

# DEAR NEWCASTLE, **CHI** ONWURAH

MP FOR NEWCASTLE CENTRAL



Meeting students from Westgate Hill Primary Academy in Parliament.

## SUMMER IN THE CITY MEANS DIFFICULT TIMES FOR MANY IN NEWCASTLE CENTRAL

I hope everyone is getting the chance to enjoy some relaxation time with family and friends this summer – in sunshine or showers! But not everyone can afford to take time off, and the summer can put additional pressures on stretched budgets in this Tory extended cost of living crisis. Newcastle's Best Summer Ever can help with activities for the children and there are ideas for low cost activities on Newcastle City Council's [website](#).

My constituency office remains open but Parliament has closed for the summer recess – on the very day of Labour's historic by-election win in Selby and Ainsty. I look forward to welcoming our newest Member of Parliament, Keir Mather, to the House of Commons in September.

I spent some time talking to people in Selby and Ainsty and it was clear that voters were turning away from the Tories after 13 years in Government - our economy is struggling, and working people are paying the price, whether through low wages, rising food prices or the interest rates on their mortgage payments. And rather than helping Britain tackle the twin cost-of-living and climate crises, Rishi Sunak is focused on issuing new licenses to expand our reliance on fossil fuels. While the Tories clash over net-zero, Labour's position on the issue is clear - it is our priority to make Britain a clean energy superpower, with 100% clean energy by 2030.

This is the best way to cut energy bills, create new jobs in the North East and deliver energy security for Britain.

Meanwhile, when it comes to science, the government has still not agreed participation in Horizon Europe, much to the dismay of the research and business communities. While Rishi Sunak dithers and delays, researchers and scientists, including those at small businesses like Newcastle-based TreatNMD, are missing out on opportunities to bring investment and jobs to Britain. I believe that international collaboration is vital to advance science, and will continue to press the government on this issue. Labour is committed to association with Horizon Europe - scientific advancement will be key to securing the highest sustained growth in the G7, to building an NHS fit for the future and to making Britain a clean energy superpower.

Finally, I was really sad to learn that Wilko has entered administration - another consequence of 13 years of Conservative economic failure. I often shop at Wilko and I know this news will directly affect many constituents. I have written to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), the administrator for Wilko's, and will be writing to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, to raise my concerns about the impact on employees, and on all of us who value a vibrant and varied city centre.



# BACKBENCH AND CONSTITUENCY ROLE

When Parliament broke up, I was able to spend more time in Newcastle Central visiting local groups and organisations. I was particularly impressed by all the activities organised for young people across the constituency from circus skills to community gardening – I even got a chance to try out hula hooping! The level of casework continues to rise, with housing and immigration the top two issues among constituents for the last few months.

I brought different stakeholders together to launch my campaign to get the Swing Bridge swinging in time for its 150th anniversary including the National Trust, Port of Tyne, Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust, Derwent Valley Way, Gateshead Council, Newcastle City Council, Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, Historic England, and Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums. I have been really pleased with the response including local, national and international engineering firms who are keen to help!

I continue to engage with the Prime Minister, Ministers, Government Agencies and others regarding additional bus stops for new bus routes, 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, Stephenson Works Anniversary, 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, Hadrian's wall, and social mobility in engineering.

## MEDIA

I have appeared in many publications on a variety of topics over the last month. I have lent my voice to the cross party calls for the full restoration of the Tyne Bridge to help our region's economy, this was reported across various North East council press pages. I have also spoken to the Chronicle about the state of disrepair in housing, specifically grade listed properties in Summerhill Grove which have been plagued with damp and mould.

I recently held a debate in Parliament about celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of Stephenson and Co. in Newcastle. My disagreements with the Minister were covered in the Journal and Chronicle – he kept telling me the wrong anniversaries! I also recorded an interview for BBC Look North on my campaign to make the swing bridge swing again.



Inspecting the cucumbers grown in the community gardens at West End Women and Girls' Centre.



Bringing together stakeholders to start working towards making the Swing Bridge swing again for its 150th anniversary in 2026.

## SHADOW MINISTERIAL AND PES ROLE

There were rumours that a deal had been agreed for the UK to associate with Horizon Europe but these were denied as it became clear that the Prime Minister himself was preventing a deal being done. British science and science driven businesses are appalled by the damage inflicted on our science and research base and I have spent much time talking to stakeholders and reassuring them that the Labour party remains committed to association with Horizon.

