



@PeteWishartPerth



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@PeteWishartMP



The latest

2022 thus far has been challenging on many fronts. From political turmoil in the name of Partygate, to the horrors unfolding in Ukraine, to skyrocketing energy prices. As these simultaneous crises escalate, I have been focussed on holding the government's catastrophic leadership to account.

What's in this issue

- *The latest in parliament*
- *Local outings*
- *Casework*
- *Recent votes*

Postal Votes

Local government elections take place in Scotland 05 May. You can apply by post by filling out the application found [here](#). The form must arrive at your local Electoral Registration Office by 5pm on 19 April.

Contact info

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On 30 March I questioned the Prime Minister about the Met Police issuing 20 fines for illegal lockdown parties at Downing Street. Despite my very best attempts, he simply would not admit that this amounts to the law being broken. In fact, he refused to answer any of my questions at all.

Out and About in Perthshire



It has been great to get out canvassing for the upcoming council election. This was with Iain MacPherson, one of our fantastic candidates for Perth City South. With the election just one month away, the campaign is really heating up. Our simple message to voters is 'when you obeyed the rules, the Tories partied. Get them out of the council'. It is a message going down extremely well.

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In February, the Scottish Affairs Committee visited several horticulture businesses in Perthshire to hear how the industry is being affected by post-Brexit changes to seasonal work rules. What was absolutely clear was that the situation is critical, and we are raising our findings with the UK government to urge for immediate action to be taken.

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St. John's Kirk in Perth opened a book of condolence in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. One can only start to imagine the full horror of the situation on the ground. Equally, we can only be inspired by the bravery of the Ukrainian people who have shown such passionate resistance against Russian advances. Ukraine has Perthshire's unconditional support during this devastating time.

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Perth Racecourse is hoping for a bumper year after two years of minimal attendances due to the pandemic. I was hearing from Chief Executive Hazel Peplinski about how vital the Scottish Government's financial support has been for the racecourse's post-pandemic recovery. I am so pleased that business is picking up again for this incredible venue.

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I had a great visit to the headquarters of SSEN in Perth with John Swinney and Jim Fairlie. We discussed their investment in renewables across Scotland, which will play a vital role in achieving our Net Zero targets. We were hearing about their Dogger Bank Wind Farm project, which will be the largest offshore wind farm in the world when it is completed in 2026.

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Another evening of canvassing in the glorious sunshine at North Muirton with one of Perth City Centre's excellent candidates, Eric Drysdale. After five years in power, the Tories have yet to deliver on key pledges. An SNP council promises efficient, decisive and fair leadership that will transform Perth and Kinross into an even better place to live, work and learn for generations to come.

Casework



Boris Johnson's resignation

So far this year, the most frequent category in my mailbox has been 'parliament, government and politics', of which the vast majority have been constituents calling for Boris Johnson's resignation over his gross misconduct. While focus is rightly on the Ukraine invasion just now, it is important not to forget that this is a Prime Minister who broke his own rules by attending parties during lockdown. At the time of writing, the Met Police have issued 20 fines relating to some of these events, but I suspect many more are to come. The fact he remains in office under these circumstances is utterly absurd.

Energy Crisis

Many cases have also related to the spiralling energy costs, which is causing anguish for people and business across Perth and North Perthshire. The SNP continue to call for the UK Government to implement a comprehensive support package to mitigate this escalating crisis and protect vulnerable households.

Some recent votes

VOTED NO

Elections Bill - 17 January 2022

This wide-ranging bill will rig elections in favour of the Conservatives by, for example, introducing mandatory ID at polling stations. It also threatens the independence of the electoral system by allowing the government to influence decision-making.

VOTED AYE

VAT cut on household energy bills - 11 January 2022

This bill sought to cut the rate of VAT for household energy bills 'as soon as possible' in light of skyrocketing energy prices. This bill was defeated by the Conservative majority.

VOTED NO

Welfare Cap Bill - 10 January 2022

This bill aims to reduce the households welfare cap from £26,000 to £23,000; abolish legally binding child poverty targets; cut child tax credits; cut Employment and Support Allowance; and cut housing benefits for young people.