

JANUARY 2024

CLARE ADAMSON MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR
MOTHERWELL AND WISHAW CONSTITUENCY

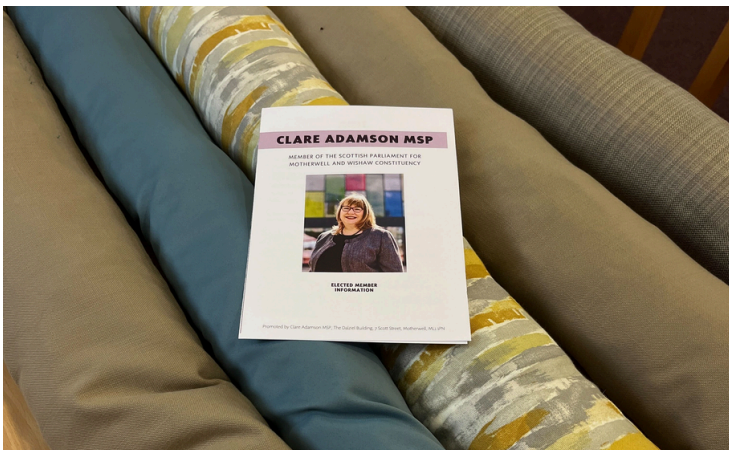


'How Devolution is Changing Post-EU'



The 'How Devolution is Changing Post-EU' report sets out the findings and recommendations of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee following an inquiry on how devolution is changing outside of the European Union. Together with Committee representatives, I took part in an event regarding the report, and met with the University Principal & Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Jim McDonald.

Food Bank Surgeries



As the cost of living continues to affect families in the area, my office have been carrying out surgeries at local foodbanks. North Lanarkshire Community Payback Restorative Team donated draught excluders for my staff to distribute. I'd like to thank them for their kind donations that were well received by organisations in Motherwell and Wishaw.

Meeting with One Parent Families Scotland, North Lanarkshire



I was a pleasure to meet with the staff from One Parent Families Scotland, North Lanarkshire to discuss their work. One Parent Families Scotland provide expert advice and key practical support to single parent families in the area. Thank you to staff in their Motherwell office for meeting with me.

Supporting Scotch Whisky



I was pleased to meet with the Scotch Whisky Association at the Scottish Parliament to discuss the economic contribution of the Scotch Whisky industry. There are 53 bottles of Scotch Whisky exported every second to markets all over the world!

Scottish Pantry Network



It was a pleasure to speak with Mandy Morgan from The Scottish Pantry Network at the Scottish Parliament. I am looking forward to speaking with local food banks in my Constituency and explore how the Pantry could work for them.

The National Databank Programme



I was delighted to meet with Virgin Money UK and the Good Things Foundation to hear about their digital inclusion initiative, the National Databank programme. The databank works like a foodbank, but provides free mobile data, texts and calls for people in need.

Wielka Orkiestra Swiatecznej Pomocy



I was pleased to join the Polish community from Motherwell, Wishaw & beyond for fundraising events for Wielka Orkiestra Swiatecznej Pomocy - a charity focused on providing medical equipment to hospitals across Poland & running of medical and educational programmes.

I was delighted to open the running competition in Muirhouse, and kick off the FC Polonia Glasgow and FC Polska Aberdeen game in Wishaw. I was then joined by my colleague Marion Fellows MP for the family fun day, where I met with members of the Polish community in Motherwell and Wishaw over coffee and delicious baked goods.

Since its establishment, Wielka Orkiestra Swiatecznej Pomocy has donated 71,500 pieces of medical equipment. Their objective is to support public healthcare in Poland by purchasing state-of-the-art equipment for Polish hospitals and clinics. They have also initiated and helped to run eight nationwide medical programmes, which aim to transform medicine in the country. Dziękuję!

PARLIAMENT SPEECHES AND QUESTIONS

January 9th - Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee Report: "How Devolution is Changing Post-EU"

I put on record my thanks to the committee clerks, colleagues from across other legislatures and all those who gave evidence to the inquiry. I welcomed the opportunity to open this debate on behalf of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee on its report, "How Devolution is Changing Post-EU". The report is the third in a series of significant reports that the committee has published on the constitutional changes arising from the United Kingdom's having left the European Union. It is an important report for the Parliament that builds on our previous work on the UK internal market and the impact of Brexit on devolution. I thank my committee colleagues for their constructive and consensual approach.

