

# DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI** ONWURAH

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



NHS North East Innovation Lab

## **NEWCASTLE CAN'T AFFORD THE TORIES – AND TOLD THEM SO**

Spring is here but it has brought misery for many with the gas and electric bills soaring, inflation galloping ahead, National Insurance tax hikes, but benefits and wages either frozen or subject to below inflation rises. As a consequence, we have seen a major increase in foodbank usage, but a reduction in foodbank donations. Geordies are very generous but when we are facing huge cost of living rises it is inevitable that there is less to go round.

In the face of this onslaught the Conservative Government's response has been totally inadequate. The Spring Financial Statement in March and the Queen's Speech in May had nothing for working people. Labour has demanded an emergency budget with a windfall tax to get money off people's bills as well as an employment bill (which the Government had promised) to help protect workers from unscrupulous employers like P&O. We need a real plan for growth to get our economy firing on all cylinders, with a Climate Investment Pledge and a commitment to buy, make and sell more in Britain.

The local elections were positive for Labour across the country and in Newcastle. Across Newcastle Central, the whole of the Labour's share of the vote rose from 52% to 55%, sending a clear message to Boris Johnson! I campaigned in every ward in Newcastle Central with a Labour candidate and in target wards in Newcastle East.

I had Covid over Easter. Fortunately it was not serious, but it did leave me unable to work effectively for a couple of weeks. The government wants to declare Covid 'beaten' but for many working people, for our NHS and for the vulnerable, the battle is still being fought! The Prime Minister's refusal to take responsibility for his one rule for them approach to Covid restrictions is very distressing to the many who have made terrible sacrifices during the pandemic.



Unison Regional Conference

# BACKBENCH AND CONSTITUENCY ROLE

Ukraine continues to provide a significant amount of casework, unfortunately the delays and incompetence of the Home Office continues. I raised this in Parliament and Tony has spoken repeatedly with the Home Office regarding every case.

I spoke at a moving candlelit vigil for the Ukraine, outside Newcastle Cathedral.

I visited Washington DC as part of a British-American Parliamentary Delegation to discuss National Security and Trade. We met with members of Congress, Senators, Government officials and third sector organisations. Two clear messages stood out – the US wants to partner with Britain to strengthen national security and improve supply chain resilience, but there will be no trade deal with the US if the Good Friday Agreement is undermined.

I hosted a Parliamentary Export Event jointly with the Department of Trade to encourage Newcastle businesses to export.

I continue to engage with the Prime Minister, Ministers, Government Agencies and others regarding families of constituents in the Ukraine, cuts to dementia research funding, conditions for social housing tenants, the Eldon Square war memorial, the importance of the Hadrian's Wall trail in the West End and on behalf of an art gallery in dispute with their landlord.

Meeting up with Urban Green



## MEDIA

Quoted regularly in national and local media including Metro Radio, Tyne Tees, Around the House, Tyne Bridge, BBC Politics, Older Voices



Bingo session in Blakelaw

## SHADOW MINISTERIAL AND PES ROLE

Following the Spring Statement we continued our analysis of Government R&D spending. Government is rolling back on the promises it made to increase spending. The Government also don't believe in spreading the benefits of innovation and technology around the country. Funding is disproportionately focused on London and the South East.

I continue to meet with science, research and innovation stakeholders.

I held two roundtables on Science policy one in Westminster with small businesses and another in Newcastle with research intensive universities

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## ORGANISATION

A lot of change in our office teams! Maddy has left as Parliamentary Researcher, we wish her well. Gareth is stepping into the role on a temporary basis and we have recruited Keir Lewis to start in June. Keir is from Newcastle/Hexham and currently working for a child poverty charity.

Lucy has joined us as Administrative Trainee, a one year post.

# Parliamentary Activity

## SPEAKING FROM THE FRONT BENCH: 1

Sub-Postmasters: Compensation 22 Mar 2022;

## AND FROM THE BACK BENCH: 10

Points of Order Government's Social Mobility Commission 28 Apr 2022 ; Homes for Ukraine: Visa Application Centres 28 Apr 2022 ; Topical Questions 28 Apr 2022; Football Governance 25 Apr 2022 ; Topical Questions - US-UK trade deal 21 Apr 2022; Easter Recess: Government Update 19 Apr 2022; Global Migration Challenge 19 Apr 2022 Metropolitan Police: Strip-search of Schoolgirl 21 Mar 2022 Levelling Up: Bus Services in Newcastle 17 Mar 2022; Executions in Saudi Arabia 14 Mar 2022

