

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



**May 2025**

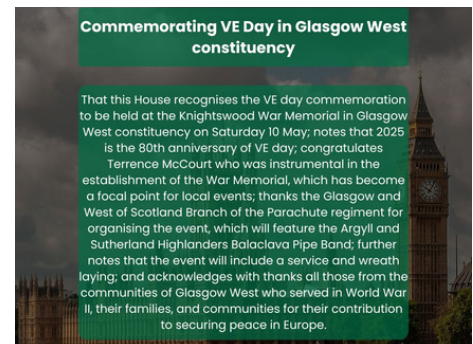
Welcome to my **May newsletter**. It has been another incredibly busy month both in the constituency and in Westminster. My work on the Scottish Affairs Committee also took me to Shetland – more on that below. The focus of my work continues to be speaking up for constituents – whether it's providing representation on individual casework matters; championing the issues that matter most to those I represent; or, recognising and supporting the hard work and achievements of those in the constituency. I hope you find this monthly update of interest.

## Constituency Update



At the beginning of May people across the UK marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, celebrating eight decades since the end of the Second World War in Europe on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. I was honoured to be able to attend an event at the Knightswood War Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of constituents across Glasgow West, recognising and honouring those who gave their lives, and the families who endured so much, for their contribution to securing peace in Europe.

I also tabled a motion in Parliament to recognise the event – congratulating local resident Terrence McCourt who was instrumental in establishing the Knightswood memorial, and thanking those who organised and participated in the commemoration.



ENABLE Glasgow's Fortune Works service in Drumchapel is a fantastic social enterprise for people with a learning disability, offering the opportunity to train for work, and make a valued and useful economic contribution to the community. I enjoyed being able to attend their Garden Centre Open Day in May, to show my support for the vital work that they do. I picked up some beautiful plants for my constituency office and enjoyed exploring the incredible range of handmade gifts and creations. You can see & order their products to support their work via their brand-new online shop – [fwproducts.sumupstore.com](http://fwproducts.sumupstore.com)

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



It's always enjoyable to visit local schools and in May I had the pleasure of visiting two primary schools. First up was a visit to Hyndland Primary, where I had the opportunity to chat with P6 pupils who were learning about 'Parliament and Public Representation'. I shared with them my experience as an elected representative; spoke about my work in the communities of Glasgow West; and, explained how Parliament works, including the convention of 'bobbing' in the Commons (standing up to catch the eye of the Speaker when trying to ask a question). The class enjoyed trying out 'bobbing' during the Q&A session!

Later in the month I visited Drummore Primary in Drumchapel, to hand over a copy of my parliamentary motion recognising their work to achieve an Eco-Schools award, including a recent local litter pick which saw the pupils collect many bags of rubbish as part of the Spring Clean Scotland campaign. It was lovely to meet the staff and pupils, tour the Growgarden, and see the veg growing in the polycrub.



May was another busy month for casework, with my constituency office assisting me to respond to over 600 new enquiries from local residents. The top individual issues continue to be from constituents seeking assistance with housing, DWP enquiries, and Home Office related matters. Whilst the situation in the Middle East, Assisted Dying, Welfare & Disability Benefit changes, and the Immigration white paper were the policy issues of most concern locally. I also received many other enquiries on a wide range of issues from nature friendly farming, to international trade deals and animal experiments.



I had opportunities to ask questions in Parliament on a few of the issues that constituents have contacted me about. I know that there are homeowners across Glasgow West who suffer as a result of unqualified trades people botching work on their homes. I asked if the Government will allow time to discuss the accountability we need and was delighted to hear that they will be looking into this.

Constituents have also contacted me about the Football Families for Justice campaign, on behalf of ex-pro footballers with neurodegenerative diseases due to heading footballs. I raised this issue with the Government & will continue to support ways to help address it through the Football Regulation Bill.

I also spoke in a Parkinson's Awareness Month debate. There are 222 people in Glasgow West who are believed to be living with Parkinson's disease and I thanked the volunteers, staff, & family members who look after those with Parkinson's and called on both of our governments to work to deliver better Parkinson's services.



You can watch clips of all my contributions in parliament on my website - [www.patriciafergusonmp.uk](http://www.patriciafergusonmp.uk)

In a previous newsletter I reported that a significant number of constituents had contacted me about the inconsiderate use of fireworks, and advised that Glasgow City Council had opened the process for applying to have an area designated as a Firework Control Zone (FCZ), to help tackle firework issues. I have now been advised that applications have been submitted for FCZs in two areas of Glasgow West, Drumchapel and Yoker. The council is consulting on these applications and you can have your say on these via their Consultation Hub at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/9643> (closing date is the 18<sup>th</sup> June '25).





