

# January 2021 NEWSLETTER



Linlithgow & East Falkirk Constituency

## Welcome

...to my first Newsletter of 2021 and a Happy New Year to you all. Sadly, this New Year was like no other with restrictions remaining necessary in our fight against coronavirus. The First Minister confirmed on the 19th of January that the current lockdown measures across mainland Scotland and some island communities would stay in place until at least the middle of February, with another review by Scottish Ministers scheduled to take place on Tuesday the 2nd. Thank you for your caution during these precarious times and for the sacrifices you are continuing to make so that yourselves and loved ones stay safe.

## Westminster Update

### Brexit

New Year's Day saw the fruition of Tory Brexiteers' deeply damaging campaign to leave the EU. Just 4 weeks into post-Brexit life the extent of broken Brexit promises is becoming crystal clear: desperation in our fishing communities as the promised "sea of opportunity" transpires to be a further sectoral betrayal; a sharp drop in funding for infrastructure, economic development and workplace training as EU Structural and Investment Funds are replaced by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with decisions on crucial funding coming from London, completely bypassing the devolved administrations; workers' rights threatened as the UK Government ploughs ahead with a review selecting "what we wanted to keep" instead of maintaining those that were already enshrined in EU law; emergence that the proposal to grant UK performers visa-free tours in the EU was rejected by British negotiators because the Tories did not want to extend that courtesy to EU artists visiting the UK; a Brexit Trade Bill that does not exclude deals with countries who commit genocide; everyday consumers being hit by huge charges for VAT, customs duties and charges for packages imported from the EU; and the revelation that, at the end of 2020, at least €170 billion in assets and nearly 2,500 UK jobs moved to France. This is the everyday reality of the hard Tory Brexit. But it isn't over. As more and more people in Scotland come to understand we can regain the benefits of EU membership as an independent nation, please remember ... this is a temporary defeat.

### Coronavirus

As this past week saw the number of deaths from COVID-19 pass the grim milestone of 100,000 in the UK, it is a stark reminder of the extreme seriousness of the situation and of our need to minimise further spread of the virus. Any relaxation of lockdown while case numbers remain high could quickly worsen the situation. People across the country have largely complied with restrictions while showing patience and resilience in the face of COVID-19, so why has the UK Government not helped everyone to comply with them? On the 6th of January, on behalf of the 3 million excluded, I asked Boris Johnson if anything would be done for them; and whether he would commit to continuing and extending furlough to the hardest hit sectors. I repeated this question to Rishi Sunak at his Economic Update 5 days later. Shamefully, they both denied that people have received no support. Guidance and information about coronavirus in Scotland, including available support, can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The vaccination programme offers us greater protection against COVID-19, as well as hope that this year will be brighter. At the "Vaccine Roll-out" debate on the 21st of January, I raised concerns with Matt Hancock about the expected disruption in supplies of the Pfizer and Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines and for guarantees in the level of supplies. In the usual Tory form, I received a non-answer. We don't yet know how well vaccination stops people transmitting the virus to others, so while vaccine delivery is rolled out across the country, please remember it is only one tool in our work to suppress the virus, along with our expanded testing programme and the lockdown restrictions everyone must follow. These measures have the greatest effect working together.



## Active in the constituency

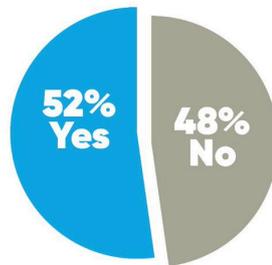
### Independence

Remember 2014 when the No Campaign said that Boris Johnson becoming our Prime Minister was a scare story? Welcome to the nightmare...

The most recent poll on independence is the 20th in a row to show that a majority of people favour an independent Scotland and no wonder! It is extraordinary that Johnson decided to inflict a hard Brexit in the middle of a pandemic and economic recession. Just read above to see the chaos and harm it has already inflicted on Scotland - where we had the highest vote to remain in the EU. England and Wales are getting what they voted for; and it has now been admitted that Northern Ireland is gaining a "unique competitive advantage". Meanwhile, we're being told to put up with it.

This Tory government have laid bare time and again the UK is not a partnership of equals, but a system of government where Westminster is supreme. It's hardly surprising that more and more people have had enough of Westminster governments led by the likes of Johnson and Gove.

### 20TH POLL IN A ROW SHOWS MAJORITY FOR INDEPENDENCE



Source: Panelbase / The Times  
Excluding Don't Knows, January 19th - 22nd

**YES**

Last week, on the eve of Burns' day, our First Minister hit the nail on the head when she called Johnson a "cow'rin, tim'rous beastie," who is afraid of democracy. Then he hot-footed it to Scotland to emphasise the strength of the UK working together in the fight against COVID-19. Maybe he thinks we've forgotten some of his other whoppers:

- promises of £350million a week for the NHS on a bus
- promises that the rights of EU nationals in the UK would be extended automatically
- promises for unrestricted and exclusive rights for Scottish fisheries
- promises "to put our arms around the people of this country"

Don't forget Keir Starmer's complicity. On Boris' non-essential visit to Scotland he told LBC Radio "I'm with the Prime Minister on this one" and he signed up to the Brexit deal despite it not meeting his "six tests".

Labour UK's position is now at odds with its Scottish

branch, as Labour, the Greens and the LibDems voted with the SNP in the Scottish Parliament to refuse Legislative Consent to the Brexit bill. It is clear that no UK Government will act in Scotland's interests, and that a Union of Equals will never exist. The only way to protect Scotland's interests, and regain the full benefits of EU membership, is to become an independent country. Let's make it happen. Pledge your support for Scottish independence at <http://yes.scot/signup> #IndyRef2 #Yes



## Links between Parliament and the constituency

Current restrictions mean I've been unable to travel to Westminster since November, as reported in my last Newsletter. However, that hasn't prevented me from continuing to raise issues that are important to individual constituents, and the constituency in general, virtually. For example, in the debate "Elections: May 2021" I asked the Minister for the Constitution and Devolution what more needs to be done to encourage greater take-up of postal voting, and to ensure applications are processed in time to guarantee that the democratic process continues during these challenging times. You can keep up with all of my work through Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Instagram and LinkedIn at the addresses shown below.

Remember too that I am still available for virtual surgeries, so don't hesitate to get in touch by phone or email to arrange an appointment if needed.



### Postal Voting

No one knows when the requirement to stay at home will end. Voting in an election would be considered an essential reason to leave home, however, you might want to consider registering for a postal vote so you can vote in a way that reduces your risk from the virus. Postal votes will be more important than ever at the upcoming Scottish Parliament elections and a new tool is available on the SNP website to help you. Visit <https://www.snp.org/postal-vote/> to get an application form. Just enter your name and post code and return the form to your local electoral office. Postal voting is the safest way to vote. Turn the post box into your ballot box.

Martyn Day  
6 Preston Crescent  
Linlithgow  
EH49 6HW  
 [www.martynday.scot](http://www.martynday.scot)  
 [martyn.day.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:martyn.day.mp@parliament.uk)

[facebook.com/MartynDaySNP](https://facebook.com/MartynDaySNP)  
 [twitter.com/martyndaysnp](https://twitter.com/martyndaysnp)  
 [instagram.com/martyndaysnp](https://instagram.com/martyndaysnp)  
 [linkedin.com/in/martyndaysnp](https://linkedin.com/in/martyndaysnp)  
 [youtube.com/martyndaysnp](https://youtube.com/martyndaysnp)

**01506 654415**

**SNP**