

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



March 2025

Welcome to my March update – another incredibly busy month with over 600 new enquiries opened on behalf of constituents. Housing, transport issues, and Home Office matters remain the top three individual casework enquiries received; with welfare reform, international development, and Gaza being areas of significant interest to constituents. I was out and about across the constituency throughout the month, and I hope this report provides a helpful overview of my recent work.

Constituency Update

The most important part of my work as your Member of Parliament is assisting local residents, groups and organisations with individual casework issues and enquiries regarding current policy matters and government decisions. This often involves my office contacting government departments, local housing associations, the City Council, or other service providers on behalf of constituents. From time to time I will have the opportunity to ask a question in Parliament about matters that have been brought to my attention by a number of constituents. This month I submitted written questions about the time taken by the Department of Work and Pensions to allocate cases to a Case Manager, and about the timetable for payments to families under the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme. I also raised concerns from constituents unable to access prescribed medication while visiting England. I will always take every opportunity available to me to advocate on behalf of local residents.

Patricia Ferguson MP, Glasgow West

"Since being elected, I have been contacted by a number of constituents registered with a GP in Scotland who find themselves unable to get medication for which they have a prescription while visiting England. Will my hon. Friend take steps to encourage NHS England and NHS Scotland to work together to find a solution that works for patients?"

Stephen Kinnock MP, Minister for Care

"I am very sorry to hear about my hon. Friend's constituents' experience. Accessing vital medicines while travelling between nations should be seamless, and I will ask NHS England to work with NHS Scotland to better understand what needs to change to make things easier for patients across the UK."

UK Parliament, Hansard

There are several ways to get in touch with me about any matter of concern to you – more information is available on my website www.patriciafergusonmp.uk

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

Last year a significant number of constituents contacted me about the inconsiderate use of fireworks. This month I was able to update them to advise that Glasgow City Council has opened the process for applying to have an area designated as a Firework Control Zone (FCZ), to help tackle firework issues. More information on FCZs and the application process is available online at [Fireworks Control Zones \(FCZ\) – Glasgow City Council](#). Applications must be submitted no later than Friday 11 April 2025 for FCZs which are required to be operational for November 2025.



During March I had the opportunity to visit the FareShare warehouse in Scotstoun. The organisation redistributes quality surplus food to charities and community groups feeding people at risk of food poverty.

The FareShare centre is managed by Move On, a charity supporting people to achieve personal goals and make positive, lasting change in their lives. I enjoyed meeting with Move On's Director of Operations, Jim Burns, and FareShare's Senior Public Affairs Officer, Jonathan Wallcroft, to learn more about their incredible work supporting our communities. Visit the FareShare website for more information – <https://fareshare.org.uk/fareshare-centres/glasgow-west-of-scotland/>

It's always a pleasure to visit local schools, and I was delighted to be able to join P6 pupils from Corpus Christi Primary School at their Big Brew coffee afternoon at the start of March, to support fairer trade and climate justice. The pupils put on a great event and I recognised their hard work in a Parliamentary motion.



That this House commends Corpus Christi Primary School in Glasgow West for hosting a Big Brew coffee afternoon to raise money to support fairer trade and climate justice; congratulates the work of the P6 Fairtrade Committee for organising this event; further commends the pupils who worked hard on the day to make the event a success, from serving tea, coffee and treats, to selling raffle tickets and the can you guess numbers game, and speaking so well about the issue of farmers' pay and the impact of switching to Fairtrade products; notes that in hosting this event, the pupils drew attention to an important issue, raised awareness of the small changes we can make in order to consume in a smarter, fairer and greener way; and acknowledges the work of Transform Trade in organising the Big Brew 2025 Campaign, providing fun activities and ideas for hosting these events, as part of their important fundraising work.

At the end of January Storm Éowyn caused damage to trees across the communities of Glasgow West, including in Victoria Park where a number of trees were lost. It was lovely to join volunteers from Friends of Victoria Park and local Councillor Eunis Jassemi on the last Saturday in March to spend a rewarding morning planting 30 new trees in the park. This was only possible due to donations from the community. I look forward to seeing the new trees thrive over the coming years!

My Local Transport Survey continues to go out across the constituency and I am very grateful to everyone who has taken the time to complete it. Potholes are a major issue across the constituency and it was concerning to learn this month that pothole compensation payments to motorists in Glasgow have almost doubled in the last two years, whilst the amount spent on pothole repairs has been cut by around 20%. I'm calling on the Council to get a grip of this issue.

