

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



September 2026

Welcome to my **September newsletter**. Parliament returned at the beginning of September and I report below on an important announcement made by the Foreign Secretary and a couple of new inquiries launched by the Scottish Affairs Committee. A short recess towards the end of the month allowed me to spend more time in the constituency, holding community events including a street surgery with my colleague Councillor Paul Carey. My office opened over 400 new casework enquiries, received around 1,500 casework related emails and issued 3,500 emails on issues from housing enquiries to concerns about Glasgow City Council's new pay structure; and covering matters from Israel & Palestine, to Assisted Dying.

Constituency Update



Throughout September I continued to gather information on people's experiences of fireworks, to help shape my forthcoming Fireworks Bill. I held the first of two community roundtable events to allow me to hear directly from local residents. This was also attended by a representative from the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, the Dogs Trust and the SSPCA.

I am grateful to everyone who gave up a Monday evening to share with me how they and their community have been impacted by fireworks, to discuss the changes they would like to see, and to help identify what could make the biggest difference in tackling firework related issues and incidents.

A wide range of experiences were shared – highlighting the effect that fireworks can have on veterans and neuro-diverse people, how household pets can react to them, and the impact that the misuse of fireworks can have on communities and the emergency services, with local examples shared of fireworks being fired at and from vehicles.

I am hosting another roundtable event on the evening of Monday 5th October, following which I will produce a report outlining the findings of both events. It will also take account of a survey conducted by High Knightswood & Anniesland Community Council, for which I thank them. And my own survey which is still available online at <https://bit.ly/4gXhUKH>



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

I have been contacted by constituents affected by Glasgow City Council's pay and grading restructure. It has been revealed that 11% of staff will have their pay cut, including domestic abuse support workers who face wage cuts of more than £11,000. Meanwhile, others who contacted me, including education support staff, voiced concern that their new grading provides no recognition of the increased complexities and responsibilities of their role.

I have made my concerns about the new structure known to the Council. Of particular note are issues highlighted by the Trade Unions including:

- The potential for lower-paid workers to remain at lower earnings levels for extended periods
- Reduced opportunities for employees to be recognised financially when additional responsibilities emerge
- Increased risk of 'job creep' where duties expand without corresponding reward.

Unfortunately, despite these concerns the Council administration decided to press ahead with the scheme. They were also asked to ensure all options were exhausted before considering 'fire and rehire' - however, the administration voted against this call. It was therefore disappointing and extremely worrying that towards the end of September the Council threatened to sack over 23,000 workers and rehire them on new contracts. I issued a statement condemning this move and am pleased that following pressure the Council announced it was pausing this threat, and I very much hope it withdraws it completely.

Fire and Rehire is an unacceptable practice and I was pleased to vote in Parliament for the Employment Rights Act which will restrict it from the 1st January 2027. The Act has already introduced a range of new employment rights around family leave, whistleblowing, statutory sick pay, and unfair dismissal. This October will see further new rights including a duty on employers to prevent sexual harassment of their employees by third parties, and informing workers of their right to join a trade union. In January 2027, as well as the fire and rehire restriction, there will be new rights introduced around unfair dismissal claims eligibility and casual worker contracts. A new legal right to take time off work following the loss of a spouse or partner, parent, adult child or sibling, or pregnancy will be introduced in April 2027. You can find out more about these employment rights changes online at <https://t.co/FY0BGzcvl8>

Glasgow City Council's threat to fire and rehire over 23,000 workers is shameful. The SNP-led administration's plans threaten the livelihoods, security and dignity of the workers who keep our city running. From keeping our streets clean to caring for vulnerable Glaswegians, council workers and the residents who rely on these essential services deserve better.

Steamrolling ahead with mass dismissals and rehiring workers on worse pay and conditions just months before the UK Labour Government's Employment Rights Act comes into force is disgraceful. This legislation will rightly make fire and rehire illegal.

We are calling on the Council's leadership to urgently re-engage in meaningful discussions with trade union representatives, and to take the threat of mass dismissal off the table entirely.

