

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



March 2026

Welcome to my **March newsletter**. It has been another busy month in both the constituency and parliament, with over 500 new enquiries received from constituents. Housing and Home Office related matters continue to represent the largest number of individual casework issues from constituents. The conflict in Iran and the situation across the Middle East, as well as social media access for under 16s and proposed changes to the Asylum and Immigration system gave rise to the majority of campaign and policy related enquiries. More information is provided below on these matters. I hope you find this update of interest.

Constituency Update



The communities of Glasgow West are made up of local heroes – people who make significant contributions to our area, whether on a regular basis through voluntary activities, such as community councillors, or by one-off acts. One such local hero is Drumchapel High School pupil, Jordan Kerr. Jordan, a cadet with the Glasgow & Lanarkshire Battalion, was at Drumchapel Train Station when a young boy collapsed. He sprang into action and when he couldn't feel the boy's pulse he started CPR, a skill he had learned at cadets. By the time the ambulance arrived the boy's pulse had returned thanks to Jordan's action. Jordan contacted me to let me know he has launched a petition to install a defibrillator at the station. I am delighted to support Jordan's campaign and have written to Scotrail calling on them to take action.

I highlighted Jordan's life saving action and his defibrillator campaign in Parliament and was pleased that the Leader of the House joined me in thanking Jordan and wishing him every success in securing the installation of the medical equipment at Drumchapel Station. You can support Jordan's campaign by signing his [online petition](#).



On the theme of local heroes, I was delighted to join a group of local residents in March at a community litter pick organised by Blairdardie and Old Drumchapel Community Council. The activity took place as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful 'Spring Clean Scotland' annual campaign – which sees thousands of volunteers across Scotland spend time outdoors helping to clean up their local environment.

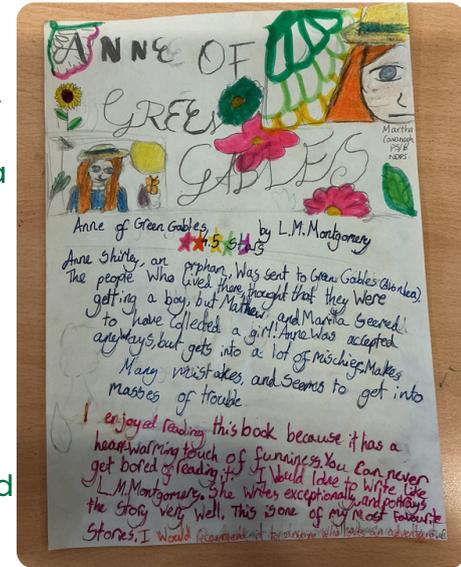
Local residents came together in Blairdardie and collected over 30 bags of litter. Thanks to the Community Council for organising the event, and to everyone who took part.

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



World Book Day took place on the 5th March – it’s a day that helps to promote the joy and benefits of reading to children. This year I held an essay competition to mark the day, and invited primary 6 pupils from schools across Glasgow West to take part. Pupils were asked to write up to 300 words about their favourite book and I received many fantastic entries. It was not an easy decision to select a competition winner and I am very grateful to Liam, the Librarian at Drumchapel Library, for undertaking the task of judging the entries.

The overall competition winner was Martha Cavanagh of Notre Dame Primary School, who wrote about Anne of Green Gables.



Martha explained that she enjoyed the book, and highlighted its “heartwarming touch of funniness” as one of the reasons for her choice. Martha said that the author, L.M. Montgomery, writes exceptionally and portrays the story very well, and said that she “would recommend it to anyone that loves an adventure”. I was delighted to be able to meet Martha at her school assembly and present her with her winner’s prize and certificate, and to deliver certificates for all the pupils that entered the competition.

In a Parliamentary debate on World Book Day I took the opportunity to recognise Martha’s achievement and also Mac Wallace of Scotstoun primary, Yahia of Hyndland primary and Robert Kwiatkowski of Knightswood Primary who submitted the winning entries from their respective schools. You can read my contribution on the [Parliament website](#) or watch it on my website www.patriciafergusonmp.uk



The Government has now launched its national consultation on social media for under 16s. The consultation explores age restrictions on social media and other services such as gaming sites and AI chatbots, restrictions on addictive design features and risky functionalities, and better support for parents and families. It runs until the 26th May 2026, and in addition to the full consultation there is a survey for parents and carers of young people, and a survey for children and young people. More information is available on the [Gov.UK website](#).

As MPs will have a vote on any proposals arising from the Government consultation I want to hear from as many constituents as possible and my local survey remains open, allowing you to have your say. [You can fill out the survey online - https://bit.ly/4rsnLkk](https://bit.ly/4rsnLkk)

I was pleased to meet recently with Unison care workers to discuss the government’s proposed changes to the Asylum and Immigration system, and the union’s Fair Visa Campaign. The aims of the campaign include an end to exploitation by replacing employer sponsored visas with a sector-wide scheme in social care; ensuring no retrospective application or 15-year qualifying period to Indefinite Leave to Remain rules; and recognition for the vital economic and social contribution of public sector workers.



I have called on the Government to consider putting in place a better way of granting visas to those coming to work in the care sector. I have also urged the Government to ensure that any changes to the system take account of a person’s value to our society, and not just their salary level. I will continue to make the case for a system that recognises the important contribution of skilled migrant workers, particularly those within the NHS and care sector without whom these services could not function.



