



# Allan Dorans

## MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

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### October Newsletter 2022



*Pictured above at the CAMRA festival with Cllr Craig Mackay, Cllr Peter Henderson, Lindsay Grant and Cllr George Weir.*

## Foreword

What a month we have had in the world of UK politics!

A crashing economy, rises in mortgage rates, a fall in the pound, new Chancellors, u-turns, allegations of bullying in lobbies, resignations and then reinstatements, and now, a new Prime Minister after only 45 days with the last one. Turbulent and chaotic does not even begin to describe it.

With Rishi Sunak now the new PM, the third this year, the same problems remain and urgent action is needed. We cannot sit by and let families suffer as prices spiral out of control. This economic crisis has become an emergency situation.

## General Election

We need a General Election now. Merely swapping leaders of a broken government is not enough. There is no doubt this a democratic imperative.

I, and my SNP colleagues, are urging Keir Starmer MP to call a motion of no confidence in the UK Government to trigger a General Election. The Conservative Government have no moral authority to lead, and no mandate from the public.

Voters must get a say in this matter, and I am determined to ensure they do.



## Asda Initiative

Asda has recently announced a range of new 'winter warmer' initiatives to support pensioners and community groups. They are offering everyone aged 60 and over the chance to enjoy soup, a roll and unlimited tea and coffees for just £1 in any of their in-store Asda cafes, everyday throughout November and December.

For community groups, they are running a 'Community Cuppa' campaign, creating space for local groups in their cafes, who may otherwise struggle to meet due to rising energy costs. Spaces will be available on weekdays in November and December from 2pm to 6pm.

# ASDA

## CAMRA Festival

I was delighted to be a Judge at the Ayrshire and Wigtonshire Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), Real Ale Festival held at the Troon Concert Hall. With over 150 real ales, over 30 ciders and perries, a Gin bar available and live entertainment, the event made a welcome return after a three year absence due to Covid.

My thanks to Lindsay Grant (pictured) Chair of the Ayrshire and Wigtonshire CAMRA branch for his kind invitation to be a Judge and the fantastic CAMRA volunteers who make the event such a success.



## Scottish Government Bridging Payment

The Scottish Government recently announced that they will be doubling the December Bridging Payment, which is granted to low-income families, to £260. In light of this, I asked the Chancellor what plans the UK Government have to follow suit and bring in targeted measures for low-income households. Unfortunately he gave no reassurance that they would do such a thing.



## Scottish Questions

Some senior Conservatives are becoming even louder in their calls for the UK Government to claw back powers from the devolved assemblies.

So, I recently asked if the Secretary of State for Scotland will commit that the UK Government will not, under any circumstances attempt to revoke powers that have been devolved to the Scottish Parliament. You can watch his response on my website, or Facebook/Twitter pages.



## Standards Committee

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Standards, of which I am a member, recently completed a report recommending that any MP found to have broken the Parliamentary Code of Conduct, should be allowed an appeal against that finding.

The Government agreed and the recommendation was accepted. Watch my full speech on my website.

## Economic Advisory Council

Recently the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, announced the formation of a new Economic Advisory Council.

I asked him to confirm that they will be independent and not major donors to the Conservative Party trying to gain influence. His response can be viewed on my website.



## Constituency Surgeries

Every Friday 10am-12noon.  
Telephone or virtual meetings.

Contact my office to make an  
appointment.



## Girvan War Memorial

It was a privilege to attend the 100th Anniversary Re-Dedication Service of the Girvan War Memorial. The obelisk, erected in 1922, records the names of the 157 men who lost their lives in the First World War and the 57 who were subsequently lost in the Second World War. We will remember them.



## Park Tennis

Pleased to be able to attend an event in Parliament organised by the Lawn Tennis Association raising awareness of funding available for refurbishment of public tennis courts. Delighted to hear that future funding will be made available for improvements at the Tennis Courts in the Fort area of Ayr.



## Churches 'Warm Spaces'

A number of churches in Ayr are offering warm spaces this winter, with free soups/teas/coffees available for those who need it. Anyone is welcome to pop in to get out of the cold, chat with others, read your book or even play a game. Many thanks to local churches for this kind offer.