I've written to the Council about cycle infrastructure and storage in various parts of the constituency. There remains significant demand for cycle storage in the G12 area, with almost 200 people on the waiting list. The Council has informed me that 500 new cycle shelters will be provided over the next 5 years and I've highlighted the demand in the G12 area to the Council.



I reported last month that I had written to the Scottish Government Transport Secretary to highlight public concerns about Scotrail's reduction to ticket office opening times, and to ask that these be reconsidered. Disappointingly, the Minister has supported the cuts. I know that constituents remain worried about these changes and I will continue to monitor the impact of them.

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



Public transport ticketing and ticket prices are also a concern to constituents, and I was disappointed to learn that First Glasgow was again increasing bus fares from the end of March, with no obvious improvement in services. A national bus fare cap system operates in England and it is regrettable that we don't yet have a similar scheme in Scotland. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport is, however, currently consulting on its Bus Strategy. This highlights, and seeks to address, a number of barriers to bus use, including fares, complex ticketing and lack of integration. I will be feeding the findings from my transport survey into the consultation. You can find out more about the strategy and consultation at www.spt.co.uk

Towards the end of March the UK Government announced that it was investing £8.6 million to deliver new and improved multi-sport grassroots facilities and pitches in Scotland. Bids are invited from local authorities, clubs and community organisations. The Scottish Football Association will help deliver the investment and anyone interested in submitting a funding application can email clubservices@scottishfa.co.uk to arrange further discussions.



Parliamentary Update

March saw a couple of very significant events in Parliament, the first of which was the third stage reading of the Employment Rights Bill. The Bill is a key part of the Government's programme and will introduce a number of measures to strengthen workers rights, including protection from unfair dismissal, strengthening sick pay, and ending fire and rehire. The Bill will now be considered by the House of Lords.

There was also a significant announcement on welfare reform, and I have been contacted by quite a number of constituents on this important matter. I believe that our welfare system needs to be reformed. Under the previous government the standard allowance of Universal Credit fell to a forty-year low. Next year the standard allowance will increase and be worth approximately £364 a year more. The Government also propose to scrap the work capability assessment and introduce what is being called a 'right to try' where people can apply for and start work without the fear of being reassessed. Further, it is proposed to establish an unemployment insurance protecting people with a higher rate of benefit if they have to stop work, in order to help them get back on track. Under the proposed measures, a premium will be introduced for new claimants with the most severe, life-long health conditions, whose health will not improve.

I have concerns around some of the proposals made and will continue to scrutinise the proposals once the consultations are completed and when the bill is introduced to parliament. I will always seek to protect the most vulnerable in society and my decision about whether or not to support some or all of the bill that eventually emerges will be guided by that principle.



Throughout the month I made a number of contributions in Parliament on a range of issues of importance to constituents and to the communities of Glasgow West.

I highlighted the recent Herald & Glasgow Times series on 'The Future of Glasgow' which covered a wide range of issues – from potholes in Partick, to poverty in Drumchapel and the general state of the public realm. I called on the Government to support measures that would help deliver a new vision for Glasgow.

In a debate recognising the important role of shipyards in delivering economic growth I spoke about Glasgow West's proud shipbuilding history. I highlighted the BAE academy in Scotstoun, which is helping to train the shipbuilding workforce of the future.

I continue to take every opportunity to call for justice for WASPI women. Over 160,000 people, including 266 from Glasgow West, signed a petition calling for fair compensation after maladministration in the state pension changes. The petition was considered in Parliament on 17th March, speaking in the debate I said:

"I am privileged to have been sent here to represent my constituents, and I will continue to use that privilege to support and fight for WASPI women until such time as the ombudsman's recommendations are implemented."

Private Members Bills provide an opportunity for backbench MPs to propose legislation, and my colleague Dr Scott Arthur, MP for Edinburgh South West, has introduced the Rare Cancers Bill which aims to incentivise research and investment into the treatment of rare cancers. The bill received its second reading in March and, as a survivor of a rare form of breast cancer, I spoke in favour of it. The bill has progressed to the next stage of consideration and I hope that it will soon become law.

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

As part of its inquiries into GB Energy and the net zero transition, Safer Drug Consumption Facilities, and space launch the **Scottish Affairs Committee**, which I Chair, visited Norway. The Committee also held evidence sessions on its ongoing inquiries. 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 –

X @PJFerguson18

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