We are also developing Labour science policies driven by Labours five key national missions: Securing the highest sustained growth in the G7, Making Britain a Green Energy superpower, Improving the NHS, Reforming the justice system, and Raising education standards.

## ORGANISATION

I am pleased to welcome Daniel Wright who is joining the team as my Parliamentary Researcher based in Westminster. But sadly Joshua my Caseworker & Communications Officer, based in Newcastle, will be leaving soon. Applications are welcome for this post (closing date 4th September) – details can be found at <https://chionwurahmp.com/2023/08/job-opportunity-parliamentary-assistant-caseworker-closing-date-4th-september/>.

# Parliamentary Activity

## FROM THE FRONT BENCH: 1

[Brexit: Science and Technology Sector 14 June](#)

## FROM THE BACK BENCH: 10

[Migration and Economic Development Partnership 29 June](#)  
[Imprisonment for Public Protection 27 June](#)  
[Ukraine Recovery 22 June](#)  
[Veterans Employment 22 June](#)  
[Universal Credit: Food Bank Usage 19 June](#)  
[Abortions: Offences Against The Person Act 15 June](#)  
[Work of Members: Technology 15 June](#)  
[Swimming Pools 15 June](#)  
[Mortgage Market 13 June](#)  
[Business of the House 8 June](#)

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS: 81

[Heart Diseases: Drugs 30 Jun 2023](#)  
[Mathematics: Research 30 Jun 2023](#)  
[Mathematics: Research 30 Jun 2023](#)  
[Visas: Africa 30 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Bowel Cancer: Screening 30 Jun 2023](#)  
[UK Industrial Heritage 03 Jul 2023](#)  
[Land Registry: Applications 29 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Land Registry: Applications 29 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Dementia: Research 29 Jun 2023](#)  
[Vanguard 29 Jun 2023](#)  
[Asylum: Children 29 Jun 2023](#)  
[House Of Commons Tabled Parliamentary Question 2022-23 191568 03 Jul 2023](#)  
[Innovate UK 28 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority 28 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[General Practitioners: Standards 27 Jun 2023](#)  
[Crops: Protection 27 Jun 2023](#)  
[Horticulture: Research 27 Jun 2023](#)  
[UK Shared Prosperity Fund 26 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Prison Sentences 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Prison Sentences 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Prisoners' Release 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Asylum: Newcastle upon Tyne Central 26 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Visas: Sudan 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Asylum 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Investment 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Investment: Codes of Practice 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Investment: Codes of Practice 26 Jun 2023](#)

[Innovate UK 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Horizon Europe 26 Jun 2023](#)  
[Solar Power 23 Jun 2023](#)  
[Shipping: Research 23 Jun 2023](#)  
[Asylum: Newcastle upon Tyne Central 22 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Innovate UK 21 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Innovate UK 21 Jun 2023](#)  
[Science: Africa 21 Jun 2023](#)  
[Science: Africa 21 Jun 2023](#)  
[Solar Power: Research 21 Jun 2023](#)  
[Tourism: Qualifications 20 Jun 2023](#)  
[Social Rented Housing: Newcastle Upon Tyne 20 Jun 2023](#)  
[Afghanistan: Women 20 Jun 2023](#)  
[Innovate UK 20 Jun 2023](#)  
[Science: Africa 20 Jun 2023](#)  
[Asylum: Newcastle upon Tyne Central 19 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Lithium: Supply Chains 19 Jun 2023](#)  
[Land Registry: Applications 15 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(3\)](#)  
[Africa: Science 15 Jun 2023](#)  
[Africa: Science 15 Jun 2023](#)  
[Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups 14 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Laboratories 14 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[London Stock Exchange 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Africa: Science and Innovation Network 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Africa: Higher Education 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Visas: Research 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Visas: Africa 13 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Planning: Reform 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Asylum: Newcastle upon Tyne Central 13 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(3\)](#)  
[Sudan: Aviation 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Tourism and Travel: Qualifications 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Employment: Equality 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Life Sciences: Apprentices 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Life Sciences: Finance 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Life Sciences: Finance 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Life Sciences: Finance 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Artificial Intelligence: Intellectual Property 13 Jun 2023](#)  
[Postgraduate Education: Childcare 12 Jun 2023](#)  
[National Insurance 12 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(1\)](#)  
[Rolling Stock: Newcastle upon Tyne 12 Jun 2023](#)  
[Shipping: Carbon Emissions 12 Jun 2023](#)  
[Electric Vehicles: Hire Services 12 Jun 2023](#)  
[Electric Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries 12 Jun 2023](#)  
[UK Shared Prosperity Fund 08 Jun 2023](#) [show related items \(2\)](#)  
[Shipbuilding: Departmental Responsibilities 08 Jun 2023](#)  
[Postgraduate Education: Childcare 08 Jun 2023](#)  
[Life Sciences: Finance 08 Jun 2023](#)  
[Artificial Intelligence: Intellectual Property 08 Jun 2023](#)



