



Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

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

October 2022

Third Tory leader cannot be imposed without an election - *Independence only way to get rid of Tory governments for good*

"I am very clear", as a recently departed Tory PM was fond of saying, Tories cannot be allowed to impose a third Prime Minister in a year on Scotland without a general election - Tory MPs must give voters a say!

Following the news Rishi Sunak has been installed as the latest Tory leader, the Tories now seem to be running scared of democracy. As a result, they have no mandate to install a third leader or impose austerity cuts to cover the devastating cost of their mini-budget.

It comes as a growing number of backbench Tory MPs admit there needs to be an election. Sir Christopher Chope MP told the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme, "I think a general election is essentially the only answer". Nadine Dorries MP tweeted, "It will now be impossible to avoid a general election" after she failed to secure the return of her beloved Boris.

So the simple reality must be that the Tories cannot be allowed to impose a third Prime Minister without a general election - voters must get a say, and my colleagues at Westminster in the SNP are determined to ensure they do.

With its disastrous budget, the Tory government had no mandate to trash the UK economy. And it has no mandate to install yet another leader who will impose devastating austerity cuts - making households pay through their teeth for Tory mistakes.

No one voted for this. So the only reason the Tories are running scared of democracy is that they fear the people's verdict.

The decisions in the weeks and months ahead will be hugely significant and will impact the economy, public services and

household budgets for years to come. Voters must get a say on what course they want to take - instead of having damaging decisions imposed against our will.

The SNP will continue to put maximum pressure on Tory MPs to hold an election and call on Keir Starmer to table a vote of no confidence in the Tory government.

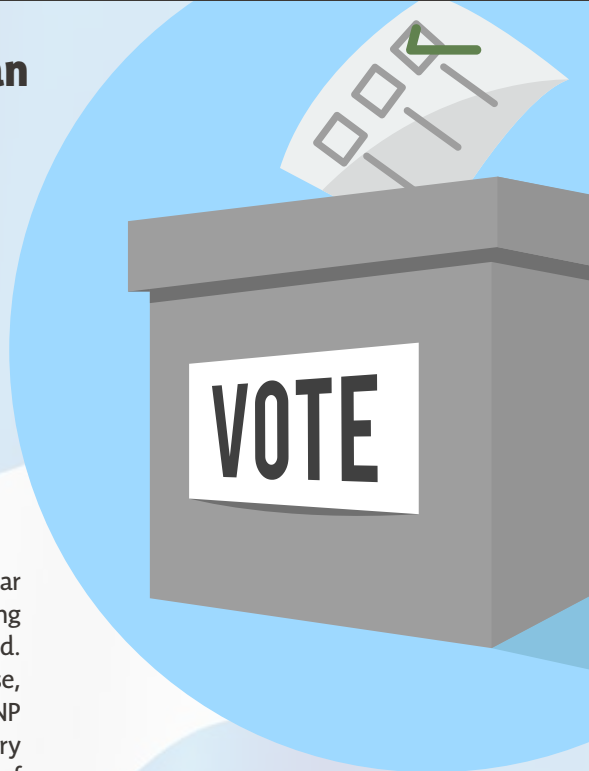
And, we in the SNP should not fear any election in Scotland. Polls show voting SNP could wipe the Tories out in Scotland. Recent polls from YouGov, Panelbase, ComRes and Survation all show the SNP on course to gain seats - with every Tory seat in Scotland in play, including that of Scottish Tory Leader Douglas Ross MP and Scottish Secretary Alister Jack MP.

While I fear the Tories will try to cling to power for the next couple of years, we must now move to a campaign footing locally.

We know the Labour Party are feeling galvanised and will throw everything they have at taking seats like Glasgow South West in Scotland.

However, the Labour Party in Scotland are just a lighter shade of Tory. Keir Starmer and Anas Sarwar would rather Scotland have 10 Tory PMs since 1955 that we didn't vote for and a decade of Tory austerity than accept the democratic mandate of the Scottish people to choose their constitutional future.

Labour has also shown in recent weeks their commitment to Brexit and the damage it has done to Scotland; and their Shadow Chancellor joined Tories in scapegoating asylum seekers in an offensive speech to her party conference.



Labour has done all it can to appeal more Tory-lite to appeal to the growing little England voters in some of their industrial heartlands while taking aim at workers and even now refusing to rethink Brexit.

For Scotland, the only difference between the Tory candidate and the Labour candidate now seems to be the colour of their rosette.

So, for Scotland, the problem is not what party is in power at Westminster - the problem is Westminster. Scotland needs to be able to do things differently.

