



Linlithgow & East Falkirk Constituency

Welcome

Since my last Newsletter the world we live in has become a much scarier place. In this short time we have witnessed an illegal and unprovoked attack on a sovereign nation, creating what was previously unthinkable; a return to war in Europe. I've said a few words about the humanitarian aspects of this below, but there are many more. It is an assault on freedom and democracy; a strike against self-determination; a visible and brutal demonstration of Russian financial influence; a reminder that the agenda of one man and his cronies can be dangerous. Ukrainians are fighting for all of us. We must #StandWithUkraine

Westminster Update

The Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Russia, or specifically Putin, invaded Ukraine on the 24th of February. Internationally, the invasion is considered a war of aggression, which has generated Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. We have all been moved and shocked - in equal measures - by the images being broadcast into our homes, and it has been a stark reminder of the reality experienced by those who have no choice but to flee their country for safety. On the 9th of March President Zelenskyy addressed the House of Commons, and soberly relayed the experiences of Ukraine's citizens during its "13 days of war." The subsequent standing ovation for the courage and resolve of all Ukrainians is captured here. That is why I backed calls for all visa requirements for those fleeing war-torn Ukraine to be waived. At this point, of course, the UK Government's response to the refugee crisis was woeful. But we should not be surprised. After all, the Tories' cruel, anti-refugee Nationality and Borders Bill criminalises those seeking refugee protection in the UK, outside regular routes. It is time for the UKG's "hostile environment" policy to be scrapped. Extending our warm Scottish welcome should not be dependent on the Home Office. **YES** #RefugeesWelcome



Animal Welfare

Those who know me will know that I hold strong feelings about animal welfare. I called out Trophy Hunting as "abhorrent" in 2019 and have supported Early Day Motions, tabled Parliamentary Questions, and led debates on this & related issues ever since. In recent efforts I supported banning this cruel and barbaric "sport" alongside the excellent actor Peter Egan, and led "Laboratory Animals: Animal Welfare Act", that arose from a petition started by Peter who is also the patron of the science-based campaign "For Life On Earth". The petition called for legislation to include lab animals in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (AWA). Within this is an unnecessary suffering clause, that sets out criteria for committing an offence and includes the principle that any action, or failure to take action, that results in animal suffering must be against a protected animal. The petition highlighted that lab animals are not protected by the AWA and are, therefore, victims of unnecessary suffering. The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) is legislation that provides protection for lab animals and under it no animals may be used if there is a validated non-animal alternative that would achieve the scientific outcomes sought. However, there is nigh on 20 years of scientific evidence demonstrating the medical failures of animal testing; evidence from *The BMJ*, the National Cancer Institute, and ScienceDirect - said to be the world-leading source for scientific, technical & medical research. Over 2 years ago when ScienceDirect asked if it was time to rethink our current approach, it cited the questioning of animal models' reliability in predicting human responses as far back as 1962. So, the AWA is 16 years old, ASPA is 36 years old, and scientists have been calling for a reassessment for over 60 years. Clearly, UKG's are not listening. I asked the Minister to explain why long-standing, peer reviewed & reputable scientific research is being ignored. He didn't answer. The UK remains the top user of primates and dogs in experiments in Europe. I favour Animal Free Research.



Active in the constituency



Scotland's local elections

The countdown to Scotland's local Council Elections on the 5th of May is ramping up. I've been out & about campaigning for the exciting and talented individuals standing for the SNP in the elections this year. And there are 5 ways you can help the SNP win the council elections:

1. Register to vote and spread the word;
2. Stay up to date with the latest news;
3. Get involved with digital campaigning;
4. Volunteer with your local team; and
5. Be visible

For more details visit: <https://www.snp.org/5-ways-you-can-help-the-snp-win-the-council-elections/>

Every single vote counts and it's vital that you're registered to vote **by April 18.**

You can find out more about the local elections - with a focus on the 63 Linlithgow & East Falkirk wards (Falkirk and West Lothian Councils) here: <https://youtu.be/pyvwLzGC1Mo>

We need independence

Last week The National reported the majority of Scots believe the Union will be over within the next five years. It was referring to the latest survey, carried out by Ipsos, which found that, with don't-knows removed, 46% of Scots think the Union will be over by 2027, while only 45% believe it will still be in existence. Looking ahead ten years, again with don't-knows removed, 61% believed the Union will have broken up, while only 25% said they thought it would remain intact. When responding to whether they would prefer to see Scotland vote for independence or stay in the UK, 50% backed Yes, 43% opted to stay, and 4% said they didn't mind either way. As a nation, Scotland is energy rich. Yet we have unacceptable levels of fuel poverty. Obviously, leaving policy decisions to the UKG won't solve this problem. With its limited powers of devolution, the Scottish Government is uprating eight Scottish Social Security benefits by 6% from 1st April, as well as doubling the Scottish Child Payment to £20 and further increasing it to £25 a week by the end of 2022. In his feeble Spring Statement the Chancellor should have followed Scotland's lead to up-rate social security benefits by 6% and reinstate the £20 Universal Credit uplift. Instead, he didn't help those in desperate circumstances. We need the full powers of independence so we can set a different path to that of Westminster and tackle these issues directly - with control over National Insurance, UC, taxation, and the power to properly regulate energy prices and tariffs. An SNP vote on May 5th is a vote for progress.

Links between Parliament and the constituency

The Scottish Acorn Project

In 2014, the UKG promised to make Scotland a world leader in carbon capture technology – committing funding for a new carbon capture and storage plant in Scotland. Ed Davey, the then UK Energy Secretary, confirmed Peterhead as the location for the world's first gas-fired carbon capture and storage (CCS) facility – backed by a £100 million UKG investment. Coincidentally, Davey said an independent Scotland would find it "more difficult to proceed" with the project, and **insisted it was not a bribe** to get Scots to vote No in the independence referendum. However, in October 2021 it was revealed as a yet another Westminster broken promise when the UKG **chose to reject funding** for the Scottish project and diverted money to England and Wales instead. This decision has direct consequences for Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency because Ineos Chemicals Grangemouth, Ineos FPS and Petroineos signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Acorn CCS Project, which was hailed as "a really significant step in managing Scotland's industrial emissions."

I presented a Petition on behalf of my constituents declaring the disappointment that this UKG decision had, which highlighted the significant energy sector expertise in Scotland; that it will damage not only the energy sector in the North East, but also the downstream sector across the country, including Grangemouth; and that it will have a serious detriment on Scotland meeting its 2045 net zero target. The petition requested that the House of Commons urge the UKG to acknowledge the blow this decision will have on the energy sector in the North East and beyond, including its impact on climate change, and asked that the decision to give the Acorn project reserve bidder status be reversed, and thereby honour its commitment to support a just transition to a low carbon economy in Scotland. I await a response from the UKG.



 Martyn Day
6 Preston Crescent
Linlithgow
EH49 6HW
 www.martynday.scot
 martyn.day.mp@parliament.uk

 facebook.com/MartynDaySNP
 twitter.com/martyndaysnp
 instagram.com/martyndaysnp
 linkedin.com/in/martyndaysnp
 youtube.com/martyndaysnp

 01506 654415

SNP