

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



February 2025

Welcome to the roundup of my work in the constituency and Parliament for February.

It has been another busy month and you'll get a flavour below of some of my activities over the last four weeks. As well as the work highlighted I've continued to host my regular surgeries across the constituency, as well as a pop-up surgery in Kingsway. During the month my office dealt with almost 500 new enquiries from constituents, 100 more than January, and sent around 1,000 casework related emails, similar to last month. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you require assistance.

Constituency Update

Last Autumn the UK Government set up a Ministerial **Child Poverty Taskforce** to oversee the development and delivery of an ambitious cross-government Child Poverty Strategy to reduce and alleviate child poverty. The aim is to improve children's lives and life chances now and to tackle the root causes of child poverty in the longer term.

I wanted to make sure that people working on the frontline in Glasgow West had the opportunity to input into the strategy, sharing their knowledge and every day experiences, and was very pleased to be joined by representatives from a dozen local community groups at an event in Knightswood Community Centre on the 18th February. The event was also attended by Kirsty McNeill MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Scotland Office, who sits on the Taskforce.

Participants took part in discussion groups, considering key questions including:

- What are the key factors contributing to child poverty in the local area?
- What are the most effective actions we could take – at a local, regional, and national level – to alleviate these problems?
- What are the main asks of national government that would make the biggest difference to children in poverty locally?



The thoughts and experiences shared at the event have been submitted to the Taskforce, and **[a copy of the submission is available on my website](#)**. I will provide further updates on the work of and outcomes from the Taskforce as they become available.

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

With Parliament in recess for a week in February, this provided me with a very welcome opportunity to catch up with some of the many fantastic local groups and organisations working across the communities of Glasgow West.

Drumchapel Credit Union was the first credit union in Scotland and this year it is celebrating its 55th anniversary. It was lovely to be able to meet with some of the team to hear about the work they are doing. With over 3,000 members they provide a vital service to local people, and I was very pleased to be able to recognise their work in a recent Parliamentary motion.



Local business are at the heart of our communities, and this is particularly true in the Byres Road area. So, it was great to meet John Turner, Chair of @Visit_WestEnd to discuss their work supporting local businesses in the **Byres Road & Lanes** area. With the **Business Improvement District** renewal ballot coming up, it's vital to keep promoting and improving our West End. You can find out more: <https://www.visitwestend.com/>



LINKES is a community project based in the Lincoln Avenue/Kestrel Road area of Knightswood. They offer a full programme of activities, from youth groups, to community support, to a lunch club.

It was fantastic to meet with Elaine and Rachel from the project to find out more about their work.

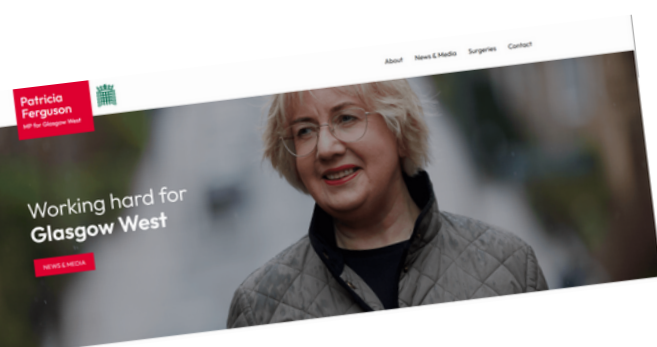
As they say, "they are a small team doing big things"!

It was lovely to visit the **Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre** to meet with Chair Lionel Most and Centre Manager Kerry Patterson, and learn about the rich history of Glasgow's Jewish community. The work of the Centre is vital to preserving and sharing this important heritage.



I had the pleasure of visiting **Hyndland Secondary** and enjoyed spending time with the Higher Modern Studies & Higher Politics students.

I also met Charlotte, Jess, Sania, and Aoife, who won the CyberFirst Girls Competition. I presented them with a copy of an Early Day Motion I submitted on their fantastic achievement. Such an inspiring group of young women!



I was delighted to launch my new website during February. The site includes a contact form to make it easy for constituents to get in touch with me. There's also surgery information and a handy constituency map showing the communities that are within Glasgow West. The News & Media section is kept updated with my work in the constituency and in Parliament.





