



David Linden

Member of Parliament for Glasgow East



0141 778 1177

@ david.linden.mp@parliament.uk

www.davidlinden.scot

facebook.com/DavidLindenMP

@DavidLinden

May 2018 newsletter

Here's my monthly update which should give you an idea of some of what I've been up to in April. It was another busy month, with plenty going on both at Westminster and across the East End. Details of my regular help & advice surgeries can be found on the back page. If you would like to ask for my help with something, please don't hesitate to drop into one of these, or to contact me using the details above.

If you want to keep up with my work, you can sign up online to receive this newsletter in your email inbox every month at davidlinden.scot/newsletter



PM snubs Commons on Syria

One story which dominated the media last month was the horrific chemical attack in Syria and the Prime Minister's subsequent decision to carry out a joint air strike in the country with the US and France, without democratically elected MPs getting a say or a vote.

Mrs. May's actions leave the role of a parliamentary democracy seriously undermined. It really isn't acceptable that I had to watch the Prime Minister explain herself to a room full of journalists on my living room television set, rather than to my colleagues in the House of Commons.

This isn't just a snub to MPs - the Prime Minister effectively shunned the people who put us here. I'm your representative and I expect to be able to do my job. That's why I'll now pursue a change to the rules to allow MPs to force a recall of Parliament in future.

Marathon success

On 22nd April, months of gruelling training paid off for me when I became the first sitting Glasgow MP to complete the London Marathon.

Battling incredibly hot conditions - the warmest London Marathon on record - I crossed the finish line in 5 hours 20 minutes, raising over £2,200 in the process for Glasgow East End Community Carers.

Until January, I'd never run more than ten km & now I can not only say I've run a marathon, but that I'm the first Glasgow MP to run the London Marathon.



I headed back to Glasgow with warm memories that will stay with me for life, grateful thanks to the people of London for their endless encouragement and - above all - a big cheque for the unsung heroes I'm proud to call my friends - Glasgow East End Community Carers.

I've already got my sights on my next running challenge - I'll be taking on the Stornoway Half Marathon at the end of May.



Growing success in Shettleston

I recently popped by to visit Shettleston Community Growing Project to check out their impressive allotment gardens and to present committee members with a parliamentary motion I tabled to commend them for their incredible, award-winning work. This fantastic community asset has been running since 2009 and allows local people to grow food for themselves and their families. With money from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and support from Shettleston Housing Association and Glasgow City Council, they were able to turn derelict land into an attractive and productive allotment, as well as a thriving community space.

Home Office concerns aired

The Windrush crisis has highlighted very serious failings within the Home Office, leading to the wrongful deportation of individuals.

Every week at my surgeries, I meet people whose lives are being ruined by Home Office policy and so last month I was delighted to meet with the Immigration Minister, Caroline Nokes MP, to discuss a range of issues from substandard asylum accommodation to response times for MP correspondence. The Minister's tone was refreshingly honest and I've welcomed her commitment to improve the system.



Keeping the lights on in Barrowfield

Last year, I became aware of a spate of power outages in Barrowfield. Wanting to learn more about their impact I carried out a survey of local residents and found that the blackouts had been extraordinarily frequent. In one alarming case, further problems were being caused for one family in particular who have a child in need of ventilation equipment.

Last month, I met with senior representatives of SP Energy Networks on site at Barrowfield to discuss the cuts and seek assurances for the future. I'll continue working with the company and residents to ensure that things are put right. In the meantime, I'm also trying to make sure that the most vulnerable people in the area get extra help in the event of another cut.



Saudi arms sales must end

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is worsening by the day and is now undoubtedly the largest such crisis in the world. Over 22 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, with over 18 million of these without reliable access to food. Last year, the country suffered the worst cholera outbreak ever recorded in any country in a single year.

I challenged the UK Government in the House of Commons on its role in the suffering by facilitating billions of pounds worth of arms sales to Saudi Arabia. We may be a penholder at the United Nations, but we then give that pen to Saudi Arabia so that it can write us cheques in exchange for weapons. The UK cannot continue to be complicit in this war.

Brexit update



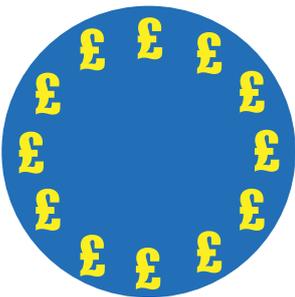
I had to watch Theresa May deliver a carefully-worded speech to a room full of hand-picked journalists, rationalising her decision to back Trump's assault on Syria, on my living room TV. It was the ultimate snub to parliament - a decision that took control away from the democratically elected representatives of all corners of the UK. During the EU referendum campaign, we were often promised by the Leave campaign that the decision was about more control and more power for our parliaments. The decision to bomb Syria without any form of debate or vote in the House of Commons shows that those now leading the charge on Brexit have absolutely no intention of making good on the promise to 'take back control'.

