FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR LOTHIAN REGION

MAY UPDATE

MAY 2025

CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

This month, I alongside fellow Scottish Labour campaigners have been out in force across Hamilton, Larkhall, and Stonehouse.

From doorstep conversations to campaign events, we're listening to residents, addressing key concerns, and making the case for a fairer, stronger Scotland. Whether it's tackling the cost-of-living crisis, improving public services, or fighting for better jobs and wages, our campaign is focused on delivering real change.



CAMPAIGNING IN HAMILTON, LARKHALL AND STONEHOUSE

This month, Lothian MSPs celebrated 25 years of the Scottish Parliament in Mayfield and Easthouses. This day marked an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made, and the voices that continue to shape our future. It was great to visit Nourish Scotland, Mayfield & Easthouses Development Trust, and Midlothian Community Action.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT WITH LOTHIANS MSPS IN MIDLOTHIAN

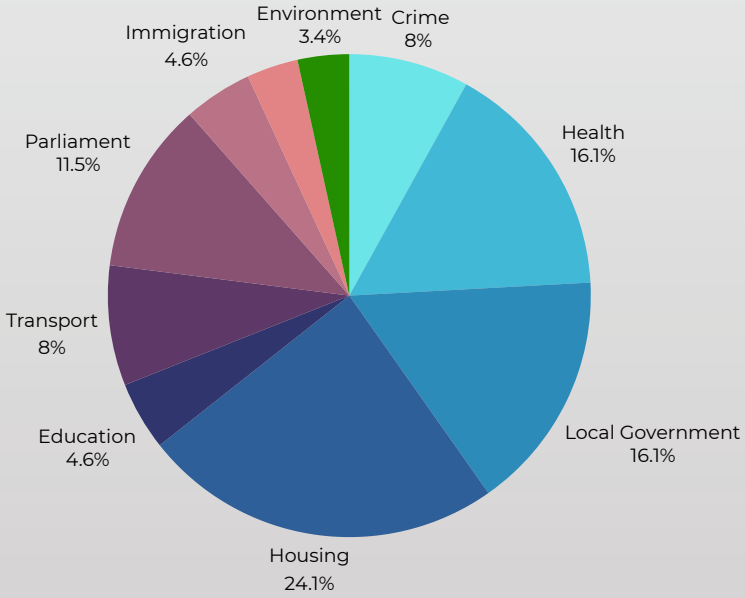
The North Edinburgh Community Festival also took place this month, a wonderful celebration of local talent, culture, and togetherness. Held at West Pilton Park the festival welcomed over 12,000 attendees, showcasing the vibrancy of North Edinburgh. Seeing so many familiar faces and meeting new constituents reaffirmed the importance of community festivals.

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

Assisted Dying Bill Statement:

After listening to diverse views and carefully considering the issues, I voted against the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults bill. Its broad scope risks including disabled people and those with years to live, raising serious ethical concerns. I believe our focus must remain on high-quality palliative care for all. Read my full statement here.

CASEWORK



LOTHIANS TOP PRIORITIES

More and more constituents are contacting me about their families being stuck in temporary accommodation for several years. This leaves families at risk of possible eviction, unable to settle and plan, as it is not a permanent home. This often has detrimental effects on both the parents and children's mental health. I will continue to raise this important issue at the Scottish Parliament on behalf of my Lothian constituents.

READ THE ARTICLE

WATCH THE VIDEO

LONG WAITS FOR TREATMENT

Constituents have also contacted me about the long waits that they are facing to get follow-up appointments to see a dermatologist, despite their condition worsening. I have raised this at the Scottish Parliament and while I welcome the new digital dermatology pathway, further action needs to be taken to ensure that all constituents receive treatment for their condition as quickly as possible.





MEETING THE ENTHUSIATIC YOUTH FROM CUTTING EDGE THEATRE GROUP



SPEAKING TO ISSUES IMPACTING THE LOTHIAN REGION

OVER 190 EMAILS...
29 NEW CASES,
38 CASES RESOLVED,

SUPPORTING LOCAL IN LOTHIAN





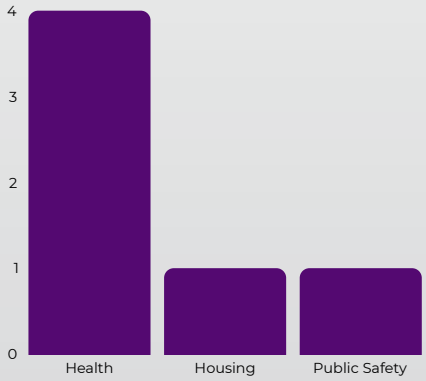
ADVOCATING FOR YOU

I have been a steadfast advocate for my constituents, ensuring their voices are heard on vital issues. From addressing the lack of dropped kerbs that prevent safe commuting, to engaging with the council on planning applications for 5G masts, I remain committed to tackling concerns that impact daily life.





