

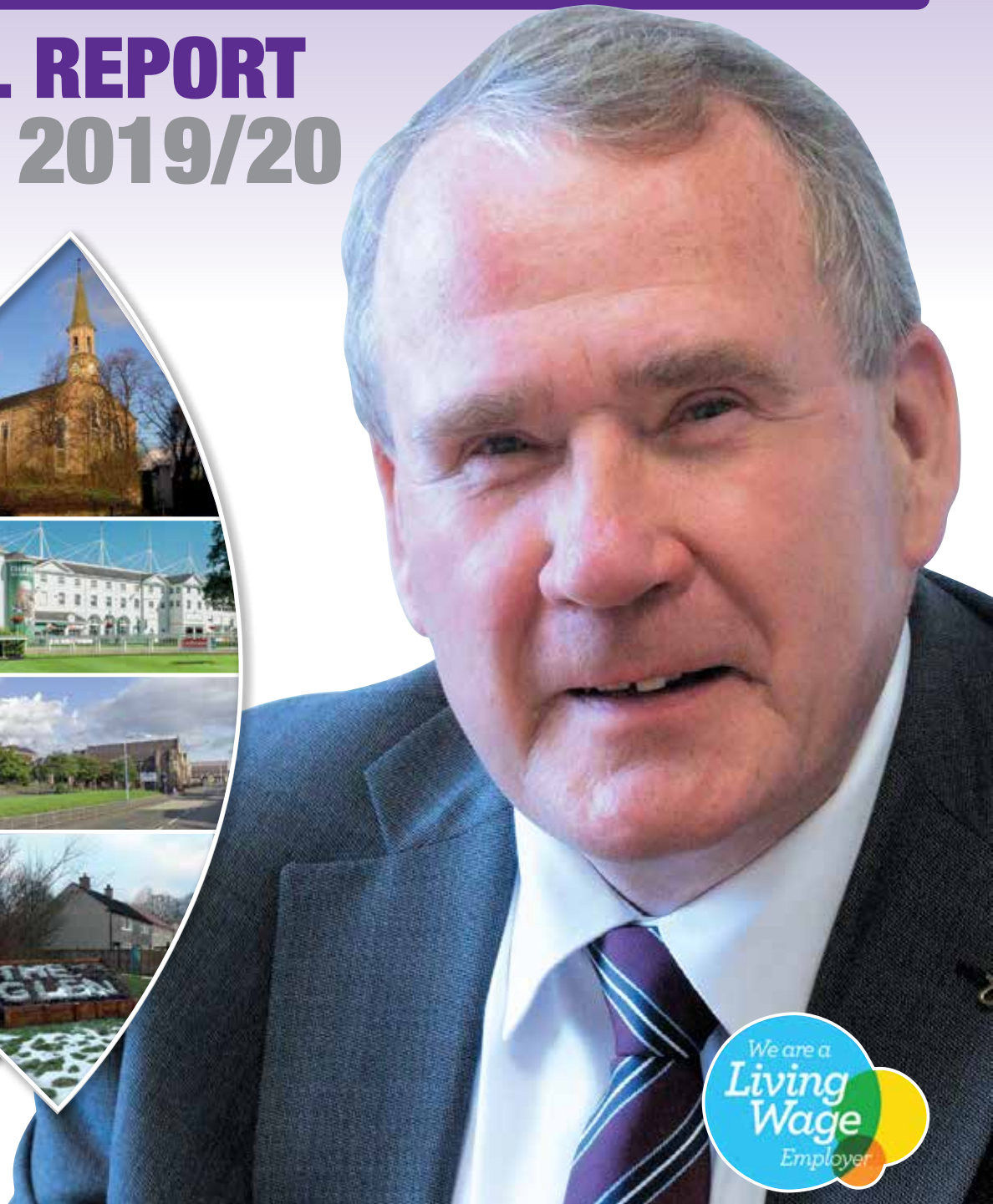


The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Richard Lyle MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Uddingston and Bellshill Constituency

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



REPRESENTING ALL OF THE UDDINGSTON AND BELLSHILL CONSTITUENCY

Working Locally ...

