

# DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI** ONWURAH

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



With Sheffield University students at the Gene Therapy Innovation and Manufacturing centre

## A BUSINESS AS USUAL BUDGET

In March, the (latest) Chancellor delivered a business as usual budget when what we needed was real change, real change to reverse 13 years of Tory austerity and low growth which has made life so hard for so many in Newcastle. Every day constituents contact me tell me they need change. Wages in the North East are three percent lower now than they were in 2010. The Tories' budget will not make people richer apart from the top one percent who get tax cuts for their pensions. In my speech in Parliament in response I said we didn't need any short term sticking plaster policies and politics, we need a Labour Government to unleash the huge potential of the North East – and I highlighted some of the fantastic companies in Newcastle who could be the basis for real growth and great jobs.

The other big political story was that the Tories brought their unworkable, unaffordable and immoral Illegal Migration Bill to Parliament. The irony is that it will probably be illegal under international law, but all they want is the opportunity to incite hatred and division to distract from their years and years of failure.

Throughout March, Labour built upon the five core missions outlined by Keir Starmer earlier this year. Our plan for a mission-driven government will work relentlessly towards measurable long-term national goals. We will:

- 1) Secure the highest sustained growth in the G7
- 2) Make Britain a clean energy superpower
- 3) Build an NHS fit for the future
- 4) Break down the barriers to opportunity at every stage
- 5) Make Britain's streets safe

These missions will form the backbone of Labour's election manifesto and if we are elected will drive forward our government.

Labour will continue to offer a bold, positive and long term vision for the North East and the country.

# BACKBENCH AND CONSTITUENCY ROLE

Surgeries have been very busy with a wide range of concerns. Many constituents still face rising bills, higher costs and wages that haven't risen for 13 years. The budget gave a handout for the richest 1% at the wrong time, for the wrong people.

Some asylum seekers in Newcastle have received letters containing a 50 point questionnaire. Those who receive this letter have been told they must return the Questionnaire within 20 working days risk removal from the country, including applicants who have been waiting for over a year for a decision from the Home Office. I will be tabling some Parliamentary Questions on this matter.

It was a real joy to join the Newcastle Jafaria society Nowruz celebrations to welcome the Persian New Year, Spring, and the contribution of the Afghan community to Newcastle.

I continue to engage with the Prime Minister, Ministers, Government Agencies and others regarding local bus services.

## MEDIA

I have been quoted and appeared in many local and national outlets on a variety of subjects in the last month.

I was interviewed by ITV Tyne Tees in reaction to the Chancellors budget, to discuss what the announcements would mean for the North East. I was also interviewed by ITV Tyne Tees about the crisis facing NHS Dentistry across the country and which is disproportionately affecting my constituents and people in the North East.

My continued scrutiny of the government's record on science received media attention. My reaction to the budget and the Science and Technology Framework featured in Research Fortnight and other

## ORGANISATION

I sought to recruit a paid part time intern in the Westminster office. After a round of application and interviews, there were two exceptional candidates, both who will join team. Elizabeth Bircham will join the team immediately and Samira Chowdhury who will join the team in the summer.



Meeting staff at LNER's call centre



With Asthma+ Lung UK to hear about the benefits more research could bring to the NHS and patients

## SHADOW MINISTERIAL AND PES ROLE

The first Science, Innovation and Technology (SIT) questions took place on 15th March. I used this opportunity to ask why the Tories were hitting the North East's brightest and best businesses with a quadruple whammy of

- Slashed R&D credits
- £120m loss of European Regional Development Funding
- Lowest business investment in G7
- No association with Horizon Europe

The Minister said he did not recognise these as problems but for the businesses I speak to every day, it certainly is. The new Secretary of State, Michelle Donelan also struggled to answer many of the questions from the Labour front and back benches, including questions from members of her own party.

The government published their latest in a long list of strategies and plans for science: the Science and Technology Framework. However, I fear this framework is another wish list, designed to be shelved or scrapped at the earliest convenience by a government addicted to sticking plaster

I have continued to hold the government to account for their dismal record on science, including seeking clarity on our association to the world's biggest science funding programme, Horizon Europe

I visited Sheffield University in addition to many other stakeholders in the research, business and science communities to discuss how we can build an Innovation Nation.

