



Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

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

November 2023



Ceasefire Now! The War in Gaza.

I must preface this article by saying that things in Gaza are changing daily, and this article may not reflect the current situation at the time of reading. Article written on 10 November 2023

For almost a month, Scotland and the world have watched in sadness and horror at the humanitarian catastrophe in Israel and Gaza.

First, we had the horrific terrorist attack in Israel, and now the war in the occupied Palestine territory of Gaza, with a spiralling number of innocent lives lost and families torn apart.

On October 7, in Israel, the world witnessed the brutal terrorist attacks by Hamas, where 1,400 people were killed, hostages taken and many more injured.

The abhorrent terrorist attack by Hamas that day on innocent civilians was a crime against our common humanity, and my heart broke for every Israeli family suffering the heartbreak of losing a loved one due to this unjustifiable terror.

But, while I stood, and the SNP stood, in solidarity with the innocent victims of terror, we as a party also are now standing in solidarity with the Palestine civilians in the Gaza Strip, half

of whom are children and have no links to Hamas, who are now innocent victims of this war.

First Minister Humza Yousaf MSP has led international calls for a ceasefire. And that is what we need a #CeasefireNow!

The SNP have also tabled an amendment to the King's Speech calling for an immediate ceasefire. The SNP value international law, civilian lives, and peace and we'll vote based on our values.

Israel is going too far with its indiscriminate bombing, and thousands who have already died, including at the Jabalia Refugee Camp, were failed by the UK Government. Rishi Sunak and his colleagues failed to use their position as an ally to call for an end to collective punishment and a ceasefire to allow more humanitarian aid to flow to Gaza, including fuel.

In Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health, over 10,000 people have been killed, including 4000 children and over

2,400 women. More than 23,000 injured people require immediate treatment within overstretched hospitals.







An entire population is besieged and under attack, denied access to the essentials for survival, and bombed in their homes, shelters, hospitals and places of worship. This is unacceptable.

That is why a ceasefire can be the only option. It's been 30 days. Enough is enough. This must stop now.

The question the UK Government and any UK political party currently not calling for the humanitarian ceasefire is, how many more innocent men, women and children have to die; how many hospitals have to run out of fuel or shut down for them to examine their conscience and stand up and say this is enough and join the SNP and the UN in calling for a ceasefire.

Ultimately, those of us who believe in the safety and security of not just Palestinians but Israelis cannot see how more innocent people dying are going to

Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West

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enhance anyone's safety or security, let alone move us any closer to peace and a two-state solution.

The parties need to heed the warning by the UN, who have said the aid delivered to Gaza so far has barely made a dent, and there must be an international effort to ensure there is enough aid and it gets to everyone who needs it.

Director General of the World Health Organisation, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said on Twitter:

"The number of civilian casualties in #Gaza is staggering. The limited aid flow is a mere trickle of the growing needs. Without urgent, unrestricted access at scale, tragedy will continue unfolding before our eyes.

The conflict started on 7 October, the first aid crossing was on 21 October. Since then, @WHO has only been able to transport enough supplies for approximately 370,000 people, including for traumatic wound and burn care, and treatment for serious chronic conditions.

The population of Gaza is over 2 million. We need access, now, to deliver far more health supplies.

We urge safe movement be guaranteed for humanitarian convoys across Gaza - and an immediate humanitarian pause. There's no time to waste. Every moment matters."

If the aid does not get to where it is needed fast, many more lives will be lost on top of those innocent lives already lost to the indiscriminate bombing.

The UK Government should be backing the UN resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire. We need the violence to stop and significant amounts of aid to get through without delay.

The UK Government's position to abstain in that UN vote, as First Minister Humza Yousaf said in a recent Channel 4 interview – "was a shameful abdication of their moral responsibility."

Where the UK Government has failed, our own First Minister has shown stoic leadership despite his own personal

fear for his family – thank God they have now found safe passage out of Gaza.

The First Minister has announced a further £250,000 to support displaced Palestinians in Gaza. This money has been pledged to UNRWA – the only operating aid organisation still in Gaza and providing the only access to food, medicine, and shelter to Palestinians. This takes the combined total committed by the Scottish Government to £750,000.

In his recent speech at the SNP Party Conference, Humza also called on the UK government to create a refugee resettlement scheme for people wanting to leave Palestine amid the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Scotland is willing to be the first country in the UK to offer safety and sanctuary to the people of Gaza and treat the injured men, women and children where we can, as we have recently welcomed those from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Throughout the war, I have also used my position as your Member of Parliament to raise this issue with the UK Government.

