



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Fulton MacGregor MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for  
Coatbridge & Chryston Constituency



**Annual Report 2023/24**

# MY WORK IN PARLIAMENT

## CROSS PARTY GROUPS

I convene several Cross Party Groups in Parliament – these are forums where MSPs are able to engage with external stakeholders on a variety of topics. I convene the groups of Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, the Future of Football in Scotland, Social Work, and Shared Parenting.

## COMMITTEES

This year I have been a member of two committees; The Criminal Justice Committee and the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee. We have worked on several pieces of legislation this year including the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Reform Bill, Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) Bill, Children (Care and Justice) Bill, Regulation of Legal Services Bill, and the reconsideration of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, as part of committee we also carry out work by holding the Scottish Government to account, conducting inquiries, and considering petitions suggested by the public.

## SPEECHES & QUESTIONS

I often take the opportunity to contribute to debates in parliaments, and most weeks I can be found either giving a speech or asking Government Ministers questions. This year I have addressed important topics such as the situation in the Middle East; Online Child Abuse, Grooming and Exploitation; the impact of RAAC on local buildings; raised the issue of making Scottish National Football Team matches free-to-air; Drowning Prevention and the importance of swimming pools in Scotland; the impact the Scottish Child Payment has had on Child Poverty; Ending Violence in School; and the incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS

I've had the pleasure to host and sponsor several third-sector organisations this year at Parliament. At the end of November I hosted Connect in the Parliament to celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are a great organisation who ensure good home-school partnerships take place and support parent groups into communicating with schools.



I was also pleased to host the Scottish Association of Social Work exhibition at Parliament allowing MSPs to hear of the great work that SASW carry out and messages from Social Work. As a former social worker, it's always great to connect with former colleagues.



Continuing on from previous work, I hosted another roundtable event to discuss the affordability of school uniforms in November. We heard from a range of organisations including school uniform banks, children's organisations and young people from Braes High School.

The Scottish FA celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May which was marked by a celebration hosted by myself in the Garden Lobby of Parliament. It was a great evening and good to catch up with stakeholders in Scottish Football.

## MOTIONS

Motions are a great opportunity to recognise the achievements of local people. If you think you know of someone or a group that should be celebrated or an issue you think deserves aired in our Parliament, please do get in touch with my office to highlight this. This year I have lodged motions celebrating and acknowledging a range of matters including; Recognising Gartcosh Primary's Stuart Naismith, on being named as the winner of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Excellence in Primary Education Prize; congratulating the Xaverian missionaries on their recent 75th anniversary of their presence in Britain; Marking Baby Loss Awareness week; Commemorating the 64th Anniversary of the Auchengeich Mining Disaster; Observing Teenage and Young Adult Cancer awareness Month; Celebrating Friends of Monkland's canal winning the award for Most Improved Walking Place at the Scottish Walking Awards; Commending Jordan Shaw of S Collins and Son on winning Young Butcher of the Year at the annual Smithfield Awards; and congratulating the family and colleagues of Nan Frame who posthumously receiving a Special Achievement Award from North Lanarkshire's Provost to name just a few.



## MY WORK IN THE CONSTITUENCY

It's been excellent to get out and about across the constituency in the past year to visit various organisations and take part in events. In addition to this, my office has taken on thousands of cases this year. I always endeavour to make sure my constituents remain informed and have access to myself and my office staff to assist them where needed.



I was delighted to pop into the International Conversation Cafe charity which is held in Summerlee Museum – they do amazing work with refugees living in Coatbridge and wider Lanarkshire – especially those displaced from Ukraine who have been resettled in



In Summer I went to Dunbeth Park for The Kieran McDade Foundation Festival. A yearly event with lots of stuff for kids and families and many great examples of grassroots football at its best. A fitting way to remember Kieran and raise money for defibrillators.



I spent some time in The Hub which is a brand new facility on Coatbridge Main Street, being run by the Manorview Group. There are exciting plans for the space and I would encourage constituents to pop by for a hot drink and a chat.



I was honoured to attend the poignant Cardowan Miners Remembrance service with Steven Bonnar MP to pay tribute to all who made sacrifices at this prominent Scottish mine.



I popped by to see the lovely Izzy and some of her fabulous team at the award-winning Bizzi Izzi's At The View at Lochview Golf Course. I highly recommend stopping by here for a coffee!



I had a tour of the fantastic Night Sky Studios in Kirkwood – they are doing groundbreaking work within the TV and film industry right here in Coatbridge – very exciting!



I paid a visit to the new play facilities at Parent Action For Safe Play in Kirkshaws which was funded through the Scottish Government play park refurbishment scheme and North Lanarkshire Council.



It was great to drop into Red Deer Village and have a chat with the residents. They raised the issue of site fees with me – as always I am happy to come out and do surgeries in the community.



It is always a pleasure to do school visits throughout the year - here I am at St Andrews High School in Coatbridge to talk with the Modern Studies class. The young people always have great questions!





## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

My team and I are ready to help and I would encourage constituents to call or email my office as a first point of contact.

### Social Security Scotland | 0800 182 2222

Contact this number for any issues related to Adult or Child Disability Payment, Best Start Grant, Carer's Allowance Supplement, Scottish Child Payment or Winter Heating Payment.

### Universal Credit Helpline | 0800 328 5644

Contact this number for any issues related to Universal Credit and Employment Support Allowance.

### Citizens Advice Bureau | 01236 421 447

Contact CAB for assistance with a wide variety of issues including how to observe government advice, finance and debt, and for help with benefits applications

### North Lanarkshire Council | 01698 403 200

Contact the Council for information relating to housing needs, social work, Scottish Welfare Fund, crisis grants, and updates on council-run services

### NHS 24 | 111

Call NHS24 if you require urgent care triage for occasions that are not life-threatening or advice when your GP, pharmacy or dental practice are closed



## ADVICE SURGERIES



Surgeries are held every Monday evening. I carry out surgeries in my office in the Atrium Business Centre (Across from Lee's factory) and touring around the constituency. Details for these can be found on social media or my website. As your local MSP, I can help with a variety of issues such as health, transport, justice and policing, social services, environment, education and training, and agriculture, amongst other things.



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