FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR LOTHIAN REGION

APRIL UPDATE

APRIL 2025

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER THROUGH SPRING

As we move into spring and come away from the Scottish Parliament's spring recess, I feel refreshed and ready to continue advocating for Lothian.

During this parliamentary recess, I've had the opportunity to step back from the fast pace of Holyrood and focus more fully on the work that matters most—supporting our communities in Lothian.

I attended the International Workers' Memorial Day (1) which served as a poignant tribute to workers who have lost their lives or suffered injuries due to workplace conditions. Participating in this solemn event underscored the importance of solidarity and continued advocacy for safer workplaces worldwide.

While the recess offers a chance to recharge, it's also a vital time to engage directly with constituents and local organisations. I've met with a range of groups to hear first-hand the concerns people are facing, from tackling anti-social behaviour and persistent odour issues in Leith, to pushing for safer cycle ways and walkways surrounding Northern Edinburgh.

Thank you for your continued support, and please continue reading for some of my recent work.



1



REMEMBERING VAL WALKER

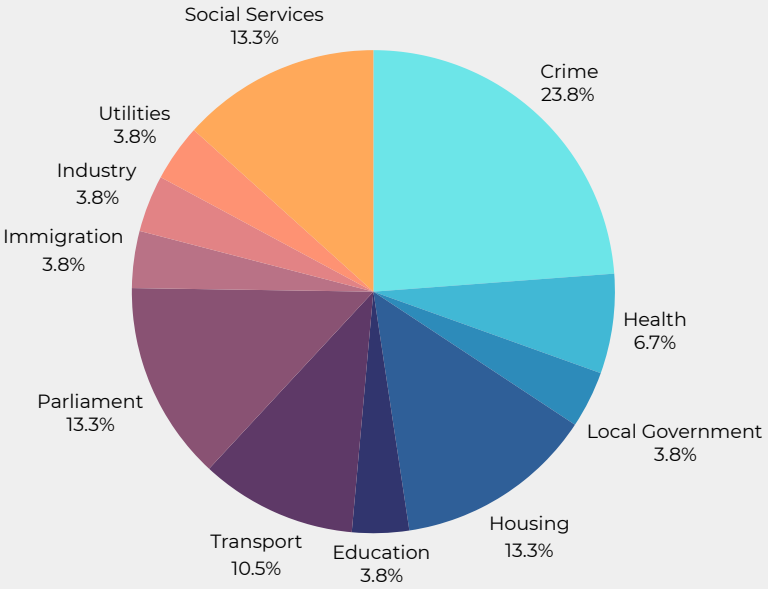
This month, Scottish Labour suffered a great loss. We remember and celebrate the incredible legacy of Cllr Val Walker—a fantastic friend and tireless campaigner.

She was a driving force behind the flourishing culture in our communities and a lover of books. Valerie's commitment and contributions made a real difference, and she leaves behind a legacy of public service and community spirit. My heartfelt condolences to Val's family and friends.

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CASEWORK



LOTHIANS TOP PRIORITIES

WATCH THE VIDEO

Constituents remain concerned about access to health services and technology, with type 1 diabetics continuing to push for similar access to lifechanging technology, as seen in England. I have advocated for this issue in parliament over 21 times, and will continue to push until there is equal access to the technology needed.



Housing is another concern for the Lothian region, with constituents facing continued rent increases, water running brown, and temporary accommodation.

ADDRESSING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Constituents continue to raise concerns about the increased anti-social behaviour in Leith. This behaviour is causing concerns for safety and making residents feel uneasy in the community.

I have been liaising with Police Scotland regarding the issue, questioning local law enforcement about patrolling and preventative measures, and plan to hold a roundtable with stakeholders to address the issue and draft long-term solutions to support residents.







SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



ADVOCATING FOR YOU

I have been advocating for issues impacting the region, ranging from liaising with accessibility organisations, meeting with local councils, and engaging Police Scotland and Scottish Water to help address constituents concerns.