Edrington is the name behind some world famous single malt whiskies such as The Macallan, Highland Park, and The Glenrothes, and with their bottling hall in Drumchapel they are a valued local employer across the communities of Glasgow West.

At their Drumchapel facility the company bottle their Single Malts, and blend and bottle The Famous Grouse, their Blended Scotch Whisky. They also do all their export shipping from Drumchapel. So it really is the beating heart of the business!

I was pleased to be able to visit the Drumchapel bottling hall recently, to see for myself the work that takes place there. During my visit I even had the chance to be involved in the bottling process, taking a sample from one of the whisky casks.



I've been out and about across the constituency delivering my **Local Transport Priorities** survey postcard and have received a significant number of responses so far.

In addition to local individual issues which I will be taking up on behalf of those that have raised them with me, there are a number of emerging themes from across the constituency. These include cheaper fares and simpler ticketing options for bus and train travel, including integrated ticketing; roads and footpath maintenance, with potholes and safer pavements being a significant issue across all communities; safer cycling routes; and, extended subway opening hours and routes. I will be following up on all the issues raised and will provide updates in future newsletters.

Constituents have also continued to raise concerns regarding Scotrail's plans to reduce ticket office opening times at stations across the constituency. I have taken this matter up and expressed serious concerns to Scotrail regarding these plans and the implications for passenger safety and in relation to purchasing tickets. Unfortunately, Scotrail are intent on pressing ahead with these cuts, claiming that they will provide a better service to customers, a position that I strongly disagree with. I have now written to the Scottish Government Transport Secretary asking that she respond to public concerns, and reconsiders the reduction of ticket office opening hours.



Complete my survey at <https://bit.ly/3WsGizT> or scan the QR code to **Have Your Say!**



THE RADIO SIGNAL THAT CONTROLS RTS ELECTRICITY METERS IS BEING SWITCHED OFF

If you have an RTS electricity meter it will need to be replaced

If your supplier contacts you, act now

From the 30th June 2025 the signal controlling Radio Teleswitch (RTS) electricity meters will be switched off, which could affect heating and hot water.

Without the technology to tell RTS meters when to swap between peak and off-peak rates, they may no longer work properly, and it may mean that a consumer's heating and hot water supply stops functioning as normal.

If your energy supplier has contacted you, arrange your meter upgrade as soon as possible. You can find more information from the [OFGEM website](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk)

Parliamentary Update

Economic growth is at the heart of the government's plans, so as to be able to invest in public services and put more money in people's pockets. At the end of January the Chancellor announced support for a third runway at London's Heathrow Airport as part of the plan for growth.

I took the opportunity of Prime Minister's Questions on the 5th February to raise with Keir Starmer the need to spread the growth across the UK, and called for a new supply chain hub for Glasgow. I look forward to exploring this further with the Government, the Chamber of Commerce and Glasgow MPs.



Towards the end of the month the Government announced that Glasgow is to benefit from a new National Wealth Fund partnership, to help unlock private investment opportunities and boost local growth. I will be working hard to ensure that the communities of Glasgow West feel the benefits of this partnership.

I continue to speak up about the situation in Gaza. On the 6th February I took the opportunity in the Chamber to raise with the Minister of State for Development the importance of recognising Palestine as a state. I was pleased that in response the Minister reiterated the Government's support for a two state solution.



Later in the month I took part in a Westminster Hall debate on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in which I highlighted the horrific injuries that are being sustained by some people in Palestine during the current conflict, including those from weaponised drones.

I am pleased that the Minister confirmed the ban on drone exports, but we must continue to scrutinise other items that can be weaponised.

Clips of my speeches, questions and contributions in Parliament are available on my website - <https://patriciafergusonmp.uk/>

The work of the **Scottish Affairs Committee** (SAC) which I Chair continued in February, progressing its enquiry into GB Energy and net zero; and holding an evidence session as part of its inquiry into Glasgow's Safer Drug Consumption Room. Further information is available from the **[SAC's website](#)**.

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

 @PJFerguson18

 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

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to be added to the mailing list