This is the clear message we need to take to the doorsteps in Glasgow South West. We need to call out the failures of the blue and red Tories and propose why we continue to believe Scotland needs to be independent.

I will also stand on my strong record locally delivering for constituents and supporting local organisations.

Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West

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Tory Party Leadership Mayhem

This week we witnessed a mind-boggling event. Only 6 people in Scotland have decided our future Prime Minister for potentially the next 2 years. Who are these 6 who have mangled the democratic process? Step forward the Scottish Tory MP's. Precisely 0.0001% of the estimated 5.5 million Scots.

Not even their colleagues in Holyrood were allowed to vote, marking them out as second-class citizens within their own party. How proud they must feel to be involved in such an inclusive organisation.

And this comes hot on the heels of the party membership foisting Liz Truss on us to become the shortest serving Prime Minister of the UK at 44 days, handily beating the previous holder George Canning at 119 days in 1827. Canning at least retains some dignity in his tenure having died in Office, not hounded out in record time by his colleagues.

It is for the best that the Tory outpost in Scotland were denied a vote with so many of them making the perplexing choice of Truss as PM a few short weeks ago. They really should not be allowed near tough questions of appropriate leadership. The credibility of the Tories in Scotland is now utterly shot. Douglas Ross is off to Australia to sell his now vast collection of flip-flops.

Now we learn that Tory MPs can decide the leadership in short order, so why so much procrastination to deliver us unto Truss? Even more pressing, this is very much a case of do as we say, not as we do. Behind closed doors with no oversight and by a simple vote millionaire Rishi Sunak has become PM. If you are a worker struggling to provide the basics, your union needs to follow a ludicrous litany of rules, one of which includes a postal ballot, properly organised according to legislation. This is one of the many rules introduced by

successive Tory Governments to prevent 'Wildcat' strikes, called at short notice and by a simple show of hands. Do we therefore have a 'Wildcat' Prime Minister?

As many of you will know Rishi Sunak is a Millionaire who went to a prestigious Public School. Just the kind of person that understands the needs of the Scottish voter. Only a few months ago he was fined for breaking the law for being at a Covid Party. This will make him the second Prime Minister to have a criminal charge. Just a few short weeks ago he stood for PM and

- what about Sunak's father-in-law whose business Infosys continued trading with Putin after the Ukraine Invasion? Sunak's wife's non-dom status allowing her to avoid UK taxation?

As I write this Sunak has made his first speech as Prime Minister where he promised to "be able to give back to the country I owe so much to" ...a Freudian slip perhaps?

How many constituents of Glasgow South West look at their weekly pay slips and see the deductions for PAYE and NI wishing they could afford an inventive accountant? I know from the case files since I became your MP I have taken on many cases where HMRC have doggedly pursued a person for back taxes over years. It is a travesty that they spend so much chasing a few thousand pounds, but rarely do they admit to mistakes or chase those squirreling away millions in tax havens. What ever happened to the Panama Papers?

As an aside, Labour has a problem. The Tories have had 3 women leaders and now have an Asian heritage PM. Aren't Labour supposed to be progressive? Would Keir Hardie be spinning in his grave if he knew both the national Labour party leader was a millionaire knight of the realm and his Holyrood marionette was also a millionaire that sent his children to private school?

The Westminster system continues to divorce itself from the Scottish voter. Yet the SNP are the ones blamed for the division. What is more divisive than seeing foodbanks, flustered shoppers at tills having gone over budget or procrastinating about which bill should go unpaid all while being legislated by out of touch extreme wealth in a distant capital? Scotland needs independence. It is the only way to bring social justice and an inclusive society.



lost to Truss. Anyone listening to Sangita Myska the other day on LBC may have heard the 'True Blue' Tory who said Rishi was not British enough so they could not vote for him as leader, nor would they in the future. Those sentiments have been echoed in comments sections in the right-wing media. The Tory voting block has issues it needs addressed. Have the Tories all now forgotten how much they blamed Sunak for the downfall of their beloved Boris? The outcry when it was discovered Sunak held a Green Card? – a US document allowing him to live and work in the USA



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Foodbanks are not a solution to rising prices

As the Tory Party continues to fall into turmoil and the cost of living crisis deepens by the day, I continue to focus on two things concerning food aid: assisting all of our food project organisations throughout Glasgow South West, to ensure all of my constituents who need access to affordable food or referrals to the foodbank, have access to it, and to hold the Tory party to account.

