

DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI** ONWURAH

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



With a group of Ukrainian Geordies following a vigil at Monument

A YEAR OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

The first anniversary of the Putin's illegal war in Ukraine was a time to reflect on the horror and suffering the Ukrainian people have endured for twelve months, as well as their bravery and determination on the battlefield. President Zelensky gave an inspiring address to both Houses of Parliament "We have freedom, give us wings to protect it", Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer travelled to Kyiv as well as US President Joe Biden. Support for Ukraine is unswerving across all parties in Parliament and also in Newcastle. I was pleased to join a vigil for Ukraine at Monument where Ukrainian Geordies expressed their determination to stand up to Putin's aggression. I also know that many constituents are hosting Ukrainians in their own homes or supporting them in other ways.

The other big political story was that the oven ready deal might finally be made ready. Rishi Sunak announced the Windsor Framework which would address some of the issues with the Northern Ireland Protocol.

In Parliament, I told him the Framework was to be welcomed as ending the uncertainty which has damaged communities, the economy and indeed our democracy. Sunak listed all the problems which the 'oven ready deal' his predecessor negotiated whilst not taking any responsibility for putting it in place, despite being in the Government at the time.

Everyone has been shocked and horrified by the pictures from Turkey and Syria following the earthquakes there. I have been moved by all the fundraising in Newcastle to support those affected and particularly the response of the members of the Turkish and Syrian communities in Newcastle.

The result of the Carabao Cup final was not what we wanted, but the fans and the team did us proud.

BACKBENCH AND CONSTITUENCY ROLE

Surgeries have been very busy with a wide range of concerns. Fear of rising energy prices is growing with the Government refusing to say what support will be in place after April.

I met with Liz Blackshaw of the Northern TUC to discuss the challenges facing working people, the lack of engagement from Government to resolve the ongoing pay disputes.

It was great to meet local 8 year old Newcastle United fan and fundraiser Wilfy, who has raised thousands of pounds for the Foodbank

I continue to engage with the Prime Minister, Ministers, Government Agencies and others regarding local bus services, the ongoing situation in Iran and Iranian regime supporters in the UK, cuts to local BBC services, the standard of living for NHS staff in Newcastle, and concerns from constituents about the Nigerian general elections.

MEDIA

I have been quoted and appeared in many local and national outlets on a variety of subjects in the last month. The Labour Party and I have consistently called for closer UK involvement with Horizon to benefit our research, I was quoted in The Express on this. My letter to the Mayor on the Strawberry Place development was picked up by many local news sites following the news that NUFC had bought back the land by St James' Park. I also highlighted in NE Bylines, the fact that Newcastle mortgages were rising as a result of Tory incompetence. Finally, the League Cup final was a great moment for Newcastle fans, I wrote a column on what the final meant to the City for The Mag, I also questioned LNER's decision to not put more trains on for the final on ITV, BBC, The Chronicle, The Mag.

ORGANISATION

Maria stepped into the breach to reduce pressures on the team workload.



Standing up for unions in Heart Unions week.



Meeting staff at the North East Refugee Service.

SHADOW MINISTERIAL AND PES ROLE

I visited Cambridge and Newcastle Universities to see how they support and diffuse innovation and to discuss how better to engage with local businesses to support regional economic growth.

I led for Labour on a Statutory Instrument ensuring that Northern Ireland smart phones met EU standards on GPS, compatibility with Galileo being a minimum. I raised the UK's exclusion from Galileo which did not please Tory MP Michael Fabricant.

The Tories decided that, given all the challenges the UK was facing the best response was to reorganise departmental responsibilities. We now have a Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, in which my brief sits, and a separate department for Business and trade, as well as another new department for Energy and Net Zero. These reorganisations cost millions of pounds.

I continue to meet with stakeholders in the research, business and science communities to discuss how we can build an Innovation Nation.

Parliamentary Activity

FROM THE FRONT BENCH: 1

Draft Radio Equipment (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2023 22 Feb

FROM THE BACK BENCH: 9

Bus Services 2 Mar Turkey and Syria Earthquakes 1 Mar Power of Attorney Bill Mar 1 NHS Workforce Expansion 28 Feb NHS Workforce Expansion 28 Feb Northern Ireland Protocol 27 Feb Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls 21 Feb Fan-led review and Football White Paper 20 Feb

