FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR LOTHIAN REGION

FEBRUARY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2025

A NEW DIRECTION FOR SCOTLAND

In response to the pressing healthcare needs of West Lothian's rapidly growing population, I have intensified efforts to secure a new medical centre to replace the East Calder Health Centre. The current facility, designed for 4,000 patients, now serves over 16,000, with projections indicating an additional 5,000 by 2028.
recognising the strain on resources and potential safety concerns, I visited the site alongside MP Gregor Poynton, to engage with local campaigners and assess the challenges first-hand.

Together, with the local campaign group, we are urging NHS Lothian and Scottish Government to step up and take leadership, allocating £400,000 for the business case development. With the UK' Government's record funding in the past budget, there are questions to where this record funding is being allocated, if not health centres like this.

RACIAL PREJUDICE ON THE RISE

I convened a Cross-Party Group meeting on Challenging Racial and Religious Prejudice at the end of the month, where we focused on Hinduphobia, and the deeply concerning rise of hate crimes across the UK.

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

WORKING FOR THE LOTHIAN REGION, WORKING FOR YOU



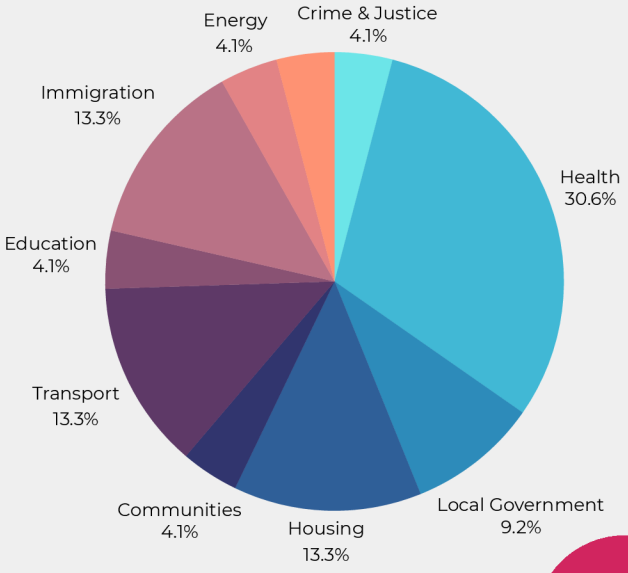




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CASEWORK



25 NEW CASES

A CONCERNING TREND: SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Scotland's health services remains a priority for Lothians' constituents, with 30% of February's cases relating to health concerns. I have seen cuts to social care packages and constituents suffering from lack of support.

Others cases centre on lack of accessibility and service reductions within NHS Lothian, threatening the already scare care available.

Aside from patients, health care providers are overwhelmed, with the toll on doctors and staff increasingly impacting their wellbeing and mental health.

CONTINUED HOUSING CONCERNS

Constituents continue to face issues in accessing housing. These concerns range from a lack of adapted social housing for disabled individuals to year long waits for families who are in dire need of social housing.

I continue to advocate for my constituents, having asked questions to the First Minister, and submitting FOI requests.

LOTHIANS TOP PRIORITIES

1. **HEALTH**
2. **HOUSING**
3. **TRANSPORT**





OVER 400 EMAILS... 10+ SURGERIES AND 38 RESOLVED CASES



HEARING YOUR CONCERNS

This month has been busy for surgeries. I have held an online surgery to accommodate individuals accessibility concerns, and over 10 local surgeries to offer support to constituents.

30% OF NEW CASES ARE HEALTH RELATED

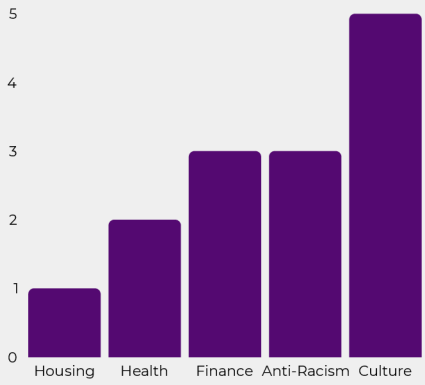
MY PRIORITY IS ADDRESSING LOTHIANS' CONCERNS

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PARLIAMENT

14 QUESTIONS ASKED...



MY PRIORITY FOR THE LOTHIAN REGION IS VOICING YOUR CONCERNS

CULTURE
ANTI-RACISM
FINANCE

PRIORITISING MENTAL HEALTH AND CHANGE POLICY

I was honoured to attend an evening focused on mental health at Scottish Parliament.