Early on, I asked the Prime Minister to call for humanitarian corridors. The exchange of which can be viewed here - <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-10-23/debates/018D96AB-5D91->

[48D7-9809-19A03E54125A/IsraelAndGaza#contribution-10CDFDD3-7ED2-4E90-9008-11170D5B63BB](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-constituent/constituencies/constituencies/48D7-9809-19A03E54125A/IsraelAndGaza#contribution-10CDFDD3-7ED2-4E90-9008-11170D5B63BB).

Last Tuesday, I attended a briefing by International Aid organisations updating MPs on the current situation.

In support of this, I have signed two Early Day Motions, the first by my SNP colleague, Brendan O'Hara, which can be viewed here:

Israel's response to Hamas atrocities and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza - Early Day Motions - UK Parliament - <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61430/protecting-civilians-in-gaza-and-israel>

Secondly, I am one of the primary sponsors to Early Day Motion tabled by Richard Burgon, which can be found here:

Protecting civilians in Gaza and Israel (2) - Early Day Motions - UK Parliament - <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61468/protecting-civilians-in-gaza-and-israel-no-2>

Richard Burgon's Early Day Motion has been updated to reflect the current situation, and I am the primary sponsor of the revised text.

I also have joined marches alongside thousands of demonstrators marching across the country to demand an immediate ceasefire and an end to the siege of Gaza.





Chris Stephens MP

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Senior MPs demand dementia in retired footballers classed as an industrial injury

EXCLUSIVE: Cross party support for the move is growing after Sir Alex Ferguson backed the campaign.

Senior MPs have backed a campaign calling for dementia in retired footballers to be classed as an industrial injury.

Former SNP Westminster leader Ian Blackford will lead a debate at Westminster demanding ex-pros qualify for benefits payments.

A 2019 study by expert Willie Stewart found former footballers were three-and-a-half times more likely to die of neurodegenerative brain disease due to heading the ball.

Labour MSP Michael Marra has spearheaded a campaign for Holyrood to use its devolved social security powers to class the damage done as an industrial injury.

The campaign has reached Westminster after Blackford and SNP colleague Chris Stephens secured a Commons debate this month.

They want the Scottish and UK Governments to protect retired footballers in every part of the UK.

Blackford told the Record: "I believe it should be classed as an industrial injury so that people can receive the support they need.

"This is primarily about people who played football in the past. Working class men who were not on high incomes and who headed a very heavy ball.

"I recognise the importance of both

parliaments addressing this issue."

Stephens said: "It is important to have secured this debate to explore what more can be done to assist our heroes diagnosed with dementia.

"The evidence so far demonstrates a link, and like others, I believe we need to recognise that this is an industrial injury, and ensure that access to Industrial Injury Benefit is provided.

"I am hoping that the debate receives cross party support and we can move forward to support former footballers and their families receive the support they need."

Marra said: "I am pleased to see that the issue of brain injuries in football is to be discussed and debated at Westminster. This is an issue that stretches across the UK and across football.

"It is important that both parliaments engage with the issue and I am heartened to see the cross party support for action here.

"The support that is available to footballers, including design and delivery of benefits, is a complex issue that will benefit immensely from joint working. This is an industrial injury and the Scottish Government must recognise it for what it is to ensure ex-pros get the support they need.

"I look forward to seeing the outcome of Ian Blackford and Chris Stephens' debate."

Blackford also said Lib Dem, Labour,

DUP and Plaid Cymru MPs are supportive.

Scots Tory leader Douglas Ross is also backing the debate:

He said: "The number of former footballers being diagnosed with dementia is heart-breaking to witness and demands action.

"It was a sign of the importance that all politicians place on this issue that Ian Blackford quickly received cross-party support for his call to have a debate on this subject, and I was happy to be one of co-sponsors of the debate application."

Marra's campaign received a massive boost when dozens of retired professionals signed an open letter calling for the Scottish Government to act.

Former Scotland managers Sir Alex Ferguson, Gordon Strachan, Alex McLeish and Craig Levein are among the supporters.

Their statement read: "The evidence is now clear. Former professional footballers are three-and-a-half times more likely to die of brain injuries, including dementia, than people of the same age range in the general population.

"Brain injuries from repetitive head impacts have resulted in a generation of players being afflicted by this decline in brain function. "These players were injured at work.

"We must recognise that. Those in power must now recognise it, too.

