

Stirling Matters - March 2023

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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[UK Gov Cost of Living Inaction](#)

Recent polling from [38 Degrees](#) suggests 70% in Stirling think Rishi Sunak and the Tory Government do not understand the impact the cost of living crisis is having on people.

[Stirling MSP Encourages Vigilance After Avian Flu Cases in Stirling](#)

Avian influenza has been identified in Stirling, after a small and contained outbreak in a backyard flock. The cases were identified at a property near Drip Bridge in Stirling and a 3 kilometre Protection Zone 10 kilometre Surveillance Zone have been set up around the property. This means movement restrictions within these zones – for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure – to prevent any further spread of disease. The full list of measures that must be taken in each zone is available on the Scottish Government website at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/avian-influenza-near-stirling/>

Illegal Immigration Bill

The abhorrent 'Illegal Immigration Bill' will fail to address what it claims to, and instead could trap tens of thousands of asylum-seekers in legal limbo - unable to have their claims processed or move on with their lives.

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed Visits Local Grocer to Discuss Future Plans

Evelyn Tweed, MSP for Stirling recently paid a visit to Ginger Roots, a local grocer. Mark Ritchie, owner of Ginger Roots, has applied for a grant that would allow him to purchase an electric van to use for a mobile delivery service around Stirling. Mr Ritchie highlights some key issues facing both consumers as well as businesses on the high street including a lack of regular bus services and issues with parking. There is also less availability of fresh produce in outlying areas. Providing a delivery service would go some way in mitigating these issues, and also offer regular contact for those who may be more isolated.

[Stirling MP Backs Home Energy Efficiency Campaign](#)

Local MP Alyn Smith has backed a national campaign to secure much needed investment in home energy schemes, aimed at reducing household energy bills in the future. An open letter to the UK Chancellor – signed by National Energy Action, Age UK, Greenpeace UK and 20 other campaign groups – calls for an upfront investment of £5.3 billion for home insulation and £3.37 billion for heat pump installation in his Spring Statement on 15 March. The letter also asks for a £6 billion a year commitment for the next decade, in order to give reassurance to industry and ensure both businesses and communities can reap maximum economic benefit.

[Local MSP Meets Family To Discuss Rare Genetic Condition](#)

Evelyn Tweed, MSP for Stirling, recently met with constituent Stacey McPherson ahead of the CHAMP1 Awareness Day on March 24th. Her son Calum has an extremely rare genetic condition called CHAMP1. Short for Chromosome Alignment-Maintaining Phosphoprotein, CHAMP1 is an ultra-rare genetic disease discovered in 2015. Patients with the condition have less than fifty per cent of the expected levels of a particular protein, which is necessary for proper neurological function and development.

Local MP Backs ‘Debt Happens’ Campaign

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has urged Stirling residents to reach out for support on debt, following a new campaign from the Citizens Advice network across Scotland. ‘Debt Happens’ aims to tackle the stigma and shame surrounding debt, and ensure people know where they can turn to when they need advice and support. Citizens Advice Scotland estimate around 460,000 people in Scotland expect to go into debt, whilst 644,000 expect an increase to their existing debt due to the cost of living crisis.

Scottish Government’s Commitment to Protect Sistema Big Noise is “Music to our Ears”

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed has welcomed recent confirmation by Culture Minister Neil Gray that the Scottish Government will step in to provide funding to save Sistema Big Noise projects across Scotland. The future of these Sistema projects, which seek to transform whole communities by introducing children to music, was threatened after local councils were forced to make tough funding choices because of decisions taken by the Tory Government in Westminster.