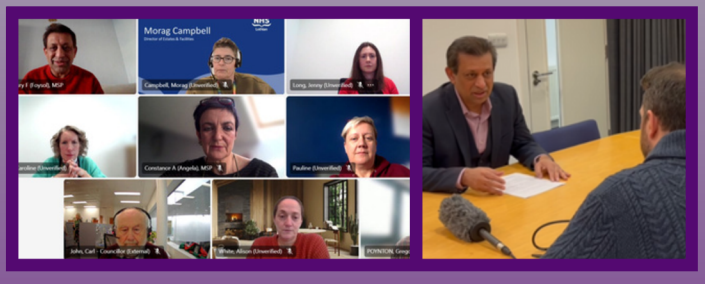


This powerful evening highlighting why mental health must stay at the top of Scotland's policy agenda. With over 10,000 people supported across Scotland, organisations like Change Mental Health is making a real impact.

DEMANDING ACTION FOR EAST CALDER HEALTH CENTRE

This month, I led a cross-party, cross-governmental meeting with MSPs, MPs, and local councillors with NHS Lothian to discuss the urgent need for a new East Calder Health Centre, urging NHS Lothian to step up and take action.

A business case must be finalised from NHS Lothian for the project to be shovel ready when capital funding from the Scottish Government is secured.



LEARNING FROM THE PAST: CELEBRATING YOUTH EDUCATION

Following Holocaust Memorial Day, it was heart touching to engage with today's youth and see how local organisations including the Anne Frank Trust, Vision Schools Scotland, Beyond Srebrenica, and Holocaust Educational Trust are championing education in schools on past horrors, looking to move forward.



CELEBRATING LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AND PREVENTING LANGUAGE LOSS

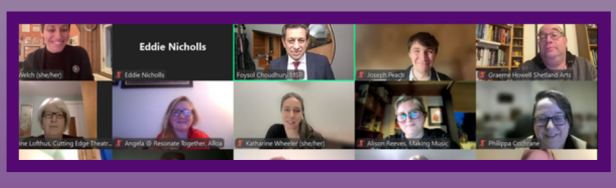
Ahead of international mother language day, I chaired a roundtable organised by the Bangladesh Association Glasgow, focusing on linguistic diversity and language loss prevention.



It is essential that we prioritise data and technological support for language diversity, notably minority languages. Language is more than speaking, it is part of our culture, heritage, and identity.

CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES: "BIG AMBITIONS"

I convened the CPG for Culture and Communities, where we heard big ideas for the future of the culture sector. We will analyse these common themes and work towards next steps. for Scotland's culture.



COMMUNITY

HEALTH AND WELLBEING: PRIORITISING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

My mission to improve accessibility to proper health care continues with my visit to East Calder (2), witnessing the inapt state of the health centre, and discussing with campaign groups and staff the urgent need for funding and support. At Barnton Pharmacy (1) we discussed the crucial role of community pharmacies in easing pressure on doctors & hospitals.



A MONTH OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION IN ACTION

I attended the Woodland Trust Scotland (1) community tree planting day in Livingston. Over 1,000 trees were planted with the help of community members in the neighbourhood. I also attended the Milan Senior Welfare Association's annual community gathering (2), celebrating their dedication to helping the South Asian senior community feel supported.



VISITING LOCAL: SUPPORTING THE BUSINESSES CLOSEST TO HOME

Throughout the last month, I have met with different businesses and organisations : Warmworks, Speak Their Name Lothians, Destined for Home Leith (1), Right There, EIS, Woodland Trust Scotland, National Society of Apprentices, Milan SWO, and more. It is vital to support local organisations and small businesses, as they foster a stronger sense of community and assistance.



MUSLIM BURIALS LONG-TERM PLAN: COMMUNITY MEETING

Members from the Muslim community in Scotland came to the Parliament to discuss a long-term plan to establish more land for Muslim burial grounds. It was agreed to create a graveyard plan to include a 10-hectare plot, and once the land is secured, a Trust will be set up, gathering all mosques together to oversee the initiative.



INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 2025

We celebrated with a beautiful event hosted by ELREC at the City Chambers in Edinburgh. This year marks 25 years of International Mother Language Day. It serves as a significant opportunity to reflect achievements and celebrate the beauty of language together with the support of the Scottish Bangladeshi Welfare Association and Thistle Shapla Cultural Group.



