

Pete Wishart Newsletter

SUMMER 2022 EDITION



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The latest

So here we go. The First Minister has outlined how we will have our say on independence on 19th October, 2023. At last year's election, the people of Scotland gave the Scottish Government an irrefutable mandate to hold another referendum in this parliamentary term. And yet, the Tories have responded by trying to deny this mandate - and I have been committed to holding their denial of democracy to account in parliament.



Independence is about being given the choice not to have policies inflicted upon us which we do not want, by people who we did not vote for. More than anything, it is about equipping ourselves to navigate our future, guided by our own values, aspirations and interests.

What's in this issue

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

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Watch recent Parliament Speech



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A selection of Perthshire visits



I am delighted to see Perth and Kinross Council back under SNP control, with Grant Laing as council leader. I have no doubt that Grant will be brilliant in the role, along with our other fantastic SNP councillors. After 5 years of malaise and neglect by the previous Tory administration, the SNP will offer decisive, comprehensive and ambitious leadership. This will transform Perth and Kinross into an even better place to live, work and socialise for generations to come.



I recently visited Muirton Farm in Alyth to meet Rowan and Jennifer Marshall. They have been working tirelessly to ensure the 36 Ukrainian refugees they have sponsored are as comfortable and supported as possible. Their efforts are a shining example of the people of Scotland's readiness to welcome the people of Ukraine with open arms, for as long as they wish to stay here. My office has been assisting a number of other constituents who are hosting Ukrainian families.



I met up with Andrew Symington at the Edradour distillery, where I heard about the immense pressure that the introduction of duty stamps is having on his business. Tax on Scotch whisky currently stands at a whopping 70%. Widespread staff shortages, caused primarily by Brexit, is only exacerbating the problem. I have raised this with the Chancellor and called for an urgent review of duty stamps on Scotch whisky.



I recently got to have a look around the reopened Bothy restaurant and bar in Perth with Graham Urquhart from the Scotsman Group and general manager Belinda Swan. It is great to have this fantastic eatery and bar back after its closure due to Covid. We discussed ways to attract more investment into Perth's hospitality sector to ensure it continues to strengthen after such a challenging few years.



I visited Strathtay House care home during this year's Care Home Open Week. Last year, they were in the top 20 best care homes in Scotland and it was clear from the visit that they have continued to excel this year. The staff's dedication to providing the best care possible to their residents is simply fantastic. Not to mention the cake selection on offer!



It was great to be back at the Game Fair at Scone Palace last weekend. This is one of the biggest events in the Perthshire calendar. An estimated 35,000 people attended, giving a welcome £5m boost to the local economy. I heard from organisers that the event will also provide the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust with much-needed funding to continue their excellent work.

Constituent enquiries

refugees in rwanda

Boris resign

passport

endometriosis

funding buses

DVLA delays

Ban snaring

Guide Dogs

DWP

access to cash

Ukraine

homelessness

farming

visa

People affected by dementia

DVLA

channel 4

alcohol tax

ruusia

energy Bills support scheme

alzheimer

Energy Bills

Boris Johnson's resignation

Since my last newsletter, calls for Boris Johnson's resignation have continued to flood into my inbox. Month after month, the situation in Downing Street continues to get impossibly worse. History will look back on this Prime Minister with complete bafflement that he remained for as long as he has in office. A lot of the calls for his resignation have related to the Rwanda scheme, which has to be the most sickening bill I have ever seen introduced in my time as an MP. Spending millions of pounds of taxpayers' money on deporting people in desperate need, instead of helping them, is truly appalling. His resignation is now not a matter of if, but when.

Passports

My office has also been dealing with a huge volume of passport cases, with the backlog at HMPO causing misery for people across the country. We have been working hard to assist with each one of them, but my advice to readers who need one would be to apply at least 3 months before you plan to travel.

Some recent votes

VOTED NO

Police, crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill - 25 Apr 22

A flagrant attack on human rights from across government. This will not only see basic rights reduced across the board, but will also strip people of the means to challenge or contest their treatment.

VOTED NO

Nationality & Borders Bill - 26 Apr 22

The atrocities in this bill are endless, including processing refugees offshore and revoking British citizenship without notice. It will also criminalise those who come here through a means not approved by the Home Office.

VOTED NO

Public Order Bill- 23 May 22

Following the UK government's trend of tyranny, this bill will see peaceful protestors face up to 51 weeks in jail. It also grants the police powers to stop and search without reasonable suspicion. Truly abhorrent.