

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



**July 2025**

Welcome to my **July newsletter**. I can hardly believe that it's been a year since I was elected as Glasgow West's first MP. In that year I have held 46 surgeries; actioned 5,057 constituents' enquiries; attended 74 community groups and events; made 70 contributions in the House of Commons; asked 34 written questions; chaired 25 Scottish Affairs Committee meetings; tabled 29 motions; and issued 8 newsletters. And I'm just getting started! It's an honour to serve local residents and our communities and I promise to keep working hard for Glasgow West.

## Constituency Update



It's been another busy month out and about across the neighbourhoods of Glasgow West, and I've enjoyed getting along to community events and catching-up with local groups and residents throughout the area.

It was a pleasure to join the community around Naseby Park, Broomhill, for their 'Picnic in the Park', hosted by the Friends of Naseby Park and Broomhill Hyndland Parish Church. Along with local councillor, Eunis Jassemi, it was lovely to join local residents enjoying the park and the activities of the day. A brilliant event made possible by amazing local volunteers.

Scottish Gas and the Scottish FA have teamed up to bring their Holiday Football Camp back to Drumchapel United. It was great to meet the young people enjoying football, keeping active, having fun and enjoying a free nutritional lunch. One of the many great summer activities taking place in Glasgow West during the summer holidays.



**'Time Well Spent'** is a social inclusion project for older people in Yoker, based at Yoker Community Campus. It aims to change and improve the quality of life for elderly and disabled people in the area, offering a wide range of community activities including arts & crafts, social afternoons, bingo and day trips. It was a pleasure to spend time with the group at an informal surgery at the end of July. This is a fantastic project offering invaluable support to local people in Yoker. You can find out more about the project at <https://www.yokercampus.org/Time-Well-Spent/>

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



Communities across Glasgow West are served by a number of fantastic local libraries which offer so much more than the traditional book lending service – from access to PCs and the internet to a range of events and activities, there's something for everyone.

I previously reported that Partick Library celebrated its centenary in June, and I was delighted to be able to present library staff with a copy of my parliamentary motion recognising the significant role that the library has played in providing free access to educational resources, promoting literacy and much more!

Encouraging young children to read is a great way to expand their vocabulary, improve their social skills, and develop their interest in learning. I'm delighted therefore that Drumchapel, Kingsridge Cleddans, Pineview, Wheatley and Cernach Housing Associations in Drumchapel have come together to launch the G15 Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The initiative provides free books to all children living within the community, monthly, up to the age of 5. The launch event took place in Drumchapel Library and it was fantastic to see so many young people enjoying the free books, face painting, and signing up to the initiative. All residents in G15 can sign up children in their household under the age of 5 via any of the social housing providers mentioned above (you don't have to be a tenant of the association).



Marie Curie is a charity that most people will be aware of, and many will know that since 2015 it has supported people with any life-limiting illness, not only advanced cancer but also conditions such as dementia, MND, and Parkinson's. The charity provides vital services to residents across Glasgow West and beyond, both in their own homes and from the Marie Curie Hospice in north Glasgow. I visited the Hospice in July, and it was good to have the chance to meet the team and chat with people being supported by the charity. I also learned about their rapid access clinic, hospice care at home, and the campaign for a right to palliative care in Scotland. More information on Marie Curie's services is available at <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/services/scotland>



Parliament's summer recess began on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July and this means I am able to be full time in the constituency, allowing me the chance to get around more of our communities meeting local residents, businesses and organisations. I've planned a series of street surgeries and supermarket surgeries for the coming weeks, which will be in addition to my normal monthly surgeries. I will be writing directly to households in various areas across the constituency offering appointments to see me when I'm in their street. I aim to host street surgeries in every part of the constituency during the term of the parliament.

In addition to my 'by-appointment' surgeries I'm hosting a pop-up surgery (details opposite) – providing an opportunity for me to meet and chat with local residents in an informal supermarket setting, whilst also supporting Morrisons' 'Every Pack Gives Back' campaign for Marie Curie.

I enjoyed meeting representative from the Poverty Alliance and Citizens Advice Scotland to discuss tackling poverty. They were valuable conversations and I look forward to continuing to work with them on these important matters.





Issues in relation to active travel – walking, wheeling and cycling – are a recurring theme from constituents responding to my Local Transport Survey. Particular concerns expressed relate to the condition of footpaths, including failure to maintain them and keep them free from debris; overhanging branches and overgrown hedges; and the lack of gully cleaning leading to blocked drains and flooding.