By Paul Hutcheon, Political Editor, [Daily Record](#), 31st August



Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST



CAMPAIGN STARTS NOW!!

Since I was Elected in May 2015

 **23,765**
cases raised

 **50,771**
emails sent



I want to say a huge thank you and how honoured I am to have been selected unopposed as the SNP candidate for the newly redefined Glasgow South West seat.

Having been a candidate well before being elected as your MP, I had been used to going through hustings against other excellent candidates over the years. Therefore, I was humbled that on this occasion, my record spoke for itself, and the local branch delegates were unanimous in their agreement that I should be the candidate again and the best choice to win this seat for the SNP.

The upcoming election has Scotland facing a growing democratic deficit, with our nation losing two representatives at Westminster. At the same time, our friends in Wales have seen an even more significant loss of eight seats.

Interestingly, the Tory heartlands have managed to gain ten additional seats in this reshaping of the political landscape - but in this election, even that may not be enough to save them as voters are predicted to rightly turn out in force to cast a long overdue harsh verdict on their appalling record in Government.

And, while the rest of the UK will take care of itself, we must focus on our constituency and let the chips fall where they will. As the bleak reality for most voters in Scotland, it will be the people of England who pick which one of the two out-of-touch, Brexit-supporting men with nothing to offer Scotland will be PM.

A predicted strong Labour vote across the UK, or even in Scotland, will see the voices of voters across the new Glasgow South West boundaries and Scotland diluted amongst a sea of identikit drones towing party lines nearly identical from Tory or Labour, whichever administration comes to power instead of having their interests presented and pressed front and centre by a SNP MP who puts Scotland and their constituency's interest first.

This is why we need to ensure we make this critical case of why we need a strong SNP

vote and a return of many SNP MPs to ensure that your interests are front and centre.

That journey to securing a strong SNP team at Westminster for us in Glasgow South West will begin by ensuring I return as your MP. The hard work starts now!

Yet, sadly for the MPs in Glasgow, this campaign is different from usual. The boundary changes have had an impact on our own Glasgow South West constituency, with Glasgow transitioning from seven seats to six, accompanied by significant boundary adjustments to all seats, including our own.

In Glasgow South West, we lose a bit of Cardonald and Penilee and gain most of Pollokshields and the remainder of Govan. Parts of Cardonald and Penilee will now be part of the Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency.

For those members in the newly defined Renfrewshire North constituency, Gavin Newlands is your SNP candidate. Gavin is an excellent MP who I know will do his utmost for you, and I know you will do all you can to help elect him as well.

And for those joining us from Pollokshields and Govan, welcome to Glasgow South West! I know that following in the footsteps of my friend Alison Thewlis will be no small feat. She has served you well and has been a great candidate in the past for you. I wish her luck in her new seat in Glasgow North.

In 2015, 2017 and 2019, I was elected on the hope and promise to be the last Member of Parliament for Glasgow South West.

Sadly, however, there is still work to be done on that. The turbulent times we have seen where we have seen the same amount of Prime Ministers in the seven years since David Cameron as we have had in the 30 years before Cameron, Austerity, Covid, Brexit, Kamikaze Liz, and not forgetting the current Tory Cost of Living Crisis have all put a roadblock in that ambition; but has also shown why we must again go into this election with that goal to secure our

independence away from Westminster.

The case for independence is overwhelming, but my record over the last eight years and commitment to build on it is also something we should be proud to take to the doorsteps during this campaign.

On a local level, if I am returned as your MP, I promise to continue to expand the provision for community shops to make them accessible to as many constituents as possible. Doing this will drive the big supermarkets' prices down as they lose business. There must be a price to pay for the Cost of Greed crisis sweeping Scotland because of defective macroeconomic policies enforced by Westminster.

