

Stuart McMillan MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR GREENOCK AND INVERCLYDE CONSTITUENCY

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE 34TH ISSUE OF MY REGULAR NEWSLETTER

New restrictions were introduced last month across the central belt to help suppress the spread of COVID-19. While Inverclyde has lower cases compared to other areas, the rate of transmission is rising.

For context, Inverclyde's 7-day positive rate per 100,000 was at 83.5 on 22 April, and was at 84.8 on 31 October. Therefore, although our cases are lower when set against surrounding areas, they are on par with the levels of the virus we experienced during the height of the pandemic.

At the time, I accepted the hospitality restrictions during October. The impact on local businesses was regrettable, but I recognised that they were preventative measures to try to stop the need for tougher restrictions further down the line.

However, I was disappointed that under the new Strategic Framework, otherwise known as the tier system, Inverclyde was placed under Level 3 restrictions. I accepted that numerous factors had to be considered and that the Scottish Government were extra cautious in deciding the initial levels, but stricter restrictions should not be placed on Inverclyde because of our health board area or proximity to high risk areas. Regardless, the rapid rise in cases locally is a worry and I accept that it was the right call to put Inverclyde into Level 3.

Stuart's actions on the Strategic Framework

- Spoke in Scottish Government's debate on 27 October calling for Inverclyde to be placed under Level 2 restrictions
- Wrote to the First Minister & Health Secretary reiterating his calls for Inverclyde to be placed under Level 2 restrictions
- Questioned Professor Jason Leitch about Inverclyde's situation during the COVID-19 Committee meeting on 28 October
- Met local hospitality trade bosses to discuss the restrictions
- Spoke with other local firms affected by the restrictions
- Sent a second letter to the First Minister outlining why Inverclyde should be placed into Level 2 at the first review date (10 November)

SERVING PORT GLASGOW, GREENOCK,
GOUROCK, WEMYSS BAY AND INVERKIP



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

During October, I visited River Clyde Home's housing projects at James Watt Dock and the former St. Stephen's High School site, which are funded by the Scottish Government.

I welcome these developments, as they will help deliver more high quality, affordable housing to the people of Inverclyde.

I also met representatives from Amey last month, as they have taken on the contract from Scotland Transerv for maintaining our local trunk road network.

This was a positive meeting and I look forward to working with Amey to help deliver improvements to the A78 and A8.

On 9 October, I visited the Waterfront Cinema to see the COVID-19 measures they've put in place and to encourage people to visit the cinema over the October break.

Unfortunately, the cinema has closed due to the Level 3 restrictions, but West Coast Cinemas, which operates the cinemas in Greenock and Dunoon, has received almost £250,000 from the Scottish Government's Independent Cinema Recovery and Resilience Fund and The National Lottery, through Screen Scotland.



Stuart at RCH's development at the old St. Stephen's site



Stuart visiting the Waterfront Cinema to see their COVID-19 safety measures

FLU VACCINE & FIRE ALARM SAFETY UPDATES

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has issued an apology for how the flu vaccination programme has been delivered this year. My office was inundated with correspondence on this, so I am pleased NHSGGC has given assurances to do all it can to vaccinate anyone over 75 as soon as possible. When you receive your letter, please call the number provided and ask for your appointment to be brought forward.

Several constituents also contacted my office about new legislation requiring all homes in Scotland to have interlinked smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by February 2021. My concerns were that the cost and time for complying would be a challenge for many people given the impact of COVID-19 locally. The Scottish Government therefore plans to delay this legislation by a year to give homeowners more time to afford these new alarms and get them installed, but please do comply as early as you can.

Stuart McMillan MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

-  Stuart.Mcmillan.MSP@parliament.scot
-  01475 720 930
-  StuMcMillanSNP
-  Stuart McMillan MSP
-  stuart.mcmillan.msp
-  Stuart McMillan MSP



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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.