament, during a debate on the Scottish Budget.

For almost 22 years Mr Crawford has represented constituents in the Stirling area, assisting with a wide array of issues and campaigns.

He said:

'It's been the privilege and honour of my lifetime to serve my community as a representative within Scotland's Parliament.'

Watch it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/BruceCrawfordSNP/posts/1617162931808566>

Stirling is first Gigabit City in Scotland

Alyn Smith MP and Stirling Council Leader Scott Farmer joined a virtual event with CityFibre to celebrate Stirling being the first Gigabit City in the country.

A £10 million project from CityFibre and Vodafone has brought fibre optic connectivity to over 17,500 properties in the Stirling area.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/03/08/politicians-celebrate-stirling-as-first-gig-abit-city-in-scotland/>

Stirling's young people let down by UK on Erasmus

Local Stirling MP Alyn Smith has asked Prime Minister Boris Johnson to apologise to Stirling constituents, who feel badly let down over the UK's failure on Erasmus.

The educational exchange programme helped students and academics travel across the EU, but the UK withdrew following Brexit.

Watch it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP/posts/265987804893535>

Scot Gov Miners' Strike Pardon Survey Opens

A Scottish Government public consultation has launched, to gauge public and stakeholder opinions in relation to the 1984/1985 Miners Strike.

The consultation will be open until 4th June 2021, and encourages those in the Stirling area with an interest to engage.

Read more here:

<https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP/posts/267718621387120>

Praise for swift support to farmers and crofters

Stirling MP Alyn Smith and local Councillor Evelyn Tweed have welcomed news that vital funding for farmers and crofters has been delivered ahead of schedule.

More than 95% of Basic Payment Support, Greening and Young Farmer payments have been made, four months ahead of regulatory requirement.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/03/11/stirling-politicians-praise-swift-support-to-farmers-and-crofter/>

Stirling to receive share of £4.5 million investment

Stirling is set to receive over £1.3 million as part of Historic Environment Scotland's continuing investment into Scotland's shared built heritage.

Buildings prioritised for works include the B-listed Alhambra Theatre and Arcade and John Cowane's House. Ten properties have also been identified as focus buildings to be repaired through a small grants scheme.

Find out more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/03/22/stirling-set-to-receive-share-of-4-5-million-on-heritage-investment-funding/>

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/>