**Ayr St Columba Church**  
**Warm Space**

This winter  
from Tuesday  
25 October



we will have a warm space  
at Church for anyone to use.  
There will be coffee/tea and biscuits;  
there will be newspapers and  
magazines; there will be games, there  
will be time to chat and always a  
friendly face

**You are warmly invited**  
for the morning or just a short time.  
Tues/Wed and Friday - 9.30 - 12.30

This facility will be free of charge

**Saint Margaret's Cathedral Hall**  
Elba Street, Ayr, KA8 0BS

**Warm Space**

open for everyone between 11am and 2pm  
every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
from now until April 2023



Come in out of the cold and spend a few minutes  
or a few hours relaxing in the warmth. Read a  
book, have a cuppa, chat with friends old and new

Tea/Coffee, biscuits every day  
Newspapers & books every day  
Soup & a roll on Saturdays

A parish of the RC Diocese of Glasgow, Registered Charity Number in Scotland SC01170



**WINTER CAFE**  
Riverside Church

Open every Thursday 10am-3pm  
Free Soup, Coffee, Tea & Home Baking,  
Newspapers, Crafts and more  
John Street, Ayr, KA8 0BS



# Royal Mail Strikes

I support our postal workers, so have recently signed a joint letter to Royal Mail with my SNP colleagues, calling for meaningful negotiations. Thousands of jobs and the future of the universal service are under threat.



Simon Thompson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Royal Mail PLC  
185 Farringdon Road  
LONDON  
EC1A 1AA

**DREW HENDRY**  
MP FOR INVERNESS, NAIM, BADENOCH & STRATHSPEY

Open Letter Sent By Email

25 October 2022

Dear Simon,

As postal workers took to the picket line again today, we write to express our deep concern at the recent announcement to cut 10,000 Royal Mail jobs and the ongoing impact of strike action on postal workers, their families, and our communities.

Clearly, this announcement to slash jobs is a tactic in the ongoing pay dispute with postal workers, and we believe it shows bad faith on the part of Royal Mail.

Pay negotiations are complex, but it is unacceptable to see the language employed by Royal Mail in threatening its workforce with job losses because they dare to ask for a fair work package.

We all need the unions and Royal Mail to work together to find a solution for our postal workers and our communities.

We understand that businesses need to be agile, especially in the current economic climate, which inevitably necessitates organisational change. However, it should not follow that hard-working postal workers, many of whom have many years of dedicated service—including as key workers during the pandemic, are expected to carry the burden of such changes.

Postal workers across our constituencies are struggling to make ends meet in the face of the cost-of-living crisis while Royal Mail shareholders benefited from bumper profits in the millions. It is understandable that postal workers find the argument that there isn't money for them to have a fair wage unpalatable.

If there are millions of pounds of profit for shareholders, let them also share the burden, they must appreciate that the people working to generate those profits are struggling to put food on their table this winter.

Royal Mail staff and their families need financial security. The decision to strike will not have been easy for any of them.

We urge Royal Mail to reconsider its approach to negotiating with its workers, stop with the threats and put our communities at the heart of discussions.

Afterall, our constituents deserve better than enduring endless strike action because the Royal Mail fails to offer its workers fair wages and terms and conditions.

Kind Regards,

*Drew* | MP for Inverness, Naim, Badenoch & Strathspey

Drew Hendry MP

David Linden MP  
Alan Brown MP  
Gavin Newlands MP  
Brendan O'Hara MP  
Ian Blackford MP  
Angus Brendan MacNeill MP  
John Nicolson MP  
Steven Bonnar MP  
Chris Stephens MP  
Stewart McDonald MP  
Anne McLaughlin MP  
Stephen Flynn MP  
Kirsten Oswald MP  
Stewart Hoose MP  
Philippa Whitford MP  
Angela Crawley MP  
Peter Grant MP  
Stuart McDonald MP  
Tommy Sheppard MP  
Owen Thompson MP

Marilyn Day MP  
Kirsty Blackman MP  
Marion Fellows MP  
Amy Callaghan MP  
Dave Doogan MP  
Patricia Gibson MP  
Anum Qaisar MP  
Alyn Smith MP  
Pete Wishart MP  
Allan Dorans MP  
Martin Docherty-Hughes MP  
Carol Monaghan MP  
John McNally MP  
Richard Thomson MP  
Deirdre Brock MP  
Douglas Chapman MP  
Alison Thewliss MP  
Roshni Cowan MP  
Joanna Cherry MP  
Chris Law MP

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# Microplastic Fibres

Microplastic fibres are 5mm or smaller plastic fibres that are shed from clothing when worn and laundered. They are too small to be caught by standard washing machine filters and end up in the sea and wider environment. I am supporting legislation which will require washing machine manufacturers to fit filters to new domestic and commercial washing machines to prevent them entering the environment and human food chain.



# Scottish Poppy Appeal

I was pleased to attend and support Poppy Scotland at the launch of their Scottish Poppy Appeal at Ayr Town Hall. The Scottish Poppy Appeal is Scotland's largest fundraising campaign and takes place annually in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday. Money raised during the Appeal is used to provide vital life-changing support to the Armed Forces community in Scotland.