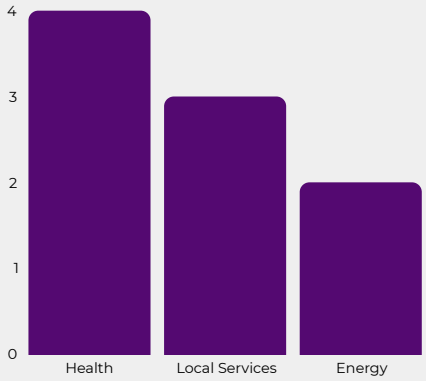




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PARLIAMENT



11 QUESTIONS ASKED...

MY PRIORITY FOR THE LOTHIAN REGION IS VOICING YOUR CONCERNS

HEALTH & LOCAL SERVICES

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE PATH TO NET-ZERO

Community energy projects are essential for Scotland's path to net zero—not only in cutting emissions, but in empowering local people to take control of their energy future. That's why I was pleased to speak on the importance of community-led renewables and to welcome the £5 million in investment from GB Energy.

Projects like the Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative are a perfect example of what's possible. So far, they have saved £1 million in energy costs for Edinburgh Council.



CELEBRATING INNOVATION AT THE ISLANDS ECONOMY SHOWCASE

Attending the Islands Economy Showcase was a fantastic opportunity to connect with over 30 businesses, social enterprises, and community initiatives from Scotland's island communities. It was truly inspiring to see the innovation, resilience, and vital contributions these groups make to our national economy. Their creativity and determination reflect the unique strengths of island life, and it was a privilege to learn more about their work.



PROTECT OUR FUTURE DEMONSTRATION

I joined pupils from a dozen schools outside the Scottish Parliament to hear their powerful message for MSPs. These students represented over 6,000 children across 30 Scottish schools, advocating for action against our climate emergency. I will always listen to these concerns and encourage young people to get involved in actions like these.



CHAMPIONING WOMEN AND GIRLS: MEETING WITH ACTIONAID UK

It was a pleasure to meet with Co-CEO and Director of Advocacy and Influencing, Hannah Bond from ActionAid UK, a leading humanitarian federation working across more than 72 countries. We discussed their vital work in protecting and uplifting women and girls, as well as their advocacy on critical issues like climate resilience in Bangladesh.



I was particularly impressed by their commitment to decolonised partnership models, working closely with local groups to drive real, lasting change. I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts and exploring new opportunities to support their advocacy through Parliament.

SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of communities across Scotland, yet participation rates are in decline. I recently spoke to Volunteer Scotland's research, which highlights that regular participation can have wellbeing benefits of £1,000 per person per year. As a co-convener of the CPG on Volunteering, I am committed to highlighting the work of volunteers and advocating for policies that support and recognise their contributions.

COMMUNITY

EID MUBARAK

I was honoured to be invited to the Eid Reception hosted by the Lord Provost and the City of Edinburgh Council along with the Board of Directors of the Pakistan Society Advice and Information Services. During a time of celebration, reflection and kindness, it is important to share that gratitude and joy with friends, family and our wider community. As such, it always warms my heart to partake in these moments of unity and diversity.



ART27 - ARTS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

I had the pleasure of meeting with Art27, a community interest company led by its artists to create a space where everyone in the community can participate and enjoy the arts. They have curated a program that includes exhibitions, performances, events and more. The work they do continues to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in an inclusive and welcoming space. I will continue to support local organisations like Art27 that celebrate culture.



TELUGU ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND

I celebrated the Telugu New Year at the Ugadi Sambaralu event organised by the Telugu Association of Scotland in Dalkeith. It was a vibrant day filled with culture and community spirit. It is always so special being able to engage with the local community through traditions.





CELEBRATING DIVERSE CULTURES WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

I had a wonderful time at St Augustine's High School's Culture Day celebrating the diversity of its students and staff through song, dance and various exchanges from different cultures. It was great to engage with the students and learn more about their different backgrounds and interests. We must all continue to support and uplift young people and continue to shine a light on our rich cultural diversity.



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY THROUGH PETANQUE

I attended an event at Inverleith Petanque Club, which offered a delightful immersion into a multicultural and inclusive community. The club, nestled in the scenic Inverleith Park, regularly hosts gatherings that bring together players from diverse backgrounds and regions. These events foster camaraderie and cultural exchange, making the club a vibrant hub for social interaction.



MAMBA SOUNDS LAUNCH EVENT

I was grateful to attend Mamba Sounds' launch event, giving me an opportunity to further promote the impressive work they have done and continue to do to spotlight black or multicultural artists from a grassroots level, through cultural and technological innovation. I look forward to seeing where Mamba Sounds goes and will continue to uplift and support their work.

