

SNP Marion Fellows MP Motherwell & Wishaw

Working for communities in Motherwell, Wishaw and Bellshill

A message from Marion:

This month, the Tories and Labour passed a spring budget that will condemn Scotland's public services to another decade of austerity cuts, the UK government was reprimanded by the UN for its treatment of those with disabilities, and a long-overdue Post Office exoneration bill failed to include those wrongly persecuted in Scotland – yet more evidence that Westminster simply does not care about the Scottish people.

I remain steadfast in my work in Parliament to represent Motherwell and Wishaw, and Scotland more broadly. I plan to table an amendment to the Horizon Exoneration Bill to ensure Scotland is included, continue to fight for the WASPI Women until justice is restored as a recent report made light of, and stand up against disastrous UK foreign policy, including in Gaza, that does not represent Scottish interests or values.

Only the SNP will defend our public services and offer Scotland the choice of a better future with independence.



Poverty Action Network

At the end of March, I reconvened the Motherwell and Wishaw Poverty Action Network. The purpose of the network is clear: taking care and looking after our community. We heard from various local and national organisations who have been working hard to tackle poverty amid the on-going Westminster cost of living crisis. The network provides an opportunity to connect and share best practices.

From employment to improving people's mental health, thank you to One Parent Families Scotland, Routes to Work, Remploy, Social Security Scotland, CAP - Christians Against Poverty, Friends & Families Affected by Murder & Suicide (FFAMS), LAMH, Family Fund, The Wise Group, Thistle Credit Union and Centrica for all of your work and for attending.



Constituency Updates

WASPI

The release of the PHSO report marks a significant step in recognising DWP's failures and the need for compensation for affected women. DWP's mishandling has led to lost financial planning opportunities for many, pushing tens of thousands of WASPI women into poverty. This month in Parliament, I raised the case of a constituent who had to sell her home, apply for relief and take other drastic measures because she could not afford retirement as she did not receive her pension. The SNP has stood by women born in the 1950s and will continue to do so. (Photo below from 2016).



Congratulations to North Lanarkshire community nurses

Recently, sixty-nine North Lanarkshire community nurses were the focus of celebrations to mark their long service. Dedicated to serving their local communities, with some having served more than 40 years, the vastly experienced nurses received the prestigious Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland award for long service. Congratulations to all!

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

Poverty Action Network

This month's Poverty Action Network included a presentation from the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain - Scottish Section. The presentation provided an overview of the organisation's work in helping men with their mental health. If you or your organisation would like to present a topic demonstrating how you are tackling poverty, please get in touch!



Chatting with folks in Forth

It was great to get out and chat with folk this month in Forth, South Lanarkshire. From cost of living to the economy, thank you to those that I got the chance to speak with and for those that joined!



March 7 - World Book Day

March 7th was World Book Day! It's so important children have access to the magic of books – which improves reading, literacy skills and their imagination. It was a pleasure to give books to my much-loved and adored grandchildren on this day.

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 8 marked International Women's Day. This month, I showed staff Emily Davison's plaque in Westminster – a brave suffragette who fought for votes for women. It's so important we don't take our right to vote for granted. Let's remember all the women who strove for equality.

March 11 - Ramadan

I extend my best wishes to all Muslims in Motherwell and Wishaw and across Scotland for a very happy and blessed Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak.

Updates from Westminster

Post Office Scandal

This month, the UK Government tabled its long-overdue Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill to quash convictions in England and Wales for certain offences alleged to have been committed while the Horizon system was in use by the Post Office. I want to be clear: an exoneration bill is vital in the pursuit of justice for wrongly convicted subpostmasters. However, I spoke in the Chamber to express how deeply, deeply disappointed I am that Scotland has been excluded from this bill. I plan to table an amendment to the Horizon Exoneration Bill to ensure Scotland is included.

March 18 - 22 - Sign Language Week

It's estimated that the total number of people in the UK who use British Sign language is 151,000. For thousands of people, sign language plays a vital role every day.

March 21 - World Down Syndrome Day

It's so important we celebrate the contributions and achievements of those with Down Syndrome while also working to create a more equal, inclusive and fair society for those with DS.

March 26 - Purple Day

Purple Day is an opportunity to raise awareness for the 630,000 people in the UK that have epilepsy. Remember to stay Calm, Cushion and Call if you see someone having a seizure.

March 31 - Easter Sunday

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Easter! I hope you get to spend time with loved ones.

Spring Budget

Westminster isn't working for Scotland under the Tories, and it won't work for Scotland under a Tory-lite Labour government. While Labour abstained on voting on the Tories disastrous budget, this month I rose in the Chamber and spoke on its ramifications. Simply put: the spring budget offered nothing to struggling families. No action on soaring energy prices, no additional help for disabled people and no support for the Scottish economy. The SNP will defend Scottish jobs, stand up for Scotland's values and demand the best deal for families across Scotland.

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MP says Tory Budget won't help struggling households

Marion Fellows MP has said the UK Government's latest budget is "offering nothing" to struggling households. She said the Tories' "massive" tax cuts will cost £27 billion, while the Labour Party has promised to spend £20 billion on energy price cuts. She said the budget is "not offering anything" to struggling households and that the government is "not offering anything" to struggling households. She said the budget is "not offering anything" to struggling households and that the government is "not offering anything" to struggling households.



...with a cost of rising prices, starting with energy bills for poorer families. We have already delayed higher charges for electricity and by Government proposals to raise the fuel tax, the cost of living will rise further. It's not just the cost of living that is rising, but also the cost of doing business. The Chancellor has announced that the cost of doing business will rise further. It's not just the cost of living that is rising, but also the cost of doing business. The Chancellor has announced that the cost of doing business will rise further.



Sale of Chelsea FC

On March 13, I spoke on how ridiculous it is that funds from the sale of Chelsea Football Club have still not reached victims of Russia's war in Ukraine. The funds from the multi-billion pound sale must be fast tracked to Ukrainians left devastated by Russia's invasion. It is taking far too long for this money to find its way to people who need it. The UK government must speed up the process and move on this much quicker.

Auditory Verbal

It's so important that Government provide the public funding required to ensure that all deaf children, no matter where they are, have access to Auditory Verbal therapy services. It was great to meet with Chief Executive Anita from Auditory Verbal UK to discuss the transformational benefits of Auditory Verbal therapy.

Hunting Trophies

Almost nine years have passed since the horrific death of Cecil the lion at the hands of an American dentist, and since then many more lions have been killed by British trophy hunters. I support legislation banning the import of Hunting Trophies to the UK.