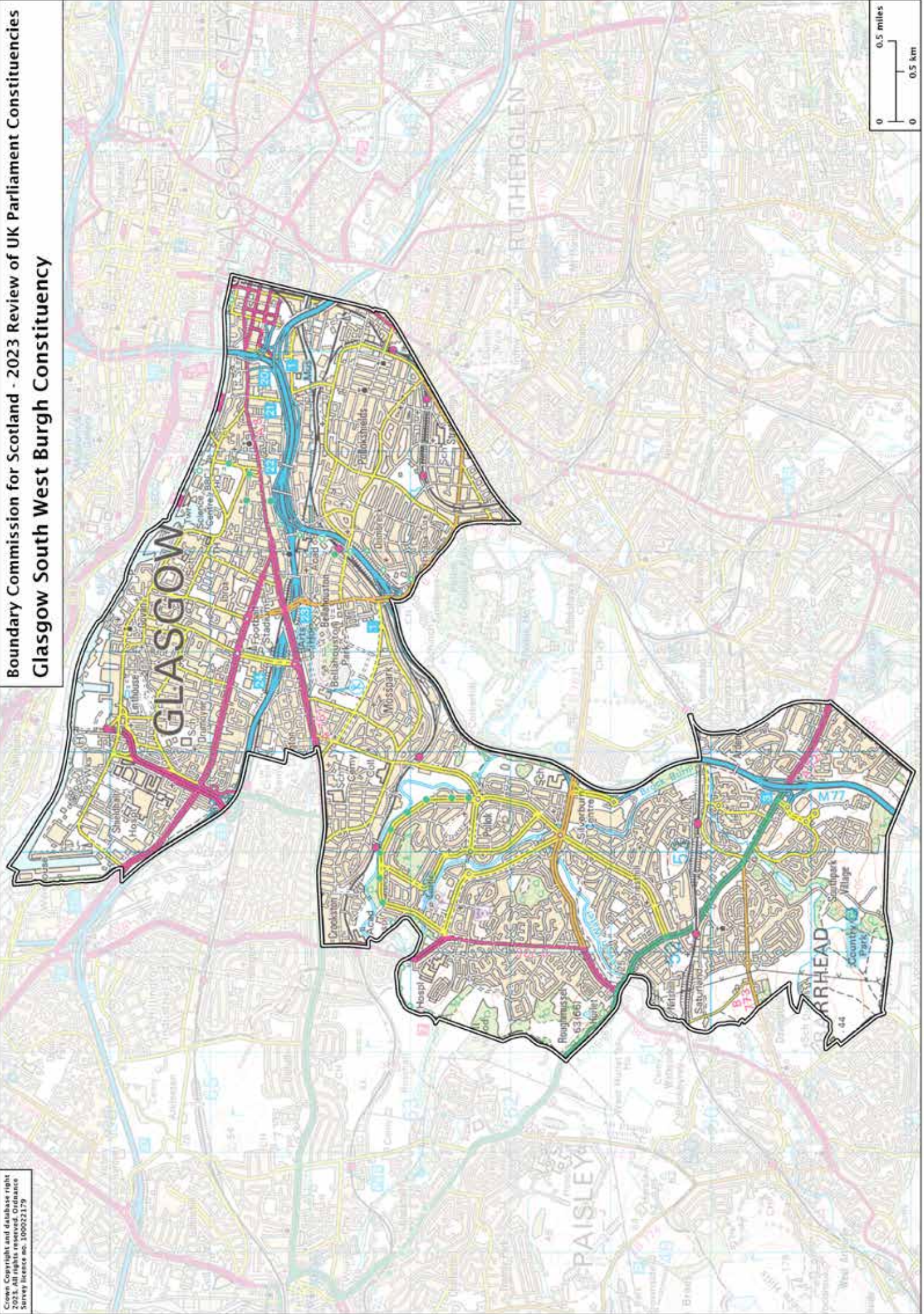
I have developed strong links with the many community projects across the constituency and assisted many of them with substantial funding to keep them afloat in an environment where cuts to budgets originating in Westminster have caused the loss of services at a local level. I have particularly enjoyed seeing the community step up to provide for children, be that in holiday activities or provision for lunches, in many cases. I have assisted pairing groups with funding streams suitable for their aims.

It is important, though, to take a step back to view the bigger picture: There should be no need for a child to go hungry in the 6th largest economy in the world. If the UK cannot provide for those most vulnerable, we should move on, leave the UK behind and strike a new path of equality for all in an independent Scotland. If I remain your MP at the next General Election I will continue to seek our rightful place as a nation while defending constituents.

Finally, As I have been these past years, I will continue as a constituency and community MP. My door will always be open to people of all political persuasions, which I know from my time in Westminster is only sometimes the case with some I share in my workplace. As ever, I will be there for you.

Boundary Commission for Scotland - 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies
Glasgow South West Burgh Constituency

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Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

Scots losing £12.6m each month in Universal Credit payments due to 'poverty tax'

EXCLUSIVE: The UK Government deducted £12.6 million a month from 209,400 Scottish households between March and May.

Scots households reliant on Universal Credit are losing more than £12 million every month due to a "poverty tax", official figures reveal.

