

DEAR NEWCASTLE,
CHI ONWURAH
MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND WEST



Joining aspiring footballers at Best Summer Ever programme at St John's Turf!

SUMMER CHANGES

Parliament returned last week with a new Prime Minister and a new approach to politics. Andy Burnham has promised to do politics differently and over the summer we have had a series of announcements which will give working people in Newcastle and across the country more breathing space and build more trust in Government. We have seen VAT cut from household energy bills, bus fares capped at £2, 20% of business rates for pubs and music venues to help these great community assets thrive, cracking down on dodgy vape shops and a commitment to end homelessness this year. The Homelessness commitment was announced here in Newcastle, with a £442 million plan to get rough sleepers off the streets by Christmas. Homelessness is a blight on the lives of too many in Newcastle and ending homelessness will make a significant difference to Geordies and to how our city looks and feels.

The Prime Minister has been touring the country, listening to people, hearing about the change they want to see. Whilst we still face many challenges as a nation and as a city, it's clear that we are on the road to a better future.

The summer saw the sad, sad loss of Kevin Keegan. The tributes paid to him and the flowers and mementos left at St James Park showed just how much Geordies loved him.

Constituency Work

With Parliament in Recess, it was a pleasure to spend time with residents, community groups and young people making a real difference across Newcastle, like the young people attending The Key Awards who developed a campaign to tackle youth vaping. The Lemons (Lemington Scouts) Celebration Evening also recognised the achievements of young people who continue to contribute so much to their communities, whilst at Grainger Market, I bought great local veg from some fantastic young entrepreneurs taking part in the Young Marketeers programme run by School Food Matters.

Litter and Anti-Social Behaviour were constant complaints over the summer. I was pleased to join Friends of Elswick and Hodgkin Park and members of Newcastle's Kurdish community for litter picks in Elswick and Benwell respectively. I also undertook a street surgery in Blakelaw to hear from residents, and community champions their concerns over gangs on foot and on motorbikes disturbing peaceful communities.



Great to join the Kurdish Community volunteering group for a litter pick in Elswick Park to increase pride in the area.



I left flowers at the tributes to King Kev, which quickly grew into a sea of love, with so many stories of how he touched our lives.

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, and more.

MEDIA

I was interviewed for and quoted in a wide range of print and broadcast media, including BBC, ITV Tyne Tees, the Press Association, Times Radio, Bloomberg, and more.

ORGANISATION

Ciaran has joined the team as my Parliamentary Living Wage Intern. The team continues to work hard to serve the constituency.

Parliamentary Activity

SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT: 9

Historical Forced Adoption (2 July), Commonhold and Leasehold Reform: Managing Agents (2 July), Commonhold and Leasehold Reform: Managing Agents (2 July), Topical Questions: Defence spending in the NE (6 July), Timms Review: Interim Report (9 July), Science, innovation and technology Committee (9 July), National Energy System Operator: Blackout Risk (15 July), Topical Questions: LNER wi-fi (16 July), Frontier Artificial Intelligence (3 September)

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS: 14

Defence investment plan (6 July), Ministers communications (7 July), Artificial Intelligence: Copyright Sovereign AI (17 July), Content Exchange (16 July), Freeview Service (16 July), Imports from Israeli Settlements (16 July), Postal Service in the North East (16 July), NHS Foundation Trusts: Living Wage (17 July), Armed Forces Robots (20 July), Dental Services Research (20 July), US Cloud act and EU AI Act, (20 July), Artificial Intelligence: protecting creative industries (20 July), Telecommunications infrastructure (27 July), London North Eastern Railway Wi-Fi (4 August)

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

I spoke in parliament on a wide range of issues – from local concerns postal services and LNER's Wi-Fi, to international issues on imports from illegal settlements in the West Bank.

I called for the bravery in battle of sons and daughters of the North East to be reflected in the defence investment spend. I will meet the relevant Minister later this year to follow up on this campaign.

