

Stirling Matters - January 2022 (30th Edition)  
News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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### [Stirling MP Backs Stirling City of Culture Bid](#)

Alyn Smith MP is backing Stirling's bid for City of Culture 2025, and urges Stirling residents and local groups to publicly register their support online. Stirling remains the only Scottish city in the running for the award, with the contest galvanising local leaders and organisations to champion Stirling's fantastic culture, tourism and heritage sectors - which attract visitors and investment from all over the world.

### [Easing of Omicron Restrictions Welcomed](#)

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed and MP Alyn Smith have welcomed the easing of restrictions in Scotland, amid encouraging data pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic. The advent of the Omicron variant before Christmas saw further public health measures put in place - in order to reflect changing circumstances, such measures continue to be revised regularly, seeking a balance between public safety and the reduction of restrictions to daily life.

### [DVLA Delays Remain Unacceptable](#)

Local Stirling MP Alyn Smith has called for swift improvements to DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency) services, following reports of long delays, communication issues and gridlock at the agency – in some

cases, for up to six months. Several constituents have been in touch with Mr Smith, detailing excruciating waits in the renewal and registration of licences and documentation.

### [King's Highway Finds High Support in Communities](#)

Proposals for an active travel route spanning from Stirling's east to west have gained fresh momentum, after a petition organised by local Stirling MP Alyn Smith returned an overwhelming majority in support of the project. Plans would interconnect with existing national cycle routes 7 and 765, linking Drymen in the west with Stirling in the east, greatly enhancing walking and cycling opportunities for local people and visitors.

### [Free Bus Travel Application Opens to 18,800 Young People in Stirling](#)

SNP MSP, Evelyn Tweed has welcomed the initiative which is set to benefit around 18,800 children and young people in Stirling and pointed to research from Transport Scotland indicating that 70% of young people would use public transport more frequently if it was free. The scheme will be delivered in partnership with Transport Scotland, the Improvement Service, the National Entitlement Card Programme Office (NECPO), Young Scot, local authorities and bus operators.

### [Stirling MSP Speaks Out About Endometriosis as Scotland Tackles Diagnosis Rates](#)

Evelyn Tweed MSP has spoken out about her experience of endometriosis and is encouraging other women to come forward for support. The Stirling MSP spoke in a recent parliamentary debate which showed cross-party consensus for the need for improved awareness, diagnosis and treatment of the illness which affects 1 in 10 women.

## [Brexit Labour Shortages Impacting Stirling](#)

Evelyn Tweed MSP recently spoke in the Scottish Parliament regarding the economic and social impacts of Brexit - particularly on Stirling's labour market. The devolution of powers over immigration has repeatedly been sought by the Scottish Government, in order to help address key skills and worker shortages.

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/>