

IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Animal Welfare

I continue to campaign for improved standards of animal welfare, as it is a subject I feel strongly about. I chair the Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare and am currently bringing forward my proposed Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill which will require the Scottish Government to issue a statutory Code of Practice for buyers of puppies to promote best, responsible practice in the breeding and buying of dogs. I also had the chance to judge Holyrood Dog of the Year 2023 which took place in the Parliamentary grounds.



Accessibility in Parliament

I believe it is vital that everyone has access to the democratic process to raise any issues they wish and to be able to understand how Parliament and our Scottish Government works. I've met with a number of different groups to learn more about how to support this, including Dementia Friendly Tweeddale, representatives of which came to visit me in Parliament in October.



Importance of Green Spaces

In November I hosted an exhibition in Parliament for the Horticultural Trades Association to celebrate our green spaces and raise awareness of the economic value of the horticultural sector in Scotland. I believe it's important that everyone has access to safe, accessible green spaces to be outdoors and to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of doing so.



Representing You

It's an honour and a privilege to represent this constituency, which takes in so many different communities and towns. I strive to be accessible and approachable to all my constituents, so if there's anything you feel needs to be raised or spoken about please do get in touch to discuss it with me using the details on the front of this leaflet. My team and I are happy to advise how to progress any issues that matter to you.



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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

CHRISTINE GRAHAME MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Midlothian South,
Tweeddale and Lauderdale Constituency

Parliamentary Report 2023/24

I continue to work for the best outcomes for you as your local MSP. Much of my work remains taking up enquiries on behalf of constituents, with myself and my office dealing with hundreds of separate cases in the past year on a wide range of issues.

This year my annual Summer Surgery Tour was my busiest yet. I stopped at 25 locations across the constituency and met dozens of constituents. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you in person.

I'm mindful that there's always more to be done and I do encourage you to get in touch with any matters you'd like to raise. Please rest assured that I treat my casework with the utmost confidentiality. In the meantime, I hope you find reading about some of my more public work interesting and wish you all the best for 2024.

Summer Surgery Tour
stop in Lauder



GETTING IN TOUCH

I run local advice surgeries for constituents who wish to discuss matters with me in person; no appointment is needed, just drop in at any of the times below (excluding parliamentary recess dates - see my website).

Alternatively you can get in touch with me at any time using the details below and myself or my staff will be happy to help or arrange a different time to meet if required.

Galashiels Asda

1st Monday of the month 12:00 - 13:00

Newtongrange Library

1st Friday of the month 10:30 - 11:00

Gorebridge Library

1st Friday of the month 11:15 - 11:45

Peebles Tesco

2nd Friday of the month 11:00 - 12:00

Galashiels Tesco

3rd Friday of the month 11:00 - 12:00

Penicuik Tesco

4th Friday of the month 11:00 - 12:00

Constituency Office

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ChristineGrahameMSP

WORKING FOR YOU ACROSS MIDLOTHIAN SOUTH, TWEEDDALE AND LAUDERDALE



Community Clubs

I was delighted to welcome representatives of Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club to Parliament this year to be presented with motions I lodged in recognition of the Club's donations of football equipment to children in Malawi. Our local sports and social clubs are a huge asset to the area, creating a great sense of community in addition to such charity work.



Access to Healthcare

I've had meetings with healthcare providers, including at Earlston Medical Practice, and a number of constituents to discuss pressures facing the primary care sector and access to healthcare. I know this is one of the most important issues facing people. I am always grateful to hear of constituents' experiences first-hand so please contact me if you wish to share anything.

Local Heritage

The Great Polish Map is an iconic landmark at the Barony Castle Hotel near Eddleston. It remains a symbol of Scotland's close ties with the Polish people and is an important part of our shared heritage. Being outdoors, the Map is in need of continual care and maintenance. I met with Barony Castle Hotel Partner Richard Spanner to discuss how best to secure funding to continue to look after this treasured sculpture.



Animal Welfare

In this constituency, which takes in both large rural areas and substantial towns and villages, the subject of animal welfare is very broad but one I know is important to many people. I've had a number of discussions on matters related to this, concerning pets, wildlife and livestock. I was honoured this year to officially open the new Craigsford Kennels at Borders Pet Rescue Centre.



Encouraging Inclusion

I've met with a number of organisations, including Age Scotland, to discuss how we can make sure everyone is supported and included in our local communities. There are some great organisations and initiatives which I've had the pleasure of engaging with over the past year. I am pictured here presenting Diana Findley (centre) with the Jess Barrow Award for her work campaigning to improve the lives of older people in the Scottish Borders.



Investing in Youth Services

I attended the launch of the Penicuik YMCA YWCA/RUTS Youth Hub, offering young people a place to go for support, vocational training and learning. Included in this is some boxing equipment which I was happy to test out! Investing in services for children and young people is vital to ensure they have the best start in life and are supported to reach their full potential. There's a lot of good work being done locally on this and I hope to visit more services in the coming year.



With Cllr Debbi McCall at Penicuik Street Fair



With Dr John Reid and his team at Trimontium Museum in Melrose



With Cllr Fay Sinclair at MacArts, Galashiels



With Gorebridge Gala King and Queen at the Gorebridge Community Garden Party



On a visit to Peeblesshire Foodbank