DEAR CONSTITUENT

In May 2016, I had the privilege of being elected by local people to serve as the local Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Uddingston and Bellshill Constituency. Each year, in this Annual Report – I recall that special moment I was elected and the commitment I made to do the best for our area. Indeed, each and every day I welcome the challenges and the significant chances which I am being presented with in serving our community.

We've seen a tumultuous time in Politics over the last few years; and many debates in Parliaments across the United Kingdom on the way forward, on our future. But my focus has not changed. This year has been no different in terms of the commitment I have to making the best of the opportunities to make a difference to our community; from Surgeries which help Local People with issues on Education, Health and Justice. To working in collaboration with Local Councillors and Parliamentarians at Westminster by referring on cases that require their input. To of course having the opportunity to visit the length and breadth of this great Constituency, meeting local people time and again – out doing their best for our area and for our communities.

Often, it is a challenge to describe the plethora of work which my team and I undertake throughout the year. From hosting events, to participating in community initiatives, to facilitating discussions and tackling local issues. I have a dedicated team who work each and every day with me, to help those in our Community. They are always waiting to assist from our Constituency Office at 188 Main Street in Bellshill and of course at the weekly Surgeries across the Constituency. Information for which is at the back of this Annual Report.

I hope that as we move forward into the months ahead, the work being undertaken, will make a difference not only in Uddingston and Bellshill but right across Scotland.

Thank you again for placing your trust in me.

Richard Lyle
MSP for Uddingston and Bellshill Constituency

After being approached by a number of constituents who are Small Business Owners, my staff and I coordinated and organised a Small Business Networking Event, which took place at the Bothwell Bridge Hotel in October 2018. This event enabled small businesses to exchange ideas and to network with each other. I was happy to organise and oversee this event, as small business is important to the local economy and to work in partnership with the Federation of Small Businesses.



Throughout the year, I am privileged to visit so many schools and engage with incredible Children and Young People across our Constituency. One of the many visits that I undertook in 2018; to Beckford Primary School in the Hamilton Area of my Constituency. This followed a visit to Newarthill and Aitkenhead Primary Schools.

Often, local people raise issues with me that go beyond their own experience. It could be a local road which is causing difficulty such as the Roundabout at Holytown Crematorium which I worked with the Council to have barriers and rubbish removed from or indeed on issues like the investment by Network Rail. I had been contacted by Constituents concerned about the noise from rail improvement works. Working with Network Rail we managed a solution and now Carfin Railway Station has seen a £2 million investment by Network Rail.



Each year, I am always delighted to visit a local business that is working with Modern Apprentices to enhance their skills and provide opportunities.

In March 2019, I visited Saltire – a company focussed on Central Heating and Electrical Services. I spoke with Modern Apprentices and heard more about their experiences.



One of the highlights of being your local MSP, is to meet with inspirational people locally and nationally. 2018 saw me pay tribute to two volunteers of the Newarthill Credit Union, Bobby and Rose after forty years of service. I lodged a motion of support before the Scottish Parliament and to present them with a copy. This is just one example of the many opportunities I take to recognise local peoples contribution to the local community; from motions in Parliament, tributes in the Chamber and nominations for awards and honours. I am privileged to recognise the amazing contribution of so many in our community.

... Championing Nationally!



Throughout the Parliamentary Session, there are a number of events and campaigns that I get the opportunity to go along to and support. As an MSP, I am privileged to represent my constituency at these events. One such event was back in September 2018, which was run by Shelter Scotland and I was happy to support their campaign and their important work on Homelessness.



Young People from schools in my area regularly visit the Scottish Parliament; Taylor High School and New Stevenston are regulars at the Scottish Parliament! Taylor High visited recently for a guided tour of Parliament and were introduced to Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and the First Minister too! This is just one of the many school visits I host throughout the year. Another, fantastic visit took place with St John the Baptist Primary School – who had some excellent questions for me! And this year also saw Young People from our local schools in attendance at an Event to commemorate the Holocaust with the First Minister.



