

News from **PATRICIA FERGUSON** **MP for Glasgow West**



January 2025

It has been a busy start to 2025, and I hope that the following overview of some of my recent activities both locally and in parliament provides a flavour of my work in January on behalf of Glasgow West residents and communities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank emergency service & key workers who have worked so hard both during and following Storm Éowyn, to provide vital services to local residents and to deal with the storm's aftermath. As ever, we owe our key workers a huge debt of gratitude for keeping things going in the most challenging of circumstances!

Constituency Update

The new year got off to a flying start with the my regular round of monthly surgeries resuming following the Christmas break. Glasgow West constituents looking to discuss an issue with me can get in touch to make a surgery appointment.

It's not necessary however to wait for a surgery as my constituency office team are available to offer assistance right away. Since the start of the year we've dealt with almost 400 new enquiries, and sent over 1,000 emails. In the six months following my election last year we sent around 2,400 emails, so we're well on track to beat that within the first few months of 2025!

In addition to my regular surgeries I will continue, throughout the year, to do pop-up surgeries and street surgeries. My next pop-up surgery will take place on the **20th February** in partnership with Kingsway Community Connections. Appointments for that can be made in the normal way.

A regular issue that people contact me about is local transport matters, whether that be in relation to public transport, active travel such as walking or cycling, or road travel. I know that easy access to work, education, health, leisure, and other key services, is vitally important.



MP SURGERIES ACROSS GLASGOW WEST

Please get in touch to make an appointment if you would like to speak to Patricia on any issue



HOSTED BY
PATRICIA FERGUSON MP



KNIGHTSWOOD

1st Friday of each month
at 4pm



ANNIESLAND

1st Saturday of each month
at 10am



WHITEINCH

4th Friday of each month
at 3.30pm



PARTICK

2nd Friday of each month
at 10am



DRUMCHAPEL

3rd Friday of each month
at 10am

The surgery localities will stay the same each month but, on security advice, the venue within each neighbourhood will change from time to time.

If you require any assistance, please contact my office by email at patricia.ferguson.mp@parliament.uk, call 0141 370 2324 or you can write to me at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Serving the communities of Anniesland, Blairdardie, Broomhill, Claythorn, Dowanhill, Drumchapel, High Knightswood, Hyndland, Jordanhill, Knightswood, Old Drumchapel, Partick, Scotstoun, Scotstounhill, Temple, Thornwood, Whiteinch & Yoker

Your Local Transport Priorities – Have Your Say!

I am committed to working with and for local residents to deliver positive change for our area; helping to ensure that our communities can thrive.

I know that easy access to work, education, health, leisure, and other key services, is vitally important. Whether you use public transport, active travel, or are a car driver you want to know that you can get about your regular business; meet with family and friends; and connect across our communities.

Unfortunately, that's not always easy – whether due to public transport challenges; lack of active travel options; or poor roads and footpath maintenance.

Since my election I've been pleased to open the new Anniesland train station lifts, improving station accessibility for all; I've opposed proposals to reduce station ticket office opening hours; I've made representations to the Council about west end parking; and, I've supported proposals to improve access to Drumchapel town centre. But there's much more to do!

I am keen to hear what your priorities are to improve travel where you live. Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/3WsGizT> to take my 60 second survey



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Unfortunately, it's not always easy to go about your regular business; meet with family and friends; and connect across our communities.

That's why I've launched my **local transport priorities survey**. I want to hear from local residents what your priorities are to improve travel where you live. This will be getting delivered across the constituency, and you can scan the QR code in the image or go to <https://bit.ly/3WsGizT> to **have your say!**

In a previous newsletter I reported on my meeting with staff at Drumchapel Health Centre along with Labour's Health Spokesperson, Jackie Baillie MSP, and local councillor Paul Carey to discuss the need for a new, modern facility that would better serve the local community. On 22nd January I took the opportunity to highlight this issue with the Secretary of State for Scotland during question time in the House of Commons.

Patricia Ferguson MP, Glasgow West

"May I thank my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for helping to secure £14 million of levelling up funds for the area of Drumchapel in my constituency of Glasgow West? Does he agree that given the record settlement that the Scottish Government have received from the UK Government, it is about time that they went ahead and sorted out the problems of under-provision and overcrowding in Drumchapel health centre?"

Ian Murray MP Secretary of State for Scotland

"My hon. Friend has been a doughty champion for Drumchapel and was key, at the heart of this Labour Government, to getting that funding across the line. The health service in Scotland is in crisis, which is only made clearer by the First Minister taking personal control of it. One in six of our fellow Scots are on NHS waiting lists. The record settlement of £4.9 billion to end austerity in Scotland needs to be spent on the frontline in places such as Drumchapel health centre."

