



# Chris Stephens MP

## GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

MP newsletter covering some of my work  
both in Westminster and in the Constituency

September 2022



# Tory Cost of Living Crisis

On 26<sup>th</sup> of August, Ofgem released its figures for the energy price cap. As predicted by Martin Lewis of Money Saving Expert, the new cap was to be almost double the current figure of £1,971 to a shocking £3,549 per household. This came in the same week that Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) was released, which Unionists gleefully claimed every Scot benefited by £2,184 per year. Comparing these figures, the 'Union Dividend' would cost every Scot £1,352 per year. Predictions indicated average household bills were expected to rise to £7,700 per year, a cost to every Scot of £2,934 per year, obliterating any supposed 'Union Dividend'

Putting this into perspective: A single Carer earns £3,624 per year in benefits. This would leave them with £75 per year for food, clothes, bus fares or car costs. Come the second Ofgem review in April a couple with no children on standard UC would claim £6,308 per year. Unbelievably, this would leave them £1,392 in debt before any other bills are paid. Many on UC are 'working poor' who despite working full time rely on UC to top up their earnings.

Considering these horrifying figures, the new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, on September 8<sup>th</sup> indicated that the cap would rise to £2,500 per annum, a rise of approximately 6.5% from the current budget busting

£1,971 average household bill. Standing & unit charges will be frozen from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, with no indication of the duration or the actual standing & unit charges at this time. To add insult to injury, part of the last price rise was a hike in standing charges. The reason? To pay for the failed suppliers. Profits were privatised, debts were socialised.

These figures are crippling for constituents of Glasgow South West. This is despite Scotland generating enough power to export across Europe with our Wind, Tidal, Solar, Nuclear, Fossil Fuels and future Hydrogen generation. The cause of the problem is the coupling of gas wholesale prices to electricity generation which means that all other sources of electricity are pegged to the cost of gas generation.

Truss ruled out a Windfall Tax with the extraordinary claim that to do so would damage the big oil companies' ability to invest. Truss worked for Shell between 1996 & 2000 & accepted a campaign donation of £100,000 from the wife of an Ex BP Executive for her campaign to be Tory leader, a matter of public record.

Ironically, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September EU Commission President Ursula von Der Leyen addressed the fuel issue in her 'State of the Union' address & announced a windfall tax on excess fuel companies' profits, €140bn to taxpayers & decoupling

the gas link to prices. Everything that we should be doing here and another Brexit Bonus for the UK?

As well as bailing out companies who make billions of pounds in profits YOU will be paying the difference - the forecast £100 billion - the government is expected to pay to compensate these companies over years with your taxes. The Truss Tax.

The excuse being thrown around by Government is it is a fault of the Ukrainian Invasion. This is a Red Herring. The UK only imported 6% of its Gas from Russia. Price rises began before the Ukraine invasion. European Countries have more exposure to Russian gas. French President Macron imposed a 4% cap on the nationalised EDF. Effectively UK consumers are paying for French subsidies.

You can be assured that I will continue to demand answers from the Government and act to shield Glasgow Southwest residents from these unsustainable charges. In the meantime, if you have any problems that you need help with, please contact me. Alternatively, Citizens Advice can also help, however it may take some time to get an appointment.

The Union Dividend, Truss Tax and a Brexit Bonus. Enough is enough, it's time to leave.

Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West

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# Chris Stephens MP

## GLASGOW SOUTH WEST



# Cardonald Larder

**W**ith the cost of living crisis rising by the day and more people being driven into poverty, I am doing everything I can to help my constituents. We have wonderful pantries, larders and food banks in Greater Pollok and Govan, however, Cardonald, Penilee, Corkehill and Mosspark have the sole option of the Glasgow South West Food bank, who do fantastic work in the community, offering assistance to the people needing it most and I intend continue to work with and support them. However, I see a need for a 'stepping stone' between the foodbank and general shopping.

To address this gap, I have been working with local groups to assist my constituents in Cardonald, Penilee, Corkehill and Mosspark in providing access to affordable food in a supermarket type environment. I have been in discussion with Threehills Community Supermarket, Good Food Scotland, Feeding Britain, Corkehill Community Hub, Glasgow South West

Foodbank and Southside Housing to provide a larder that is accessible to these areas. This is to help my constituents access affordable, healthy food with dignity and respect. We have many successful pantries and larders in Greater Pollok and Govan and I would like to see the same access provided in Cardonald and the surrounding areas.

As a chair of Threehills Community Supermarket, I have witnessed the benefits to my constituents and the fantastic services they provide. Not only helping with access to good quality food at affordable prices, they also offer advice and advocacy on benefits, looking for work, debt, budgeting and cooking. I hope the new larder will be a neighbourhood hub, supporting other initiatives and ideas, such as cookery classes, volunteering opportunities and training. We hope that the new larder will be available in Cardonald by the end of this year.

