

# DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI** ONWURAH

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



Opening Blakelaw Christmas Market with local councillors Juna Sathian and Linda Hobson

## AN AUTUMN STATEMENT FOR A FAILING GOVERNMENT

The King's Speech was notable for being the first by a King for 73 years. Unfortunately the content did not reflect the challenges real people are facing. The Festive Season is a time when the demands on the household budget are at their greatest – high energy bills, rising rents with presents to be bought, travel costs associated with family get togethers. The hard truth is that under the Tories disposable income will have risen by £42 pounds over 14 years. The price of food has gone up 29% this parliament (comparing December 2019 with October 2023). Over the 13 years of the last Labour Government, disposable income rose by £10,000. The tax burden is at its highest since 1947 but what are we paying for – not for better services that is clear. The Tories have presided over a lost decade where people have got poorer and public services are broken.

Despite this for his 'Autumn Statement' the Chancellor chose to pretend everything in the garden was rosy – but the Tory garden doesn't look anything like life in Newcastle right now.

He said he was cutting taxes – when he was just handing back £1 for every £8 the Tories have taken. He also announced some investment for the automotive sector but not on the scale needing to deliver good jobs here in Newcastle. The Autumn Statement showed just how out of touch and out of ideas the Government is.

The suffering in the Gaza Strip is unimaginable. I was deeply distressed that the humanitarian pause – which included a suspension of the bombing, hostage release and more humanitarian aid – ended and that hostilities and therefore horrendous suffering has resumed. We need to do everything we can to move towards a cessation of hostilities and a renewed peace process. Labour is proposing a Middle East Peace Envoy to drive this forward. We also need to be clear that the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction over Israel and Gaza.

# BACKBENCH AND CONSTITUENCY ROLE

I spoke in the Kings Speech , asking why the Government was failing the people Newcastle Central The announcement of the North East Space Skills and Technology Centre, with investment from Lockheed Martin and Northumbria highlighted the possibilities the future holds for us.

Parliament was 'prorogued' for the Kings speech which meant I could spend more time Newcastle. My visits included local branches of Nationwide and Virgin Money, Newcastle City Centre Job Centre as well as the Diwali celebrations of Newcastle's Hindu community.

For Armistice Day I joined the Salvation Army at their new site in Fenham to remember the fallen. For Remembrance Sunday I was, of course, at Old Eldon Square for a beautiful and moving service. On St Andrews Day I joined the Tyneside Scottish Branch for a service at St Andrews Church in Newgate.

I was concerned to learn that Newcastle Hospitals Trust has lost its outstanding rating and am working to understand what the underlying issues are.

## MEDIA

I featured as a panel guest on ITV Tyne Tees "Around the House" discussing the chaotic Tory reshuffle, the Autumn Statement, and the implications of AI for our region. I also appeared on BBC Look North, responding to the government's Autumn Statement which did not offer enough for my constituents.



Fantastic Diwali celebrations in the West End



Speaking at the UK Space Conference in Belfast where £50m was announced for the North East Space Skills and Technology Centre

## SHADOW MINISTERIAL AND PES ROLE

The first Science Innovation and Technology questions were held in Parliament, just after Sunak finally sacked his Home Secretary and then had to reshuffle his Cabinet. I raised the importance of removing regulatory barriers for innovative small climate tech companies but the new Science Minister didn't seem to understand the issue!

I visited Belfast to see the work of Queens University in innovation and commercialisation including QUBIS which helps start-ups / spin-outs access capital. I also gave a keynote speech at the UK Space conference emphasising the importance of space to the UK economy.

## ORGANISATION

We were joined by two Newcastle University placement students, Noah and Ella.





# Parliamentary Activity

## FROM THE FRONT BENCH: 1

Net Zero Technologies: University Research

## FROM THE BACK BENCH: 6

British Steel 8 November Occupied Palestinian Territories: Humanitarian Situation 8 November Economic Growth 14 November Asylum Applications 15 November UEFA Euro 2028 16 November Israel and Hamas: Humanitarian Pause 27 November

16 November 2023 Newcastle Station: Access 16 November 2023 Taxis: Newcastle upon Tyne 16 November 2023 Visas: Applications 16 November 2023 Science: Research 16 November 2023 East Coast Main Line: Railway Signals 16 November 2023 Gastrointestinal System: Diseases (2) 16 November 2023 Dementia: Clinical Trials 15 November 2023 Science and Technology 15 December 2023 Students: Loans 15 November 2023 Science and Technology 15 December 2023 Students: Loans 15 November 2023 Space 14 November 2023 STEM Subjects: New Businesses 14 November 2023 Universities: Equality 14 November 2023 Civil Servants: STEM Subjects 14 November 2023 Horizon Europe 14 November 2023

