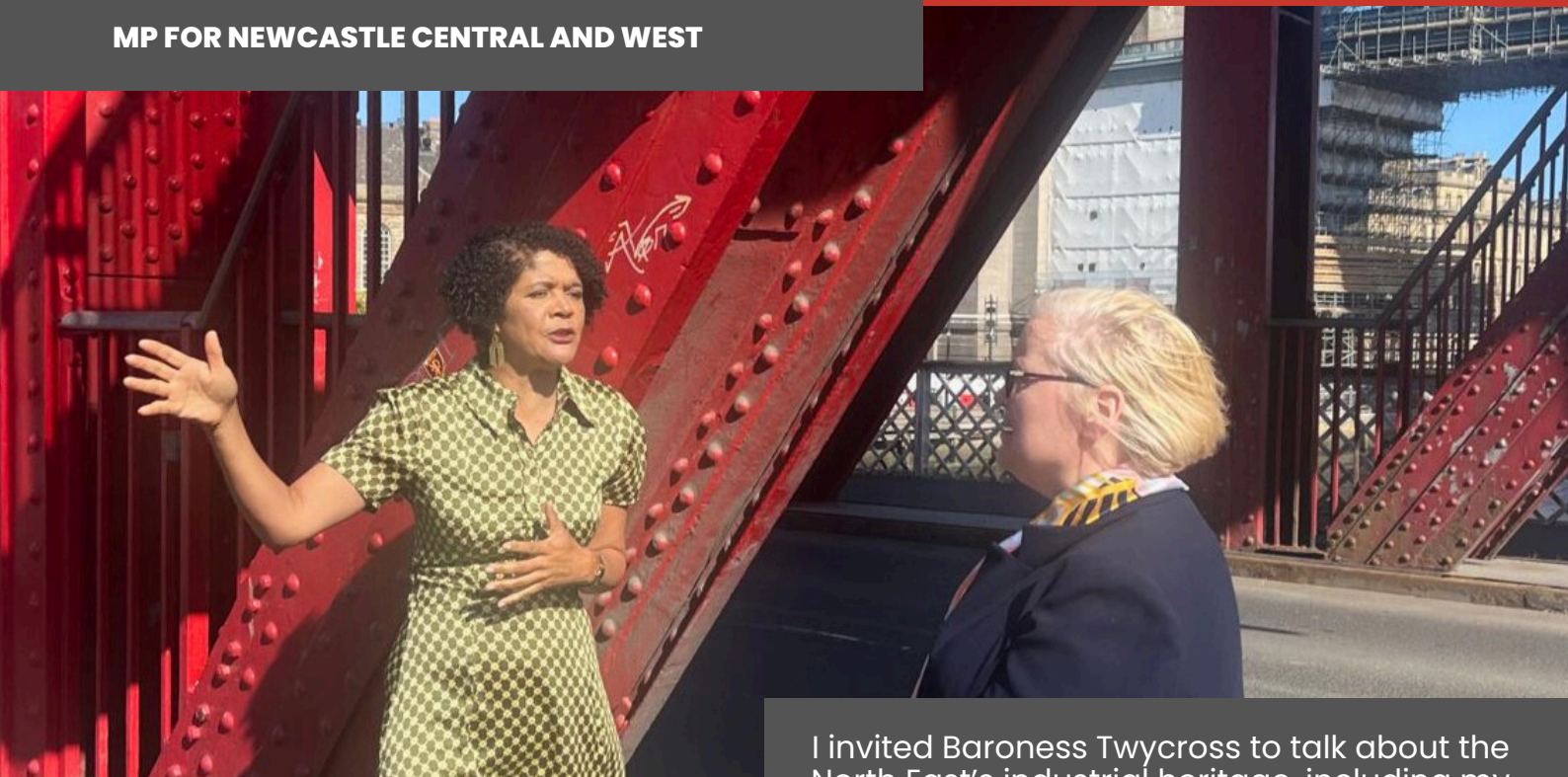


DEAR NEWCASTLE,  
**CHI ONWURAH**  
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



I invited Baroness Twycross to talk about the North East's industrial heritage, including my campaign to restore the Swing Bridge.

