FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
FOR LOTHIAN REGION

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Learn about my work in the PARLIAMENT

A sneak peek into my PORTFOLIO's work

Read about the causes I've been championing

Find out about the CASEWORK I focused on in 2024

Discover the highlights of my COMMUNITY VISITS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Last year in the Scottish Parliament



In the Parliament

This year I have continued to pursue the issues which matter to people in Lothian. I have spoken in the chamber more than 140 times, raising casework, local issues and nationwide challenges.
These are just some of the things I have done in Parliament this year.
In October I sponsored several roundtables including one on Fair Work in the Gig Economy with Heriot Watt University, where I heard the struggles of delivery drivers working for food delivery apps and the unfair, unsafe conditions forced upon them.
I also sponsored a roundtable on diabetes technology which I continue to campaign on. I heard stories of people having to inject insulin 19 times a day



Members: Medical Technology for Patients with Diabetes Jan 7



Type 1 diabetic constituents and local advocates



Why is Scotland being left out of the loop?

MSP raises healthcare concerns

Press release on Diabetes

before gaining access to technology, and how difficult it was to receive funding for a closed loop system or "artificial pancreas".
I took this news to the First Minister and asked him how the Scottish Government would tackle the waiting list for diabetes technology which will reach 1200 in Lothian by 2026. As the Scottish Government has not committed enough to give every person with type one diabetes the necessary support to live their lives comfortably, I will take my campaign into the new year.
This year I continued to support and



Third-Sector Roundtable

fight for community organisations working in our third sector. In January I hosted a roundtable on the current funding model for third sector organisations, the barriers to access to funding for smaller orgs, and what lessons could be learnt. Third sector organisations have had a tough year, and I have worked to support them every time.
After the Investing in Communities Fund was cut with little warning by the Scottish Government, I pressed the Minister on how the Scottish Government was planning to stop child poverty if it could not support third sector organisations, which are so important to our communities. I also worked to secure the future of health organisations in Lothian after the integration joint board proposed in year cuts to the funding to 64 third sector organisations.



Brain Tumour Awareness event


MSYPs in the Scottish Parliament

Some of my actions

In Culture, I urged East Lothian Council and the Cabinet Secretary to replace the Brunton Theatre after its closure. For Justice, I addressed antisocial behavior in Leith, engaging with police and business owners while calling for government action. On the Economy, I advocated for worker cooperatives, and for Net Zero, I criticised the Circular Economy Bill for failing to tackle overconsumption. I celebrated Transport progress with Winchburgh Train Station, marked Health awareness with Brain Tumour Awareness Month, pushed for Education through anti-racist initiatives with young people, and amplified community voices on Social Justice, highlighting racial and religious prejudice to the Minister for Victims and Community Safety.



Winchburgh community campaign



Edinburgh Climate Festival 2024

Community

This year was filled with enriching cultural and community engagements across Edinburgh and the Lothians. A highlight was hosting the Diwali Parliamentary Reception, organised by Edinburgh Diwali, celebrating our vibrant cultural diversity.

I had the pleasure of celebrating Volunteers Week at the Pilmeny Development Centre, where I was inspired by the incredible work volunteers do for the charity and delighted to meet such dedicated individuals.

Similarly, my visit to Dance Base highlighted their vital work supporting dance artists and promoting health through community dance. Third sector organisations remain under immense pressure due to funding cuts.


Pilmeny Development Centre


Diwali Parliamentary Reception



Dance Base Visit


Willie Barr, Manager of the Citadel Youth Centre


LifeCare

I met with LifeCare, Health All Round, and others who are advocating for support. I welcomed the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board's decision to reject in-year cuts to these organisations and raised the issue in the Chamber, urging the Scottish Government to allocate adequate funding for 2025/26 to ensure communities receive the support they need.

The potential sale of Summerhall, a vital cultural venue, is deeply concerning. Its preservation is essential, and I continue to call for an urgent Festivals Summit to address this and other pressing cultural challenges.

These experiences highlight the incredible work being done locally and the urgent need for robust investment in our cultural and community infrastructure.



Edinburgh Book Festival 2024



East Calder Health Centre

Casework

32% of my casework is to deal with Health Services and Medicine, as constituents remain very concerned about the long times that they are waiting for operations or treatment, long waiting times in A&E, or are struggling to get a GP appointment etc. Over 100,000 Scots have been on an NHS waiting list for tests or treatment for over a year – the figure has risen by 28% in a year. Despite this backlog, around 48,000 fewer operations are carried out a year compared to pre-pandemic. Several constituents have also contacted me about the difficulties they have in accessing technologies to treat their Type 1 diabetes.

Housing issues also remain a persistent worry for constituents and accounts for 16% of recent cases. Homelessness, people stuck in unsuitable temporary accommodation, a lack of social housing, black mould and damp are all issues that affect several of my Lothian constituents. I will continue to raise these and other important issues at the Scottish Parliament on behalf of my constituents.


One City Trust Housing meeting

Campaigning


Creative Industry budget cuts protest

- Creative Industries Trade Unions: I campaigned to provide sufficient funding for the creative industry.
- Fire Brigades Union's: I supported the Firestorm Report which exposes the crises facing the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- Third-sector: Trade unions have campaigned and highlighted the cuts to third-sector organisations and the crises in social care, which I support.
- South Queensferry: After a long campaign by residents, the access to new housing will now avoid their quiet residential streets.
- Sponsor: I sponsored anti-racism strategies for the third and voluntary sector. North Edinburgh Arts, with Passion4Fusion and Project Esperanza, have delivered North Edinburgh Arts' Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan.
- The People's Story Museum in Edinburgh: the only museum dedicated to working-class history has now reopened. I opposed the closure of the museums, alongside residents. Thanks to the campaigners.
- Eye Pavilion: campaigners along with All Party MSPs have achieved capital funding for the new build.
- Dolly's Library: this campaign, inspired by the lifelong love of reading, worked to gift books and bring libraries to communities; great to see the opening of a new community library in Muirhouse.


Anti-Racism , third and voluntary sector

CONTACT ME

If you need help or advice with any issue or concern, get in touch and book your slot at one of my phone surgeries.

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