I am continuing to pursue issues highlighted by constituents responding to my local transport survey.

Quite a number of residents have expressed concern about speeding traffic and enquired about action to tackle this. Glasgow City Council’s Road Safety Plan (2020–2030) commits to rolling out a 20mph speed limit across the city. I contacted the Council to enquire on the progress of this, as they are currently half way through the ten year plan. In response, the council has advised me that they are on course to complete the initial 18 month speed limit change rollout, citywide, by February 2026.

During this period, monitoring and assessment will be undertaken to determine the effectiveness of the 20mph speed limit. Where it is ascertained that the 20mph speed limit should become permanent the Council would be required to pursue the statutory process to make this the case.

Local residents who use the Canal towpath as an active travel route have raised issues about the maintenance of vegetation and lighting. I have taken these matters up with Scottish Canals who have advised that in order to balance the need to support biodiversity along the canal whilst maintaining safety on the towpath, they carry out vegetation management several times a year. This has occurred once already this year, with another couple of cuts due over the coming months.

With regard to the maintenance of the ground level lighting that exists on some sections of the canal towpath, Scottish Canals advise that they have an inspection rota to identify these issues. Specific locations of faulty lights can also be reported to them by email at [enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk) with the ‘what3words’ app location.

**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



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

# Parliamentary Update



Poverty is experienced by too many people in Glasgow West and I am committed to fight it however I can. I took the opportunity in a recent parliamentary debate on poverty, hosted by my colleague Maureen Burke, MP for Glasgow North East, to highlight that the Drumchapel/Anniesland ward in Glasgow West constituency has the greatest depth of poverty in Glasgow.

I spoke about the Child Poverty Task Force event that I hosted in the constituency earlier this year, and expressed my concern about funding cuts to Glasgow City Council since 2013 which have put severe pressure on vital services across the city. I called on both our governments and the local council to work together to tackle poverty. I very much hope that the government’s child poverty strategy, which is due to be published in the coming months, will offer real solutions to make a difference to the life chances and opportunities for families and young people across our communities.

The debate on Assisted Dying legislation returned to parliament in May and I attended the debate on the first group of amendments. A number of amendments to the Bill have been tabled and some were considered on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. There will be further debate on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. As I have said for some time, I am opposed to the Bill and will vote against it again at its final stage. I have also tabled or signed several amendments designed to strengthen safeguards in the Bill if it is passed.

I have been both shocked and appalled at what has occurred over the past year and more in Gaza. The action that the Israeli government has taken recently is reprehensible. The level of suffering we are witnessing in Gaza is beyond anything many of us have seen in our lifetimes and it must stop immediately. In May I wrote to the UK Government calling on them to recognise the State of Palestine. A two-state solution can be advanced at the UN Conference in June and would be a contribution towards the cause of peace.

I also took the opportunity of a parliamentary statement on sanctions to call for sanctions to be applied to Israeli Ministers such as Smotrich and Ben-Gvir. The Government subsequently announced sanctions on a number of individuals, illegal settler outposts, and organisations supporting violence against Palestinian communities in the West Bank. Free trade negotiations with Israel were also paused. I welcome these moves and will continue to push the Government to go further.



The forced deportation of children by Russia has torn Ukrainian families apart. In a debate on returning forcibly deported children to Ukraine I commended the annual Ukrainian Independence Day celebration which takes place in Victoria Park in Glasgow West, hosted by the Friends of Victoria Park, in partnership with the Glasgow branch of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain. I reflected that the event provides an opportunity for Ukrainians living here to engage with their heritage and culture, something denied by Russia to too many Ukrainian children. I urged action against those involved in the illegal transfer and mass deportation of Ukrainian children.

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

I have shared information previously about the Scottish Affairs Committee's inquiry into Scotland's space launch sector. As part of that inquiry in May members of the Committee visited SaxaVord UK Space Port in Shetland to learn more about their mission to launch the first rocket into orbit from the UK – and the opportunities the spaceport is creating for the local community and the rest of Scotland. The Committee produced a short video about their visit and further information about the SAC, which I Chair, 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   **Instagram icon** patriciafergusonmp

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](mailto:patricia.ferguson.mp@parliament.uk)** to be added to the mailing list