

# DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI ONWURAH**

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Celebrating the treatment and important work in the RVI for World Sickle Cell Day!

## **WESTMINSTER MOVES**

This has been a busy month in both Newcastle and Westminster – we've celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Swing Bridge and the 164th Blaydon Races and had the hottest June on record, but what made the news headlines was a place called Makerfield where the Mayor of Manchester was elected in a sweeping victory to serve as Labour MP for the constituency. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's resigned with much grace and dignity, and the Labour Party will have a new leader by September if not before. Andy Burnham has made clear his intention to stand and I have a lot of admiration for him and particularly his record of delivery in Greater Manchester. I wish the North East could benefit from the 3% economic growth and levels of transport integration he has brought to Manchester.

We have already seen positive changes in Newcastle under Labour and this month. I welcomed both the National Youth Strategy and the increased funding for the Defence Investment Plan which I am determined will bring jobs and growth to the North East. And more funding for more dentistry training places means we should soon have more to smile about!

I was extremely concerned by the riots in Belfast with residents targeted for no other reason than their ethnicity or immigration status and misinformation fuelling violence, amplified by foreign influence. Everyone should be able to feel safe in their homes.

# Constituency Work

I was delighted to attend the In Harmony concert by the West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra at St Matthew's Church in Elswick, celebrating the musical talents of young people from the West End of our city. I also visited the Forgotten Forests Garden, a wonderful project helping children connect with nature and their local environment, whereby the Chelsea Flower Show's award winning charity garden has been moved to Hawthorn Primary School leaf by leaf. Year 8 students gave me a fascinating tour of St Cuthbert's Catholic High School refurbishments, and staff told me about their hard work to improve outcomes and social mobility.

I have also been discussing the role of artificial intelligence in improving food security with NICRE at Newcastle University. On World Sickle Cell Day, I spent time with the Haemoglobinopathy team at the RVI, hearing about their work supporting more than 320 local patients.

Newcastle's iconic Swing Bridge recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. As a proud symbol of the engineering skill and ambition that built the North East, I have been working with government and local stakeholders to build momentum behind efforts to restore and preserve this important part of our industrial heritage. I also spoke at Datalyst at the Catalyst, Helix, about the fantastic innovation happening right here, right now in Newcastle, and the North East AI Growth Zone.



In Harmony Concert by West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra at St Matthew's Church.



Celebrating the science achievements of young people in the North East with the Royal Society.

## CORRESPONDENCE

I continue to engage with Ministers, Government Agencies, Newcastle City Council, the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Universities, the NHS, and others regarding welfare benefits, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, delays to asylum applications, social housing repairs, housing and homelessness, antisocial behaviour, health appointments, bus services, local authority powers for rubbish and fly tipping, Parliament outreach service proposed closure and more.

## MEDIA

I was interviewed for and quoted in a wide range of print and broadcast media, including BBC East/London, New York Times Magazine and more.

## ORGANISATION

I am recruiting for a Living Wage Parliamentary Intern – [find out more here](#). The team continues to work hard to serve the constituency.

# Parliamentary Activity

## SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT: 12

[Social Media Ban for Under-16s](#) (16 June), [Cyber Security and Resilience \(Network and Information Systems\) Bill](#) (16 June), [Regional Innovation and Growth](#) (18 June), [Highways - Etal Lane](#) (18 June), [UK-EU Relations](#) (25 June), [Civil Service Pension Scheme](#) (25 June), [Defence Investment Plan](#) (30 June), [UK-US Arrangement on Pharmaceuticals Pricing and Tariffs](#) (30 June), [Ofcom: Crisis Response Protocol](#) (1 July), [Israel: E1 Zone Expansion](#) (1 July), [Historic Forced Adoption](#) (2 July), [Commonhold and Leasehold Reform: Managing Agents](#) (2 July)

## SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

This month I met with a range of science and innovation organisations, including AMD, Nextfibre, ARIA, and more.

Our two sessions on Neuroscience and digital childhoods this month were timely and thought provoking, following the recent consultation on 'Growing up in the online world.' I asked witnesses how digital device use is affecting the development of children's and adolescents' brains. Witnesses also told me that more transparency and access to social media inputs and outputs would deliver the quantitative data to improve quality of research into digital technologies impact on children. Notably, witnesses described the difference between 'ban' and 'age limit,' and whether a ban be temporary until companies show their products are safe.

In an evidence session on Low-energy computing, I asked witnesses whether and how low-energy computing might impact the huge multi trillion-dollar IPOs of AI companies investing so heavily in energy intensive data centres.

## WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS: 7

[London North Eastern Railway: WiFi](#) (8 June), [Syria: Politics and Government - Women's Rights](#) (8 June), [Railways: WiFi](#) (8 June), [Dementia: Arts](#) (9 June), [Smart Devices: Procurement](#) (10 June), [Ministers: WhatsApp](#) (26 June), [Digital Technology: Public Bodies](#) (26 June)

## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

At the beginning of the month, I led the British American All-Parliamentary Group (BAPG) Conference with the US House of Representatives in Washington DC, engaging in a range of topics, including technology deployed by the U.S. government to transform public services, trade and manufacturing Policy, tech in security, AI in the UK's economy, and more.

In Westminster, I met Brian Cox regarding the future of UK science funding, and I presented Amendments to the Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill.

During the Estimates Day Debate on pharmaceutical procurement, I asked if NHS patients get faster access to the medicines and treatments they need, where the money is coming from, and what choices are being made on behalf of NHS patients?

I raised with the new Defence Secretary the unacceptable situation by which the North East sends proportionately more of its young people into the armed forces than any other region in England and yet has the lowest level of Defence investment.

# SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

British American Business roundtable; BAB Transatlantic Finance Forum; Tyneside Promotor Network; Parliamentary Links Day; Business and Trade Committee; Biomedical Sciences Day reception; Cyber security and Resilience Bill Amendment; publication of the response to the IGR report; Women's Engineering society; Datalyst; Fair Work in Tech; Estimates Day debate.



Visiting the students and fantastic new school garden at Hawthorn Primary.

# MEETINGS AND VISITS

Riley Ohlson (Trade Union federation); Chip Dean (Acting Deputy Assistant Sec for Western Europe); Health Connect Partners (Apprenticeships); Chris Laughran (Beamish Museum); Prof. Arlene Astell (TEDI); Nexfibre; Max Von Thun (Open Markets Europe); Disability APPG (Timms review); Vietnam SITC delegation; APPG Africa; Advanced Micro Devices; Kathleen Fisher (ARIA); Rois Ni Thuama (RT Consulting Ltd); Martin Tisné (Current AI); APPG Nigeria AGM; BAPG AGM; Mihaela Popa Wyatt (Digital Harm Levy); Briefing with HM Ambassador; Dr. Sterling Thomas (US Government Accountability Office); Will on the Hill; Energy and Commerce Committee hearing; Tour of US Capitol; National Archives; Evening reception at CongreOil and Gas policy working session; Trade and Technology working session; Tour of The Two Georges; ss Speaker's Ceremonial Balcony; Energy and Commerce briefing; Defence and security working session;

Congressional Baseball Game; Roundtable with Association of Marshall Scholars; NASA Goddard; The Pentagon tour and briefing; National Gallery of Art; Broken Britain by Numbers; Bessie Surtees House; Brian Cox drop-in; Palestine rights and Labour Gov; Levy reform reception; Minister for Migration (citizenship); Unison Windrush drop in; Help for Heroes Armed Forces reception; Access to Omaveloxo for Freidrichs Ataxia; Independent Society of Musicians; Giles D'Souza (Planet); DESNEZ; Islamic Relief Eid reception; RVI Sickle Cell motion; Garden at Hawthorn Primary; NICRE; Armed Forces Flag Raising SME4Labour dinner; North-East delegation reception; Labour Friends of Armed Forces reception; VodafoneThree connect reception; in Harmony Concert; St Cuthbert's Catholic High School; British Airways Refurbished Offices Launch; AI and Autonomous weapons panel; Intuit Women and AI report; Centenary women's celebration; Royal Society Summer Soiree; Northumbria University Social Mobility Reception.

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I joined the APPG for Disability and Minister Timms where we heard from disabled people co-producing the PIP review.

## REACH OUT

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**Please note surgeries are by appointment only.**

Chi holds four advice sessions every month. If you are a constituent and would like to arrange an appointment, please email [chi.onwurah.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chi.onwurah.mp@parliament.uk) or phone: 0191 232 5838.

We will need your name, address, post code and brief details of the issues you wish to discuss.

**Twitter:**

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

**Facebook:**

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

**Instagram:**

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

**TOP FACEBOOK POST IN APRIL:**

Today Newcastle's Swing Bridge turns 150! A proud symbol of the skill and ambition that built the #NorthEast. I've been working hard to build momentum to restore it, with backing from Gvmnt and stakeholders, because our industrial heritage must be preserved and brought to life

[https://facebook.com/1241632629283605\\_1464205125511496](https://facebook.com/1241632629283605_1464205125511496)

181 Likes, 153 Comments, 12 Shares

