

DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI** ONWURAH

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



Great to stop by the Newcastle GPs Community Health Bus for a check-up! The bus moves around Newcastle providing accessible healthcare for all!

RISHI'S RECESSION!

The news that the UK entered recession did not really come as a surprise – no matter how hard people are working in Newcastle, the vast majority of families are worse off! Rishi Sunak's promise to grow the economy is now in tatters. Our economy is now smaller than when Rishi Sunak entered 10 Downing Street in 2022. GDP per capita fell in every quarter of the last year. Today, the average British family is 20 per cent worse off than their German counterparts.

If the UK economy had grown at the average rate of other OECD economies over the past decade, it would now be £140 billion larger – equivalent to £5,000 per household every year. That would also mean an additional £50 billion in tax revenues to invest in our crumbling public services.

What's more the typical family renewing their mortgage this year will find themselves paying an additional £240 a month and there are 700,000 more people out of the workforce now than when the pandemic struck four years ago.

This is a terrible economic record. And it is clear, absolutely clear, that it won't change until we have a change of Government. This is written before the budget, but whatever rabbits the Chancellor pulls out of his hat, people will be worse off!

CONSTITUENCY ROLE

The appalling humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to be a significant part of my casework. I was pleased that I was able to vote for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, part of a comprehensive Labour amendment to the SNP motion on Gaza Israel. The ensuing drama in the House of Commons did not reflect well on anyone there but unlike the Tories and the SNP we stayed in the Chamber to vote on our motion which was then passed by the House. I also raised in the Chamber concerns from constituents about the difference they saw in the way Palestinian and Israeli lives are valued.

Boots announced that they were closing the Kenton Branch leaving local people without easy access to pharmacy services. Working with local Councillors I tried to get this decision overturned but Boots refused to budge. We are now looking at how to support the local community.

I raised, again, a long standing issue where constituents in Leazes Park are prevented from buying the freehold or extending their leases by the St Mary Magdalene & Holy Jesus Trust. I secured a meeting with the Minister on this.

I know many have been concerned by CQC report into Newcastle Hospitals Trust which has lost its Outstanding rating. I am working with other MPs and with NHS staff and leadership to understand the lessons that need to be learnt.

MEDIA

I was quoted in local and national media, had an article published in the Mirror on STEM and was interviewed for ITV Tyne Tees and BBC Look North about the Tyne Bridge restoration funds finally being released by the government.



Fantastic to visit St Paul's School. Headteacher Mr Cochrane and the staff are to be congratulated on this inclusive, ambitious, learning environment.



I spent a day at Space Park Leicester, speaking to experts about widening participation and inclusivity in STEM subjects.

SHADOW MINISTERIAL ROLE

Spoke on behalf of Labour in a petitions debate on the use of animals in testing.

Fantastic visit to Space Park Leicester where I saw great space research, met exciting new business and spoke to a diverse range of students at all levels.

I gave keynote addresses at conferences including State Of Open Con 24, Jawdrop Life Sciences Summit and Pharmaceutical Business Conference Group

We continue to work on key science policies to enable Labour's missions in Government.

ORGANISATION

Anne Marie, our new Senior Secretary, joined from Newcastle University.



Parliamentary Activity

FROM THE BACK BENCH: 5

Member's Productivity: Digital Tools 22 February Post Office: Horizon Scandal 22 February Israel and Gaza 27 February Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill 27 February Angiolini Inquiry Report 29 February

WRITTEN QUESTIONS: 25

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology: Public Appointments 28 February Science: Research 27 February Academic Technology Approval Scheme 26 February Academic Technology Approval Scheme 26 February Railways: Educational Visits 23 February EU Framework Programme 23 February Quantum Technology: Training 23 February Quantum Technology: Training 23 February Quantum Technology: Training 23 February Gene Therapies 23 February Council Housing: Homelessness 19 February A167 (M) and Tyne Bridge: Repairs and Maintenance 19 February Railways: Educational Visits 19 February Quantum Technology 19 February Research: Employment Conditions 19 February ICT: Employment 9 February Defence: Space Technology 6 February Space: Research 6 February Space 6 February Space 6 February Innovation and Research: Higher Education 6 February Public Sector: Companies 6 February Catapult Centres 6 February Innovation: Training 6 February Innovation and Research: Finance 6 February

From the front bench: 2

Animal Testing 19 February Science, Innovation, and Technology Orals 21 February





Great to meet students from Sacred Heart in London to see La Bohème as part of the Royal Opera House - National Create and Learn programme.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

State Of Open Con 24, Jawdrop Life Sciences Summit, Pharmaceutical Business Conference Group, Pictfor Tech horizons report panel, Birmingham Innovation Dinner, APPG Diversity in STEM constituency event

MEETINGS AND VISITS

Northumbria Police, SMMT, Catherine Cutts, Finance For the Future, UNISON, ADS, US Ambassador H.E. Hon. Jane D Hartley, Cancer Research, Microsoft, Association for Science and Discovery Centres, Sure Valley Ventures, Peter Kyle, UCL, Andreessen Horowitz, TheCityUK, University of Leicester, Kenton Boots, NHS Trust, Mr Younes of Bilal Mosque, St Paul's CE Westgate Hill Primary, Newcastle Sixth Form College, TAE's David Edelman, STEM Learning, Mastek, Wellcome, Back Children Cycling, BIA, WASPI, Nexperia, Plessy Semiconductors, UK Infrastructure Bank, Labour Friends of Israel, Academy of Medical Sciences, Mental Health Foundation, Micheal Peel, Zenobe, British Generic Manufacturers, BGMA, BBIA, Heylo Housing, Total Politics, Alliance to Save our Antibiotics, Newcastle University, Unison, Mark Lyons, Immunocore, Entra1 NuScale



DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
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Another fab Toonmoor tree-planting session with Northumberland Wildlife Trust, local councillors & residents, increasing biodiversity & environmental resilience in Kenton.

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 FEBRUARY:

Instead of coming together to send a clear message of support of an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the Tories and SNP have come together to divide the House and try to avoid voting on a ceasefire at all.

<https://twitter.com/ChiOnwurah/status/1760376360256610701>