PARLIAMENT



11 QUESTIONS ASKED...

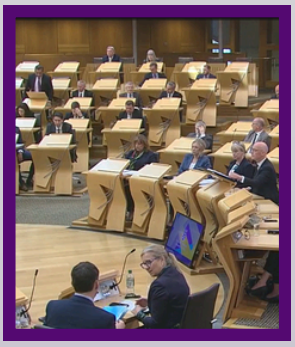
MY PRIORITY FOR THE LOTHIAN REGION IS VOICING YOUR CONCERNS

HEALTH, HOUSING & PUBLIC SAFETY

ADVOCATING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES & SECURED FUNDING

I am deeply concerned by the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board's (EIJB) proposed funding cuts, which threaten essential community mental health services in Edinburgh. These cuts raise serious questions about feasibility and disregard the long-term impact on service users.

I questioned the First Minister on his priority of prevention, noting that it will not be possible is IJBs are in permanent financial crisis. I have been working with fellow MSP, urging a pause to cuts and a thorough strategic assessment be conducted.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENSS WEEK MAY 12-18

I am proud to stand alongside my colleagues in championing mental well-being and advocating for greater access to essential services. Mental health impacts us all, and together, we must continue fostering kindness, breaking down stigma, and ensuring that no one feels isolated in their struggles. By working collaboratively, we can build a stronger, more compassionate society where mental health is prioritised.



STANDING WITH #MEACTION

I stood in solidarity with #MEAction outside the Scottish Parliament, advocating for urgent action to improve care for those living with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME). ME affects thousands across Scotland, yet 8 of our 14 NHS boards currently offer no specialist or related ME/CFS service—an unacceptable gap in support for patients who desperately need recognition, treatment, and resources.



CHAMPIONING THE CLIMATE

It was great to sponsor "Climate Perspectives: North-South Dialogue" organised by Dr. Debojyoti Das from the University of Edinburgh. Speakers from all across the UK came to speak about their work tackling the climate crisis through biodiversity credits, nature-based solutions, gendered impacts and emphasied the need for a fossil fuel treaty and trans-regional collaboration.



SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL SKILLS

It was fantastic to meet construction apprentices, representing Edinburgh, Stirling, South Ayrshire, and North Lanarkshire. Their dedication to mastering essential skills and delivering vital work for our communities is truly commendable. These apprentices are not only building their careers but also shaping the future of Scotland's infrastructure with their hard work and commitment.



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COMMUNITY

25 YEARS OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

It was an absolute privilege to join fellow Lothian MSPs in Mayfield and Easthouses to celebrate 25 years of the Scottish Parliament and to hear directly from local communities. A huge thank you to Mayfield & Easthouses Development Trust and Nourish Scotland for the warm welcome and for hosting meaningful discussions on food rights, transport, and wellbeing. These conversations are essential in shaping how our Parliament continues to serve and support the people of Lothian.



SUPPORTING NURSES AND MIDWIVES



I had the pleasure of meeting with staff and students from Queen Margaret's Nursing & Midwifery Programme alongside Chris Murray MP. The discussion highlighted the urgent need for increased support, especially in the face of rising living costs. They are the backbone of our healthcare system, working to provide compassionate care to patients every day.

CAMPAIGNING IN HAMILTON, LARKHALL AND STONEHOUSE

I went up to Hamilton with my fellow MSPs, MPs, and councillors, door knocking and speaking face to face with constituents over their concerns ranging from NHS waits to housing. Let's stand together and push for a new direction—one that prioritises a stronger future for Hamilton, Larkhall, and Stonehouse.





CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: NORTH EDINBURGH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

The North Edinburgh Community Festival was a vibrant celebration of local talent and togetherness with a fantastic turnout. The day was filled with lively performances and engaging workshops. From delicious food stalls to interactive arts activities, the festival offered something for everyone. Families, artists, and local groups came together to create an unforgettable day, showcasing the heart and spirit of North Edinburgh.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ART: A VISIT TO CUTTING EDGE THEATRE

Visiting Cutting Edge Theatre was an inspiring experience, showcasing the power of the arts to create meaningful change. Based in Edinburgh, this innovative theatre company is dedicated to making the performing arts accessible to all, particularly through its Inspire Disability Arts programme. Their commitment to inclusion and creativity was evident in every aspect of their work, from engaging drama sessions to thought-provoking productions. It was a privilege to witness first-hand how they empower individuals and communities through theatre.



KNIFE CRIME IN OUR COMMUNITIES



This month, I questioned the First Minister on the rise in knife crime, with 11 stabbings since March . We have seen too many attacks surrounding Edinburgh, with 3 young people losing their lives this past year.

