

DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI** ONWURAH

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



Fascinating & inspiring tour of the Blood Sciences Lab at the RVI

RISHI BOTTLES IT!

I hope everybody was able to take some time with family and friends over the Festive period. It is important to have the opportunity to rest and recharge. The return to politics was not what I had hoped. The Prime Minister tried to dampen speculation on when an election would take place – he said his working assumption was the second half of the year. So he managed to hugely disappoint all of us who want an election as soon as possible whilst not actually ruling it out. He is obviously running scared but he needs to put the country before his own fear of losing his job. It is so clear that the Government isn't fit to govern. So much of Britain appears broken – whether its long NHS waiting lists, our broken asylum system, or working people simply getting poorer.

The Prime Minister needs to stop hiding, stop being so weak, stop squatting in Number 10 without a mandate and simply come clean with the public: when will the British people get their say on 14 years of Tory failure.

The Horizon Post Scandal is probably the greatest miscarriage of justice in Britain's history.

I raised it over eight times in Parliament as did many MPs who detailed the terrible situation of constituents. But it took an ITV Christmas Drama to actually bring real public attention to their cause, and force the Government to finally act. This highlights both the power of the media, and the limitations of accountability and scrutiny in our system.

The New Year has not brought any relief to the people of Gaza, or for the hostages held by Hamas. Labour is calling for action now. As our Shadow Foreign Secretary said on the first day Parliament returned

"This dire situation must not continue. The need for a sustained ceasefire is clear. The fighting must stop urgently. We need a humanitarian truce now—not as a short pause but as the first step towards what will stop the killing of innocents, provide urgent humanitarian relief, ward off famine, free hostages and provide the space for a sustainable ceasefire so that fighting does not restart."

BACKBENCH AND CONSTITUENCY ROLE

It was a pleasure to take part in many local festivities, nativities and carol services in the run up to the holiday period. I was particularly impressed by the musical abilities of our primary school students!

I participated in an all party parliamentary delegation to COP28, to champion the North East and learnt more about the impacts of climate change across the world. I spoke to Nissan about the impact of climate change on the North East motor industry and met with delegations from Ghana, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Norway and Germany. Whilst I would have liked COP28 to go further, I was pleased that the Loss and Damage fund was finally in place.

MEDIA

Quoted in local and national media. In particular I spoke about my hopes for COP28, including championing the North East's environmentalists credentials, which was picked up by regional media including the [Chronicle](#).



I met with the National Union of Journalists about Reach's latest 450 job cuts. Job cuts will reduce coverage in Newcastle, including NUFC.

SHADOW MINISTERIAL ROLE

The UK finally entered Horizon – a mere 137 weeks late! The Conservative Government tried to obtain political mileage from its much anticipated entry into Horizon but the vast majority of the science community were concerned at how long it had taken.

I visited Bournemouth and Southampton Universities to see the innovative research and development work there, including in social care and optical fibres.

Whilst in Australia for personal reasons I took the opportunity to take a look at the Australian Innovation system. I met with Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), Main Sequence, which was set up in 2017 to manage the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Innovation Fund. I toured the University of Sydney including their Manufacturing Hub, their Knowledge Hub and Sydney Nano, where they are working on the latest breakthroughs in quantum computing technology and nanofabrication.

ORGANISATION

Carol Stanners, our long-standing and hard working Senior Secretary has regrettably chosen to resign. We are recruiting her replacement actively.



Great visit to Bournemouth University showcasing innovative healthcare research



Representing my constituents at COP28 as part of an all party parliamentary delegation

Parliamentary Activity

FROM THE BACK BENCH: 4

Newcastle City Council Finance 4 December
Israel and Palestine 12 December
Socioeconomic Inequality 14 December
Hadrian's Wall 11 January

WRITTEN QUESTIONS: 43

Palantir 11 January 2024
Dementia Research 21 December 2023
Transport: Newcastle upon Tyne 18 December 2023
Further Education and Higher Education 18 December 2023
NHS Databases 18 December 2023
Visa Applications 14 December 2023
Technology Procurement 12 December 2023
Satellites 12 December 2023
Space Technology: Civil Defence 12 December 2023
STEM Subjects: Employments 11 December 2023
NHS Standards 11 December 2023
Energy Billing 11 December 2023
Science Research 11 December 2023
Chief Scientific Officer 11 December 2023
Energy Billing 8 December 2023
Space Technology 7 December 2023
Skynet 7 December 2023
Research Bureaucracy Review 7 December 2023
NHS Databases 7 December 2023
Space Technology 6 December 2023
Space Debris 6 December 2023
Future Fund: Breakthrough 6 December 2023
Kenya: Ogiek 5 December 2023
Cystic Fibrosis: Children 5 December 2023
Pro-innovation Regulation of Technology 5 December 2023
Space 5 December 2023
Satellite Applications Catapult 5 December 2023
Space 5 December 2023
Pro-innovation Regulation of Technology 5 December 2023
Research Bureaucracy Review 5 December 2023
Francis Crick Institute 5 December 2023

STEM Subjects: Employment 5 December 2023
Innovation 5 December 2023
Horizon Europe 5 December 2023
Research: Finance 4 December 2023
STEM Subjects: Employment 4 December 2023
East Coast Main Line: Railway Signals 4 December 2023
Defence Space Technology 4 December 2023
Research Finance 4 December 2023
Investment 4 December 2023
Visas: Skilled Workers 4 December 2023
Research Bureaucracy Review 4 December 2023



The NEPIC North East Pharmaceutical Showcase in Parliament.



Wonderful Nativity concert at Kenton Bar Primary

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Diversity in STEM APPG Event, Imperial SynbiTECH, Digital Connectivity Forum, Higher Education Engage, Northeast Process Industry Cluster, LGBTQ+ unSTEMinar, Christmas Parliamentary Science Reception.

MEETINGS AND VISITS

Kidney Care UK, Epilepsy Action UK, Society of Chemical Industry, Splunk, Unison, Specsavers, Association of British Healthtech Industries, Urenco, British Academy, Google, UCL Business, Business Services Association, Bournemouth East PPC, Laurence Tubiana, Nissan, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Mark Watts, Iberdrola, Center for American Progress, Kew Gardens, Malaria No More UK, Association of Optometrists, The Mirror, Yachad, University of St Andrews, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Fairtrade, H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem, Sydney University ARENA, CSIRO, Bournemouth University, Southampton University, COP28, Kenton Bar Primary School, Hawthorn Primary School, Changing Lives Red Umbrella event, RVI, Reach, Community Foundation



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CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



At the Santa's Grotto Bus on Northumberland Street - the Chronicle Sunshine Fund fundraiser supported by Stagecoach

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

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TOP TWEET IN DECEMBER:

Here's the deal: you pay an extra £10 in tax, and Rishi Sunak's government expects you to be happy with the £2 they give you back. A cynical giveaway from a weak and out of touch Tory government. It's time for change, with Labour
pic.twitter.com/xzqm5jL2z5

<https://twitter.com/ChiOnwurah/status/1743749398331531425>