# Parliamentary Activity

## FROM THE FRONT BENCH: 2

Science and Technology Research: North East 15 Mar 2023  
Science and Technology Framework 7 Mar 2023

## FROM THE BACK BENCH: 6

Afghan Resettlement Update 28 Mar  
Strip Searching of Children 28 Mar  
Budget Resolutions and Economic Situation 20 Mar  
Nigerian Elections 14 Mar  
Silicon Valley Bank 13 Mar  
Topical Questions 6 Mar

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS: 84

Technology 29 Mar 2023  
Trade Promotion: Technology 29 Mar 2023  
Technology Centre of Expertise: Costs 29 Mar 2023  
Technology Centre of Expertise: Location 29 Mar 2023  
British Patient Capital 28 Mar 2023  
Science: Finance 28 Mar 2023  
Trade Promotion 28 Mar 2023  
Research: Expenditure 28 Mar 2023  
Clinical Trials: Reviews 28 Mar 2023  
Innovation and Research 28 Mar 2023  
Research: Regional Planning and Development 27 Mar 2023  
House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 174292 27 Mar 2023  
House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 174291 27 Mar 2023  
House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 174290 27 Mar 2023  
Lung Diseases: Health Services 27 Mar 2023  
Lung Diseases: Research 27 Mar 2023  
Integrated Care Boards: Patients 27 Mar 2023  
Trade Marks: Foreign Companies 27 Mar 2023  
Innovation and Research: Economic Situation 27 Mar 2023  
3D Printing: Capital Allowances 27 Mar 2023  
UK Innovation & Science Seed Fund 27 Mar 2023  
Science: Regional Planning and Development 24 Mar 2023  
Horizon Europe 24 Mar 2023  
Research: Tax Allowances 24 Mar 2023  
Social Media: Artificial Intelligence 24 Mar 2023  
Mental Health Services: Asylum 24 Mar 2023  
Spaceflight 24 Mar 2023  
Spaceflight: Staff 24 Mar 2023  
Spaceflight 24 Mar 2023  
Virgin Orbit 24 Mar 2023  
British Patient Capital 24 Mar 2023  
Football: Sportsgrounds 24 Mar 2023  
Academies: Admissions 24 Mar 2023  
Police: Vetting 23 Mar 2023  
Lung Diseases: Research 23 Mar 2023  
Respiratory System: Research 23 Mar 2023  
NHS: Life Sciences 23 Mar 2023

Research and Development Tax Credit 23 Mar 2023  
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Finance 23 Mar 2023  
British Patient Capital 23 Mar 2023  
Science: Finance 23 Mar 2023  
Science and Technology: Research 23 Mar 2023  
ICT: Innovation 22 Mar 2023  
Quantum Technology: Finance 22 Mar 2023  
Science and Technology: Research 22 Mar 2023  
Innovation 22 Mar 2023  
STEM Subjects: Equality 22 Mar 2023  
Civil Servants: Recruitment 22 Mar 2023  
Space Technology 22 Mar 2023  
Research and Development Tax Credit 21 Mar 2023  
Research and Development Tax Credit 21 Mar 2023  
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Finance 21 Mar 2023  
Hillsborough Stadium: Safety 21 Mar 2023  
Academies: Admissions 21 Mar 2023  
Silicon Valley Bank UK 21 Mar 2023  
Silicon Valley Bank UK 21 Mar 2023  
Research: Tax Allowances 20 Mar 2023  
Carbon Capture and Storage: Finance 20 Mar 2023  
Small Businesses: Tax Allowances 20 Mar 2023  
Horizon Europe 20 Mar 2023  
STEM Subjects: Employment 20 Mar 2023  
Horizon Europe 17 Mar 2023  
Technology: Financial Services 17 Mar 2023  
Silicon Valley Bank UK 17 Mar 2023  
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Staff 14 Mar 2023  
Horizon Europe 14 Mar 2023  
Science and Technology: Research 14 Mar 2023  
Mental Health Services 10 Mar 2023  
Technology: Finance 10 Mar 2023  
Science: Finance 10 Mar 2023  
Small Businesses: Exports 09 Mar 2023  
Mental Health Services: Children 08 Mar 2023  
Horizon Europe 07 Mar 2023  
Horizon Europe: Northern Ireland Protocol 07 Mar 2023  
Employment: Training 06 Mar 2023  
Research: Finance 06 Mar 2023  
Research: Finance 06 Mar 2023  
EURATOM and Horizon Europe: Finance 06 Mar 2023  
Manufacturing Industries: Telecommunications 06 Mar 2023  
Advanced Research and Invention Agency: Finance 03 Mar 2023  
EURATOM and Horizon Europe: Finance 03 Mar 2023



