

SNP X Marion Fellows MP Motherwell & Wishaw

Working for communities in Motherwell, Wishaw and Bellshill

A message from Marion:

Finally, the Post Office Scandal has the attention it rightly deserves. For years I have been working with sub-postmasters who run our local post offices seeking justice from the post office itself. It is bittersweet to see a TV drama gain the attention of the nation despite many campaigning on this issue for years. It is a scandal that has shocked and outraged so many of us and with good reason.

As Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Post Offices, I know the vital role post offices play in our communities. Although local post offices are run as their own businesses, since the 90s they have been compelled to use Fujitsu's Horizon accounting program. This system has, for a long-time, invented amounts of lost money, with Post Office Ltd demanding sub-postmasters pay these fabricated shortfalls. These individuals were persecuted, and due to this catastrophic failure of justice, many innocent people suffered immensely.

There must be accountability for everyone in Post Office Ltd and Fujitsu who prosecuted and persecuted sub-postmasters over the years. I pledge that myself, and SNP Members, will continue to put pressure on governments of any colour to keep the momentum going to ensure that real justice is served. This month I spoke in the House and pressed the Government to move quickly to help the victims, sent a letter to Fujitsu demanding an initial contribution towards financial redress, and held a surgery with local sub-postmasters to discuss the scandal and next steps.

Successive Labour, Lib Dem and Tory ministers kept insisting that there was no issue with Horizon. It may be a New Year, but we are seeing the same corruption and scandal from Westminster elites. It's clear that the only way to truly protect the interests of the Scottish people is through independence.



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HORIZON CAMPAIGNER'S PLEA

December 9

Secret victims of Post Office **January 10**

MP who spent years fighting for justice says shame made countless others hide

POST OFFICE

Bates: Don't let them get off the hook

Vennells got CBE despite PO scandal

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Constituency Updates

Centrica Surgery

This month I hosted a joint surgery with energy company Centrica to provide energy and cost of living advice this winter. For those that weren't able to attend, there are a number of steps you can take to reduce energy costs. One way is to apply for grants from British Gas - which are open to everyone, not just British Gas customers - of up to £1,500 to help pay for gas and electricity bills. Learn more by visiting:

britishgasenergytrust.org.uk

Local Subpostmasters Meeting

Shortly after the Post Office Scandal became front-page news, I hosted a meeting with local subpostmasters in the Motherwell and Wishaw area. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Horizon scandal and next steps. I was so pleased to see so many turnout, and I am appealing to others to come forward to share their experiences. I will continue to work closely with local subpostmasters and those across the country until justice is finally served.

African Lanarkshire for Mental Health

I was delighted to learn that African Lanarkshire for Mental Health was awarded a grant of £25,125 through Health Lottery Scotland. Their 'Play and Wellbeing' project in Carfin, Cleekhimin and Motherwell provides a youth club for families with children aged 5-12 from African communities and aims to improve the well-being of children. Congratulations!

My Constituency Office remains open to support constituents by telephone or email.

If you have any questions or require any support please do not hesitate contacting me at marion.fellows.mp@parliament.uk and **01698 337191**.

Marion Fellows MP
Motherwell and Wishaw

Motherwell & Wishaw WorldSkills UK Winners

This past November, three young people from the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency won medals at the WorldSkills UK National Competition in Manchester. One of which was Nicholas Allan, who won a silver medal for his very impressive fire detection and alarm system. To recognise Nicholas' achievement, it was my honour to table an Early Day Motion congratulating him on his tremendous achievement, and to wish team UK good luck at WorldSkills Lyon 2024. Well done Nicholas!

Christians Against Poverty Scotland

It was great to meet with Nicky McLaughlin from CAP Scotland recently, to discuss issues affecting clients of the Wishaw Debt Centre. Thank you Nicky for your tremendous work supporting those in Motherwell and Wishaw and the surrounding areas.



January 4 - World Braille Day

Braille is a way that writing can be read by touch. I was proud to raise awareness of World Braille Day this month, in support of all those who regularly use braille.

January 16 - Brew Monday

While some call it Blue Monday, I prefer Brew Monday! To mark this day, I had the pleasure to catch up with Samaritans charity. We talked about how we can work together to create a happier and safer society. If you ever need anything, Samaritans are here to help. Call: 116 123.

January 22 - Cervical Cancer Prevention Week

HPV vaccines and cervical screening help prevent cervical cancer. Cervical Cancer Prevention Week is dedicated to make sure everyone has the right information, access and support to protect themselves from cervical cancer.



Updates from Westminster

Post Office Scandal

In December, before ITV's Mr Bates vs The Post Office aired, I told an empty chamber that a proposed Bill to compensate victims was "too narrow in scope." To my surprise, early in the new year, the Post Office Scandal had become the news of the day despite years of campaigning by myself and many others. On January 8th, and throughout the month, I spoke again on the scandal highlighting how the government - the sole shareholder of Post Office Ltd - had been so slow in doing anything to help the victims. Only until the scandal became news did the government decide to act. I will continue to fight for justice.



Lewy Body Dementia

Lewy Body Dementia is a complex and frequently misdiagnosed disease that affects memory, thinking, movement, sleep and behaviour. It is the second most common type of dementia in older people. It was a pleasure to drop-in and speak with the Lewy Body Society about support available for people living with LBD and to raise awareness for January 28th - the first ever World Lewy Body Day!



Prime Minister Question - Energy Social Tariff

People diagnosed with a terminal illness face a spike of 75% in energy costs – making an incredibly difficult situation that much harder. This month, I urged the Prime Minister to implement a social energy tariff, and directly asked the PM to meet with myself and the UK's leading end of life charity, Marie Curie, to discuss this matter further.

Holocaust Memorial Day

This month I signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment. In doing so I pledged my commitment to Holocaust Memorial Day and honoured those who were murdered during the Holocaust as well as paying tribute to the extraordinary Holocaust survivors who work tirelessly to educate young people today. Holocaust Memorial Day falls on 27th of January every year, the anniversary of the liberation of the infamous former Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, in 1945. Across the UK – and the world – people will come together to remember the horrors of the past.



January 25 - Burns Night

I still get shivers listening to *A Man's a Man a That* from the official opening of the Scottish Parliament Building at Holyrood, one of my favourite poems of Burns. I hope everyone had a lovely Burns Night!

February - L.B.G.T.+ History Month

February marks LGBT+ History Month. It is important to celebrate the history of the LGBT+ community and learn about how they have inspired others and broken down barriers against societal discrimination.

February 4 - World Cancer Day

We all know someone who has battled with cancer. If you need support, you can turn to MacMillan Cancer for advice, support, or just a listening ear.