# AI GROWTH COMES TO THE NORTH EAST!

This month the Government announced that the second AI Growth Zone would be... right here in the North East! It will be centred around the £10 Billion investment in a giant Data Centre at Cambois, and new investment into the Cobalt Business Park by Stargate UK, a partnership between OpenAI, NVIDIA and British tech firm Nscale. Cobalt Park will host cutting-edge data centres, for UK-specific applications in public services, finance, research and national security. This new investment was part of a record-breaking £150 billion of inward investment commitments secured by the Government from US companies, as part of the US President's State Visit.

Having an AI Growth Zone in the North East means amazing opportunities for local kids to see AI infrastructure and technology in action, and to train for the 5,000 new jobs it is expected to bring. Newcastle has so much potential and these investments will help realise it.

Parliament returned for just two weeks in September, as all the major parties have their conferences towards the end of September or the beginning of October. This year I went to the Labour Party Conference for 36 hours, and spoke at 12 fringe events in that time as well as hearing the Prime Minister deliver an inspiring speech setting out the vision for a prosperous, inclusive country based on Labour values and opportunity for working people

Recess is always a chance for me to spend more time in the constituency I represent, and it's been such a pleasure to be out and about across Newcastle Central and West from Lemington to Elswick, Monument to Denton Burn, meeting and listening to constituents.

# Constituency Work

With the seasons changing, it's been great to be out and about across Newcastle Central and West celebrating everything that makes our city special.

It was a pleasure to welcome international students from Newcastle University, sharing Newcastle's rich history and vibrant culture as they begin their studies. I joined the Allotment and Garden Festival in Exhibition Park and Apple Day at Scotswood Community Garden, two brilliant events showcasing local produce, crafts, and community spirit.

I joined Catherine McKinnell MP at Newcastle Reform Synagogue for Shabbat and a Bar Mitzvah, standing in solidarity with our Jewish community and celebrating their contribution to our city.

I met with Newcastle Carers to discuss their new strategy, focused on consistent support, safe spaces, and raising awareness of unpaid carers, who make up 10% of our population. I also met with Rape Crisis and Represent Women who raised concerns about delays to the VAWG strategy and funding for sexual violence services, which are essential for survivors.

My visits to the Centre for Life's Mitochondrial Lab, Marie Curie Hospice, and Aelius Biotech highlighted Newcastle's leadership in science, care and innovation, changing lives and creating opportunities on our doorstep.



Privileged to attend Newcastle Reform Synagogue for Shabbat.



A warm welcome at West Denton Community Church's Café Connect.

## SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

The Select Committee undertook two sessions in September: a session on science diplomacy and a one-off evidence session on life sciences investment.

The first panel of the Science Diplomacy Inquiry featured Lord O'Neill, who stressed the need for strategic leadership in UK science. The second panel examined the impact of ODA cuts. Mike Podmore (Stop Aids) and Victoria Fowler (Malaria No More) linked UK global health efforts to lives saved, reputation and preparedness. Dr Philippa Matthews (Francis Crick Institute) warned of declining researcher recruitment and vaccine scepticism, calling for stable career pathways and investment in emerging technologies.

An urgent session was held to address challenges in the life sciences sector following investment losses from MSD and AstraZeneca. The Committee heard evidence on the challenges facing UK pharma following Merck Sharp & Dohme's decision to cancel its Kings Cross investment. Ben Lucas (VP, UK & Ireland) explained this was part of a global pivot, not a cut, and highlighted pricing disparities - e.g. Januvia at \$547 in the US vs \$45 in the UK - as key factors shaping investment decisions.



# Parliamentary Activity

## SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT: 6

Defence Industrial Strategy 8 September, Jaguar Land Rover Cyber-attack 9 September, New Technologies in the Workplace 10 September, Non-surgical Aesthetic and Cosmetic Treatments 11 September, Life Sciences Investment 11 September, Regional Transport Inequality 11 September

## WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS: 4

Bus Services: Newcastle upon Tyne 10 September, Parking: Pedestrian Areas 10 September, Social Security Benefits: Children 1/2 10 September, Social Security Benefits: Children 2/2 10 September



Talking about issues affecting women and girls with Represent Women.