SCOTTISH LABOUR

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

A WEEKEND FOR CROSS-GOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT AND HEARING YOUR POLICY CONCERNS.


FRIENDS OF THE EARTH


ELECTRICAL SAFETY FIRST


FIRST BUS


COAFIELD REGENERATION TRUST



MARIE CURIE


CYCLING UK



THE RAMBLERS



LABOUR PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND



SCOTTISH SWIMMING



YOUNG LIVES VS CANCER



RCPSYCH



SPCC



THE ALLIANCE



SAVE THE CHILDREN



ASTHMA & LUNG UK



SCOTTISH AUTISM


SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL



EIS



ABERLOUR



SCOTTISH SEA FARMS


WWF



BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION



SPFL



BANK OF SCOTLAND



SAMH


TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST


RSE



CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

THANKS TO ALL WHO JOINED AND HERE'S TO NEXT YEAR.

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IN THE PRESS

EVENING NEWS

LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT LEAVING PATIENTS AND STAFF IN LIMBO

DOMESTIC ABUSE IS A YEAR ROUND PROBLEM - FOYSOL CHOUDHURY

EDINBURGH REPORTER

CHOUDHURY CALLS FOR DEDICATED MUSLIM CEMETERY

SCOTSMAN

'ACCOUNTANTS ARE MAKING CLINICAL DECISIONS': DIABETES PATIENTS SLAM NHS SERVICE

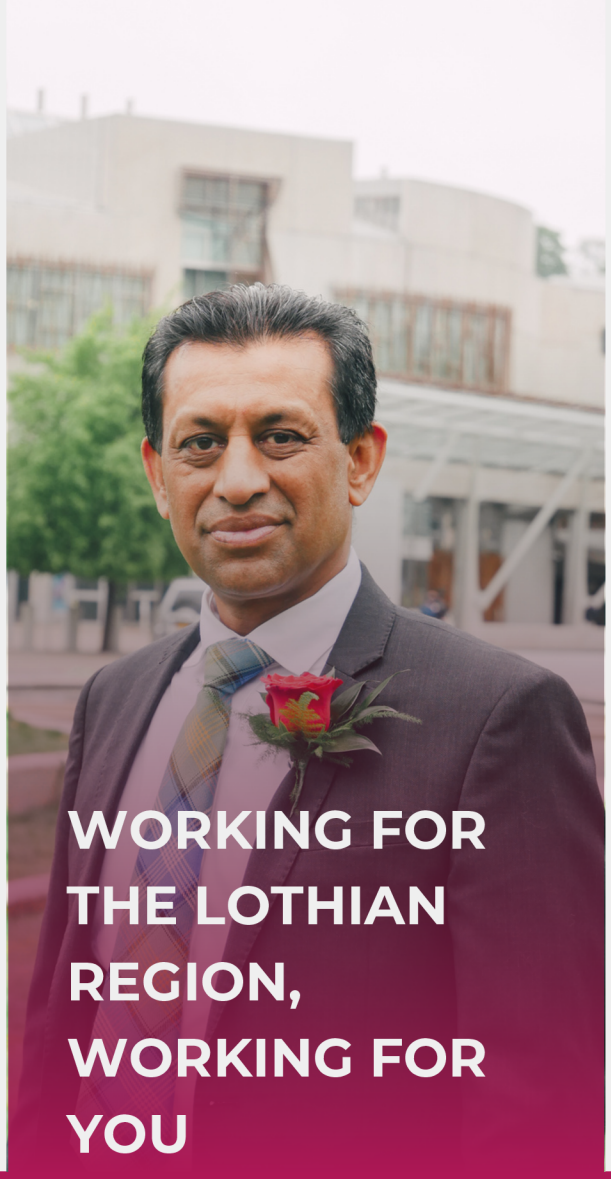
DAILY RECORD

WEST LOTHIAN LABOUR POLITICIANS MEET WITH EAST CALDER HEALTH CENTRE CAMPAIGNERS

NORTH EDINBURGH NEWS

CHOUDHURY CHAIRS SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ROUNDTABLE TO ADDRESS "LANGUAGE LOSS IN TODAY'S WORLD"

THIRD SECTOR FUNDING CUTS: EDINBURGH'S HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES AT RISK



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

FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

SCAN ME

ACCESS TO MY WEBSITE

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

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