

Stirling Matters - August 2022 (36th Edition)
News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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[Where is the UK Government?](#)

Alyn visited Dunblane High Street recently, where businesses told him of catastrophic energy bills landing on their doorsteps. The UK Government is missing in action - and needs to wake up urgently to start addressing this unfolding crisis.

[Watch the video here.](#)

[Cost of Living Crisis Engulfing Households](#)

Local MP Alyn Smith has condemned the UK Government as 'missing in action', as the rapidly worsening economic outlook spells misery for households and businesses across Stirling and Scotland. New analysis from Citizens Advice Scotland shows a significant growth in demand for advice services relating to the cost of living crisis. Meanwhile Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed is calling on the UK Government to [act with urgency to support struggling families and businesses.](#)

[Stirling MP Backs Parliament Recall Over Cost of Living Emergency](#)

Local MP Alyn Smith is calling for the recall of the UK Parliament as the cost of living crisis continues to grow for Stirling households, stating the ‘missing-in-action’ Prime Minister Boris Johnson must come out of hiding and resume Parliamentary proceedings.

This news comes on top of recession warnings, mounting fuel, food and energy costs, and the Bank of England attempting to tackle soaring inflation by increasing interest rates at an historically fast pace.

[Scottish Child Payment Helping Reduce Child Poverty](#)

Stirling politicians have hailed the Scottish Child Payment – described by one parent as a ‘lifesaver’ – as new research suggests the scheme is beginning to reduce debt, poverty and financial stress for families and households. First introduced in Scotland by the SNP in February 2021, and described as ‘an absolute game changer in the fight to end child poverty’ by anti-poverty charities, the new benefit’s impact has been analysed in an interim evaluation by Ipsos Mori.

[Workforce Skills Investment Welcomed](#)

Local MP Alyn Smith has praised the return of the Scottish Government’s Flexible Workforce Development Fund, now in its sixth year. Eligible businesses across Stirling and Scotland can

apply for up to £15,000 to assist with access to workforce training courses through local colleges, the Open University in Scotland and Skills Development Scotland. The fund is open to small-to-medium sized businesses, and organisations who pay the UK Apprenticeship Levy.

[Stirling MSP Visits SSEN as Winter Storm Preparedness Continues](#)

MSP for Stirling Evelyn Tweed has visited an SSEN Distribution site in Callander as work to implement their Winter Preparedness Programme continues ahead of winter storm season. The Winter Preparedness Programme is led by the Scottish Resilience Partnership (SRP) and is one of a series of measures following Storm Arwen to ensure Scotland is better prepared for significant weather events.

[Stirling MSP Becomes Nature Champion of Rare Dragonfly](#)

The MSP for Stirling has become Nature Champion for a rare species of dragonfly threatened by climate change and the extraction of peat for compost. The Azure Hawker Dragonfly is a rare species which in the UK is only seen in Scotland and found in small numbers across the Highlands in shallow peatland pools. Evelyn Tweed visited the Flanders Moss Nature Reserve to meet representatives from the British Dragonfly Society and Nature Scot who were keen to show Evelyn Tweed

MSP a variety of wonderful dragonflies and damselflies that make Flanders Moss their home.