

Stirling Matters - December 2021 (29th Edition)  
News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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### [Stirling Leaders Encourage Masks, Jags and Boosters](#)

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed and Stirling MP Alyn Smith have called on Stirling residents to remain cautious, as cases of the new Omicron Covid variant increase across the UK. The Omicron variant, first reported to the World Health Organisation by South Africa on 24 November, has the international scientific community concerned over the number of mutations present in this particular version of the virus.

### [Community Spirit Flourishes in Storm Arwen Response](#)

Evelyn Tweed MSP has hailed the community spirit demonstrated in the wake of Storm Arwen, as its devastating impact on critical infrastructure and residents becomes clear. Neighbours and residents banded together to provide mutual aid, warmth and supplies as power supply was interrupted and temperatures plummeted. Many settlements in Stirling's rural communities, and in parts of Scotland, were left without power since Friday evening following devastating storm damage to power lines and key utilities.

### [Happy St Andrew's Day from Alyn Smith MP](#)

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has wished everyone a Happy St Andrew's Day this year, as celebrations take place across Stirling and the country of

Scotland's patron saint. Mr Smith delivered a toast to Saint Andrew from Rob Roy MacGregor's Barn in Kinlochard with the Ambassadors of the Scottish American Business Network live by satellite around the world.

### [Stirling Named as Happiest Place to Live in Scotland](#)

Celebrating, Alyn said: *'This comes as no surprise to anyone who's lived in Stirling - there's so much going for this bustling city right at the heart of Scotland. We've fantastic towns and villages across the region, with world-famous natural beauty spots, cafes, restaurants and sights.'*

### [Farmers and Crofters Supported By Scottish Government](#)

Evelyn Tweed MSP questioned the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands on support schemes for farmers and crofters, as the industry comes under increasing pressure from the pandemic and Brexit.

### [Shopfronts Set for Makeover](#)

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has welcomed an announcement from Go Forth Stirling, the local business improvement district, on new renovation funding aimed at shopfronts. £50,000 in funding, split into 10 grants of £5,000 each will be available to levy-paying business owners with plans to spruce up their store entrances – all part of wider efforts to enhance Stirling's overall appearance.

### [Devolution of Employment Law Essential](#)

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed recently spoke about the wishes of Scotland's Citizens' Assembly, and the ambitions they articulated over building an economy based on fair work and pay.

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/>