During our discussion a mobile larder was also suggested. This would

allow the larder to travel around areas in Glasgow South West to make access easier and provide this fantastic service at set times and dates. Good Food Scotland is looking into funding options for a mobile unit and I am confident we will be able to successfully deliver this project soon. They have already used this model, with the London Food Bus proving a great success.

With the Tory cost of living crisis set to leave people choosing between heating or eating, or worse being unable to afford either, I will continue to assist everyone throughout the Glasgow South West constituency and hold the Westminster Government to account. As the SNP Spokesperson for Fair Work and Employment at Westminster, and a member of the Work and Pensions Select Committee, I have repeatedly called on the UK Government to ensure that the welfare safety net is sufficient to support families.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can assist you.



**We're hosting a Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan. There's a cuppa with your name on it.**



**MacMillan Coffee Morning**  
**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 am - 1 pm**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes R C Church Hall, Lourdes Ave,**  
**Cardonald G52 3QU**



**Come along and have coffee (or tea) with Chris Stephens MP and Humza Yousaf MSP to help raise funds for this important health charity. All donations of cake welcome.**

**For more information call**  
**0141 883 0875**

**MACMILLAN**  
**CANCER SUPPORT**

*Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West*

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## GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

OUT AND ABOUT IN

# Glasgow South West

I have been out and about in Glasgow South West, visiting local groups, businesses and attending events such as: TEA in the POT, Good Food Scotland, the Govan Pantry, Crookston Community Group, The Breakfast Club at the Hall on Peat Road, Corkerhill Community Hub, Pollok United Soccer Academy, Maslows Community Shop, Summer Southside Connections at the Halfway, Communi-T in the Park Community Park, the Govan Gala, Govan & Linthouse Parish Church, The Village Storytelling Centre, Pollok Baptist Church - SCIO community cafe, Glasgow Helping Heroes, Wiltonburn/Willowford Gala Day, Nitshill Open Day, Lovernbank Open Day, Govan Men's Shed Open Day, Safety Awareness Glasgow, Glasgow South West Foodbank at Tesco Silverburn, official launch of the Govan mural, visited picket lines for Local Government workers and CWU members in Royal Mail at Shieldhall, Hillington and Govan, met with WASPI Scotland, as well as holding busy surgeries throughout the constituency each week, plus much more!



## Constituency Work in July & August



**CASES OPENED 462**



**EMAILS RECEIVED 1,988**



**CASES CLOSED 608**



**EMAILS SENT 1,862**

Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West

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## GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

### ChrisCast – Weekly Politics & Local News From a Glasgow MP

ChrisCast is our weekly podcast from Chris Stephens MP. What do you want to know about the work of an MP? Do you have a Community project you would like mentioned? You can send me your suggestions [alistair.shaw@parliament.uk](mailto:alistair.shaw@parliament.uk)

### Chris Stephens MP Glasgow South West



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### Solidarity with the strikers

As more and more workers face the Tory Cost of Living crisis, it is important to support those who take part in industrial action. I have recently visited picket lines covering Rail, local government, postal services, BT and Journalists. All these disputes are about pay and removing key conditions won in the past. Current laws make it extremely difficult for workers to withdraw their labour with some of the most draconian anti trade union laws in Europe. That's why it is important, I believe to meet constituents who take action, to hear their views and how I can support them to resolve disputes. As inflation soars, more and more people are prepared to strike to protect their livelihoods and inspire others to do the same.

Just some of the reasons why I will continue to visit those out on strike.

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## GLASGOW SOUTH WEST



### Monthly Advice Surgeries

If you have a problem or require advice please contact my office to book an appointment at the surgery at the time and location which suits you best.

If you require help or advice out with surgery times please contact my office on **0141 883 0875** or email [chris.stephens.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.stephens.mp@parliament.uk) and we can arrange an appointment within the constituency office with one of my casework team.

To book an appointment call **0141 883 0875** or email [chris.stephens.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.stephens.mp@parliament.uk)

### First Thursday of the month

12.30 pm - 50p Church, Priesthill Rd G53 6QL

### First Friday of the month

6.30 pm - Sainsbury's, 10 Darnley Mains Rd, Glasgow G53 7RH

### First Saturday of the month

10 am - Cardonald Library, 1113 Mosspark Drive G52 3BU

### Second Friday of the month

11 am - Pearce Institute, 840-860 Govan Road G51 3UU

1 pm - Crookston Community Group, 56 Beltrees Road G53 5TF

### Third Saturday of the month

10 am - Ibrox Library, 1 Midlock Street G51 1SL

12 noon - The Wedge, 1066 Barrhead Road G53 5AB

### Fourth Friday of the month

12 noon - Corkerhill Community Hub 11 Corkerhill Place G52 1RD

2 pm - Riverside Hall, 29-31 Clydebrae Street G51 2AJ

### Fourth Saturday of the month

12 noon - Tesco, Silverburn, 751 Barrhead Rd, Glasgow G53 6AG