

Stuart McMillan MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR
GREENOCK AND INVERCLYDE CONSTITUENCY



Hello and welcome to the 22nd edition of my Regular Newsletter

Despite a two-week recess for Easter, April has proven to be an extremely busy month—not least because of the news that the UK will now be taking part in the European Elections on 23 May.



Stuart met WASPI campaigners at Holyrood after speaking in the WASPI debate.

In Holyrood, I've asked four parliamentary questions on a number of issues, such as trade unions, Scotland's future in light of Brexit, mental health support for school pupils, and the screen sector.

I've also spoken in four debates on climate change, the WASPI campaign, a new Green Deal for Scotland, and International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD). It was great to meet fellow shark ambassador and Scotland's first youth climate striker, Finlay Pringle, before the climate change debate, and to meet women campaigners after the WASPI debate.

As well as speaking in the IWMD debate, I attended an event in Greenock to commemorate local people who have lost their lives. During my speech in the Scottish Parliament, I said:

“There's no safe threshold of exposure to asbestos fibres. Even the smallest of quantities over a short period can lead to mesothelioma, several decades after exposure. It's estimated that over 6 million tonnes of asbestos fibres were imported into Britain in the previous century. Most of it is still here in workplaces, homes and buildings, which means workers will continue to be exposed.”

“That is one reason why I am working to introduce my Proposed Recovery of Medical Costs for Industrial Disease (Scotland) Bill.”

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On 10 April, I welcomed Creative Scotland's Executive Director, Screen Isabel Davis, and Place, Partnerships & Communities Officer, Karen Dick, to the Tontine Hotel for an event bringing together local stakeholders from the creative sector.

I'm grateful to Isabel and Karen for their thought-provoking presentation and answering questions from the audience, which consisted of over 40 local creatives.

This was a great evening and helped generate support for a TV & Film Studio to be located in Inverclyde.



Stuart with Isabel and Karen after the local Creative Scotland event (L-R)

While in the constituency, I've met with Ferguson Marine's Chief Executive for an update on their activities, and with Inverclyde HSCP's Corporate Director, Louise Long, to discuss the MacLehose Court situation. I've also met with CMAL's Chief Executive for an update on the company's activities too.

I also went along to the public consultation in the Oak Mall to share my thoughts on how best to regenerate West Blackhall Street. I also attended the Inverclyde Tourist Group Review and met with North Ayrshire Council representatives to discuss 'Five Routes—One Great Adventure', a new tourism initiative that covers six local authority areas, including Inverclyde.

I am due to meet with an Inverclyde Council representative to discuss this initiative further.



Stuart showing his support for #MSAwarenessWeek2019 at Holyrood

As I meet constituents whose concerns span a wide range of topics, I attended a briefing from Inverclyde HSCP at Hector McNeil House regarding adult and child protection.

As a result of Brexit, the Scottish Government has funded a new helpline for EU Citizens seeking advice on the EU Settled Status Scheme. Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) is delivering this service, so I met with CAS's Chief Executive to discuss how local residents can make use of this helpline.

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Drop-in Surgeries

Last Friday of every month
(except July and December)

10.00 Am Port Glasgow Library

13.00 Pm Gourock Library

Please contact the office for details.