The UK Government deducted £12.6 million a month from 209,400 Scottish households between March and May.

Figures obtained by SNP MP Chris Stephens show that the average household had £60 taken away.

The total monthly amount deducted increased by £570,000 from the previous three-month period and the number of households impacted grew by 3,400.

Almost half of the deductions were to repay upfront loans that households are forced to take out from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) when waiting five weeks for their first Universal Credit payment.

Glasgow South West MP Stephens, who has branded the deductions a "poverty tax", will soon be proposing a new law which prohibits the UK Government from imposing deductions in cases where they will result in people being left destitute and reliant on food banks.

Stephens said: "The evidence couldn't be any clearer. Deductions are making poorer people destitute.

"How can this poverty tax be allowed to continue in its current form as part of a welfare state that was originally created to eliminate destitution?

"That's what I'll be asking Labour and the Tories in Westminster when I present my proposal to bring an end to this injustice."

He has previously called on the

Chancellor to slash the rate of deductions and for an amnesty on deductions resulting from the DWP's own errors.

He also wants a replacement of upfront loans with grants, and a much lower cap on the rate of deductions.

Stephens discovered the scale of the deductions system after submitting a written question to the UK Government.

Four of the five worst hit constituencies were in Glasgow, while the other was also in the west of Scotland.

Some £394,000 was taken from 6,600 claimants in Glasgow East. The average deduction was £60.

In Glasgow North East, £347,000 was taken away from 6,000 people and in Glasgow South West £347,000 was taken away from 5,800 people.

The average deduction in Glasgow North East was £58 while it was £60 in Glasgow South West.

The next worst affected was Rutherglen and Hamilton West, which elected Labour MP Michael Shanks earlier this month.

Some £333,000 was taken away from 5,600 claimants, with an average deduction of £60.

In Glasgow Central, £313,000 was taken from 5,400 people at an average of £58.

The highest average deduction of £64 was in Dundee West. Some 5,100 people had £326,000 taken away.

Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, Motherwell and Wishaw, Glenrothes, and North Ayrshire and Arran were all in the 10 worst affected seats.

Stephens presented a bill to the House of Commons earlier this year which called for the government to spell out how it would end food bank usage by 2030.

He is also the chair of Good Food Scotland. The programme aims to get rid of hunger in Scotland.

Good Food Scotland has set up 'larders' in different areas of Glasgow. These aim to ease the cost of living crisis by running membership food shops which sell food at discount rates.

Andrew Forsey, national director of the Feeding Britain charity which operates the Good Food Scotland programme, added: "Deductions have long acted as a recruiting sergeant for food banks. In the absence of any action from the Department for Work and Pensions, to bring down the rate of deductions, hundreds of thousands of Scots on the receiving end of this policy will struggle to put food on the table this winter."

A DWP spokesperson said: "We provide support to help people manage repayments and have reduced the standard cap on deductions twice.

"Universal Credit deductions are a last resort repayment method and help to recover taxpayers' money when overpayments are made.

"But we know people are already struggling with the cost of living which is why the UK Government is bearing down on inflation and providing record financial support worth around £3,300 per household, including raising benefits by over 10% this year."

By Andrew Quinn Westminster Reporter in the [Daily Record](#), 27th October



Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

King's Speech: TORIES ABANDON HOUSEHOLDS IN SCOTLAND NO NEW POWERS OR HELP WITH COST OF LIVING

This week, I returned to Parliament for the King's Speech. Those who expected anything new from this right-wing, out-of-touch Tory Government would have been better off hoping for the lottery numbers in their Christmas stocking from Santa.

The showpiece Parliamentary event was most notable by the farcical juxtaposition of a man in a golden robe and crown talking about how "his Government" would tackle the Tory government-created cost of living crisis.

People sitting at home, unable to pay their electricity bills, feed their family or thinking about how they will pay their rent this month, will hardly have been impressed turning on their telly to see all the unnecessary pomp and ceremony. Frankly, I am not sure it sent the right message.

Putting that aside, the substance of the speech for the people of Scotland was also spectacularly lacking.

You could go as far as saying, yet again, the Tories have completely abandoned people in Scotland - after the King's Speech contained no help with the cost of living and no new powers for the Scottish Parliament.

Ahead of the King's Speech, Westminster SNP leader Stephen Flynn MP had called for the transfer of powers over energy, employment and the economy to enable the Scottish Parliament to go further to help families with the cost of living and boost economic growth - but the Tories delivered no new powers at all.

