

DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI ONWURAH**

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Fantastic seeing Brendan Foster at the starting line for the Great North Run.

SUPPORT FOR HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND CHILD CARE

Parliament returned after recess and its 'back to school' for students across the constituency. I want to start by congratulating all the young people in Newcastle Central and West who sat exams on all their hard work, and the results that they have achieved. I am also proud to see the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme funded during the school holidays with free healthy meals and fun, enriching activities in Newcastle. There were 121 HAF programmes across the city, providing over 38,000 HAF spaces over Summer 25. Activities included sports, cookery, crafts, nature trails & more, all with a nutritious meal!

One of the first announcements Labour Ministers made was the summer was about the rollout of 30 hours government-funded childcare to make life a little easier for working families across our country. It is a fantastic saving of £7,500 for local households and a brilliant way to ensure your children get a brilliant early years education. For too many working parents in Newcastle Central and West work does not pay, or at least it does not pay enough. Free childcare can make all the difference. It was a Labour promise made to parents and a Labour promise kept.

Constituency Work

With the new term starting, it was great to be out and about in Newcastle Central and West. I visited Our Lady & St Anne's Catholic Primary School in Elswick, which was a real inspiration. I spoke with staff and pupils about the impact of their breakfast club, and saw the variety of healthy, free breakfasts on offer. It was a powerful reminder of how the Plan for Change is already helping children begin the day nourished, focused, and ready to learn.

Northumbria University's North East Space Skills and Technology Centre (NESST), and Deloitte's Newcastle technology programme are bringing job opportunities, innovation and investment into the heart of Newcastle. I visited both and heard about the difference they are making

Like many others in Newcastle, I headed to the starting line of the Great North Run. Every year I am wowed by the fantastic atmosphere and real community spirit. Every year I vow to take part, but then am too intimidated by the amazing runners!

Touring the new North East Space Skills and Technology Centre (NESST) site.

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

In the first two weeks back in Parliament, the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee held two oral evidence sessions.

We took a deep dive into the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA), speaking to their Chair and the outgoing CEO to see how they are driving scientific and technological breakthroughs for the public good by breaking the mould of traditional research funding.

As part of our Science Diplomacy enquiry, we spoke to Lord O'Neill, who led the recently closed Fleming Fund on antimicrobial resistance, and the Cities Growth Commission. Lord O'Neill told us that if the UK wants to lead in science and innovation on the global stage, we need consistent, strategic leadership that backs long-term priorities.

We also heard from Mike Podmore from Stop AID, Victoria Fowler of Malaria No More, and Dr Philippa Matthews from the Francis Crick Institute about how we can measure the success of British science diplomacy in lives saved across the world.



Parliamentary Activity

SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT: 7

Pavement Parking (3 September) Defence Industrial Strategy (8 September) Jaguar Land Rover Cyber-attack (9 September) New Technologies in the Workplace (10 September) Regional Transport Inequality (11 September) Non-surgical Aesthetic and Cosmetic Treatments (11 September) Life Sciences Investment (11 September)

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS: 6

Cultural Heritage: Industry (2 September) English Language: Assessments (2 September) English Language: Assessments (2 September) Bridges: Newcastle upon Tyne (2 September) Crime Prevention: Urban Areas (2 September) Science: Human Rights (2 September)

MEETINGS AND VISITS

IChemE (Institution of Chemical Engineers), Altitude Foundation, Schnoobert Productions Ltd, David Wilkinson ECLAS Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science), Henri Murison and Sarah Mulholland Northern Powerhouse; Matt Wilton Newcastle City Council; John McCabe; Ross Armstrong WarmWorks; Phil Whicherley North East Combined Authority; Blakelaw Community Pantry; Department for Science, Innovation and Technology Senior officials; Breakfast Club Our Lady & St Anne's Catholic Primary School; MP/NCC Meeting; North East Space Skills & Technology Centre (NESST); Deloitte Newcastle Technology Centre; AJ Bell Great North Run; Ministry of Digital Development and Information Singapore; CBI; Open AI; Better Society Capital; Sir Christopher Chope; Ball Corporation; How to make Great British Railways truly great drop in

SPEAKING

Capital Counsel; Roundtable Science Centres for our Future: supporting engagement, education and diversity in STEM; Capital Counsel; Roundtable Science Centres for our Future: supporting engagement, education and diversity in STEM



Learning about Deloitte's new Technology Centre in Newcastle.

CORRESPONDENCE

I continue to engage with Ministers, Government Agencies, Newcastle City Council, the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Universities, The National Trust, and others regarding reports of grooming gangs, welfare benefits, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, delays to asylum applications, social housing repairs, rubbish and fly tipping, housing and homelessness, disruption and safety in the City Centre, antisocial behaviour bus services, the Swing Bridge, Special Education (SEND) issues and School places.

MEDIA

I was interviewed for and quoted in a wide range of print and broadcast media, including BBC Radio 4 Today Programme and Breakthrough Magazine.

ORGANISATION

Jasmine left the role of Trainee Admin Assistant, to progress to her new role, and we recruited a new Parliamentary Living Wage Intern, and will be welcoming Josh to our team later this month.

DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Talking to the staff and children at Our Lady & St Anne's Catholic Primary School at their free breakfast club.

REACH OUT

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Please note surgeries are by appointment only.

Chi holds five advice sessions every month; four face-to-face, and one online.

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 TWEET IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER:

Nigel Farage didn't turn up to the UK Parliament today, the one he is elected to. Instead he went to the US Congress to talk Britain down... but Congressman @RepRaskin had his number. The burn could be felt across the Atlantic:

3rd September 2025 – 1,100 likes, 318 reposts, 284 replies

<https://x.com/ChiOnwurah/status/1963334894534504557>

