

DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Great to meet the staff, volunteers and users at Newcastle Deaf Centre, raising awareness of the challenges faced by the Deaf community.

A NEW PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WITH SO MUCH IMPORTANT WORK STILL TO DO!

Parliament returned on May 13th after the local election elections which showed just how much work the Government still has to do to gain the confidence and trust of many working people. In Newcastle Labour lost 34 seats on the Council leaving Newcastle Central and West with no Labour councillors. I was very sad to see so many councillors who have given such service to the city lose their seats and the gains by the Greens and Reform show we must do better, locally and nationally, to deliver more quickly for working people, and ensure people know what we are delivering! I look forward to working with the new Liberal Democrat-led council in the interests of the people of Newcastle Central and West.

The King's Speech on May 13th set out the Government's priorities for the new Parliamentary session – investing in social housing reforming the leasehold system, bringing the railways back into national ownership and cleaning up our waterways, improving the lives of those with special educational needs and disabilities, investing in apprenticeships, boosting cyber security and national security, as well as a Representation of the People Bill, which aims to lower the voting age to 16, introduce automatic voter registration, and require genuine UK connections for political donations. This is all in addition to the continual focus on the cost of living now, and how to make life more affordable for working people. The terrible and tragic last moments of Henry Nowak, stabbed to death in the street and wrongly arrested by police as he lay dying has touched a chord with the country. We must ensure we learn the lessons.

Constituency Work

I was so impressed by the artists in the brilliant Wey Aye LEGO Man 2026 exhibition, supporting neurodivergent people to express themselves, that I bought a couple of the paintings, and am now trying to decide which to put in the Newcastle office, and which to take down to Westminster. I was also very moved by my meeting with Equal Arts and seeing their Reading with Dementia session in action, creativity can enrich lives across Newcastle.

I really enjoyed my visit to Sacred Heart Primary School where the School Council posed some very tough questions, whilst at Denton Youth and Community Project Tea I was lucky enough to win in the Bingo. During World Week of Deaf Awareness it was a pleasure to join celebrations at Newcastle Deaf Centre, recognising the fantastic work being done to raise awareness of Deaf culture and promote inclusion. My meeting with the Iranian diaspora at Westgate Baptist Church was heart-rending, hearing how worried they are about their family in Iran, and their experiences of torture at the hands of the regime.



Great to visit the Volunteer Centre to see their positive impact on the community.

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, Living Wage for NHS staff and more.

MEDIA

I was interviewed for and quoted in a wide range of print and broadcast media, including Zoom, Bloomberg, BBC, BBC Radio 4 Today Show, LBC News and more.

ORGANISATION

We welcome Dominic as my new Parliamentary Assistant based in the Westminster Office.



Wonderful evening attending Wey Aye LEGO Man 2026!

Parliamentary Activity

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

In Parliament, I met with the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association to discuss concerns around the use of certain ingredients in cosmetic products and hair relaxers, and later sat down with the Chief Technology Officer to talk through the recent failure of the voting system. I also met with members of the Youth Town Hall, supported by FlippGen, to discuss their thoughtful report on social media policy for young people.

In the House of Commons chamber, I highlighted that many of our digital harms are underpinned by engagement driven digital advertising and asked the Secretary of State whether the Government will regulate this. As the Government brought their Health Bill before Parliament, I sought reassurances in the chamber that patients will have control over when and how their data as part of the new national single patient record. During the elections, Reform told many constituents new North Sea drilling would cut energy bills and I asked the Government who would benefit from this. He confirmed to me that new drilling would make no difference to prices at the pump in Newcastle.



Great visit to St Cuthbert's Care New Women's home to see the brilliant work being done.

SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT: 4

Regulation of digital advertising - Child Protection Online (20 May), Patient Data - Health Bill (1 June), Energy Bills (2 June)

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS: 2

Syria: Politics and Government (2 June), Syria: Politics and Government (2 June)



Supporting Quick Reads, who help adults build confidence in reading through accessible books.