This power grab has extended to the Scottish Parliament, with the UK Government now trying to steamroll over the devolved settlement. Westminster has launched an unprecedented legal challenge against Scotland's emergency Brexit legislation at the Supreme Court; an extraordinary step that has prompted outrage across civic Scotland.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, there is still no agreement between the UK and Scottish Governments on the EU Withdrawal Bill. The Scottish Government's position is that it is simply incompatible with the devolved settlement and as such, cannot be accepted. This is the position of not only the SNP, but the Scottish Greens, Scottish Labour and the Scottish Liberal Democrats also.

The crux of the disagreement is about consent. Essentially, the UK Government wants to pass legislation which redefines the very meaning of consent, allowing Westminster to overrule the Scottish Parliament on devolved matters whenever it wants.

These actions have shown the true motivations of Theresa May's Government. The UK Government thinks it can do anything it wants to Scotland and get away with it – but it has now found itself politically isolated. All parties – aside from the Conservatives – now recognise the EU Withdrawal Bill and the UK Government's amendments have fundamental flaws, fail to respect the devolution settlement and require further compromise on the part of the UK Government. Regardless of how people in Scotland voted in the EU referendum - Remain or Leave - they did not vote to wreck devolution. Brexit must not be used as an excuse to do so.



The rising cost of Brexit

The National Audit Office - the UK Government's independent financial watchdog - has released a shocking new analysis showing that the Brexit divorce bill will end up being at least £10 billion more than ministers claimed at the time that the deal was signed. The auditor has accused the Treasury of failing to incorporate key uncertainties of "which it was aware". It is now clearer than ever that those who sold Brexit on the basis of a cash windfall did so on a completely false prospectus.

Windrush warning for our EU neighbours

The Home Office has been completely dismissive of genuine concerns over how EU citizens will be treated by our immigration system after Brexit. Some of these people have lived in the UK for decades, contributing to the fabric of our society longer than I've even been alive. The Windrush scandal has given fresh cause for alarm, with our EU neighbours rightly sceptical of UK assurances. If the UK Government wish to be taken at all seriously by EU negotiators, then it needs to get a grip on the situation - something it has completely failed to do so far.



I'm going back 'In Your Shoes'

Last year, I went 'In Your Shoes' during parliamentary recess and undertook a week of work experience across the East End. As an MP, I'm always keen to roll up my sleeves and get stuck in and last time round I took on some very challenging roles ranging from Citizen's Advice Bureau duty to drills with local firefighters, patrols with Baillieston police, teaching primary school pupils in Barlanark and pulling pints in a Parkhead pub.

It was an incredibly rewarding experience, as well as being an insightful one. It's easy for any politician to say they understand the people they represent but it's another thing altogether to actually go out there and experience their day-to-day lives.

Last month, I asked people for their suggestions as to what jobs I could take on for round two of In Your Shoes. Whether it was collecting wheelie bins, washing dishes at a local restaurant, cleaning in a care home or working on a factory line, I wanted to hear people's ideas and asked them to email in ideas.

At the time of publishing this newsletter, people are currently voting on my Facebook page on a shortlist of jobs that includes being a care worker, a housing officer, a librarian and a foodbank co-ordinator. Once the voting is over, I'll be working to organise these placements over the space of a week during parliamentary recess at the end of May. You can follow my week on my Facebook page and by following me on Twitter.



Working for you in every community across the East end of Glasgow

I run a number of regular surgeries throughout the East-end of Glasgow. All of these operate on a first-come first-serve basis and there is no need to make an appointment.

If you need help or advice, pop along to see me. If none of these times are suitable, please get in touch by email or phone.

Easterhouse surgery

The Bridge, 1000 Westerhouse Rd, Glasgow, G34 9JW
Third Friday of every month at 10am

Cranhill surgery

Cranhill Development Trust,
109 Bellrock Street, Glasgow, G33 3HE
First Friday of every month at 10am

Parkhead surgery

Parkhead Library, 64 Tollcross Road,
Glasgow, G31 4XA
Second Friday of every month at 10am

Constituency office

Academy House, 1346 Shettleston Road, G32 9AT
If you require an appointment to see me at my constituency office, please phone 0141 778 1177 or email david.linden.mp@parliament.uk in advance

Transport links

- Services 2, 46, 60, 60A, 61, 310, 364, N2, N60 all have stops within walking distance
- Shettleston Rail Station is a five minute walk

Baillieston surgery

Baillieston Library, 141 Main Street, Glasgow, G69 6AA
Fourth Friday of every month at 10am