## CORRESPONDENCE

I continue to engage with Ministers, Government Agencies, Newcastle City Council, the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Universities, The National Trust, NEXUS, the NHS, and others regarding reports of grooming gangs, welfare benefits, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, delays to asylum applications, student visas, social housing repairs, rubbish and fly tipping, housing and homelessness, disruption and safety in the City Centre, antisocial behaviour, dental and health appointments, road repairs, bus services, the Swing Bridge, Ofcom's Guidance for Public Service Broadcasters, and support for Kenton Lodge.

## MEDIA

I was interviewed for and quoted in a wide range of print and broadcast media, including Science Parks Magazine, Times Radio, The Guardian Saturday Magazine, BBC Sport and Marc Barkman-Astles on Hadrian's Wall. I also appeared on BBC Newsnight to speak on Trump's state visit and recognising Palestinian statehood.

## ORGANISATION

With staff sickness taking a toll on our resources, it was particularly good to welcome Josh as our Westminster Intern and Lucy standing in as our temporary Senior Executive Assistant. The Constituency Office have been working hard to recruit a new Admin Assistant Trainee, and Maisie will start in November.



Welcoming Newcastle University's international students.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Roundtable Science Centres for our Future: supporting engagement, education and diversity in STEM; The Northern Powerhouse Partnership; British Kebab Awards Parliamentary Reception; MEF CONNECTS Anti-Fraud 2025; Refuge's UK Tech Safety Summit 2025; Northumbria Students' Union Black in... Career Series

## CONFERENCE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Rewiring the Revolution: What's Next for Responsible AI Innovation in Britain (New Statesman); Next-Gen Government: Data & AI in Public Service; New Statesman and Cohere – How Can AI Adoption Across Sectors Create Opportunity and Invigorate National Growth?; Business Returns in the Age of AI; How to Ensure the UK Is the Most AI-Aware Government in the World with Infosys; A True Digital Democracy: How Do Government, Business and the Third Sector Work Together to Connect the Digitally Excluded?; Tech Hub Leaders Speech Reflections Panel; The Entrepreneurial University: Rethinking What Higher Education Means; and Civic Health Innovation Labs – Data and AI for All: Building a Stronger Health and Social Care System; how the UK can accelerate AI adoption in SMEs and the future of online safety: tackling deepfakes, misinformation and fraud roundtable.



Fabulous Scotswood Community Garden  
Apple Day!

## MEETINGS AND VISITS

Newcastle City Council; Global Talent Fund Virtual RoundTable; Singapore Minister of State, Ms. Rahayu Mahzam; Naomi Weir, Technology and Innovation Transformation Director at CBI; Brittany Smith Head of UK Policy and Partnerships at Open AI; Better Society Capital; North East Child Poverty Roundtable; Ball Corporation; Dr Helen Groom and Maggie Mound of Keep Our NHS Public North East; Adobe; Stephen Gifford, Chief Economist at the Faraday Institution; Kanishka Narayan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State; Newcastle Carers CEO Luke Bramhall; Go North East - We Say She Can; North East Space Skills & Technology Centre (NESST); Deloitte Newcastle Technology Centre; Arthur's Hill Clinic, NHS Property Service; Ozanam House; Swing Bridge with Baroness Twycross; Legacy Youth Care; West Denton Community Church; Newcastle Castle's 10th anniversary ; Fenham Market.



# DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI ONWURAH** MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Taking part in panels at the Labour Party Conference.

## 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](mailto: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:

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

### TOP TWEET IN SEPTEMBER:

So sad to see this. Angela has been an inspiration and an embodiment of the Labour Party's mission to transform lives, she has achieved so much, from the New Deal for Working People to taking on the Housing Crisis and inspired so many. A true friend of the North East.

5 September 2025 – 237 likes, 47 reposts, 161 replies

<https://x.com/ChiOnwurah/status/1963956193686118752>