In last month's newsletter I reported on Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's (SPT) plans to explore step-free access provision at Hillhead and Buchanan Street subway stations – something that local residents highlighted in my **Local Transport Survey**, and that I had written to SPT about.

Respondents to my survey also highlighted the need for a contactless ticketing option at the subway entrance, and the need for extended operating hours. Once again, I had written to SPT regarding these issues. In March 2025 I was informed that a contactless ticketing solution was being explored, and I am delighted that this has now been implemented from the 16th March. Passengers can now “tap on and tap off” using payment cards or mobile devices – providing faster, easier access and a ticket free option.

SPT has also announced that extended operating hours will be introduced once Subway modernisation is complete. On Fridays and Saturdays the closing time will be 00:30 – approximately 1 hour later than the current closing time. On Sundays the service will operate from 06:30 to 23:30 – approximately 3 ½ hours earlier opening and 5 ½ hours later closing than the current schedule.

I made the case last year on behalf of local residents for longer Subway opening hours. I received assurances that SPT were committed to delivering an extended service and I am pleased that details of this have now been provided. I look forward to the completion of the modernisation programme and the implementation of the longer operating hours which will be hugely beneficial to Glasgow West residents using our local Subway stations at Partick and Kelvinhall, and for all Subway passengers across the city.

If you've got a local transport issue you'd like to bring to my attention please complete my survey using the link provided or contact me directly.

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



0141 370 2324  Patricia Ferguson for Glasgow West  @PJFerguson18  patricia.ferguson.mp@parliament.uk

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

Parliamentary Update

Understandably, a significant number of constituents have contacted me about the situation in the Middle East, the military action taken by the US and Israel against Iran, and the UK Government's position on this.

In January, during the protests in Iran, I spoke in Parliament about the oppressive Iranian regime, applauding those who had taken to the streets to fight for their freedom and to build a new democracy in the country. The killing of protestors and abuse of women by the regime was deeply disturbing. I welcomed the resumption of peace negotiations following the protests and support the UK Government's position that the best way forward for the region and the world is through a negotiated settlement.



The Prime Minister has outlined the Government's position in relation to the ongoing military action, that any UK involvement is defensive rather than offensive, and that we will not be drawn into the wider war. Parliament has also discussed the situation regarding the Strait of Hormuz and considered the Government's ongoing work with allies to achieve a clear, viable plan to secure the reopening of the Strait. Whilst I recognise there are differing views about the government's actions I believe that it has acted proportionately; in accordance with legal advice; and in the UK's national interest. I continue to hope that a resolution can be achieved by diplomatic actions and negotiation. In the meantime, I have highlighted in Parliament that the US action in Iran has not only made peace in Palestine much more difficult to achieve, but has provided cover to Israel for its ongoing offensive in Palestine and its aggression against Lebanon. You can watch my contribution at www.patriciafergusonmp.uk



Many constituents have contacted me about the proposed introduction of Digital ID and I have made clear that for me, the following principles are essential when assessing any future legislation:

- **Protection of civil liberties:** Any digital identity scheme must never become a backdoor to surveillance, policing, or discrimination.
- **No exclusion or coercion:** Those without smartphones, fixed addresses, or digital access, must not be left behind or locked out of vital services.
- **Clear limits and oversight:** There must be strong legal safeguards on how data is stored, shared, and accessed, with full transparency and accountability.
- **Preservation of non-digital routes:** There must be a robust guarantee that people can continue to access work, housing, voting and healthcare through traditional, non-digital means if they choose to do so.

Whilst, I recognise that Digital ID credentials can reduce identity theft risks by limiting unnecessary exposure of personal details, I also understand concerns that have been raised regarding access to digital ID by third parties. I welcome the recent launch of a Government consultation on the issue and encourage constituent to have their say on how Digital ID could work and how it could be used in everyday life. The consultation is on the [Gov.UK website](https://www.gov.uk) and closes on the 5th May 2026.

I have written previously about the concerns that constituents have raised around Royal Mail postal delivery delays. Last month I reported that Royal Mail had been called to Parliament to answer questions from the Business & Trade Committee about their letter delivery service. In advance of that I wrote to the Committee Chair, Liam Byrne MP, making him aware of constituents' experiences of the non-delivery or late delivery of correspondence about hospital appointments and other important letters. I also highlighted my concerns about the potential impact on the smooth running of the Scottish Parliament elections - particularly in relation to the delivery of polling cards and postal ballots. I drew his attention to the fact that the turnover of Royal Mail delivery staff in Scotland is worse than in other parts of the UK with one in five new starts leaving within 90 days.

Commenting on the current situation Mr Byrne has said that "Royal Mail is a national institution in meltdown. When barely three quarters of First Class letters arrive on time, that's a failure costing families and small businesses up and down the nation." I welcome his Committee's scrutiny of Royal Mail's performance; hope that this helps lead to an improvement in it; and will continue to pursue issues brought to my attention by constituents.



As Chair of the **Scottish Affairs Committee** I participated in a recent Liaison Committee meeting, at which we questioned the Prime Minister on current issues. I took the opportunity to ask what potential frigate programme delays could mean for Scotland's shipyards. I welcome the Prime Minister's commitment that there should be no delays, and his recognition of the importance of shipbuilding in Scotland. You can watch our exchange and find out more about the Committee's work on X at @CommonsScotAffs, and sign up to the Committee's newsletter on the [SAC website](https://www.parliament.uk).

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 to be added to the mailing list