Doing my best Mary Earps impression at one of the brilliant summer activities at Blakelaw Community Hub.





## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

BioIndustry Association Parliament Day, Parliamentary Jazz Awards, Newcastle Eritrean Community Event, University of Sussex Parliamentary Reception, Labour SE business breakfast, Alliance for IP's event, Internet Advertising Bureau regional roundtable, New Statesman & Sanofi roundtable, Defend Digital Me Roundtable, TheCityUK, Northern Powerhouse Partnership, The Business Desk: Invest North 2023, Institute for Public Policy Research, Takeda event

## MEETINGS AND VISITS

UK Chamber of Shipping, British Patient Capital, Universities UK, Freemen Castle Leazes, Lightsource bp, Westgate Hill Primary School, Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, Our Future Health, BAE Systems, Precision Health Tech, Impact & Influence, Finboot, Film the House, Foundation for Science and Technology Emerging Shape of REF at UCL, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Employment, Institute of Physics, Michael Rosen, Great School Libraries, Misan Harriman Southbank Centre, The Royal Society, STEMFest, In Harmony Project, Consulate General of Ireland to the North of England, Global Justice Now, APPG on India Trade and Investment, Natural England Space APPG, City and Guilds, UK Sport, Spirit Energy, Good Food Institute, Foundation for Science and Technology, Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, Russell Group,

Food and Drink Federation, New Homes Quality Board, Seagate, British American Parliamentary Group, Investment Association, Sudanese Legal Network, UKVI Visit Visa Section, Theatre Royal Project A, Low Carbon Materials visit Seaham, Hexislabs/LightOx/NunaBio/magnitude bio, Exhibition: how to engage local publics in statistics, Leaf Clothing, The Lowther pub, Live Theatre, Baltic - Michael Rakowitz: The Waiting Gardens of the North, National Theatre, UNISON, Intellectual Property Office, UK Cyber Security Council, Andreessen Horowitz, New Statesman, Mobile UK, Prof Bola Owolabi -Health Inequalities, Make UK, APPG on Manufacturing, VisitBritain, VisitEngland, Astellas, Labour: Women InTech, Centrica, GMB, South Asian Heritage Month Reception, Campaign for Better Transport, Consortium Refillable Glass Bottle initiative, Nuclear Industry Association, Africa APPG & Norman Baker & Dennis Camilleri, Black Venus Exhibition, LifeArc, Tapiwa Gavaza - water, Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society, Historic England Swing Bridge with National Trust & other local stakeholders, Hub for Biotechnology in the Built Environment Newcastle University, Gosforth Chess Club, BBC Proms, Novacene National Youth Dance Co, Slatyford Tenants Association, Picnic in the Park West End Women and Girls, Newcastle Best Summer Ever Blakelaw Park Sports Hub, Fenham Association of Residents, Dawson and Sanderson Travel Agents, Angelou Centre, Mark Duffy Hadrian's Wall, NorthStandard, Adam Street Partners, Treat-NMD Services, NGI Invest Newcastle Department of Business African Trade Delegation

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



Meeting local photographer, Mark Duffy, about his project on the true path of Hadrian's Wall!

## REACH OUT

**WEBSITE:**

<https://chionwurahmp.com>

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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:**

[@ChiOnwurah](https://twitter.com/ChiOnwurah)

**Facebook:**

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

**Instagram:**

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

**TOP TWEET IN JULY:**

Congratulations Kim! The North East has so much potential. We need a Labour Mayor and a Labour Government to deliver the high wage, high skill, innovation economy that realises that potential!

<https://twitter.com/ChiOnwurah/status/1680951276215869440?s=20>