UK Parliament, Hansard

I was pleased to be able to recognise a number of local achievements through Early Day Motions in Parliament in January. Four pupils from Hyndland Secondary School won the Scotland category of the CyberFirst Girls Competition 2024-2025. Charlotte, Jess, Sania, and Aoibhe won this competition which aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security, providing an opportunity for young women to engage with advanced cyber topics outside the curriculum, nurturing talent, developing skills and introducing girls to the possibility of a career in cyber.

Meanwhile, Jordanhill School pupil, Eva Drummond, received a British Citizen Youth Award, which honours young people across the UK who have made an important impact on their communities and wider society. Eva has worked for several years as a volunteer and activist, focusing on anti-bullying, youth mental health and youth advocacy.

I was also pleased to recognise the LINKES community group which helped to secure £35,000 to upgrade a play area in Knightswood, and everyone who played a part in helping to save



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Scotstoun-based charity Glasgow Wood, which does important sustainable work preventing timber from going to landfill by transforming waste wood into high quality indoor and garden furniture which is both sold and given to those in need.

You can read these and my other Early Day Motions on the [Parliament website](#).

Finally, 2025 marks the 850th anniversary of Glasgow becoming a burgh. There will be a series of events and celebrations throughout the year to mark this special event, and I know that local organisations are considering ideas to mark this special event. I was pleased to be able to highlight this at Prime Ministers Questions on the 15th January, when I asked Sir Keir Starmer to join me in celebrating the anniversary and recognising the city's efforts to tackle poverty and inequality while creating opportunities. In responding, the Prime Minister recognised the huge contribution that the city has made, and continues to make, to the country. You can get more information about Glasgow 850 on their [website](#)



Parliamentary Update

Parliament continues to work hard to deliver the Government's programme and priorities. I was pleased to support the Children's Wellbeing & Schools Bill which will introduce the single biggest piece of child protection legislation in a generation.

A consultation on the resale of live events tickets has been launched, which will result in measures being introduced to tackle ticket touts. This is long overdue, and a move which I know from my postbag will be welcomed by people across the communities of Glasgow West.

Growing the economy is at the heart of the Government's plans, so as to get more money in people's pockets. Earlier this month the IMF forecast that the UK is set to be the second fastest growing economy and a global survey put the UK as the second-most attractive destination for investment for the first time ever. I welcomed the announcements from the Chancellor on the 29th January outlining plans to further boost the economy for growth. A stronger economy means better jobs, higher wages & investment for Glasgow. I am looking forward to working with Glasgow colleagues to deliver growth for our city.



In my December newsletter I wrote about my disappointment at the Government's decision around compensation for WASPI women. I continue to work as part of All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequalities for Women and attended a packed meeting of the group on the 14th January at which we discussed our ongoing fight for fairness for the WASPI women.

A number of constituents have contacted me regarding a "Ten-Minute Rule Bill" vote in Parliament on the 28th January regarding compensation for WASPI women.



Such votes are usually used to highlight an issue rather than effect change, and rarely opposed. On this occasion supporters of the "Bill" forced a vote, which was carried. One of the ironies of the process is that there is no actual bill at this stage. As such, I did not vote as I would prefer to wait for a vote which would mean the government having to act on a compensation scheme. This vote was not binding on Ministers, and it is unclear whether it will make any further progress.

Holocaust Memorial Day was on the 27th January, marking 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz and an opportunity to reflect on a dark period in history.

I took the opportunity in Westminster to sign the Holocaust Educational Trust Book of Commitment to honour their memory.

We must never forget and always challenge hatred in all its forms.



The effects of exposure to asbestos are well known, and, historically, one of the main exposure points in Scotland were the shipyards. As a result, many Glasgow West residents live with the effects of asbestos related disease. The Clydebank Asbestos Group is a volunteer organisation that was set up in 1992 to help provide support, advice and information for victims of asbestos and their families. I was pleased to meet representatives of the Group in Westminster, and took the opportunity to pledge my continued support for their important work.

Since being elected in July 2024, I have asked questions of government about aid to Gaza, the realisation of a two-state solution and the plight of the people of Palestine. I also secured a Westminster Hall debate about the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza. I am very pleased that the ceasefire, so long awaited, in the conflict between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories has now become a reality. It is early days and the ceasefire is still fragile but I think that there is real hope now that the situation will begin to improve. The first step must be to ensure that much needed aid and medical supplies are able to be delivered to the people of Gaza and the West Bank and to move towards a rebuilding programme and a two-state solution that allows a secure and peaceful Palestinian state to prosper alongside Israel.

This is just a snapshot of my recent work. Regular updates are shared via my social media channels -

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f Patricia Ferguson for Glasgow West

I produce a regular newsletter update and if you would like to receive this directly into your inbox you can email **patricia.ferguson.mp@parliament.uk** to be added to the mailing list