## WRITTEN: 95

NHSX 28 Apr 2022 NHS: Databases 28 Apr 2022 Immigration: Children 28 Apr 2022 Regional Planning and Development 28 Apr 2022 Medical Records: Databases 28 Apr 2022 Medical Records: Data Protection 28 Apr 2022 Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre: Finance 28 Apr 2022 UK Research and Innovation: Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 28 Apr 2022 Innovate UK: Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 28 Apr 2022 Cancer: Research 28 Apr 2022 Cancer: Research 28 Apr 2022 Cancer: Medical Treatments 28 Apr 2022 Horizon Europe 27 Apr 2022 Horizon Europe: Finance 27 Apr 2022 Horizon Europe: Finance 27 Apr 2022 Horizon Europe 27 Apr 2022show related items (1) EURATOM and Horizon Europe: Grants 27 April 2022Innovate UK: Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 27 Apr 2022 Cancer: Mortality Rates 27 Apr 2022 Coronavirus: Vaccination 27 Apr 2022 Pedestrian Areas 26 Apr 2022 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Research 26 Apr 2022 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Research 26 Apr 2022 Use of Health Data for Research and Analysis Review 26 Apr 2022

Medical Records: Data Protection 26 Apr 2022 UK Shared Prosperity Fund 26 Apr 2022 Jet Zero Council: Public Appointments 26 Apr 2022 Aviation: Alternative Fuels 26 Apr 2022 Research: Data Protection 26 Apr 2022Cancer: Research 26 Apr 2022 Cancer: Research 26 Apr 2022 Business: Tax Allowances 26 Apr 2022 Tax Allowances 26 Apr 2022 Research: Tax Allowances 26 Apr 2022 Research: Tax Allowances 26 Apr 2022 Research: Tax Allowances 26 Apr 2022 Cancer: Health Services 26 Apr 2022 Trade: USA 26 Apr 2022 Nigeria: English Language 26 Apr 2022 Medical Technologies Directorate: Life Sciences 26 Apr 2022 Health: Data Protection 26 Apr 2022 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Research 25 Apr 2022 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Research 25 Apr 2022 Research: Tax Allowances 25 Apr 2022 Research: Tax Allowances 25 Apr 2022 Fuels: Excise Duties 25 Apr 2022 Economic and Social Research Council: Public Appointments 25 Apr 2022 Advanced Research and Invention Agency: Pay 25 Apr 2022 Health Professions: Cancer 25 Apr 2022Regional Planning and Development: Publicity 25 Apr 2022 NHS: Innovation 25 Apr 2022 Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 21 Apr 2022 NHS: Databases 19 Apr 2022 Refugees: Ukraine 14 Apr 2022 Health: Data Protection 13 Apr 2022Refugees: Ukraine 11 Apr 2022 T-levels: Work Experience 05 Apr 2022 Vocational Guidance: STEM Subjects 05 Apr 2022 Apprentices: STEM Subjects 05 Apr 2022 English Language: Education 04 Apr 2022 British Airways: Data Protection 01 Apr 2022 Horizon Europe: Finance 31 Mar 2022 Visas: Refugees 31 Mar 2022 Medical Technologies Directorate: Life Sciences 31 Mar 2022) Government Departments: Internet 31 Mar 2022 South Africa: Carbon Emissions 30 Mar 2022 Energy: Carbon Emissions 30 Mar 2022 Belarus: Development Aid 30 Mar 2022 Visas: Ukraine 24 Mar 2022 Home Office: Internet 18 Mar 2022 Home Office: Internet 18 Mar 2022 Home Office: Internet 18 Mar 2022 Internet: Data Protection 17 Mar 2022 Training: Regional Planning and Development 16 Mar 2022 Coronavirus: Screening 16 Mar 2022 Belarus: Development Aid 15 Mar 2022 Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 15 Mar 2022 Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 15 Mar 2022 Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 15 Mar 2022 Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 15 Mar 2022 Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre 15 Mar 2022 NHS: Universities 15 Mar 2022 Transport: Freight 14 Mar 2022 Future Combat Air System: Finance 14 Mar 2022 Defence: Regional Planning and Development 14 Mar 2022 Immigration: Afghanistan 14 Mar 2022 Training: Regional Planning and Development 14 Mar 2022 Training: Regional Planning and Development 14 Mar 2022 Asylum: Ukraine 14 Mar 2022 Afghanistan: Emigration 11 Mar 2022 Medicines and Diagnostics Manufacturing Transformation Fund 11 Mar 2022Global Britain Investment Fund: Life Sciences 11 Mar 2022 Life Sciences: Manufacturing Industries 11 Mar 2022 Global Britain Investment Fund: Life Sciences 11 Mar 2022 OneWeb: Satellites 11 Mar 2022