#### 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/3WsGzT> to take my 60 second survey



The stated aim of Glasgow City Council's Active Travel Strategy is that active travel *"will be the first and natural choice for everyday journeys"*. I support this aim, but am concerned that the council's failure to address the types of issues raised by constituents means that the option of active travel remains unappealing and, in many cases unavailable, for too many.

I have written to the Council expressing these concerns and asking how they plan to improve the current situation. Unfortunately, the response received does not suggest that there are any plans to take a different approach to the current arrangements for assessing and addressing footpath maintenance or gully cleaning. Indeed, I am aware of the Council

recently being advised of footpaths that are completely blocked by trees and hedges, forcing pedestrians onto the road, with no action taken by them for over a month to address the issue. This is not good enough and if the Council is serious about achieving a shift to active travel they must improve the current situation. I will continue to pursue this matter with the Council and will be pleased to take up any individual issues that constituents may experience.

## Parliamentary Update



I've written in previous newsletters about the appalling situation in Gaza and how I've spoken up in Parliament urging the Government to take action, from sanctioning Israeli government ministers to recognising the state of Palestine.

I welcomed the Foreign Secretary's statement in July calling for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and a full resumption of aid. In a statement in the House of Commons he described the Israeli aid system in Gaza as inhumane and dangerous – a view I completely agree with. In response to his statement I again urged the government to

recognise the state of Palestine, saying that I believe what we are witnessing in Gaza is genocide, and that whilst recognition may not immediately bring peace it would offer hope to the people of Palestine.

Later in July I joined 220 colleagues, from 9 parties, in signing a joint letter to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary urging them to immediately recognise Palestine as a state.

I therefore welcome the significant intervention from the Prime Minister at the end of July, setting out a pathway to recognition of a Palestinian state in September. This is part of a wider plan for peace aimed at ending the suffering in Gaza and the Occupied Territories and re-establishing a pathway to a two state solution.

The Government's immediate priority is to ensure humanitarian aid and relief on the ground at scale, and I fully support its action in this regard, having previously pressed the Prime Minister at the end of June on the urgent need for Israel to allow the UN and other humanitarian organisations to resume food distribution.

In my last newsletter I wrote about my concerns with the Government's proposed changes to Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments (PIP), and my support for an amendment to halt the progress of the Bill. In response to this amendment, the Government proposed significant changes to the Bill but I felt that the changes, although welcome, didn't go far enough. I welcomed the decision to establish a review of PIP to be undertaken by Sir Stephen Timms MP, but I believed it to be wrong that measures would be introduced before Sir Stephen had reported back to parliament.

My support for the Bill was conditional on the scrapping of the four-point eligibility threshold for Personal Independence Payments, a devolved benefit in Scotland, and a commitment to a more inclusive approach to any future PIP reforms, in other words that any reform must be co-produced with disabled people and properly reflect the needs and experiences of disabled people as the bedrock for any future reforms. After listening to backbench MPs such as myself, the Government withdrew the element of the Bill concerned with PIP until such times as the Timms review has concluded. This substantial change meant I was able to support the Bill. I used my voice in Parliament to call on the Government to reflect and think again. I am pleased the Government listened to MPs, and those with lived experience, and that it showed willingness to improve the legislation.



I continue to take every opportunity to raise in Parliament issues brought to my attention via my local casework mailbag. In July I raised the threatened closure of the Drumchapel Post Office and called for a proper debate on protecting these vital services. I also highlighted the significant issues that many residents have been experiencing with postal deliveries, resulting in them not receiving important financial information on time and missing hospital appointments. I called on Royal Mail and Ofcom to get their act together to address this second-class service. I have asked for a Parliamentary debate on this important issue and will be meeting Royal Mail senior management about it. If you've experienced problems with your mail delivery let me know and I will be happy to take the matter up with Royal Mail.

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

I've supported a Private Members Bill on absent voting to allow voters in Glasgow West & across Scotland to apply online for a proxy or postal vote for all elections, encouraging greater participation. I'm delighted that the Bill has been passed by MPs and hope that it will be in effect for next year's Scottish elections.



As Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee I am a member of the House of Commons Liaison Committee, which considers the overall work of select committees, promotes effective scrutiny of Government and questions the Prime Minister. A PM question session took place in July and I asked about the new jobs being created at Grangemouth. The Prime Minister acknowledged the importance of these jobs and the work needed to secure them. You can watch that exchange and get further information about the SAC on X at @CommonsScotAffs. You can also sign up to the Scottish Affairs Committee newsletter on the [SAC 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](#)  [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