

DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI** ONWURAH

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Great to join so many Generous Geordies at Newcastle Foodbank outside of St James' Park.

BRINGING BACK HOPE!

At Labour Party conference our new Prime Minister set out the story of Andy Burnham the man and Great Britain the country, and how the man would change the country for the better. It was a moving and at times emotional speech, with plenty of policy as well as vision for the future of the country. He talked about hope coming from honesty, and that being what people wanted. Well, it's certainly what people in Newcastle Central and West tell me on the doorstep, they want politicians who tell it how it is, and Andy certainly did that. He spoke about how we can't achieve the change we need with more of the same but that when Britain is together, there's nothing we can't do.

Andy set out some of that change he wants to see., starting with the essentials in life. Housing, water and energy brought back under more public control so we can make them affordable again. We have already announced measures to give people breathing space with the cost of living by cutting VAT on electricity bills and capping bus fares at £2. For the future Andy promised a National Care Service so that every pensioner gets the care they need. There is still a lot of work to do, we have a long way to go. But it is clear where we are going and I back Andy to take us there, just as I backed him to complete the Great North Run, in fact I was at the starting line to cheer him, Kim McGuinness and 62,000 people on their way!

Constituency Work

This month I joined the Holy Cross Church in Fenham to celebrate their 90th anniversary - festivities included a banjo concert and a beautiful sung service. At Newcastle University's International Welcome Week, I welcomed students from around the world to our city. I also visited Kitchen Rebels and Success4All, where I saw first-hand the inspiring work to help young people develop confidence, skills and aspirations for the future. At Bridgewater Primary, it was encouraging to learn more about its innovative approach to outdoor play for child development.

I heard directly from constituents at Linear Park in Newbiggin Hall about regeneration priorities and the importance retaining green spaces for community wellbeing. I also met with SEARCH to discuss the vital services it provides for older residents and the challenges created by funding pressures, and joined community leaders in Cruddas Park to discuss local priorities.

I met clinicians at the Royal Victoria Infirmary to discuss research into e-scooter and e-bike related head injuries and how evidence can help improve public safety. I spoke at the Innovate UK Regional Roadshow and met the team behind NE-BRIDGE at Newcastle University to discuss how innovation and research can support economic growth and accelerate the development of treatments for rare diseases.



A pleasure to join the 90th Birthday Celebrations at the beautiful Holy Cross Church, Fenham.

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 welfare benefits, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, delays to asylum applications, social housing repairs, housing and homelessness, antisocial behaviour, health appointments, bus services, local authority powers for rubbish and fly tipping, prisons early release scheme, continuing healthcare, Meadow Rise developments, PiPP Elswick Chair, and more.

MEDIA

I was interviewed for and quoted in a wide range of print and broadcast media, including Radio 5Live, Sky News, ITV National News, The Mirror, Labour Home, and more.

ORGANISATION

We welcome Maisie in her new role as Administrative Assistant and Communications Officer. The team continues to work hard to serve the constituency.

Parliamentary Activity

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

There was only one public session of the Science and Technology Committee, where I heard from experts about the possible implications of the abolition of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT): the Machinery of Government.

At Labour Party Conference I spoke at several panel events in my capacity as Science and Technology Committee Chair. This included speaking about resilience in the age of AI with the StartupCoalition. I also spoke at TechUK's event on how government and industry can work together to improve 5G service. I know that poor 5G coverage and quality is an issue for people across Newcastle! I joined a roundtable about how Labour can ensure AI advances equality at work. In particular, we discussed how Government can ensure AI adoption by employers supports fair pay, inclusive recruitment and better progression for women, disabled people and ethnic minority workers.

I also met many organisations including Oxford Dynamics, a UK based start-up that develops AI and autonomous robotic systems for defence and security environments. I spoke to their CEO and Co-Founder, Shefali Sharma about what more the committee can do to support UK-based tech and defence startups.

