FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR LOTHIAN REGION

MARCH UPDATE

WORKING TOGETHER AGAINST HATE

MARCH 2025

As we move into spring and Scottish Labour selection process commencement for the upcoming 2026 Holyrood Elections, it has been busier than ever. This month, I have been working to address the inordinate rate of hate Scotland and the UK are facing. We have seen record high anti-muslim hate-incidents, leading me to question the First Minister twice in 3 weeks on the Scottish Government's actions to address and tackle Islamophobia.

As it is Ramadan, a peaceful time of celebration, it is truly disheartening to see hate and violence continue, with the recent attack on a mosque in Aberdeen.

What is happening in Gaza is shocking. Israel has violated the ceasefire agreement with Gaza, bombing innocent people, killing over 400 people, including children, and injuring 500 more. Over 80% of Gaza's infrastructure has been destroyed.

This is a violation of international human rights and cannot be ignored. I attended a debate in the Scottish Parliament speaking to Scottish Enterprise's rules for funding, and have raised questions in the chamber about humanitarian aid.

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

WORKING FOR LOTHIAN



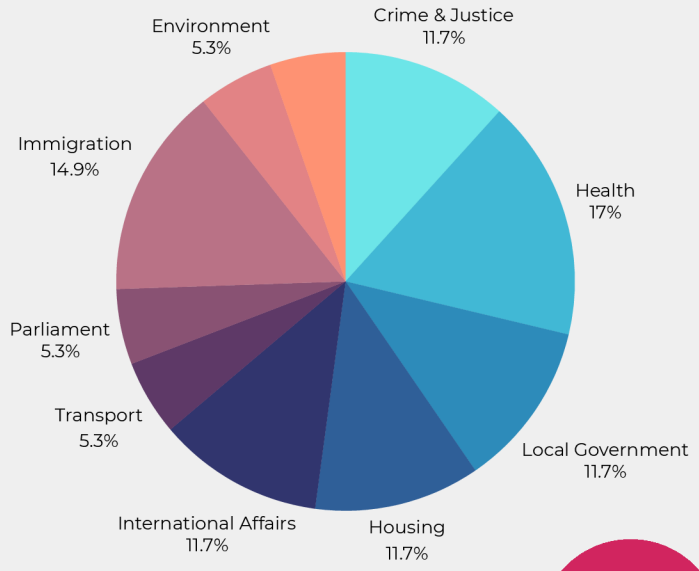
CAMPAIGNING IN NORTHERN EDINBURGH AND LEITH



ADVOCATING FOR COMMUNITY ARTS AT THE BRUNTON



CASEWORK



41 NEW CASES

POTENTIAL CUTS, LONG WAITS, AND UNCERTAINTY FOR PATIENTS...

Scotland's NHS continues to face challenges with long waiting times for treatment, exacerbating patient concerns and straining healthcare resources. In the Lothian region, proposed cuts to out-of-hours services threaten to limit access to urgent care, causing concern for constituents.

Additionally, type 1 diabetics face uncertainty in accessing lifesaving technology, like continuous glucose monitors, which are vital for managing their condition. These issues highlight the pressing need for sustainable solutions to ensure equitable and timely healthcare for all.

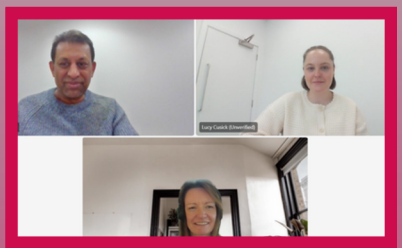
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON THE RISE

Constituents have been reaching out about increased anti-social behaviour in Leith and Drylaw. This behaviour is causing concerns for safety and making residents feel uneasy in their own neighbourhoods.

I have been liaising with Police Scotland regarding the issue, questioning local law enforcement about patrolling and preventative measures. I have also met with Victim Support Scotland to discuss their priorities and services.

LOTHIANS TOP PRIORITIES

1. HEALTH
2. HOUSING
3. CRIME



VICTIM SUPPORT SCOTLAND

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS





OVER 600 EMAILS...
5+ SURGERIES
AND 38 RESOLVED CASES

CASEWORK IMPACTING PARLIAMENTARY WORK



LISTENING TO YOUR CONCERNS

This month has been busy for casework. I held a neighbourhood surgery at the Drylaw Community Centre to hear your concerns, and over 5 local surgeries to offer support to constituents.