With Tyneside Irish Brigade for St Patrick's Day remembrance Service



At Atkinson Road Primary school in Benwell

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Jafaria Society Persian New Year, Royal Society pairing scheme reception, Atkins Powering Up people report launch, Growing International Trade in Services Roadshow, Sir Gareth Roberts Memorial Lecture, US Embassy STEAM Inclusion summit, SME4Labour roundtable, Schools Northeast Roundtable with Heads, Shuri Network with Fiona McDonald, Newcastle Uni African Caribbean Society, WEA Green Network and WEA NE Green Branch Conference, STEM for Britain 2023, Stand up to Racism North East Event, Keynote at the UK Reproducibility Network annual meeting, Unison northern Labour link Forum panel discussion, Northumbria and Newcastle Universities' Lithuanian Society Ukrainian support fundraiser, Railway Industry Association Innovation Conference



At Newcastle and Northumbria's Lithuanian Society Ukrainian support fundraiser



At the Growing International Trade in Services Roadshow at St James Park - discussing the regional economic strengths of Newcastle and the North East

## MEETINGS AND VISITS

NERS visit, Institute of Chartered Engineers, ARIA CEO Ilan Gur, Healthworks, Historic England re: Swing Bridge, UKRI visit, Walk to school initiative from St Michael's RC Primary School, Marie Curie Hospice, Vikram Doraiswami High Commission of India, Gosforth Junior Chess visit, Commonwealth Memorial Gates Commemoration, Association of Investment Companies, Fair Charge Meeting, Diabetes services in Newcastle, Sam Forster Labour North, Newcastle Independent Schools, WASPI, Tony Blair Institute & GFI Europe Sustainable Proteins roundtable, Africa APPG, Neil Foster, Palantir briefing, Sheffield visit Factory e050, Rinri Therapeutics & Phlux Sheffield Uni, LNER call centre, RGS visit, YHN/NCC re insulation, MP Newcastle City Council meeting, SME4Labour event, Graham Peek Digital Service, Dayo Okewale Abbvie IBD, Sarah Atkinson CEO Social Mobility Foundation, Africa APPG with ICAI, Stripe UK Public Policy Lead, Shadowed by Royal Society Dr Benjamin Guedj High Commissioner Nigeria Richard Montgomery call, Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan National Science Foundation, PLP Meeting with Paul Nowak, Royal Society of Chemistry demo event drop in

DEAR NEWCASTLE,  
**CHI ONWURAH**  
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



At the Jafaria society for the Persian  
New Year celebration

## REACH OUT

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**Please note surgeries are by appointment only.  
Surgeries take place:**

On First and Third Fridays of the month (except August) at City Library, NE1 8AX, from 1.00pm-2.00pm

On First Friday of the month at West End Service Centre, NE4 9JH, 3.00pm-3.45pm

On First Saturday of the month online, from 10am

**To book phone: 0191 232 5838**

**Twitter:**

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**Facebook:**

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[chionwurahncmp](https://www.instagram.com/chionwurahncmp)

**TOP TWEET IN FEBRUARY:**

#NUFC are about to play their first cup final since 1999. But fans have contacted me to say, two weeks before the match, it is impossible to book a train from Newcastle to London on the day. I've written to @LNER Director to ask what they're doing meet the demand.

[pic.twitter.com/y1fQa6MbxL](https://pic.twitter.com/y1fQa6MbxL)