While the SNP is helping families with a council tax freeze and protecting against a Labour-planned 32% Council tax hike, delivering the Scottish Child Payment - the Tories are offering no help at all with the cost of living and no new powers for the Scottish Parliament. Showing, yet again, why independence is essential to deliver economic growth and boost household incomes.

We had called before the King's Speech for urgent UK government action on the cost of living - including a £400 energy bill rebate, mortgage interest tax relief and action to reduce food prices - but the Tory legislative agenda contained no help with the cost of living at all for Scottish households.

The speech, instead, was threadbare and bereft of ideas.

Instead, millions of households in Scotland suffering from a Westminster-made cost of living crisis and cost of greed crisis are left with Sunak and Starmer wedded to Brexit, Tory cuts and economic decline. It's clear independence is the only way for Scotland to build a wealthier and fairer future.

Independent European nations like Scotland are wealthier and fairer than the UK - so the question is, why not Scotland?

As often with these ceremonies, the key takeaway is how much Scotland's is ignored, and how much we need Independence and away from the out-of-touch and outdated Westminster system.





Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



Include Me 2 Club

I am delighted to take a moment to spotlight the incredible work being carried out by the Include Me 2 Club, a small yet immensely impactful voluntary-led charity right here in our community. Their unwavering dedication is focused on assisting individuals of all ages, ranging from the youngest at 0 to those beyond a century, who face additional support needs or disabilities, whether physical, learning, or mental health-related. Operating across Glasgow, Renfrewshire, and East Renfrewshire, this organisation provides a lifeline of support and inclusion.

What sets the Include Me 2 Club apart is their commitment to accessibility, affordability, and achievability. Each week, they offer a diverse range of activities, programmes, and events that are not only accessible to all but also affordable, ensuring that financial

constraints do not hinder participation. Their initiatives are designed to be achievable, empowering members and future members to engage actively, irrespective of their abilities or challenges.

Here in Cardonald, we are indeed fortunate to have a local hub for this exceptional organisation. I had the privilege of attending the Include Me 2 Club awards recently, an event that showcased the incredible achievements of individuals. To all the winners and nominees, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. Your resilience, determination, and achievements inspire us all.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the Include Me 2 Club as a whole. Their tireless efforts contribute significantly to the well-being and enrichment of the lives of our constituents. The

sense of belonging and support they provide is immeasurable, fostering a more inclusive and compassionate community spirit.

As your representative in Parliament, I am immensely proud to support organisations like the Include Me 2 Club. Their work embodies the spirit of unity, kindness, and empowerment that we value in our community. Together, we will continue to champion their cause and ensure that every individual, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, feels included and valued.

www.includeme2club.org.uk

Tel: 0141 881 0544

Email: info@includeme2club.org.uk

Hub at Cardonald

25 Lammermoor Avenue, Cardonald, G52 3BE

Include Me 2 Club SCIO
Registered Charity - SC047911

Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West

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GLASGOW SOUTH WEST



SNP Conference

I was pleased to attend the SNP 89th Annual party conference in Aberdeen last month. While I was only there for one day, I managed to cram in a lot.

The showpiece event at the Conference for members was to decide our independence strategy. Generation after generation, the SNP has been the party that encouraged Scottish citizens to believe in Scotland. And now, we are near achieving our dream – an independent Scotland and the chance to build a better nation.

It was essential for us as a party to set a direction on delivering independence and for members to have their voices heard in that debate.

Independence Strategy

At the 89th Annual SNP's Conference in Aberdeen, members had a lively debate with the leader's resolution on the Independence Strategy having a series of amendments tabled for debate.

Delegates overwhelmingly agreed that the next UK General Election should be used as an opportunity to advance the cause of independence and to demonstrate how the powers of independence would enable us to take action on Scotland's priorities – from tackling the Westminster-made cost of living crisis to protecting our public services, eradicating poverty and building a fairer economy that works for us all.

The Conference, therefore, supported using the next UK General Election as a means to offer that opportunity to secure Scotland's independence. The SNP manifesto for the UK General Election will, therefore, state on page one, line one, the following simple and powerful statement: Vote SNP for Scotland to become an independent country.

The motion also stipulated that the SNP manifesto will demand that the incoming UK government devolves powers over a wide range of policy areas so that the Scottish Government can properly tackle the twin crises of the cost of living and climate change.

You can read the full motion [here](#).