In Newcastle I opened Innovate UK's Regional Roadshow, which included representatives from business, academia and local and national Government. We discussed how the North East can lead the country's economic ambitions in certain sectors and the role of startups and small businesses in particular.

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

My major contribution in Parliament this month was my 10 Minute Rule Bill on 9 September. My bill called for the legislation of AI and digital services so that people must consent to having their likeness used by these systems. There was significant media attention surrounding my 10 Minute Rule Bill including articles in The Mirror, LBC, Labour Home, The Intelligent and more.

I spoke in the Chamber on education and skills, highlighting the new GCSE results and the growing disparity in educational outcomes between the North East and London.

I held a range of meetings in Westminster. These included delegates from the Zambian Government who were attending the TUC; Julian Addison the Chairman of Telit Cinterion; and Mark Dankberg the Chairman and CEO of Viasat.

SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT: 3

Personal Data (Digital Twins) (9 Sept)
Education and Skills Reform (9 Sept), EU-UK Relationship (10 Sept)



Great to join FELIVIA CIC for the Kitchen Rebels celebration.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Confronting AI Risk; FT IPPR Report; US – UK Defence Initiatives; Digital Twins Bill; The Radical North East Panel; Royal Society of Biology; Newcastle University International Welcome Week; Kitchen Rebels Award Ceremony; Startup Coalition AI Panel; LabourList Panel on North's Growth Movement; Digital Sovereignty and public sector roundtable; Space Sector Dinner; The Africa Reception; AI in Financial Services panel; 5G Quality and growth agenda; New Statesman UK Tech Champions; Growth and Innovation through power, place and partnership; AI advances equality at work; Value in UK Life Sciences; Sage's WeAI launch; Innovate UK roundtable;



Fantastic to speak at the Live Theatre about how we can build on the legacies that have shaped the North East.

MEETINGS AND VISITS

AI and Forum reception; Defence Technology showcase; APPEG Engineering Space; Public Procurement Reform; Forces Pension society; British Kebab Awards reception; U.S. Congression staff delegation reception; Chemical Business Association Parliamentary Reception; Getting Britain Growing; Coalition on Secure Technology; TUC Pre-Congress Reception; Vodafone Dinner; Financial Times annual party; Open Church Day at Holy Cross Church; AJ Bell Great North Run Dinner; Great North Run; Choral Evensong Canon Gavin Wort and Newcastle Cathedral; Reception on the community benefits of datacentres; Patria and Babcock reception; Newcastle Gin and Distillery spirit showcase; ERA Foundation; AFPS Intermediate course; Linear Park; Charity Collection at St James Park; EU Reception; Iain Dale and The St Martin's group Reception; The Future Governance Reception; Lodestone Reception; Defence at Turning Point;

ADS Defence and Aerospace Reception; QA and Microsoft SME reception; Vodafone Regional Growth Reception; Fabian Society and Lloyds Bank Reception; LBC and Lexir Reception; Sky News Nightcap; Made on the High Street Square's reception; Civil Society Club Reception; Mayor of Liverpool reception; Bridgewater and Opal Observation; Cruddas Park; Alan Shearer Centre; ICO; Chairman of Telit Cinterion; CEO of Viasat; Zambian Congress of Trade Unions; Bloomberg News (AI); Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner; Secretary of State for BIST; Police and Crime Commissioner; CV Advice; CEO of Search; PiPP Meeting; NE- Bridge; E-scooter/Bike head injury at RVI; Bally's Casino; Newcastle United.

DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Meeting with constituents in Meadow Rise, Newbiggin Hall, supporting the need for more houses, but concerned about the preservation of Linear Park.

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:

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

TOP FACEBOOK POST IN SEPTEMBER:

I am always struck by the intelligence and ambition of young people in [#NewcastleCentralandWest](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/newcastlecentralandwest) but they have been failed by Tory neglect so now the attainment gap between the North East and London is the highest ever. Pleased to secure a meeting with the new SoS to address this!

121 Likes, 120 Comments, 5 Shares

10 Sept <https://fb.watch/v/3yccwC4Pb/>

