

DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



NEWCASTLE GARDEN & ALLOTMENT SHOW

A YEAR AFTER THE TORIES CRASHED THE ECONOMY, THE NORTH IS STILL PAYING THE PRICE

In their Manchester conference, the Tories fight amongst themselves whilst people in Newcastle continue to pay the price of their disastrous mini-budget of almost exactly year ago. The resulting higher interest rates together with high inflation has led to over a million mortgage holders paying thousands more each year. And its impacted those renting too, as private landlords put up rents or sell their properties.

Month after month in my constituency case work I see that housing is the number one issue for people in Newcastle Central. Child homelessness is rising as is child poverty in the region – and we already have the highest rates in the country. Energy prices are still high. Our supply chains are weak. We're reliant on dictators for energy, but energy and water companies continue to make huge profits. Despite our vast potential, Britain faces low productivity, low wages and low growth.

But Rishi Sunak is too busy cancelling investment in the North like High Speed Rail and banning things that never were like seven recycling bins and compulsory car sharing, to deal with the problems people are facing.

Next week at Labour's conference we will see not short-term sticking plaster solutions, but a mission-driven government that will create a stronger national economy, and secure family finances. With everything we do built on the rock of fiscal responsibility.



BACKBENCH AND CONSTITUENCY ROLE

The failure of the Government to ensure a rescue deal for Wilko led to confirmation that the branch in Newcastle's city centre will close, devastating staff there and upsetting their many loyal customers – including me! I asked the Business and Trade Secretary whether this was what Tories meant by levelling up.

The felling of the beloved Sycamore Gap tree was an act of wanton vandalism which caused anger and bewilderment across the region.

On a more positive note I toured the low carbon district heating and cooling centre at the Helix in Newcastle, and helped open Newcastle Allotments show.

I continue to engage with the Prime Minister, Ministers, Government Agencies and others regarding Network Rail, Wilko, Hadrian's Wall, Iranian regime supporters in the UK, Tyne Bridge Repairs, Stephenson Works Anniversary, the state of the swing bridge and how we can make it swing again, moving visa applications from Sudan to Ethiopia, social housing repairs, homelessness, the UK Intellectual Property Office, tenancy turnover rates in Benwell, litter and bin collections, development of a 15 point litter plan for 2023, Horizon Europe, palliative care, and social mobility in engineering.

MEDIA

Quoted in national and local media including Tyne Tees on the closure of Wilko and my campaign to get the Swing Bridge swinging.



Visiting the Lit & Phil – open to all – a beacon of knowledge & education since 1793



Visiting Equans UK to discuss district heating potential to decarbonise cities

SHADOW MINISTERIAL AND PES ROLE

I am very pleased that Keir Starmer reappointed me as the Shadow Minister for Science, Research and Innovation as part of a beefed up Science, Digital and Research team led by Peter Kyle. This is a role which is really important to the country, to our region and to our city. Over the summer I continued to work on Labour's policies to promote science-led growth and regional innovation. I also met with MIT and Columbia in the US to see what we could learn from the successful promotion of spin outs and start ups by Universities in the US.

This is likely to be the last Labour Party Conference before the Election. We will be setting out why the British people should vote for Labour at the General Election. Science is an important part of this and we look forward to that being on show at Labour Conference.

ORGANISATION

We were sorry to lose Keir, Elizabeth and Joshua as they took on new roles/studies. Samira and Sanjush joined over the summer and made a huge contribution to the work on science policy. William kindly volunteered to help with media and narrative on a full time basis until Christmas. Dan joined as my full time Parliamentary Researcher and Lucy as my living wage intern, both in Westminster, where we are also very pleased to be hosting the Aziz foundation intern, Anam. We recruited Lucie to the Newcastle team to focus on casework.

Parliamentary Activity

FROM THE FRONT BENCH: 1

Draft Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure (Security Requirements for Relevant Connectable Products) Regulations 2023 14 June