Trade Union Fringe

As the Chair of the PCS Parliamentary Group, long-standing trade unionist and proud member of the SNP Trade Union Group (TUG), I was delighted to be asked on Sunday to speak at the SNP TUG fringe event at the Conference.

The fringe was entitled, "How trade unions can help create a new Scotland". I was joined on the panel by The Deputy General Secretary of the STUC, Dave Moxham, Unison Scotland's Convener, Lilian Macer, and the Fire Brigades Union Scottish secretary John McKenzie.

The event looked at topics such as the STUC's proposals for greater use of existing devolved powers, as well as what could be done after the devolution of additional powers such as employment law.

It was a very well-attended event with lots of solidarity and positivity about the partnership between the SNP and the trade union movement, as well as ideas of working with our trade union comrades to improve support for independence.

Meeting with Charities and Exhibitors

On Sunday at the Conference, I was also delighted to take some time to visit many of the exhibitor stalls.

These stalls comprise SNP and Independence supporting organisations, third sector organisations, campaign organisations and a few private sector businesses.

I was delighted to have lots of positive discussions about how my office can support

these organisations, and I particularly liked hearing about their current campaigns and the valuable work being carried out.

First Minister Address

While sadly, I was unable to be in the room for Humza Yousaf's outstanding address at the end of the Conference. I was able to watch on with pride at the stoic address at a time when his family were under immense fear and anxiety for their loved ones trapped in Gaza.

The speech was also a great time to reflect on what the SNP has delivered and will continue to deliver for the people of Scotland.

We, as a party, have a record we should be proud of, and we need to continue to shout about it whenever we get a chance.

I also welcomed the key pledges which Humza outlined. We can take these to the doorstep over the next 12 months in the build-up to the Westminster election.

- Freezing council tax next year.
- £300 million to alleviate NHS waiting lists.
- £500 million to create renewable jobs.
- £100 million to double Scotland's arts and culture budget.





Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

OUT AND ABOUT IN

Glasgow South West & Westminster

I am thrilled to provide you with another update on my recent activities, both in the hallowed halls of Westminster and amidst the vibrant community of Glasgow South West.

Within Westminster, I remain steadfast in my commitment to tackling the pressing issue of the cost of living crisis, a matter I have now chosen to term the cost of greed crisis, a creation of the Tories. I have passionately spoken on this topic during debates, ensuring that our concerns resonate across the chambers. Furthermore, I actively participated in discussions concerning the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, highlighting the urgency of this matter. I have also raised vital questions about child poverty, football and dementia, addressing these pressing issues head-on.

Beyond Westminster, I have been engaging with my constituents. I have taken the time to listen to your concerns right at your doorsteps, gaining valuable insights into the challenges you face daily. I have also had the privilege of visiting various organisations within Glasgow South West, witnessing the outstanding work being done within our community.

I am pleased to inform you that in collaboration with Cllr Roza Salih and Cllr William Graham, we organised a MacMillan Coffee Morning at the Leithland Neighbourhood Hall. The event was a great success, raising a fantastic sum of £500. Your generous contributions have made a meaningful difference, and I am truly grateful for your support.

Additionally, I have continued to host weekly surgeries throughout the constituency, providing a platform for one-on-one discussions and ensuring your voices are heard.

Rest assured, there is much more in the pipeline. I am dedicated to working tirelessly on your behalf and championing the causes that matter most to our community.



Surgery at the Wedge



SWAMP – Funtime Friday



SWAMP – Funtime Friday



Organ Donation Week



Include Me 2 Club



Pearce Institute, Govan Surgery



Mossspark Optician Opening



Include Me 2 Club



Funders Fair, Pollok Baptist Church



Rosshall Disc Golf Course's 10th-anniversary celebration



Benburb Football Club



Chris & First Minister Humza Yousaf at the Kook School, Pollok Baptist Church.



Ibrox Library Surgery



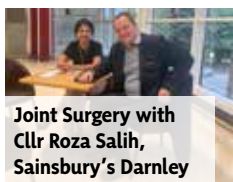
Corkerhill Community Hub, Surgery



Govan and Linthouse Parish Church



Show Racism the red card



Joint Surgery with Cllr Roza Salih, Sainsbury's Darnley



Southside Housing



Crookston Community Group – Surgery



Govan Craft Cafe



MacMillan Coffee Morning



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West

[chrisstephens.scot](https://www.chrisstephens.scot) 0141 883 0875 chris.stephens.mp@parliament.co.uk



Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

Food Support – Glasgow South West



Important - The foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from the foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by [local agencies](#), including my office at 1612-1614 Paisley Road West, Glasgow G52 3QN.

