

Stirling Matters - October 2021 (27th Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

Keep up-to-date with current campaigns and news on Alyn's website:
www.alynsmith.scot

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

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

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[Next Stage in Vaccination Programme Welcomed](#)

Alyn Smith MP and Evelyn Tweed MSP have welcomed an announcement from the Scottish Government, regarding the next stage in Scotland's winter vaccination programme. Invitations for coronavirus (COVID-19) booster injections are now being issued to people aged 70 and over and those aged 16 and over who are at highest risk. These groups are being contacted either by letter or by their GP with the first appointments scheduled from the week beginning 4 October.

[Stirling MP Calls for Calm on Fuel Shortages](#)

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has appealed for calm, and urged motorists to continue filling their vehicles as they normally would, as concerns continue over fuel supplies across the UK. Warnings continued from haulage firms last week regarding the continuing HGV driver shortage, and the subsequent, limited impact this may have on select delivery to petrol stations.

[Tory Universal Credit Cut Condemned in Stirling](#)

Local leaders have condemned plans from the UK Tory Government to drop the £20 a week temporary uplift to Universal Credit, a move which will plunge hundreds of Stirling households into further poverty.

[Stirling Politicians Campaign in Cowie Against Universal Credit Cuts](#)

Evelyn Tweed MSP, Alyn Smith MP and Councillor Alasdair MacPherson were joined by Stirling activists in Cowie to leaflet and hear from local residents about the imminent £20 per week cut to Universal Credit.

[Calls for Action on DVLA Delays](#)

Local Stirling MP Alyn Smith has called for urgent action to address a backlog at the DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency), with reports of delays up to 3 months for licenses amidst a national crisis for the haulage sector. Writing to the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Smith emphasised the pressing need to clear administrative logjams to help alleviate acute labour shortages in the national logistics network.

[Stirling Politicians Back 'Our Advice Adds Up' Campaign](#)

Alyn Smith MP and Evelyn Tweed MSP have offered their support to a new campaign from Citizens Advice Scotland, titled 'Our Advice Adds Up'. Communities across Scotland face a perfect storm in coming weeks, with prices rising in shops, the furlough scheme coming to an end, the £20 cut per week to Universal Credit, and increases to energy bills. Recent analysis from Citizens Advice Scotland suggests almost 1.4 million people across Scotland ran out of money before pay day at least once last year.

[Local MSP Answers Questions on Climate Action](#)

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed was left impressed at the 'Callander Climate Questions' event on Saturday 18th September, as local young people posed important and challenging questions to local politicians,

policymakers and experts regarding climate change. Part of the Climate Fringe Week, a series of exhibitions and events focusing on local, national and international climate topics across Scotland, the evening saw pupils from McLaren High School grill Ms Tweed and others on the progress Stirling Council is making to fulfil its obligations to reduce climate emissions, protect biodiversity and support a transition to a greener local economy.

[Age Scotland Report Provides Window Into Older Lives](#)

Alyn Smith MP has welcomed a new report from charity Age Scotland, which lifts the lid on the life experiences of older members of Scotland's communities. The newly published 'Big Survey 2021' provides a window into the lives of older people and their experiences through the pandemic. It highlights problems such as loneliness and mental health as being widespread throughout older people in the community.

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/>