GALLERY

MAY 2025

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS IN THE PARLIAMENT AND COMMUNITY THIS MONTH

STAYING INFORMED ON SCOTTISH INTERESTS



WITHYOU


NEMO ARTS


CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICES


NAPIER UNIVERSITY PRINCIPAL PROF SUE RIGBY


VOLUNTARY HEALTH SCOTLAND


CHILDREN'S HOSPICES ACROSS SCOTLAND



MS SOCIETY


WELCOMING THE MAYOR OF FETHIYE


MEETING CONSTITUENTS IN MIDLOTHIAN



SANDS


COLLABORATING IN MIDLOTHIAN


A DAY OUT CAMPAIGNING


CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT



EPILEPSY SERVICES


A CELEBRATION OF RIVERS, CLIMATE, LIFE & ARTS


MY NAME'5 DODDIE FOUNDATION


STAGE 1: ASSISTED DYING BILL (SCOTLAND)



POPPYSCOTLAND



BRITISH POLIO FELLOWSHIP


CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL PHILANTHROPY IN SCOTLAND


NORTH EDINBRUGH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

IN THE PRESS

BBC

SWINNEY ACCUSED OF BEING 'WEAK' ON TEENAGE KNIFE CRIME AT FMQS

EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH NETBALL

EDINBURGH CUTS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 'UNACCEPTABLE': JOHN SWINNEY URGED TO INTERVENE

EDINBURGH REPORTER

CYCLING TOWARDS A HEALTHIER FUTURE

EDINBURGH MSPS ON THE ASSISTED DYING BILL

MARINE PERSPECTIVES AND BANGLADESH

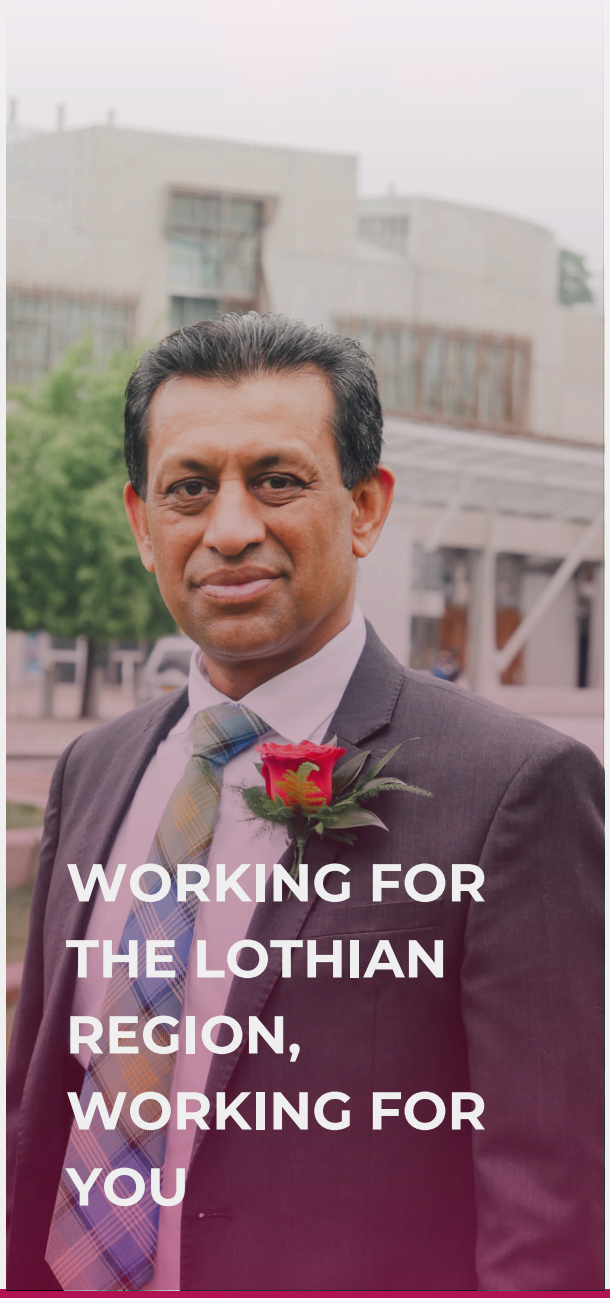
NORTH EDINBURGH NEWS

FASHION DISPARITY IN SOUTH ASIA AND IT'S REFLECTION IN SCOTLAND'S RETAIL LANDSCAPE

HOLYROOD TO DEBATE ASSISTED DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS BILL TODAY

CELEBRATING MAMBA SOUNDS, SCOTLAND'S MOST PROMISING CULTURALLY INNOVATIVE MUSIC START-UP

FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP CALLS FOR PAUSE ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE CUTS TO ALLOW FOR STRATEGIC REVIEW



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

FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

Get in Touch!

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SCAN ME

CHECK OUT MY NEW WEBSITE

SCAN ME

CONTACT ME