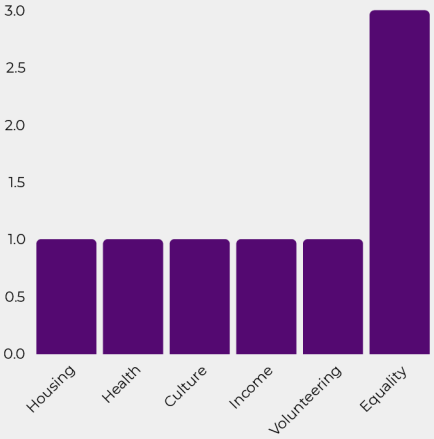


MY PRIORITY IS ADDRESSING LOTHIANS' CONCERNS

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www.foysolchoudhury.co.uk

PARLIAMENT



8 QUESTIONS ASKED...

MY PRIORITY FOR THE LOTHIAN REGION IS VOICING YOUR CONCERNS

EQUALITY & INCLUSION

EXCITING PROPOSALS FROM SCOTLAND'S YOUTH: THE SOUTH SUB TRAM-TRAIN

I had the pleasure of meeting a group of six talented civil engineering students from Heriot-Watt University who presented an ambitious vision for our transport future–the South Suburban tram-train proposal. The students' proposal to bring tram-trains onto existing infrastructure offers a smart, cost-effective solution to expanding public transport, cutting congestion and reducing carbon emissions



QUESTIONING THE FIRST MINISTER ON HATE CRIME

This month, I raised urgent concerns over the alarming rise in anti-Muslim hate incidents. During First Minister's Questions, I pressed Scotland's First Minister on what actions the Scottish Government is taking to combat this hate.

Two weeks later, I pressed the First Minister again, when a mosque in Aberdeen was attacked, on how mosques are going to be protected, emphasising that education is our most important asset in combatting hate.



ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING LOTHIAN AND SCOTLAND

This month, I met with the National Lottery Community Fund (1); the 'MATILDE' research project from the University of Parma (2); Brain Tumour Research UK (3); and Scottish Coastal Clean-Up (4). These are just some of the organisations I met, yet they continue to support Scots by contributing financial support, research, and coastal clean-up.



THE ISSUES IMPACTING LOTHIAN

This month, I spoke on the many issues impacting Lothian. In a recent debate, I spoke to the housing crisis, emphasising that temporary accommodations fail to meet a child's right to healthy living, with accommodations riddled with mould and damp.



During portfolio questions, I asked what is being done to address skills shortages and training in the culture sector and what wraparound discussions are being had to support reducing reoffending rates for drug use.

LISTENING TO SCOTLAND'S PETITIONS

As a member of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, I am committed to ensuring public petitions are thoroughly considered.

There were two sessions this month, with discussions ranging from court summons to construction with swift bricks. From reviewing petitions to enhancing public engagement, this work helps to drive transparency and accountability.

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COMMUNITY

VIBRANT COMMUNITY DIVERSITY: CELEBRATING LOCAL CULTURE

I had the pleasure of being invited by the Scottish Indian Arts Forum to celebrate Holi (1), ringing in the arrival of spring. Later this month, I had the joy of celebrating Bihar Diwas with the Bihari Community of Scotland (2). It is always an honour to be a part of such special traditions and share the great sense of community they bring.



SURGERIES AND SURPRISE BICYCLE RIDES

I held an advice surgery at the Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre to hear from the community on issues they're experiencing such as anti-social behaviour. And had a surprise encounter with ELREC's cycle maintenance group! I had a great conversation with Gerry about the hard work they have been doing to get the bikes up and ready for the coming sunny months, as well as teaching the local community valuable bike maintenance.





SUPPORTING THE YOUTH OF SCOTLAND

This month I had some great opportunities to meet with various young people across Edinburgh, including young carers (1), students from the Edinburgh Political Union (3), and nursing and midwifery students from Edinburgh Napier (2). Together we had insightful conversations and touched on various topics and issues affecting them. It is important that we continue to engage with young people and support their bright futures.



SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025

I celebrated Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2025 with the Scottish Parliament Reception (1) and Lothian Buses (2), meeting many apprentices across these different career fields.

It was a perfect week to shine a light on the positive impact of apprenticeships for young people, local communities, and businesses alike. It is crucial to me to keep uplifting and empowering these great opportunities for people across Scotland.