GALLERY

APRIL 2025

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS IN THE PARLIAMENT AND COMMUNITY THIS MONTH

STAYING INFORMED ON SCOTTISH INTERESTS



ETERNAL FRIENDS ASSEMBLY



NOT JUST COFFEE



OPEN UNIVERSITY



EID RECEPTION



TELUGU ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND



REWILDING NATION



SAVE RIVER CITY



INVERLEITH PETANQUE CLUB



ST AUGUSTINE'S CULTURE DAY



ART27



PROTECTING OUR FUTURE



CHANGE MENTAL HEALTH



SUBRINA HUSSAIN NTV



BIDFOOD WHOLESALER



CITIZENS THEATRE



SCOTTISH CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL AID FUND



PERSPECTIVES ON MARINE BIOLOGY



NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE



ISLANDS ECONOMY



MAMBA SOUNDS

IN THE PRESS

EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS

VOLUNTEERING IN EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN IN DECLINE - FOYSOL CHOUDHURY

WE WON'T GIVE UP FIGHT FOR NEW HEALTH CENTRE

EDINBURGH REPORTER

LOTHIANS MSP CALLS FOR A MEMORIAL TO BE ESTABLISHED IN EDINBURGH

SCOTSMAN

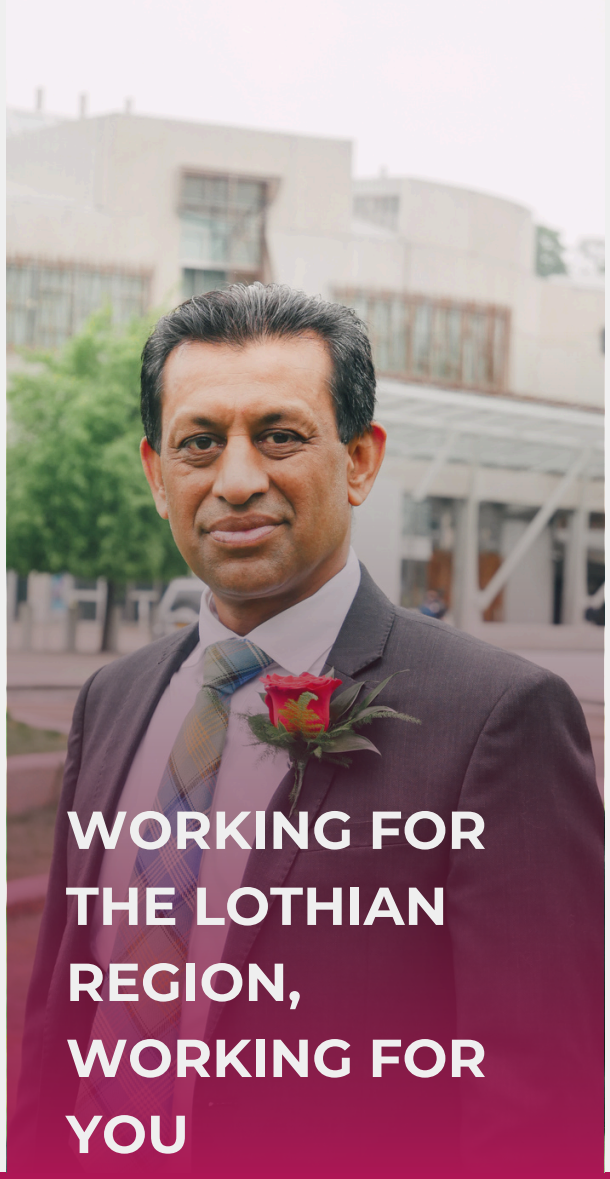
SHOCKING LEVELS OF RACISM IN SCOTLAND'S PUBS AND CLUBS DEMAND ACTION

NORTH EDINBURGH NEWS

FOYSOL CHOUDHRY MSP CELEBRATES SCOTLANDS FIRST TRANSPLANT FOOTBALL TEAM

FOYSOL CHOUDHURY CONGRATULATES ANISA KHAN, THE FIRST FINALIST OF BENGALI-DESCENT ON BBC'S THE APPRENTICE

BUILDING A HEALTHIER FUTURE: THE GROWING DEMAND FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN EDINBURGH



WORKING FOR THE LOTHIAN REGION, WORKING FOR YOU

THANK YOU FOR STAYING INFORMED AND ENGAGED. LET'S CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER SCOTLAND.

FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

SCAN ME

CHECK OUT MY NEW WEBSITE

SCAN ME

ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS GOOGLE FORM!

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