

DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Visiting constituents at home to discuss energy efficiency with Warmworks.

FOCUSING ON THE COST OF LIVING AS GLOBAL EVENTS RAISE TENSION

The Prime Minister made it clear that this is the year that things will begin to get better for working people in the Newcastle Central and West. In her Spring Statement the Chancellor focused on how Labour is working to reduce the cost of living - £150 off energy bill, the first national rail fare freeze in 30 years, ending the two child benefits limit, frozen prescription charges, six cuts in interest rates since the general election, which will save households over £1,300 a year on a typical new fixed-rate mortgage. Real wages have risen by more in the first 18 months of this Labour Government than in the first 10 years of the Tory Government. Labour also announced £50 million of investment for the fight against homelessness and rough sleeping.

This month marked four years since Russia launched its illegal, full scale invasion of Ukraine. I am proud of how Newcastle has stood by the people of Ukraine, offering homes and support.

Iran is a murderous, despotic regime and I do not mourn the passing of the Ayatollah. But the Prime Minister was absolutely right to follow international law and the Tories and Reform who want to ignore international law would endanger the security of the UK and our citizens around the world.

Constituency Work

Fantastic news for families across Newcastle as our city has been designated a Kinship Zone, trialling new payments for kinship carers so more children can stay safely with loved ones. This is an important step forward for relatives who step up to care for children in challenging circumstances, often without the recognition or support they deserve.

This month we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week. High-quality apprenticeships are vital to boosting opportunity and strengthening the workforce in the North East, and we have a fantastic range of apprenticeships offered here in our constituency. It was a pleasure to meet Costa Coffee apprentices Sophie and Alessio, who are building skills and confidence through their Management and Leadership apprenticeships.

I visited constituents enjoying better heating and warmth this winter thanks to the Warm Homes Local Grant scheme, delivered by Warmworks and installed by Thrift Energy. Hearing directly from my constituents about the difference doubled energy efficiency is already making shows how essential targeted support is in tackling fuel poverty and improving living conditions right here in Newcastle.

I also met with businesses and organisations in Newcastle Central and West, including Vertu Honda Newcastle, Sivee, and Beatdown Records to discuss individual business needs in the constituency, including business rates, Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate, and labour-market efficiency.



Learning barista skills at Costa for National Apprenticeship Week.

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 reports of grooming gangs, welfare benefits, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, delays to asylum applications, social housing repairs, housing and homelessness, antisocial behaviour, health appointments, road repairs, bus services, local authority powers for rubbish and fly tipping, potential changes to business rates liability, SEND funding, Fairtrade Procurement, RVI Eating Disorder Service and more.

ORGANISATION

The team continue to work hard to serve the constituents of Newcastle Central and West. We welcome Justin to our team in the Westminster office.

Parliamentary Activity

SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT: 7

Green Energy Sector: North-east England (10 February), Online Harm: Child Protection (24 February), Industrial Heritage: Swing Bridge (26 February), Productivity: Technology (26 February), Middle East (2 March), Home Affairs Committee E-visas (3 March), FCDO question: UK/EU/US trust gap (3 March)

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS: 6

Exports: USA (9 Feb), Energy: USA (9 Feb), AI Growth Zones: Job Creation (9 Feb), Department for Science, Innovation and Technology: Capital Investment (9 Feb), Cultural Heritage: Industry (12 Feb), Imports: Israel (23 Feb)

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

I engaged with Ministers and others on Labour's SEND reforms to feed in Newcastle priorities.

I attended the Munich Security Conference gaining insights from discussions focused on tech sovereignty, defence innovation, the trust deficit in global technology supply chains, and the growing security dimension of science diplomacy. You can [read more on my reflections here](#).

MEDIA

I was interviewed for and quoted in a wide range of print and broadcast media, including BBC Today in Parliament, Pharmacist about the UK and US Pharma deal, BBC interview on swimming spots that could become designated dips, and more.



Discussing business rates at Beatdown Records.

