

Stirling Matters - October 2021 (28th Edition)
News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team
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[Stirling Politicians Welcome Additional Covid-19 Funding](#)

Evelyn Tweed MSP and Alyn Smith MP have welcomed further funding from the Scottish Government to NHS Boards, in order to meet costs of the pandemic and remobilise health services. £482 million will go to NHS Boards and Integration Authorities, which includes funding for Test and Protect and to support the progress of the vaccination programme.

£482 million to NHS Boards for Pandemic Costs comes on top of £2.1 billion provided to date to NHS Boards and Integration Authorities to support additional Covid-19 costs. Further funding will be provided as necessary over the course of the year.

[Stirling Makes Long List for City of Culture 2025](#)

Local politicians Alyn Smith MP, Evelyn Tweed MSP and Stirling Council Leader Scott Farmer have welcomed the announcement confirming Stirling's place in the 'long-list' for UK City of Culture 2025 – the only Scottish city to make the cut.

The City of Culture award helps channel local talent and expertise to articulate a vision for culture-focused economic and social regeneration in cities and communities every four years. The scheme is run by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in collaboration with the devolved administrations, including the Scottish Government.

[Stirling MSP Condemns Scottish Tories for Backing "Shameful Cuts to Universal Credit"](#)

The Scottish Parliament voted overwhelmingly to support cancelling the Tory UK Government's planned £20 cut to Universal Credit this month. Following the vote,

Evelyn Tweed MSP condemned the Scottish Tories for backing the cut which will rip over £1,000 from 5,733 families in Stirling.

The Tory's planned cut has also faced opposition from their own Conservative colleagues in Westminster – including former Scottish Tory leader, Ruth Davidson and six former Tory DWP Secretary of States. This is on top of the four Cross Party Social Security committees of the devolved Parliaments. However, the currently elected Scottish Conservatives are choosing to defend the biggest welfare reduction since the 1930s.

[Ceiling of Devolution Settlement Reached in Court Ruling](#)

Alyn Smith MP and Evelyn Tweed MSP have offered their views on the recent UK Supreme Court judgement, which has ruled landmark Scottish Parliament legislation to protect the rights of children and local government to the highest international standards are not compatible with the devolution settlement.

The Scottish Parliament unanimously backed the incorporation into Scots Law of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and the European Charter of Local Self-Government – actions which were challenged by UK law officers.

[Stirling Politicians Welcome Efforts to Repair European Links](#)

Local Stirling politicians Alyn Smith MP and Evelyn Tweed MSP have welcomed an announcement from the Scottish Government, that hundreds of EU students will be supported to study in Scotland through a new £2.25 million scholarship programme.

The Saltire Scholarship scheme has been designed to help ease the negative impact of Brexit on student numbers. The latest data from UCAS shows a 41% decrease in the number of EU students applying to study at Scottish universities this academic year.

[Stirling MSP Welcomes Challenge Poverty Week Campaign](#)

Evelyn Tweed MSP has met with the Chief Executive of NHS Forth Valley, Cathie Cowan to discuss a range of local issues, including the current waiting times for users of CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). NHS Forth Valley remains focused on providing mental health support to those who need it the most. In the meeting, there was a clear commitment from Ms Cowan to improve local provision, and reduce waiting times which remain unacceptably high.

£300m Investment to Boost Scotland's NHS Recovery

Evelyn Tweed MSP for Stirling has welcomed £300m investment to boost Scotland's NHS recovery from the pandemic – the biggest investment in the NHS in the history of the Scottish Parliament.

The funding will help the NHS through what is predicted to be one of the toughest winters and will ensure a cash injection for areas in Stirling and maximise capacity in hospitals and primary care, reduce delayed discharges, improve pay for social care staff, and ensure those in the community who need support receive effective and responsive care.

Alyn Smith MP Backs Bridge of Allan Sports

Alyn Smith MP and Keith Brown MSP have visited the Bridge of Allan Sports Club recently, to speak with members of their management committee about club activities - as well as their experience of the pandemic. The Club remains a much-loved local institution, and has big ambitions for the future.

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/>