GALLERY

MARCH 2025

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS IN THE PARLIAMENT AND LOCAL COMMUNITY THIS MONTH

STAYING INFORMED ON SCOTTISH INTERESTS



BRUNTON HALL



MEDICAL AND DENTAL DEFENCE UNIT OF SCOTLAND


ROYAL COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS


EIF LAUNCH


SCOTTISH LABOUR PENTLANDS MEMBERS MEETING


SOUTH SUB MEETING WITH HERIOT WATT STUDENTS



TARGET OVARIAN CANCER


TNL COMMUNITY FUND


BLACK WORKERS INITIATIVE



INJURY TIME CAMPAIGN


SOUTH SUB INTERVIEW WITH POST-GRAD STUDENT



RARE DISEASE DAY



SCOTTISH COASTAL CLEAN UP


KIDNEY RESEARCH UK


CPG ON VOLUNTEERING


MATIDLE RESEARCH PROJECT


SCOTTISH LABOUR CAMPAIGN



MARIE CURIE SCOTLAND



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND



ASH SCOTLAND

IN THE PRESS

EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS

DEDICATED MUSLIM CEMETERY IS A MATTER OF DIGNITY

SOUTH SUB LINE - A VISION WORTH BACKING

EDINBURGH REPORTER

EMPOWERING CHANGE – CORRA FOUNDATION CHAMPIONS HUMAN RIGHTS IN SCOTLAND

SCOTSMAN

RAMADAN IS NOT JUST ABOUT FASTING, IT'S ABOUT EMPATHISING WITH THE LESS FORTUNATE

DAILY RECORD

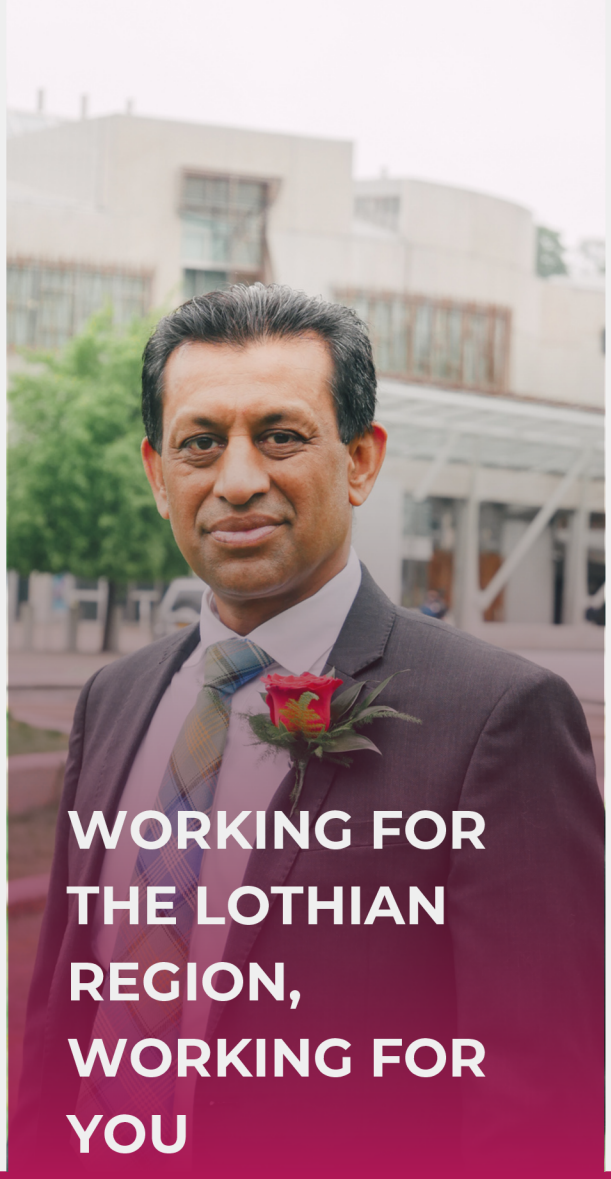
LOTHIANS MSP BACKING HEALTH CHARITY'S NATIONAL NO SMOKING DAY CAMPAIGN

NORTH EDINBURGH NEWS

MSP CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY AND PROTECTION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AMIDST EIJB BUDGET CUTS

FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP: FACING THE INVISIBLE BATTLE

MSP CALLS FOR GREATER SUPPORT AND FUNDING CLARITY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS



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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