I have been meeting with food project organisations throughout Glasgow South West to assist them and chat about their recent work and recent developments. The organisations include Good Food Scotland, Threehills Supermarket, Glasgow South West Foodbank and the Govan Pantry. The resounding feedback is that they are seeing a dramatic increase in users and need help to increase their food supplies to meet the demand. By bringing organisations together I have been able to support organisations and provide assistance.

As mentioned in my September newsletter, I am delighted to be bringing a larder to Cardonald by working closely with Good Food Scotland and Southside Housing. It will be based at 12 Swinton Place and work has commenced. This will be invaluable in providing access to affordable food in the Cardonald, Mossbank and Penilee areas where it is badly needed. It will provide a stepping stone between using the foodbank

and supermarkets and will make it far easier for people in Cardonald and the surrounding areas to access.

Working with Good Food Scotland, we are continuing to make progress with the mobile larder, this project is at its final stages and once it is ready, our first stop will be in Linthouse as I have been in discussions with Linthouse Housing Association, they are very keen to provide support to their residents and the wider community.

Work is also well underway on the Threehills Community Supermarket in Nitshill, Threehills Supermarket will act as a hub for the community, providing an affordable supermarket, café and community resource facility. Threehills is Scotland's first Community Supermarket.

My aim is to ensure affordable food is accessible in all areas throughout Glasgow



Roundtable with food aid providers

South West with local access to pantries, larders and foodbanks.

Although all of these developments in the constituency are very positive, the incompetence of The Tory Government means that the cost of living crisis continues to grow. The Scottish Government continue to mitigate as much as they can, the Scottish Government is investing almost £3 billion this year in a range of measures which will help address the cost of living pressures. This alone - though important - will not be enough to meet the unprecedented challenges we face.

Sources: foodfoundation.org.uk, feedingbritain.org, goodfoodscotland.org

“ Will the Chancellor commit to the House that, as part of his decision making, he will also take cognisance of the social consequences and the consequences for social stability? Food aid charities handed a petition to Downing Street today saying that they are struggling to meet the demands of our fellow citizens. Will he meet those charities so that they can impress on him the urgent need to uprate benefits in line with inflation? ”

Chris Stephens MP - Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Fair Work and Employment)
17 Oct 2022



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OUT AND ABOUT IN

Glasgow South West & Westminster

I have been out and about in Glasgow South West, in Aberdeen for the SNP conference and working hard for my constituents in Westminster.

Firstly, thank you to everyone who attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning, donated, baked, the local businesses who helped and to myself and Humza Yousaf's staff who helped organise the day. I am delighted that we made £600 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

I have attended a number of picket lines, both in Glasgow and in London, as more and more workers feel the impact of the Tory Cost of Living crisis. It is important to support those who take part in industrial action.

I attended site visits in Craigton with community council representatives and with constituents in Bellahouston Park, I have raised concerns with the relevant departments.

In Westminster I questioned academics at DWP Select Committee for our Inquiry on Children in Poverty: Child Maintenance Service. I also met with the Director of Policy, Poverty Alliance to discuss Uprating of Benefits and Cost of Living issues.

I have also held surgeries throughout the constituency each week, plus much more!



Macmillan Coffee Morning, held jointly with Humza Yousaf MSP



Presenting Patrick McGrath with the Early Day Motion



I held a joint surgery with Baillie Roza Salih at Tesco, Silverburn



Delivering my MP Survey



Supporting Royal Mail workers



Surgery at Cardonald Library



Bellahouston park site visit



Supporting rail workers



SNP Conference



SNP Conference



Supporting SUDEP Action



Surgery at The Wedge, Pollok



Constituency Work in September



CASES OPENED 253



EMAILS RECEIVED 866

CASES CLOSED 322



EMAILS SENT 817

Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West

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Iris Gibson

I was sorry to hear the sad news that, former Councillor, Iris Gibson, who served Mossspark ward, then the wider Craigton, now Cardonald Ward, passed away.

Iris was a much respected Councillor and a party colleague who I helped along with SNP activists, get re-elected in 2007 and 2012.

I know many will have memories of the assistance she provided over the years, and served with grace.

Kenneth and his family are in our thoughts and prayers.

I paid my respects to former Councillor, Iris Gibson last week. It was a moving service, for a respected Councillor who served diligently

May She Rest In Peace.



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

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Glasgow South West



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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** 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

Constituency Office

1612-1614 Paisley Road West
Glasgow G52 3QN
Open: Mon, Tues & Thur, Fri 9.30am-5pm
CLOSED Wednesday and weekends

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