Dr Zubir Ahmed MP Glasgow South West	Monica Lennon MSP Glasgow Region	Martin Rhodes MP Glasgow North
Maureen Burke MP Glasgow North East	Douglas McAllister MP West Dunbartonshire	Paul Sweeney MSP Glasgow Region
Patricia Ferguson MP Glasgow West	Gordon McKee MP Glasgow South	Alison Taylor MP Paisley and Renfrewshire North
John Grady MP Glasgow East	Pauline McNeill MSP Glasgow Region	

Already in Place	From October 1st	From January 1st
✓ Bereaved partners' parental leave will enable bereaved fathers and parents to take up to 32 weeks' paternity leave.	🕒 Mandatory Action to Prevent Sexual Harassment	🕒 Review of Collective Redundancy Rules
✓ Access Paternity Leave and unpaid parental leave from the first day of employment.	🕒 Protection from Customer & Third-Party Harassment	🕒 Expanded Bereavement Leave Rights
✓ Sexual harassment is included as a whistleblowing reason.	🕒 Right to Be Informed About Trade Union Membership	🕒 Bereavement Leave for Pregnancy Loss
✓ Individuals employed from 1 st July will be able to claim unfair dismissal after six months of service in employment.	🕒 Enhanced Trade Union Rights	🕒 Review of Zero-Hours Contract Rights
✓ Statutory sick pay removal of the lower earnings limit and the three-day waiting period.		



I was delighted to be able to join the Whiteinch community to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Whiteinch Centre. For the last two decades the centre has been at the heart of the local community, providing a wide range of social, educational, employment and wellbeing opportunities. I tabled a motion in Parliament recognising this landmark, celebrating the centre's achievements, and thanking everyone who has played a part in it's success. I wish it every continued success for the future.

Whiteinch Centre 20th anniversary

That this House congratulates Whiteinch Centre, in the Glasgow West constituency, on reaching its 20th anniversary and celebrates its enduring contribution to the local community; recognises the Centre's successful integration into the wider Whiteinch & Scotstoun Housing Association group, helping to secure its long-term presence at the heart of the community; notes that the Centre continues to provide a wide range of social, educational, employment and wellbeing opportunities for local residents; commends its work tackling food insecurity through the Whiteinch Community Shop, delivered in partnership with The Scottish Pantry Network, providing affordable food with choice and dignity; further recognises its National Databank provision of free mobile SIM cards to residents who need support accessing online services, employment opportunities and vital support networks; welcomes the Centre's accessible and modern facilities, which provides valuable space for community groups, third-sector organisations, events and local activities; celebrates its programme of clubs, classes, training, its support, volunteering and health and wellbeing initiatives; welcomes the role of its café as part of the Chatty Café Scheme, helping to tackle loneliness and social isolation; and thanks the staff, volunteers, partners and community members whose commitment has made Whiteinch Centre such an important and valued fixture of the West End community over the past 20 years.





Hillhead Sports Club is a multi-sport and social club located at Hughenden in the west end. It recently launched its new 'Club Together' volunteer sessions, the first of which took place on Sunday 6th September. Members got together for a tidy-up and litter pick around Hughenden. I was pleased to support the activity and despite the rain there was a good turnout of volunteers. It was a fantastic effort by members & local residents helping to keep Hughenden looking its best. Thanks to everyone who gave up their time to get involved!

Last year I contacted First Bus to request that they provide a service through the Drumchapel Retail Park. The need for this was highlighted by residents completing my **Local Transport Survey**. First indicated to me that this was something they were exploring and hoped to be in a position to implement, possibly around this time. I have therefore written again to First Bus following this up and will report back.



I have been supporting Councillor Paul Carey in his work to address traffic concerns in the Turrett Road area of Knightswood. The difficulties arose during the work to install the new traffic lights at the Great Western Road/Lincoln Avenue/Cowdenhill Road junction. This work is now complete and the new junction fully functioning, which will hopefully alleviate the issues experienced by residents.

