



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2020

# Stuart McMillan MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR  
GREENOCK AND INVERCLYDE CONSTITUENCY

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE 29TH ISSUE OF MY REGULAR NEWSLETTER

This newsletter focuses on the Covid-19 outbreak, which has affected every aspect of society and will continue to do so for some time. All four governments across the UK have been working together to respond to this pandemic, with funding packages set up to help local authorities, businesses, charities, community groups and the self-employed deal with the ongoing crisis.

Westminster and the Scottish Parliament have passed Emergency legislation and I spoke in the debate passing the legislation on 31 March. I have also asked four questions during Covid-19 statements in the Chamber, in addition to raising issues directly with the Scottish Government.

I have been inundated with requests for information and assistance. The final week in March saw an unprecedented level of correspondence that I have never experienced in my near 13 years as an MSP. In this week alone, my office dealt with over around 500 requests for information. Some have been easier to resolve than others have, but my staff and I are doing all we can to support constituents.

Examples of the issues I have been contacted about include the lack of PPE for NHS staff and the inclusion of care sector staff in dedicated shopping hours. Both have been raised with the Scottish Government.

The situation is changing daily so it's important that we follow official guidance from the medical professionals. Please make use of the relevant phone numbers, email addresses and websites overleaf.

Please stay at home. Wash your hands. Take your daily walk. Keep in touch with friends and family. Most of all take care and stay safe.

Yours aye,

Stuart

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GOUROCK, WEMYSS  
BAY AND INVERKIP



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**Community Funding Support:** If you are a charity or community group, email [SocialJusticeMailbox@gov.scot](mailto:SocialJusticeMailbox@gov.scot) to see if you're eligible.

**National Recruitment Hub (returning NHS workers):** [0141 278 2719](tel:01412782719)

**Coronavirus General Helpline:** If you don't have symptoms and are looking for general information, call [0800 028 2816](tel:08000282816).

**Business Support Helpline:** Call the Scottish Government's official helpline for businesses on [0300 303 0660](tel:03003030660) for all questions related to coronavirus financial support and essential advice.

**Business Gateway Inverclyde:** Business Gateway is being responsive and reactive to the needs and challenges Scottish businesses face due to coronavirus. Advisers can offer free support in relation to a variety of matters at [01475 779327](tel:01475779327).

**Inverclyde Council's COVID-19 website:**

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/tourism-and-visitor-attractions/coronavirus>

**HMRC Business Helpline:** Call HMRC on [0800 0159 559](tel:08000159559) if you are a business owner and/or self-employed and have tax concerns as a result of the coronavirus.

**Employers' Helpline:** Call Healthy Working Lives on [0800 019 2211](tel:08000192211) for practical workplace advice on health, safety and wellbeing information.

**Housing Helpline:** Call Shelter Scotland on [0808 800 4444](tel:08088004444) for advice and answers on homelessness, evictions, housing benefit, repairs and more.

**Helpline for Elderly People:** Call Age Scotland on [0800 12 44 222](tel:08001244222) for coronavirus advice, help, or simply a friendly voice of support.

**Mental Health Helpline:** Call Breathing Space Scotland on [0800 83 85 87](tel:0800838587) for listening, advice and information for people in Scotland feeling low, stressed or anxious.

**Parents Helpline:** Call Parentline Scotland on [08000 28 22 33](tel:08000282233) for tips, advice and support for parents.

**Advice Direct Scotland:** [www.coronavirusadvice.scot](http://www.coronavirusadvice.scot) for practical advice and information on issues surrounding Coronavirus. The site includes information on the following as well as a freephone number, live chat, email and social media: Consumer Advice, Employment Advice, Housing Advice, Money & Personal Finance Advice, Job Retention Scheme and Useful Contacts.

## Stuart McMillan MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

### Get in touch

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Due to Covid-19, my office is closed until further notice.

**Constituents can still contact me by email and telephone.**

Monthly surgeries will be conducted over telephone until further notice.