FROM THE BACK BENCH: 2

Defence: Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy 11 September

Business: Topical Questions - Wilko 14 September

WRITTEN QUESTIONS: 81

Absenteeism; Schools 26 Sep 2023; Children; Disadvantaged; North of England 26 Sep 2023; Infectious diseases; Surveillance 22 Sep 2023; Poverty; Payments; North East; Universal credit 19 Sep 2023; First time buyers; North East 19 Sep 2023; Broadband; Finance 19 Sep 2023; Databases; Environment protection; Water 19 Sep 2023; Finance; National tutoring programme 19 Sep 2023; Pupil premium 19 Sep 2023; Private sector; Research; Voluntary scheme for branded medicines pricing and access 19 Sep 2023; Health services; India; Minimum wage; Migrant workers; Social services 19 Sep 2023; Finance; Research; UK Health Security Agency 19 Sep 2023; Higher education; Mathematics 19 Sep 2023; Deductions; Universal credit 18 Sep 2023; Newcastle upon Tyne; Prescriptions; Antidepressants 18 Sep 2023; Disadvantaged; Health services; Nurseries; Schools 18 Sep 2023; Migrants; Saudi Arabia; Yemen; Ethiopia 18 Sep 2023; Equality; Finance; Technology; Tech Nation 18 Sep 2023; Finance; Pandemic Sciences Institute 15 Sep 2023; Standards; North East; Universal credit 13 Sep 2023; Alcoholic drinks; Debts; Drugs; Misuse; Suicide; Self-harm; Universal credit; Food banks 13 Sep 2023; North East; Life sciences 13 Sep 2023; Armed conflict; Borders; Human rights; Migrants; Saudi Arabia; Yemen; Ethiopia 12 Sep 2023; Health; Finance; Innovation; North East; Life sciences 12 Sep 2023

Children; North East; Universal credit 11 Sep 2023; Biometric residence permits 11 Sep 2023; Costs; Electronic tagging; Immigration bail 11 Sep 2023; Equality; Finance; STEM subjects; T-levels 11 Sep 2023; Developing countries; Development aid; Education; Girls 7 Sep 2023; Drugs; Manufacturing industries 7 Sep 2023; Expenditure; Innovation; Young people 7 Sep 2023; Finance; International cooperation; Research; Science 7 Sep 2023; Finance; Power stations; Nuclear fusion; STEP programme 7 Sep 2023; North East; Clinical trials 6 Sep 2023; Finance; Statistics; Mathematics; Birkbeck, University of London 6 Sep 2023; Finance; Innovation; Finance; Innovation (2) 6 Sep 2023; Construction; Building regulations; Housing; Flood control 5 Sep 2023; Contracts; Freedom of expression; Sports 5 Sep 2023; Research; Mathematics 4 Sep 2023; Euratom; Horizon Europe 4 Sep 2023; Construction; Buildings; Monitoring; Regulation; Carbon emissions 4 Sep 2023; Women; Afghanistan 4 Sep 2023



Great to speak to Jane Meaney of Newcastle-based AMLoBiosciences re: cancer treatments



Catching up with Bishop Helen-Ann to share concerns of Newcastle residents.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Video for NOVA Robotics launch, Future London Group roundtable, Allotments & Garden Show, Innovate UK AI conference, Chair Sustainability session Imperial, Oxford & UCL Tech Fair, Science & Innovation Roundtable, Tokamak

PSC Digital health, Diagnostics Innovation in NHS, bit-bio, Labour Friends of Palestine & the Middle East Unite Shu’Fat event, Sage Gateshead, Cobweb Orchestra St James & St Basils, , APPG Africa World Food programme, Industry Forum 30th Anniversary.

MEETINGS AND VISITS

Tarr Arts Council, Jeegar Labour Science Policy, Devon Sherman Daley Entrepreneur in Residence – Martin Trust Centre for Entrepreneurship MIT, The Engine Reed Sturtevant & Emily Knight , The MIT Innovation Ecosystem - Leslie Millar-Nicholson, Orin Herskowitz - Columbia Technology Ventures, Graham Yates Newcastle City Council Swing Bridge, Nuclear Week, Vodafone Reaching net zero, Westminster Africa Business group, Wenta, Nationwide Building Society, APPG Heart Valve disease Awareness, Fit for Nuclear, Data Poverty APPG, Copenhagen Atomics , MyNGED hub launch, Johnson & Johnson, APPG Aid Match, Food & Drink Federation Innovation for healthier diets, British Nuclear showcase, Asthma & Lung UK, MacMillan Cancer, INCA, BIVDA, Kew Gardens, APPG STEM, NCUB, Atomic Energy Authority, Lit & Phil, Wilko, Africa APPG Inquiry Committee, Equans, NE MP & Peer Transport update, CAB, Bishop Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Cenergist, Stagecoach, Ditchley, TAE Technologies



Participating in a parliamentary discussion led by Newcastle University and Northumbria University on technology and health inequality.



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Visiting Nationwide – a mutual organisation – to see how they help residents in Newcastle

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

Twitter:

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Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

TOP TWEET IN SEPTEMBER:

Saw this an hour ago and concluded it must be a deep fake because nobody could ever, ever cut down the tree which is so beautiful in itself, so rooted in our history & heritage & such a symbol of our region. Now forced to accept that it is gone.
[#SycamoreGap](https://twitter.com/SycamoreGap)

<https://twitter.com/ChiOnwurah/status/1707342679166624215>