January 16th - Horizon Information Technology Prosecutions

I stated that the issue of Horizon Information Technology Prosecutions is byzantine in its complexity, not least because of the many varied contracts and terms under which postmasters were employed over the period. I noted that some postmasters of long standing establishments handed back their businesses but, according to them, they were coerced into signing non-disclosure agreements. They were scared then and they are scared now. I asked the Lord Advocate if she can comment on the legal status of any such NDAs signed by Scottish postmasters and the likelihood of prosecution under such an NDA.

January 17th - British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly

I thanked our Parliament's current and previous delegates to BIPA. I noted that our delegates do a tremendous job on our behalf, but sometimes we do not hear about it. I mentioned that the European Union has been doing work on establishing and recognising cultural activity as a really important part of our heritage, highlighting that Scotland has Up Helly Aa and other traditions across our communities, including the Lanark Lanimers, which is close to my heart. BIPA has such things at its heart and it will continue to look to support and preserve them on our behalf.

January 17th - Portfolio Question, Economy 2030 Inquiry (Public Finances)

I asked the Scottish Government what its response is to the recommendations outlined in the final report of the economy 2030 inquiry, "Ending Stagnation: A New Economic Strategy for Britain", as they relate to public finances in Scotland, including those relating to taxes and local government investment.

January 25th - Technology

I was pleased to take part in the debate on Technology. I highlighted that Technology brings challenges, but we should embrace it. Scotland is leading in some areas of technology. The cross-party group on science and technology, which I co-convene, visited the Heriot-Watt University robotarium a short time ago. We were able to see some advances in robotics for use in agriculture and health, AI and chatbots, and how robots could be used in the hospitality industry. I highlighted that through the gaming industry, games are being used to engage people in doing their exercises. All those technologies are coming together; we must be able to embrace them and move forward.

I mentioned that in my constituency, I am lucky to have the campus of New College Lanarkshire, in Motherwell. It has its smart hub, which is a funded hub that is directed specifically towards supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and enabling them to embrace technologies such as cobots—collaborative robots—and AI-enabled manufacturing and production opportunities.

January 25th -Portfolio Questions, Social Security Support

I asked the Scottish Government what social security support is available to people in the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency who are experiencing poverty, including fuel poverty.

January 30th - Scotland's place in the European Union

I highlighted that I sit as convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, and Donald Cameron and I sit as observers on behalf of the Scottish Parliament on the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly. The PPA is composed of a delegation of UK House of Commons and House of Lords representatives and members of the European Parliament. The Assembly has discussed on many occasions, and has made some progress on, a number of the post-Brexit concerns that have been raised in the chamber this afternoon. I mentioned that The Windsor Agreement brought some meeting of minds on those areas as we have back our participation in the Horizon and Copernicus programmes, which we gave up with Brexit. I mentioned that we have discussed youth mobility and exchange, which we gave up with Brexit, and that we have discussed touring artists and the burdens of multiple visas and cabotage, which did not apply before Brexit. I stated that it seems that we are spending our time picking and choosing to get back the very rights that—inconceivably—we gave up when the UK left the EU.

PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS

S6M-11766

Fearless Christmas Campaign

S6M-11767

Wishaw Library Raises Funds for St Andrew's Hospice

S6M-11758

Motherwell and Wishaw Rotary Club Raises Funds and Festive Cheer

S6M-11684

75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Motherwell

S6M-11761

The Economic Forum for Woman Empowerment Scotland and Made for 4 Delivering Christmas Cheer and Hampers

S6M-11768

Simon Community Safe Place Appeal

S6M-11930

Recognising the Carswell Foundation

S6M-11818

Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust Receives £38,000 Grant from the National Lottery Community Fund

S6M-11819

The Economic Forum For Women Empowerment Scotland Receives £10,000 Grant from the National Lottery Community Fund

S6M-11885

Morrisons in Wishaw to Host Autism Support Group with National Autistic Society

S6M-11886

Father Frank Dougan of Motherwell Diocese Appointed as Bishop of Galloway

S6M-11931

Letitia McKell's Charitable Donation to Motherwell Library

S6M-11764

Big Band Brunch

S6M-11763

Manorview, When You Wish Upon a Star

S6M-11759

Organisations Provide Support to the Residents of Motherwell and Wishaw

S6M-11760

St Brigid's Primary, St Brigid's Nearly New Shop and St Vincent's De Paul, Newmains, Helping Families

S6M-11762

Congratulates Newmains Community and Conference Centre on its Community Events

S6M-11796

Jay Barrett, Peter Vardy Carz Apprentice of the Year 2024

S6M-11765

Motherwell FC Spreads Christmas Cheer to Children in University Hospital Wishaw

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