

SNP Marion Fellows MP Motherwell & Wishaw

Working for communities in Motherwell, Wishaw and Bellshill

A message from Marion:

This April was an important time for many. With Eid and Passover both occurring, and Easter in the final days of March, the past month provided an opportunity to spend cherished time with loved ones. But for many – religious or not – this month continued to be challenging as Westminster's cost of living crisis inflicted more hardship on families. With Easter recess I was able to spend additional valuable time in the constituency where I heard directly from individuals, families and charities about the constant issues they face in these trying economic times.

It's clear this Tory economic plan isn't working, as new reports indicate the UK is entering a recession – the harsh reality of Brexit. Westminster crashed our economy, allowed food prices to skyrocket, and dragged Scotland out of the world's largest single market against our will. And with both Sir Keir Starmer's Labour Party and the Tories united in their economic vision, it's clear neither party have a plan to fix the long-term issues Scotland faces.

To make matters worse, as SNP Spokesperson for Disabilities, I was stunned when I heard this UK Government continuing its reckless assault on disabled people. Announcing an end to 'sick note culture' and proposed changes to the disability benefits system will only cause more suffering. And again, shamefully, Labour is providing no meaningful opposition against these cruel changes.

Finally, for those that follow my work you'll know I've been doing everything in my power to seek justice for those impacted by the Post Office scandal. Just this week the UK Government passed their long-awaited Post Office Offences Bill but failed to include victims in Scotland. I tabled amendments to have Scotland included but with Labour abstaining and Tories voting against it, postmasters in Scotland will have to wait longer before they're exonerated. The Post Office scandal, and the failure to include Scotland for exoneration, is yet another example of a long-list of reasons why we need independence, and why we need independence now.



On April 29th, Marion hosted three Scottish Postmasters down in Westminster to watch the passing of the Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill. While an exoneration bill is vital in the pursuit of justice for wrongly convicted subpostmasters, not including Scotland in the scope of the bill is a disgrace.

Constituency Updates

Advice Direct Scotland Meeting

Calls for the implementation of a Social Energy Tariff are widespread and extensive. It is one of the only measures that will address the rising fuel poverty levels in the UK for the long-term. It was a pleasure to meet with Advice Direct Scotland to discuss the dire need for a Social Energy Tariff, the impact of the cost of living crisis and sky-high energy bills, and what more we can do to help people. If you have concerns or questions about energy bills, visit energygyadvice.scot.



National Lottery Grant - PlayPeace SCIO

I want to congratulate PlayPeace SCIO for receiving a grant for their 'PlayPeace Next' project. This two-year project in North Lanarkshire provides activities for families with children and young people with additional support needs. 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

RBS Bank Closures

RBS must reverse this short-sighted strategy of closing a fifth of its branches. It would be a devastating blow to those impacted in the Wishaw branch and a devastating blow to my constituents. RBS is still partially owned by the UK government to the tune of more than 30 per cent. This government influence could and should be used to halt closures and the huge reduction in services that we have seen in recent years. I am calling on RBS to do the right thing and cancel this latest round of closures.



Believe in Scotland

It was a beautiful sunny day for the Believe in Scotland rally in Glasgow on April 20th. With the UK Government crippling Scotland and her people, Scotland needs independence to be a prosperous and thriving country. Be on the lookout for events in the future!



April 2 - World Autism Day

April 2nd was World Autism Day. It's so important everyone with autism has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

April 10 - Eid

Eid Mubarak to Muslims in Motherwell and Wishaw and around the globe marking the end of Ramadan by celebrating Eid-al-Fitr. I extend wishes of joy, peace, and unity.

April 11 - World Parkinson's Day

Roughly 153,000 people live with Parkinson's in the UK, and it's the fastest growing neurological condition in the world. April 11 was World Parkinsons Day. It's so important to raise awareness and come together to support people living with Parkinsons.

April 22 - Passover

Chag Sameach to all those who celebrated Passover! I hope you all had a pleasant Passover, full of joy and singing with family and friends.



Updates from Westminster

Unpaid Carers Speech

Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill

It is absolutely disgraceful that Westminster is saying to Scottish postmasters that they can't get justice at the same time as their English, Welsh and Northern Irish counterparts. I want to be clear: An exoneration bill is vital in the pursuit of justice for wrongly convicted subpostmasters. However, by refusing to adopt a four nations approach, the UK Government is cynically politicising an issue on which we should all be united in our efforts to secure exoneration and full financial redress for victims. On April 29th, I spoke passionately in the Chamber on this topic.



Long-term Financial Security

Recent figures show that 1 in 6 older people are currently living in poverty and without government help. I'm supporting Independent Age's #TwoMillionTooMany campaign to tackle pensioner poverty. Everyone deserves to enjoy a stable, secure later life.



This month, I spoke on how it is time the UK Government show carers the recognition they deserve and give them the financial support they need. Carers play an invaluable role in society, the impact they have on the lives of those for which they care is almost unquantifiable. Carers need more help from the Government, and I will continue to raise my voice in support of them.



Autism Employment Speech

The current situation regarding employment for those with autism is simply not good enough. On April 25, I participated in a debate regarding the Buckland Review of Autism Employment. Employment brings fulfilment, independence and purpose. I urge the UK Government to improve the support for those with autism by tackling the barriers to employment, as the Buckland Review makes clear.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Every pet deserves to enjoy a healthy life in a happy home. It was a pleasure to stop by the Blue Cross's drop in event to raise awareness on responsible dog ownership.



April 18 - Scotland Cerebral Palsy Football Team Wins World Championships

What an incredible achievement! A huge congratulations to Scotland's Cerebral Palsy Football Team who defeated Northern Ireland to become world champions. You have made Scotland proud!

April 22 - Earth Day

It's so important we cherish and preserve our only home. I hope you had the opportunity to spend time outside and in the beautiful scenery that Scotland has to offer this Earth Day.

May 13 - Mental Health Week

It is an especially troubling time so it's so important that we all try to take steps to protect our mental health. My website has a number of services - local and national - who can assist you. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with my office if there is anything we can do.

