

Stirling Matters - June 2022 (33rd Edition)
News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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[Price Pressure at Pumps 'Unsustainable'](#)

Hard-hit households have been left reeling, as petrol and diesel prices reach record highs. Stirling MP Alyn Smith and MSP Evelyn Tweed have backed calls from industry groups to implement urgent measures aimed at heading off economic catastrophe, including a 10p per litre fuel duty cut, a temporary reduction on the VAT applied to fuel, and a commitment to future reform of fuel prices through a fuel price stabiliser mechanism.

[Stirling Politicians Welcome New Independence Paper](#)

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed and Stirling MP Alyn Smith have welcomed the first in a series of Scottish Government reports on independence. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon launched '*Independence in the Modern World. Wealthier, Fairer, Happier: Why Not Scotland?*' alongside Scottish Green Co-Leader Patrick Harvie at Bute House. [As Mr Smith argues:](#)

[independence in Europe will put rocketboosters behind Scotland's recovery from the pandemic, undo the damage of Brexit and help us build the modern Scotland we know we can be.](#)

[Brexit Anniversary](#)

'It's always worth reflecting on this simple fact: Stirling and Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain in our European family of nations - and we were ripped out regardless. Brexit is a calamity, and one day we'll put right that historic mistake.'

[Stirling Paying £1,773 Per Year on Energy Bills, 40th Most Expensive in Great Britain](#)

Households in Stirling are paying on average £1,773 per year, making it the 40th most expensive place in the UK for energy bills, out of 408 local authorities. According to data from [comparethemarket.com](https://www.comparethemarket.com), households in Stirling are already paying 28% more than the price cap that is set to be introduced in October this year. The data also shows that people across Scotland are paying more on their bills than compared to England and Wales.

[Stirling Flood Prevention Measures](#)

The Met Office published a report recently that looks at changes to rainfall patterns caused by climate change with Scotland expected to see increased rainfall. This is likely to

exacerbate the annual flooding issues already experienced in parts of Stirling, which not only cause expensive damage to property but significant disruption to the daily lives of people that live and work in areas affected. Evelyn Tweed MSP asked Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Michael Matheson about how the Scottish Government are planning for the increased risk in flooding.

[MSP Praises Polmaise Miner Pardons](#)

Evelyn Tweed has welcomed the passing of the Miners Strike Pardon Bill, making Scotland the first of the home nations to pardon former miners convicted of certain offences related to strike action in the 1980s.

The Scottish Parliament unanimously passed the Miners' Strike (Pardons) (Scotland) Bill last week (Thurs 16th June), providing a pardon for miners who were convicted of certain offences relating to the 1984-1985 miners' strike. The historic legislation passed by MSPs ensures a collective and automatic pardon for miners involved in strike action which extends to members of a miner's household and other close family members who may also have been convicted.

[Passport Delays Threaten Summer Holidays](#)

Alyn's team has received an overwhelming number of emails in the past few weeks, relating to UK passports and renewals. Households have been badly let down by the UK Government failing to provide political leadership and adequate budgets to sort out this entirely foreseeable disaster. Stirling constituents experiencing delays with the Passport Office should email Alyn's team, who can try their best to find some answers: alyn.smith.mp@parliament.uk

[Stirling Bus Woes Continue](#)

Bus Travel across Stirling has been struggling due to driver shortages. This has resulted in regular last minute cancellations on buses across the constituency but with a particular impact in rural areas with buses such as the X10, 38 and 51 significant disruption. Evelyn Tweed MSP asked Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth, about actions the Scottish Government are taking to address bus driver 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/>