

# SNP Marion Fellows MP Motherwell & Wishaw

**Working for communities in Motherwell, Wishaw and Bellshill**

## **A message from Marion:**

A botched ceasefire vote, a worsening post office scandal and an underwhelming Disability Action Plan, it was hard to stay optimistic about the workings of Westminster throughout the month of February. In fact, the night of February 21st was one of the hardest nights I've had as an MP. As the SNP tabled our motion to call for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine, both Labour and the Tory government blocked the opportunity for Parliament to vote on our motion. The UK Parliament had the opportunity to do the right thing, instead Westminster reminded us how utterly broken it truly is. It is crystal clear why we need an independent Scotland - in no way does self-serving Westminster represent the Scottish people.

Despite this, I remain steadfast in my work as the SNP spokesperson for disabilities, my years-long efforts in seeking justice for those affected by the post office scandal and for making life easier for folk here in Motherwell, Wishaw and Carlisle. In February, I provided the SNP response to the government's Disability Action Plan - highlighting how key areas including cost of living and welfare are still missing in the plan - pressed the minister responsible for post offices about compensation schemes and accountability, and introduced a 10-minute rule bill to compel the UK government to take meaningful action and finally consult on an energy social tariff.

This month's Westminster farce degraded the democratic system and in doing so treated my constituents with a complete lack of respect. The UK government's main political parties in Tory and Labour continue to show their inability to protect the interests of the Scottish people. I want my constituents to know that I will not let up in advocating for their best interests and in working towards a free, prosperous, and independent Scotland.



# Constituency Updates

## Law and Carluke

This month I spoke with residents in Law and Carluke and listened to some of the concerns impacting the local community. I also had important discussions at the Post Office in Law about the on-going post office scandal, and had the pleasure to stop by J & H Cairns butchershop!



## Salman Aslam

Salman Aslam is a young man who ran a Post Office in Motherwell for 5 years before walking away a year ago. Sal's relentless five-year battle with Post Office Limited over major discrepancies destroyed his life. This month I repeatedly raised Sal's story in Parliament, and used it as an example when leading a debate on the appalling management culture of Post Office Ltd. I will continue to seek justice for Sal and other subpostmasters in similar situations.

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](mailto:marion.fellows.mp@parliament.uk) and **01698 337191**.

**Marion Fellows MP**  
**Motherwell and Wishaw**

## CarersUK Meeting

It was great to meet with Patricia from CarersUK to discuss the Digital Resource for Carers, an online platform that creates a comprehensive and tailored resource for carers. I was also so impressed with the co-ordination app Jointly! If you are a carer, consider downloading this app that combines group messaging and to-do lists with other useful features, including medication lists, a calendar and more.



## National Day of Action for Independence

A recent poll showed a clear majority of people in Scotland still support Scottish independence. It was great to chat with folks in north Motherwell for the National Day of Action for Independence on February 17th. Thank you to everyone who came out. Let's keep the momentum going!



## 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, help, or a listening ear.

## February 5 - 11 Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week

Victims-survivors are not alone. There are professional and specialist support services available, including here in Motherwell and Wishaw. Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre, Motherwell & District Women's Aid and Monklands Women's Aid all do very important work.





# Updates from Westminster

## Post Office Scandal

The Horizon IT scandal was the result of the culture of Post Office management. In February, I led a debate on the appalling management culture of Post Office Limited while also constantly pressing the minister for post offices on compensation schemes and accountability. Management at Post Office Limited, alongside successive Labour, Liberal and Tory Ministers, oversaw scandal after scandal, including one of the largest miscarriages of justice in UK history – yet they continued to receive huge bonuses. It's time for the UK government to end its arms-length approach to the Post Office and ensure they have better oversight of how it is being run.

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# 10 Minute Rule Bill - Energy Social Tariff

It is dreadful that in the UK in 2024, some households have to choose between eating and heating. This month I presented a 10 Minute Rule Bill to compel the UK government to finally consult on an energy social tariff. The great need for an energy social tariff is best demonstrated by the wide and varied support for its implementation. Disability groups, debt advice groups, politicians across the political spectrum, consumer groups, local authorities, housing providers, Ofgem and energy companies are all in favour of targeted relief through a social energy tariff.



Thank you @marionfellows for sharing Rhian's story.

Nobody should die in poverty. Introducing a social energy tariff would provide some support for people at the end of their lives.

#DyingInPoverty #SocialEnergyTariff



## Disability Action Plan Statement

On February 5th, the UK Government released its Disability Action Plan after months of consultation. However, this Disability Action Plan is not a plan – it is a mishmash of short-term policies. Some of the proposals are welcomed and should have been sorted out long ago. Others are unclear and simply do not address the most pressing concerns of disabled people.

## Ukrainian Family Scheme

In Motherwell and Wishaw, it was amazing to see so many in our community rally together to support Ukrainian families. However, it's clear more support is needed for family reunification, not less. This month I responded in the Chamber to the cruel government decision of closing the Ukrainian family scheme.

# February 5 - 11 HIV Testing Week

It was a pleasure to attend this month's HIV Testing Week Parliamentary Drop-In to raise awareness of this important week. Did you know you can get a free HIV test kit delivered to your door in plain packaging? Order your free postal test here: [test.tht.org.uk/scotland](http://test.tht.org.uk/scotland)

# February 5 - 11 Children's Mental Health Week

Research shows that even though 1 in 5 young people struggle with their mental health, over half face barriers in accessing support. I was proud to support Children's Mental Health Week to shine a light on the importance of young people's mental health.

# February 11 - Women and Girls in Science Day

One area to celebrate is the vital contribution women have made to the life science sector and the many programmes dedicated to developing tools to fight against malaria.

## Cervical Cancer Awareness Week

While there is still plenty of work to do, it's clear the elimination of cervical cancer is a tangible opportunity with the potential to transform lives. I was delighted to raise awareness of this important week.



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