Parliamentary Activity

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

I met with the Minister for Digital Economy, Baroness Lloyd, alongside Graeme Downie MP, to discuss Cellular Internet of Things Modules (CIMS) and the opportunities and challenges they present for UK industry.

As part of my committee's ongoing inquiry into Innovation and global food security I chaired a session on UK-based agri-tech SMEs about the challenges and opportunities they encounter when scaling up, accessing funding and attracting investment.

I met with the Greater London Authority to discuss how we can better protect the public from misinformation and disinformation online. I also chaired a pre-appointment hearing for the new Ofcom Chair, Sir Ian Cheshire. The committee session was wide ranging, but I specifically asked Sir Ian if he was worried about the speech of technology change impacting Ofcom's many responsibilities – from online safety, the BBC, Royal Mail, data centres, telecoms and chatbots encouraging children to harm themselves. As part of the Committee's inquiry into the regulation of hair and beauty products and treatments, we heard from representatives from Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Cosmetic Practitioners.

My committee published our report, 'Rewiring the State' following our inquiry into the Digital Centre of Government. Among other recommendations we urged the Government to exercise the 2027 break clause in the NHS Federated Data Platform Contract with Palantir and either develop an in-house replacement or seek an alternative UK provider.



Fantastic community spirit on the Town Moor Park Run!



Good to meet with Living Wage UK to discuss the living wage and living pension.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Keynote address LSE-Imperial report; Start-up coalition; Westminster food and nutrition forum; NSPCC Children's coalition for Online Safety; Biosciences Conference; Kings AI summit; Afriball; Supporting the online lives of children with additional needs; UK Institute for Technical skills and strategy; NCC BID winners; Women in Tech policy event



Great to speak at LSE about climate resilience and the UK's opportunity to lead.

MEETINGS AND VISITS

St James and Basil Coffee Morning; Tyne Bridge (Chancellor); Quayside run with Chancellor and Mark Ferguson MP; Newcastle Deaf Centre Make Some Noise; Equal Arts; Northumbria University; St Cuthbert's care homeless women's service; Wey Aye Lego Man; The Kings speech reception; Sacred Heart Primary School; Volunteer Centre; Life Sciences Innovation Showcase; Youth Voices Social Media Ban; Space Investment North East dinner; Quick Reads; Safer Online world drop in; Skipton Group; Denton Youth and Community project; Iranian Diaspora at Westgate Baptist Church; Newcastle College Final Degree Art show; Government Digital Services; Westminster Hall Debate (Jamie Stone); Caabu reception; APPG for Non-profit clubs; ABB reception on the role of Electrification, Automation and Industrial Energy; RUSI Parliamentary report launch;

Eats LTD & Olivers (Grainger Market); CNTW (Eating Disorders); Kinwell Energy; Monarch (Cyber security); Minister Lloyd (Cellular Internet of Things Modules); CTPA (Evidence for SITC enquiry); Start-up coalition (AI Index report); Mark Lyons (Failure vote system); Josh Trevino (BAPG Texas think tank); CLP; Surgery; London Greater Authority Chief Digital Officer (Misinformation); Liaison Committee; BAPG (NASA); City Baths; Living Wage Foundation; Newcastle Foundation Trust; James Rhys (Director of Select Committees); Connecta Vertex; Chasing Utopia screening; No 11 reception; Babcock summer reception.

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Fantastic to visit Newcastle College Final Degree Art Show with great talent in fine art, ceramics and digital work.

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 or phone: 0191 232 5838.

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

Twitter:

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TOP FACEBOOK POST IN APRIL:

My initial statement on yesterday's local election results in Newcastle upon Tyne 🇬🇧

80k views, 257 likes, 262 comments

<https://www.facebook.com/newcastlechi/posts/pfbid0Qm2bBVNeJDdR26Qh47smzecoW1Jo7XJUiBq2RV3GgSbS6ngulZJ2EzUAV7ykUkyul>