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

The Committee held evidence sessions on the Work of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). We questioned Professor Sir Ian Chapman (3 February), the new Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), on UKRI's new strategic objectives, research funding structures and support for regional growth.

As part of our 'Data security across government' inquiry (10 February), we examined the Government's progress on implementing recommendations from the 2023 Information Security Review, and scrutinised data security across government and its implications for digital transformation.

When the Committee explored impact of scientific research cost pressures (4 March), I pressed Professor Michele Dougherty, Executive Chair at Science and Technology Facilities Council, on the £162 million financial shortfall threatening our physics, astronomy, and nuclear research base.

I gusted on the Home Affairs Committee to discuss the digital id, and focused on the problems already experienced with eVisas as an example of the challenges the Department and the Government faces.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

TISA Keynote speaker at AI Conference; American Federation of Teachers on the work of the committee on technology policy relevant to children and democratic rights; Labour North Regional Conference; Lumo Taste of the North East



Discussing the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate at Vertu Honda Newcastle.

MEETINGS AND VISITS

Unison (met with a constituent in Westminster before Migrant Workers debate); Helen Hayes MP John Edwards (ICO); BAPG (Treasurers report); Planet Labs (update); Ana Paula de Jesus Assiss (potential areas of collaboration between Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific); Staff Director for the Energy Subcommittee of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the U.S. House of Representatives; Secretary of State (SEND reform and White Paper); Sivee; Vertu Honda; Technology One; Pride in Place Programme meeting (£20million funding allocated Elswick disadvantaged neighbourhoods); Cancer Research drop in; ISA awards Ceremony; Mr Speakers Diplomatic reception; BAPG reception to welcome American ambassador; APPG for Dentistry and Oral Health; IPT Dinner Discussion on 'Unleashing the Power of Data: promoting Growth and Inclusion'; Drinks at Chequers; Chose a painting to honour Paul Usherwood; Visit to constituent who benefited from Warm Homes Local Grant; Beatdown records; UKRI Evidence in Policymaking Reception; The Chancellor's birthday drinks reception; Protect Children Online drop-in; NP Aerospace female body armour demonstration; SME4Labour Parliamentary Reception; Costa Coffee for National Apprentices Week; World Book Day Parliamentary drop-in; Endometriosis Action Month; A taste of the North-East; Dinner with the CEO of London Heathrow; Supporting Iranian Women and IWD event; Lunch at the human focus for 21st century life sciences event; Owain's Law campaign; Corteva Agriscience drop-in; Turkish Mosque Iftar MSC Innovation Night 2026: Strategic Algorithms: Winning the AI Arms Race; Competition for Computation: The Geopolitics of the AI Infrastructure Boom; Breaking Point: The International Order Between Reform and Destruction; Destructive Ambiguity: Detering and Countering Hybrid Warfare; Rules Without Power? Developing Europe's Geostrategic Capacity; Security and Accountability in a Disintegrating Legal Order; Digital Moats, Sovereign Clouds, and Firewalls; Removing Barriers to Strategic Investment; How to Finance Security in a ruptured world; Mutually Assured Construction: Building a Middle Power Coalition for an Alternative AI Stack; Google and MSC Nightcap; Not fast but Furious? Europe's fight for Innovation Speed; Huge Yard, No Walls? Europe's fight for knowledge security; Sovereign by Design: Rethinking the Backbone of our Public and Private Digital Infrastructure

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Small businesses from the North East visiting Westminster for a fantastic afternoon for A Taste of The North.

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:

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

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

TOP FACEBOOK POST IN JANUARY:

Congrats to our local M&S for topping a mystery shopper survey by The Grocer, notably praised for standout customer service and availability of products. On my last visit, the great service absolutely merited this recognition! A real credit to a hardworking team. Well done! 🌟

17 February 2026: 25.3k views, 37 likes, 19 comments

www.facebook.com/newcastlechi/posts/congrats-to-our-local-ms-for-topping-a-mystery-shopper-survey-by-the-grocer-nota/1368168011781875