# MEETINGS

Unison Northern Labour Link Forum, R3 Insolvency & restructuring, Aaron Booth, National Assembly of Zambia, Mirwais Yasini Afgan Parliament, North East Culture 2022, Hadrian's Wall Lady Gibson & Joyce Quinn, APPG Africa, APPG Universities, CHAMP St Patricks Day, Patchwork Foundation, Minister of Defence Mozambique, Riverside Community Health Project, Integrated Covid Hub Innovation lab, Nuns Moor litter picking, Nazir Afzal book interview, National Down Syndrome Policy Group, Areil Armony Pittsburgh University, Gingerbread Single Parents Day, Lt General Roly Walker, Renters Reform Coalition, Lockheed, UkCloud Investment, Chanel 5 at 25, Adrian Smith Royal Society President, Frances Haugen, Tate Britain Life Between Islands, Mobile UK PSTI Bill, National Centres for Universities & Business, English Tourism, Newcastle Bangladeshi Association, BAPG Delegation to Washington – Ambassador Karen Pierce, Atlantic Council Roundtable, Department of Labor, Department of State, USTR, House Armed Services, Association of Marshall Scholars, Senate BAPG, House Foreign Affairs Committee, AFL, Members of Congress, US Capitol tour, Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe; Chris Day Newcastle University, Joint Ex-Service Association, WithyouWithme, Institutes of Technology, Archax, Engineering UK, Guide Dogs, Better Business, Diabetes Uk, Fair Game, Vodafone, Taxi & Private Hire Awards, Support War Memorials, Royal Society of St George, Lyttleton Theatre, Police & Crime Commissioner,

Jesters Forgotten Stories of North East Comedy, Blossom Festival Exhibition Park, Barbara Borts, South Africa High Commissioner Farewell, Vaisakhi, Alzheimer's Research, APPG Creative Diversity, Big Bang in Parliament, APPG University Group, People's postcode lottery, BP, Make UK, Atkins graduate Rail apprentice, Bloom, Blakelaw Social Club bingo, NUFC vs Liverpool, UNESCO Jazz Day Globe, Reflection Day Hindu Temple, Northern Stage, Wastes & Strays Exhibition Wylam Brewery, Science Museum Directors Dinner; Rockaway Blockchain investor summit, Newcastle University Folk Degree celebration, Grassroots football



Newcastle University student research



Backing Fans Foodbank collection



Town Moor exhibition at Wylam Brewery

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Newcastle University Science Fair, Royal Society Pairing Scheme, Hewlett Packard digital manufacturing, Royal Society pairing Scheme mock committee, ITV Tyne Tees Around the House, SME Roundtable How to drive private sector R&D, Newcastle University virtual visit to Parliament, Parliamentary Export event, Renaissance Long Term prosperity, COP26 Innovation Roundtable, International Longevity Centre Work for Tomorrow Awards, Creative Majority Kings College, New Statesman & GW Pharmaceuticals Life Sciences & Making the UK a science superpower, Candlelit Vigil for Ukraine Newcastle, NUCASTLE opening event, Older Voices Elder's Council, Yonder interview re Sky, Association for Black Engineers, Liverpool City Region APPG, Bob Hughes memorial, Chair APPG Diversity in STEM, National Innovation Centre for Data & Turing Institute debate levelling up, One Big Iftar Diversity Hub, Commemoration of Rwanda genocide, Newcastle University Community Based research in politics, University Roundtable – Universities as drivers for economic growth, New Statesman Levelling up in Action, Yonder interview Sky

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Visit to Bloom – a business enabling smaller companies to seek public contracts

## REACH OUT

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**PLEASE NOTE OFFICE VISITS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**TWITTER:** [@CHIONWURAH](https://twitter.com/CHIONWURAH)

**FACEBOOK:** [NEWCASTLECHI](https://www.facebook.com/newcastlechi)

**INSTAGRAM:** [CHIONWURAHNCLMP](https://www.instagram.com/chionwurahncldp)

**TOP TWEET IN APRIL:**

**OUTRAGEOUS AND WRONG. WOMEN & GIRLS IN #STEM HAVE BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST THIS NONSENSE FOR DECADES, WE DON'T NEED THESE TIRED TROPES FROM SOMEONE WHO IS SUPPOSED TO CHAMPION SOCIAL MOBILITY. A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN SCIENCE OR WHATEVER SUBJECT SHE CHOSSES. [TWITTER.COM/CHRISCHIRP/STA...](https://twitter.com/CHRISCHIRP/STATUS/17106370)**

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 **Labour**