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

Councillor Carey and I held a street surgery in the area at the end of September allowing us to hear directly from residents on this issue, and other issues of local concern. We will continue to work together on all the issues brought to us. If you have a local transport issue that you would like to bring to my attention use the link opposite to complete my survey.

I have written previously about the importance of supporting opportunities to help people access good quality, well paid work, which is so important to alleviating poverty, and the action the UK Government is taking to deliver that. Last September I hosted a successful community Jobs Fair, and was delighted to be able to again support a recruitment event in Drumchapel at the start of this month. The DWP in partnership with Business in the Community brought together 17 employers and partners offering job opportunities, careers advice and support. Over 208 jobseekers attended the event which generated a number of positive recruitment outcomes, including job offers, interview opportunities, and employability support and job matching. I will continue to do what I can to support such events.



Meanwhile, I was delighted to welcome the UK Government's announcement at the end of September that it is expanding the Jobs Guarantee so that eligible young people on health benefits can be offered a voluntary, fully funded job with mentoring and tailored support. Too many young people with disabilities and health conditions have been left without a fair route into work, and I am very pleased that action is being taken to change that. At the same time, the DWP has entered into a partnership with the British Retail Consortium to create 100,000 jobs for young people via a new retail work experience programme 'Opening Shifts'. Dozens of retailers are signed up to the scheme, including many with a presence in Glasgow West, such as Aldi, B&M, B&Q, Currys, Iceland, Marks & Spencer and Morrisons. I am encouraging local retailers to play their part in opening the door to a young person's first job.



AWARE Scotland, Active Wellbeing And Respite Experiences, is a Glasgow-based charity established in 2022 and run by dedicated volunteers supporting young people regardless of their background or life experiences. I was pleased to be able to recognise the charity and its achievements in a recent parliamentary motion, and was delighted to be able to present a copy of this to Chris Glancy, AWARE Chief Exec, and two of the young people who benefit from the work of the charity as they were preparing to set off to Aviemore for a residential weekend at the end of September. I wish the charity every success as it continues its vital work helping young people reach their potential.

On the 8th September the Foreign Secretary made a statement in Parliament about trade with illegal Israeli settlements and the government's policies regarding Gaza and the West Bank.



Parliament heard that the UK's argument is not with the people of Israel, but with the conduct of its government. The UK remains committed to a two-state solution, with Israel and a sovereign Palestinian state living alongside one another in peace and security.

It was made clear that the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories is unlawful and that this should be reflected in the UK's economic relationship with the occupied territories. Measures will include a new import ban on goods produced in illegal settlements, as well as action against companies providing services linked to settlement expansion, including construction, infrastructure, finance and real estate. The UK will also ban domestic advertising of illegal settlements. These measures are targeted at settlements and settlement activity, not Israel as a whole.

Further sanctions will be available against extremist settlers involved in violence, while the human rights sanctions regime will be expanded to enable action against settlement expansion, including in the EI zone. Existing restrictions on arms licences relating to use by the IDF in Gaza will remain, alongside a further restriction on new licences which could materially contribute to the occupation.

Speaking in parliament I welcomed the statement and the measures to oppose illegal settlement expansion, an issue I have long campaigned on.

In a separate debate on Israel and Palestine on the 14th September I spoke about the need to support children & families requiring healthcare and education, and called for a safe, secure Israel and Palestine living peacefully as neighbours. You can read my contribution online at <https://bit.ly/4ymWC6a>



The **Scottish Affairs Committee**, which I chair, has launched two new inquiries into the dual role of the Lord Advocate, and the financial regulation of political parties in Scotland. The first will examine the case for and against splitting the dual role of the Lord Advocate, whilst the second will look into the Electoral Commission's oversight of the funding and governance of political parties in Scotland, and the policies, processes and safeguards associated with the distribution of public funding to political parties. You can find out more about the Committee's work on the **[SAC 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 **o** 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