WRITTEN QUESTIONS: 60

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Staff 02 Mar 2023 House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 156130 01 Mar 2023 House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 156129 01 Mar 2023 House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 156128 01 Mar 2023 House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 156127 01 Mar 2023 Innovation and Research: Expenditure 01 Mar 2023 Innovation and Research: Expenditure 01 Mar 2023 Innovation and Research: Expenditure 01 Mar 2023 Innovation and Research: Expenditure 01 Mar 2023 Clinical Trials: Reviews 01 Mar 2023 Innovation and Research: North East 01 Mar 2023 Innovation and Research 01 Mar 2023 House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 155116 28 Feb 2023 House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 155115 28 Feb 2023 House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 155114 28 Feb 2023 Driverless Vehicles 28 Feb 2023 Horizon Europe 28 Feb 2023 Science: EU Grants and Loans 28 Feb 2023 Horizon Europe: Expenditure 28 Feb 2023 Bridges: Newcastle upon Tyne 28 Feb 2023 EURATOM and Horizon Europe: Finance 27 Feb 2023 Clinical Trials: Reviews 27 Feb 2023 Clinical Trials 24 Feb 2023 Innovation and Research 24 Feb 2023 Innovation and Research: Manufacturing Industries 24 Feb 2023

Research: Transport 24 Feb 2023 Innovation and Research: Employment 24 Feb 2023 Innovation and Research: Aerospace Industry and Transport 24 Feb 2023 Innovation and Research 24 Feb 2023 Innovation and Research: Costs 24 Feb 2023 Nuclear Reactors 24 Feb 2023 Nuclear Power: Technology 24 Feb 2023 Visas: Africa 23 Feb 2023 Visas: Overseas Visitors 23 Feb 2023 Nigeria: Elections 23 Feb 2023 Innovation and Technology: Business 21 Feb 2023 Telecommunications: Competition 20 Feb 2023 Research and Innovation: Expenditure 20 Feb 2023 Research and Development Tax Credit: Employment 20 Feb 2023 Students: Cost of Living 20 Feb 2023 Teleperformance: Visas 20 Feb 2023 Visas: Africa 20 Feb 2023 Palantir: Contracts 16 Feb 2023 Energy: Meters 10 Feb 2023 Police: Vetting 09 Feb 2023 Trade Promotion 09 Feb 2023 Plastics: Recycling 06 Feb 2023 Social Rented Housing: Newcastle upon Tyne 06 Feb 2023 Police: Vetting 03 Feb 2023 Qualifications: Newcastle upon Tyne Central 03 Feb 2023 Energy: Newcastle upon Tyne Central 03 Feb 2023 Government Office for Technology Transfer: Staff 02 Feb 2023 Medicine: Research 02 Feb 2023 Clinical Trials: Costs 02 Feb 2023 Dementia: Research 02 Feb 2023 Innovation and Research 02 Feb 2023 Foreign Investment in UK: India 02 Feb 2023 Research: Foreign Investment in UK 02 Feb 2023



With Nigerian diaspora at an Ndị-Igbo North East England meeting



At a schools roundtable.

MEETINGS AND VISITS

Arts & Humanities Research Council, FSB with local business, Quantum DX, Frontbench Meeting, Nigel Bolton R&D Tax Credit fraud, Volodymyr Zelenskyy address, Richard Torbett ABPI, John Bachelor Data in Industrial Strategy & Innovation, Qualcomm Visit, Cambridge Uni visit, JACOBS Big Project Engineering event, Liz Blackshaw, Invest North East England, LightOx visit, Medical Technology Group, BAPG senior Hill staffers meeting, Prof Graham Galbraith Vice Chancellor University of Portsmouth, Mariana Mazzucato Dinner meeting, Kenton School attending APPG Engineering on Skyscrapers in Parliament, R&D for Economic Security with Scientists for Labour + Jonny Reynolds, Jim O'Neill Start up review, Wayve Technologies Self Drive, New Writing North, Northbourne Youth Initiative, Recharge Industries, Ndi Igbo General meeting, Global Justice Now pharma policy, Labour Unions and Angela Rayner drop in, Bill Corcoran and Ian Byrne MP with Liverpool fans, Tyneside Loipers.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Newcastle University UKRI Roundtable, Open State of Open Con, Pragmatic Roundtable, Anneliese Dodds, Africa Dinner, Speaking at Blaydon Campaign Session, Space Roundtable, Legislation Committee Radio Equipment Regulations, Newcastle Uni Reception, Elders : Going Digital, EPAM Systems, BCW seminar, Royal Society dinner, HEPI Security & Resilience, Powers of Attorney Bill Committee, WISH Breaking the Glass Ceiling Event



At Unison's event to discuss ethnicity pay gap reporting.



DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



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

With fundraiser Wilfy, who has raised over £5000 for NUFC Foodbank and Bill Corcoran from the Fans' Foodbank.

Twitter:

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

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

TOP TWEET IN FEBRUARY:

#NUFC are about to play their first cup final since 1999. But fans have contacted me to say, two weeks before the match, it is impossible to book a train from Newcastle to London on the day. I've written to @LNER Director to ask what they're doing meet the demand.

pic.twitter.com/y1fQa6MbxL