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS: 43

Space 30 November 2023 Francis Crick Institute: Finance 30 November 2023 Clinical Trials: Finance 28 November 2023 Research, Development, and Innovation Organisational Landscape Review 27 November 2023 Research: Finance 27 November 2023 Dementia: Research 27 November 2023 Inflammatory Bowel Disease 23 November 2023 Office for Life Sciences 21 November 2023 Diabetes: Medical Equipment (3) 20 November 2023 STEM Subjects 17 November 2023 STEM Subjects: Teachers (2) 17 November 2023 Electricians 17 November 2023 Nuclear Reactors: Planning Permission 17 November 2023 Nuclear Reactors: National Policy Statement 17 November 2023 East Coast Main Line: Weather 16 November 2023 Defence: New Businesses 16 November 2023 Department for Science, Innovation and Technology: Equality 16 November 2023 STEM Subjects: Employment 16 November 2023 Science: Research 16 November 2023 Francis Crick Institute 16 November 2023 Space: Vacancies 16 November 2023 OneWeb (3) 16 November Project Gigabit: Finance



Celebrating Unison's Local Services Champions in Parliament.



Meeting the Dean of Newcastle Cathedral, Reverend Canon Lee Batson, to discuss how we can work together for Newcastle

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Museums Association, Labour Financial Services, Nationwide Women in STEM, Nash Squared, Global Genomics Conference, Labour Societies Event, MAP Patient Access, Get Britain Building Again, UKAgeNet, EMEX, UK Space Conference, Climate Tech Reception.

## MEETINGS AND VISITS

Islamic Diversity Centre at City Library, NHS Genomics, Universal Defence and Security, British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association, Mark Walport, Pearson Engineering, Tyneside Welcomes, Vincent de Paul Centre, Diwali Craft in West Libraries, Dean of Newcastle, Westgate Community Complex, Brunswich Methodist Church, New Zealand High Commissioner, Matt Western and David Willets, Oxford Instruments, National Grid, British Toy and Hobby Association, Foundation for Science and Technology and the Resolution Foundation, Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association UK, APPG Africa, Protium, UK Major Ports, Science Council, Illumina, Rail Delivery Group, GMB, Newcastle University, Job Centre, Baringa, North East Housing Partnership, TUC, Lloyds London, Academy of Mathematical Sciences, Anthony Finbow Eagle Genomics, British Healthcare Trades Association, Alondra Nelson, British Plastics Foundation, Performing Right Society for Music, Asea Brown Boveri, Rob Doubleday, British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association, Queen University Belfast, Lord Mayor of City of London, Castle Leazes, Virgin Money, Reform Synagogue, Small Business Saturday,

Electrical contractors Association, ALQST, Janet Rogan Royal Africa Society, Moderna, Abbott, NHS England, L'OREAL, Police Federation of England & Wales, GovGrant, Tax Resolute, Fortnum and Mason Roundtable; Andersen UK; Saffrey, Menzies, Mazars, Mercer & Hole, Westcotts, Rawlinson Hunter, Builders Merchants Federation, UK Civil Aviation Authority Space Regulation, Life Arc, Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases, MSD Incisive Health, Infex Therapeutics, National Association of Local Councils, Astroscale, AdvaMed, Action for Southern Africa, Jaguar Land Rover, Ilika and Yasa, Advanced Propulsion Centre UK, Royal Artillery Association, Escape Key, VisitEngland, Northumbria University, Tesco, John McCabe, Graeme Anderson; Museums Association, Labour Financial Services, Nationwide Women in STEM, Nash Squared, Global Genomics Conference, Labour Societies Event, MAP Patient Access, Get Britain Building Again, UKAgeNet, EMEX, UK Space Conference, Climate Tech Reception.





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With the City of Newcastle Pipe Band who gave an inspiring performance in the Remembrance Sunday Parade

## REACH OUT

**WEBSITE:**

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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:**

[@ChiOnwurah](https://twitter.com/ChiOnwurah)

**Facebook:**

[NewcastleChi](https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleChi)

**Instagram:**

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

**TOP TWEET IN NOVEMBER:**

Vote, vote, vote #NUFC: #KitWorldCup Final:  
Newcastle United v Universitario Vote for football's  
best club kit!

<https://twitter.com/chionwurah/status/1727390145115263434?s=46>

