

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



April 2025

Welcome to my **April newsletter**. With Parliament in recess for two weeks over the Easter period I enjoyed the opportunity of being able to spend more time in the constituency. This gave me the chance to visit some of our many fantastic local organisations and I also held an additional pop-up surgery at the Annexe in Partick, as well as hosting my usual weekly surgeries. Constituency casework continued apace with my team helping me to deal with over 400 new cases on behalf of local residents. I hope you find the following update of interest.

Constituency Update

Community groups, voluntary organisations and local residents are the beating heart of our communities across the Glasgow West constituency. During April I was very pleased to be able to meet with a number of groups to join in and recognise their work, achievements and commitment to our local areas.



At the beginning of April the new **Knightswood Community Shop** opened at 160 Lincoln Avenue, thanks to a partnership between the LINKES community project and Good Food Scotland. Community volunteers are helping to run the new store, which allows customers to pay a small membership fee to access cut price fresh, chilled, frozen, and long-life food as well as basic household goods. This is a fantastic new resource that's *'just like a supermarket but at a fraction of the price'*, and I enjoyed visiting the store, meeting staff & volunteers, and presenting my [parliamentary motion](#) welcoming the new shop.

April saw community action in several areas across the constituency, with local residents helping to clean up their neighbourhood. I was pleased to be able to take part in a litter pick organised by Kingsway Community Connections. The event, supported by local volunteers, made a real difference in tidying up the area. Netherton/Knightswood Clean Up Group hosted a litter pick in the Netherton area, which followed a similar event organised by High Knightswood and Anniesland Community Council in March. Drummore Primary School pupils also helped collect many bags of rubbish as part of the Spring Clean Scotland campaign. I was pleased to recognise their efforts to keep their local area in good order in a [parliamentary motion](#).



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



Organisations across the constituency put on a range of activities for children during the Easter break. Drumchapel United was one such organisation and I enjoyed spending time with the young people taking part in a free easter football camp, supported by Scottish Gas and the Scottish FA. The camp helped the young people stay active, have fun, and enjoy a free nutritional lunch, and was part of a partnership which aims to supercharge grassroots participation in football. It was great to chat about the club and hear how the young people were keeping active during the school holiday. Who knows, I was perhaps even chatting to some professional footballers of the future!

Women In Public Affairs Scotland is an organisation that works towards creating a more inclusive space for all those who identify as women to progress and establish themselves in Scotland's public affairs and policy sector. I was honoured to be asked by them to take part in an 'In conversation' event, to speak about my work as Glasgow West's MP, and as Chair of the Scottish Affairs Select Committee. I enjoyed a lively and interesting discussion and Q&A and I hope that through sharing my experiences as a women in public life I may have helped encourage other women to step forward for new opportunities and challenges!



I very much enjoyed joining local residents and Councillor Eunis Jassemi in Naseby Park, Broomhill at the end of April to celebrate the Cherry Blossom Festival. Despite the weather the local community got together to enjoy a range of fun activities and entertainment. The event was a wonderful reminder of the strength and pride within our community. Organised by the Friends of Naseby Park and Broomhill Hyndland Church the festival allowed the community to come together and enjoy a special day. Their commitment to improving and protecting our local spaces makes a real and lasting difference to the community we all share.



On the 7th April I had the opportunity of raising in Parliament one of the most recurring themes of my local transport survey when I spoke in a debate on Road Maintenance, and raised the issue of potholes. I highlighted that in the past two years in Glasgow, compensation to drivers has almost doubled, while the amount of additional money spent on repairing potholes has decreased by 20%. It is estimated that the city needs to spend £104 million repairing potholes, and I spoke of my hope that the Scottish Government might follow the lead of the UK Government, which has allocated an extra £500m. to councils in England and Wales for pothole repairs, by ensuring councils in Scotland get more cash for pothole repairs. [You can watch my contribution to the debate via my website.](#)



I have also been pursuing a range of other issues highlighted by respondents to my survey.

Subway users are keen to see a contactless payment option at the ticket gates. Having contacted Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), I am pleased to report that there is a project underway to make this possible, hopefully by early 2026.

Cyclists have raised the need to better connect the national cycle route (NCN7) between Castlebank Street and the former railway line adjacent to South Street. I have made representations to the Council about this and have learned that they are in the process of investigating cycling infrastructure upgrades and improvements along this route, improving connectivity to the Riverside Museum and new Govan/Partick Bridge.

This is good news and I will keep an eye on both of these matters.

Train users in receipt of a concessionary ticket have raised with me the recent significant increase in train fares following the move from the basic concessionary fare to a new 'half-fare with cap' structure. I share constituents' concerns about this decision which was taken by SPT due to local authorities being unable to contribute more to the scheme, because of decreasing budgets from the Scottish Government. I will continue to take every opportunity to make the case for lower train fares so as to encourage greater use of public transport.

There are a range of other issues which have been raised with me by respondents to my local transport survey and I will continue to provide further updates in future newsletters.

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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Parliamentary Update

A significant Parliamentary event in April was the recall of Parliament on Saturday 12th April, for an emergency session to pass a bill aimed at saving British Steel's Scunthorpe plant from closure. This was the culmination of intensive work by the government over a number of months, and was essential to securing UK steelmaking for the future. The Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill allowed the government to step in to prevent the blast furnaces being shut down, a real risk under the site's current ownership.

A number of constituents contacted me in relation to the situation with the Grangemouth oil refinery and I have responded individually to these enquiries. The situation at Grangemouth was very different and the UK Government has provided £200m. to support the long-term industrial future of Grangemouth. This will ensure that thousands of good jobs are supported for years to come.

I was very pleased to support both the action to safeguard steel production at Scunthorpe, vital to protecting jobs across the whole UK, and the measures to support jobs at Grangemouth, Scotland's largest industrial site.

My constituency casework sometimes highlights an issue that will impact on constituents across Glasgow West, and I am always happy to question the Government about such matters. I have become aware of significant waiting times for allocating Access to Work claims to a case manager, with the current period being around eight months.

I questioned the Minister for Social Security and Disability about this and have been advised that the number of staff processing claims has been increased, and applications from customers who are about to start a job or who are renewing are prioritised.

Whilst I welcome these measures, I am concerned that no priority is given to applications from people already in work, in order to help them continue in that work. I will, therefore continue to take every opportunity to pursue this with the Government in order to improve the situation for constituents.



Constituents have also raised with me issues relating to absent voting, particularly for overseas voters. I questioned the Government about the possibility of introducing a system of issuing ballots by secure email.

I have been advised that as part of the Government's review of electoral registration it is examining several aspects of the current system.

I welcome any measures that help and encourage people to take part in our democratic processes and will continue to keep an eye on the progress of this work.

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

As chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee (SAC) I sit on Parliament's Liaison Committee, which considers the overall work of select committees, promotes effective scrutiny of Government and chooses committee reports for debates. It also questions the Prime Minister about policy, usually three times a year, with one of these sessions taking place on the 8th April. At this session I questioned the Prime Minister on whether the Government fully grasps the economic potential of Scotland's space launch sector. The SAC is conducting an inquiry to examine the key opportunities and challenges for Scotland's space launch sector. 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 -

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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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