Penilee

Our Lady & St George Church
50 Sandwood Road, G52 2QE
Tue 10:30 - 12:30

Cardonald

Hillington Park Church
24 Berryknowes Rd, G52 2UD
Fri 10:00 - 12:45

Linthouse

Linthouse Housing Association
1 Cressy Street, G51 4RB
Tue 14:00 - 16:00



Nutritious low cost food and support to local people.

Linthouse

Linthouse Housing Association
1 Cressy Street, Glasgow G51 4RB
Thur 10:00 - 13:00

Threehills larder

415 Nitshill Road (Entrance at the side of the block of high rise flats.)
Tue 10:30 - 13:00
Wed 10:30 - 13:00

goodfoodscotland.org

Cardonald

12 Swinton Place, Cardonald, G52 2EA
Tue 10:00 - 13:00
Thur 15:00 - 18:00

Kennishead

60 Kennishead Ave,
Glasgow G46 8RN
Tues 10:00 - 13:00
Fri 10:00 - 13:00

Crookston Community Group



48 & 56 Beltrees Road, Crookston
www.ccg.scot 0141 882 4333
Monday to Friday 10:00 - 15:00

St Constantine's Hall, Uist St - Opposite Church

Uist St, Govan G51 3XW
Saturday 6 - 7PM FREE Food Parcel pickup.
10 items per bag. Drop-in, no referral required.

Govan

The Pearce Institute, 840-860 Govan Road, entrance at the war memorial side.

Wednesday 10.30 to 15:00
Thursday 10.30 to 15:00



Pollok Pantry

Located at 25-27 Brockburn Road, G53 5BG.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays
10.00 - 15:00, Saturday 10:00 - 14:00

Get help with the cost of living

If you don't have enough money to live on, you might be able to get help to afford essentials like bills and food. This includes the Scottish Welfare Fund and cost of living payments.

You should [check](#) if you can claim benefits - you might be able to do this even if you have a job.

Telephone: 0141 881 2462

www.cas.org.uk/bureaux/glasgow-greater-pollok-citizens-advice-bureau



Emergency Contacts

SAFETY



Ambulance, Police, Firefighters

Emergency – 999

Non-emergencies – 101



NHS 24 – 111



Childline
0800 1111



womensaid.org.uk

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

0808 2000 247 – Freephone, 24-hour Helpline

FLOODING



Scottish Water
Trusted to serve Scotland

Out of Hours Customer
Helpline, 0800 077 8778

COUNCIL ISSUES



Glasgow City Council Emergency Line: 0141 287 2000

Simon Community Scotland's street team 0800 027 7466. For new presentations of homelessness, Mon – Fri (9:00am – 4:45pm; 3:45pm on Fridays), please call Social Care Connect on 0141 287 0555

UTILITIES



0800 092 9290



0345 058 0002
(Mon to Fri, 9am – 5pm)
Emergency – 105



Gas Emergency
0800 111 999



National Power
Cut Helpline 105



British Gas
0800 111 999

GOVERNMENT



Department
for Work &
Pensions

0800 169 0310 (JSA ESA)
0800 328 9344 (UC)



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

0845 850 289

ANIMALS



03000 999 999



0800 917 2509

MENTAL HEALTH



116 123



0800 83 85 87



08000 28 22 33



0808 808 1677



0800 12 44 222



Chris Stephens MP

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

 christephens.scot/podcast/



Newsletter

Our regular newsletter from Chris Stephens MP is available to download from our website, or you can sign up for our newsletter. The newsletter will inform you of what I have been doing in the Glasgow South West Constituency and in Westminster.

 christephens.scot/#newsletter



Constituency Work in Sep & Oct



CASES OPENED 976



EMAILS RECEIVED 2,471









CASES CLOSED 1,094



EMAILS SENT 2,362

Working hard for everyone in Glasgow South West

    christephens.scot  0141 883 0875  chris.stephens.mp@parliament.co.uk



Chris Stephens MP

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

Monthly Advice Surgeries



First Thursday of the month

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

First Friday of the month

6.30 pm – Sainsbury's Darnley, 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

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.

Constituency Office

1612-1614 Paisley Road West
Glasgow G52 3QN

Open: Mon, Tues & Thur, Fri 9.30am-5pm
CLOSED Wednesday and weekends



To book an appointment call **0141 883 0875**
or email chris.stephens.mp@parliament.uk