Often the events we are invited to attend, deal with issues of a Local or National context. But we also discuss issues which are of Global Importance. One that came to mind was a SCIAF Climate Change Event, which took place at Dynamic Earth in April 2018. During this event, I got to listen to speakers discussing Climate Change Targets and I was happy to back their campaign “Act for #OurFuture” to take action now, for our Planet.

This year, I was privileged to be able to lead the Debate in the Scottish Parliament to commemorate the Holocaust. An atrocity which we must all never forget. This was in January 2019, where I also had the humbling experience of speaking with Janine Webber BEM, a Survivor of the Holocaust who spoke of her story in the Scottish Parliament – a poignant and important moment for all involved.



In Parliament, I am an active contributor to the plethora of activity taking place on Parliamentary Business. In the past year, I have served on the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee and now focus my efforts on the



Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee. This Committee has considered the Climate Change Bill, the 2020 Biodiversity Targets and a wide range of issues including Transport. I currently serve on fourteen Cross Party

Groups covering a wide range of issues; serve as Convener for two of these, Co-Convener for one and Deputy Convener for two others. These include the CPG on Dementia, the CPG on Scottish Showmen’s Guild and the CPG for Funerals and Bereavement.

Of course, I also contribute regularly in the Chamber, from lodging in excess of thirty questions to speaking many times on issues such as Education, City Deals and Justice.

And one of the highlights is also paying tribute to the hard work of many local community organisations and the achievements of those groups in the community – from Awards for All Funding, to initiatives at Uddingston Grammar; to funding to continue the hard work of the Tannochside Information and Advice Centre and paying tribute to individuals who work each and every day to better our local communities.

Constituency Surgeries

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

4.30pm Michael Sherry Centre, Holytown
5.30pm Community Education Centre, Newarthill

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

4.30pm John McCormack Centre, Carfin
5.30pm New Stevenston Community Centre, New Stevenston

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

4.30pm Burnhead Hall, Viewpark
5.30pm Whitehill Neighbourhood Centre

FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH

4.30pm Bothwell Community Hall, Bothwell
6pm Uddingston Community Centre, Uddingston



Please note that surgeries are not held on public holidays. Please call the office to confirm dates.

SURGERY DATES 2019/2020

APRIL 2019						
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DECEMBER 2019						
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FEBRUARY 2020						
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MARCH 2020						
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Get in touch

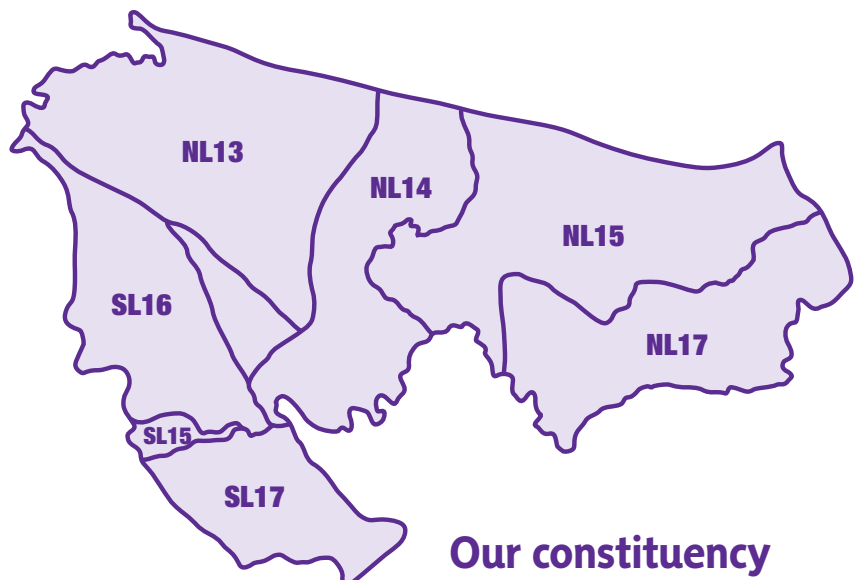
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Our constituency