I have proposed a 10 Minute Rule Bill, banning tech companies from turning people into algorithms. The Bill is set to be discussed in the House on Wednesday 9 September, and I have received support from across political parties for her Bill. I spoke with Tom Peters and his colleagues from Equity about my upcoming 10 Minute Rule Bill. Equity is a union organisation that represents those in the creative industries and has agreed to support the Bill.

At Cancer Research UK's Parliamentary Day, I met constituents and heard about CRUK's incredible researchers and new science campaign. I also attended an Organ Donation Parliamentary Event hosted by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to hear from donor families, clinicians and community advocates highlight the life-saving impact of organ donation and transplantation.

I met with Archie York's family to hear about their campaign to stop the early release of his killer and wrote to the Justice Secretary on their behalf. I am glad that the Government responded and Archie's family will not see his killer get released early.



Joining healthy cooking activities at Cook, Play and Learn at Nunsmoor Centre.

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

I met with Full Fact, a UK fact checking charity, to discuss the findings in their recent report and recommendations on addressing systemic risks under the Online Safety Act and commercial responsibility. I also met with the Centre for Countering Digital Hate whilst in Washington DC for personal reasons.

In SITC evidence sessions I heard from the former Secretary of State for Science Innovation and Technology, Innovate UK and the Regulatory Innovation Office.

I spoke at the Launch event for Science Diplomacy with the Foundation for Science and Technology on the report's findings and called on the Government to outline a science diplomacy strategy.



Fantastic to meet the Young Marketeers at Grainger Market and see the fruit and vegetables they've grown through School Food Matters!

MEETINGS AND VISITS

Elswick South PiPP; Burmese Students to discuss Visa Bans; DWP Secretary of State; APPG Africa; North East Chamber meeting; NAO; Social Media Lawyer Matthew Bergman; Full Fact; CSA National Security; OFSTED regional director; Grainger Market NCC; Professor Anna Rowlands; Theatre Royal; The Chronicle ; LNER; Whizz Kids; G Cloud; Center for Countering Digital Hate; Equity; NCC; ISACA; Prospect; Social Media Lawyer Matthew Bergman; Teeside University; PiPP; PiPP Board Meeting; Defence SME drop in; JLC Summer reception; Oxford Dynamics drop in; Sense about science reception; ABHI Annual Reception; Cyber Resilience pledge reception; APPG on Hadrian's wall; BPP and CAABU briefing; Royal Academy of Engineering dinner; Mobile UK summer reception; The Key Awards; Young Marketeers; Rejoining Creative Europe; NEEACA Summer picnic; Green Flag Awards; Northeast APPG reception; France's National Day reception; Well-connected Westminster;

NHS Blood and Transplant; Legal Services Board Open Event; Lemington Scouts Celebration Evening; Flying Along the wall Art Exhibition Tour; Divercity Hub ; Discovery Museum; Volunteering with Kurdish communities; Newburn Stannah Plant; Warburtons; Presentation of Nigerian Association award; The Turf at St Johns; Pure Gym Westerhope; Bingo at the Deaf Centre; Defence Alliance; Applied UK reception; Lifeskills roundtable Newcastle University; IPPR Roundtable Digital Sovereignty; AI and startups summer reception; AI and the future of the workplace safety and security; Babcock Celebration.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

ICAEW AI; Fair work in the tech sector; Sense about Science; Foundation for Science and Technology; Online Safety Act Network; Local Authority Pension Fund; AI, Data and Quantum in UK Healthcare; Roma and Sinti Holocaust Commemoration Event; NUTH Palliative care symposium; Women Pivoting Digital Policy Launch.

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Great to join MMA class at Divercity as part of their wider summer activities!

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:

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

TOP FACEBOOK POST IN JULY:

I asked the Minister how his disability benefits review will tackle the misinformation, disinformation and confusion that too often shape public debate. Lived experience must drive reform, not myths that stigmatise disabled people and create false expectations.

812 Likes, 130 Comments, 12 Shares

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19LBoEHacU/>

