



# Chris Stephens MP

Member of Parliament for Glasgow South West

Issue No 1 May 2018



Chris Stephens MP working down there for you up here

## Shipbuilding: the broken promises to Scottish workers

**R**EMEMBER the promises? 13 Type 26s, a Frigate Factory and that no ships would be procured overseas if we voted No?

Where are we now? Type 26s to be built on the Clyde. Welcome. Yes. 5 Type 31s a so called lighter general purpose frigate. Going to be built on the Clyde? maybe, however surely the biggest scandal of all, is the prospect of Fleet Support Ships going out into International competition.

The Daily Record reported on an answer I received from the UK Government, which demonstrated that the most up-to-date weaponry would be aboard. In a supportive editorial the Daily Record reminded its readers:

*“SNP MP Chris Stephens has an answer to those in government who seem not to care about domestic jobs.*

*He fairly points out that these are armed ships and should be treated like Royal Navy vessels – and built at home.”*



image © Brian Whittingham

The Tory Government have such an ideological attachment to competition that they can't see the clear benefits of changing course.

From the independence referendum, through general elections, to Brexit, they have struggled with this industry. Promises made, bent, changed and re-written.”

# PUBLIC SECTOR PAY



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**W**ITH Glasgow South West having the highest percentage of public sector workers I took the opportunity to ask the Prime Minister recently if it was the case that EVERY UK Government department had budgeted for a 1% pay rise and therefore the 1% pay cap was still in existence. Judge for yourself.

**Chris Stephens** (Glasgow South West) (SNP): Can the Prime Minister confirm that every UK Government Department has budgeted for a derisory 1% pay rise for all its civil servants? Is it fair that workers who collect tax, and who try to make a broken social security system and a broken immigration system work, are getting a real-terms pay cut and are still subjected to a public sector pay cap? [905104]

**The Prime Minister:** As the hon. Gentleman knows, we have been very clear that the

blanket 1% cap that has taken place over recent years on public sector pay is not an approach that we are taking in the future. Obviously, Departments are funded at a certain level, and it is for Departments then to come forward with their proposals in relation to pay within their Department.

## DWP Select Committee

**A**s a member of this powerful committee, a recent inquiry into PIP and ESA Assessments has resulted in the UK Government making the decision to audio record all assessments. This is a significant move. 80% of successful Appeals are as a result of verbal information that was provided in the original assessment.

I would like to remind you also that Private Providers who have NEVER reached their targets for performance, will not be undertaking these assessments when powers are transferred to the Scottish Parliament.

I have also been involved in the Joint Inquiry into the collapse of Carillion, where the full inquiry papers will be published next week. It is a damning report into how the company was run, but also how regulators failed in their duties to protect employees' pension schemes. The DWP Select Committee will shortly be undertaking an inquiry into Benefit Sanctions and the effects of those who suffer.

## SYRIA

**I**voted against the bombing in Syria, however there should have been a full debate and vote PRIOR to the decision to bomb, and to discuss alternatives. Precedent would suggest that Parliament should have debated and voted on this dramatic action.

I have a very real concern that the deployment of forces is being dictated by the current President of the USA. I took the view that I cannot support military action with no short or long term plan, no specified objectives, no statements on how this will assist civilians on the ground, and no exit strategy.

# CONSTITUENCY VISITS AND EARLY DAY MOTIONS

I continue to visit the many organisations in the constituency who help constituents on a daily basis, and to ensure that they receive funding. Myself and Humza Yousaf MSP will be organising a Funding Fayre in the summer. It has been obvious for some time that many organisations require professional funding help to keep going. That's why me and Humza are determined that those organisations who assist continue to grow and flourish.

I also continue to assist local organisations with funding by recognising them and the excellent work they do by utilising the Early Day Motion procedure. Here is a list of those celebrated recently:

## **G51 Parking Group**

Date tabled: 27.02.2018

Primary sponsor: Christopher Stephens

That this House congratulates the G51 Parking Group on its hard fought and successful campaign against the unwanted imposition of resident parking charges in the vicinity of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; commends the hard work, persistence and determination of the community in pursuing this issue despite the many obstacles and delays in achieving a result; and notes that this is a victory for common sense and pays tribute to all those involved who listened and ultimately actioned the scrapping of the plans in order to make a fresh start in addressing the issue.

## **Mary Barbour Statue**

Date tabled: 27.02.2018

Primary sponsor: Christopher Stephens

That this House congratulates everyone involved with the campaign to establish a permanent memorial to the pioneering community activist, Mary Barbour; notes the tireless efforts of the Remember Mary Barbour Association (RMBA), which worked hard to raise over £110,000 for a statue to honour one of Glasgow's first women councillors and that many organisations came together to make this happen, including the RMBA, Glasgow Housing Association, Govan, Linthouse and Elderspark Housing Associations, trade unions, Glasgow City Council, Strathclyde Passenger Transport and people across Govan and further afield who supported the campaign to honour Mary's contribution to Govan, Glasgow and across the country; further notes that Mary became politically active as a member of the Co-operative Guild and went on to set up tenants committees and co-ordinated eviction resistance in response to the unfair rent increases in Glasgow during the First World War, and also campaigned against poverty in the city, championing equality issues such as maternity benefit, education, equal voting



rights and a national minimum wage; and celebrates the unveiling of the statue of Mary, on International Women's Day on 8 March 2018, which will allow people in Govan to celebrate the life and work of an exceptional person in Glasgow's history.

## **Current Situation in Afrin, Syria**

Date tabled: 30.01.2018

Primary sponsor: Christopher Stephens

That this House is deeply concerned about the current situation of the people of Afrin, who have been subjected to Turkish Government aggression; notes that Afrin has been one of the more stable parts of Syria and that it has become a destination for hundreds of refugees from many cities including Aleppo; further notes that its current population has risen from 400,000 before the war to roughly 750,000; believes that the true victims of Turkey's invasion of northern Syria are refugees, babies, women and children; further notes that Afrin borders Turkey on the north and is surrounded on its other sides by Syrian government forces and rebel forces including Al Qaeda; recognises that Afrin like other parts of Rojava is run democratically and peacefully with an emphasis on religious and ethnic pluralism,

restorative justice, and the liberation of women and economic cooperatives; further recognises that YPG, YPJ and SDF forces, backed by the US, have been the most successful groups in defeating Daesh in Syria; is further concerned that the Turkish government's recent actions are widely judged to have worsened the prospects for peace in Syria and wider Middle East; condemns the use of violence by Turkey's Army on the people of Afrin and the Kurdish forces in Syria; and calls on the Government, as a matter of urgency to press the importance of respect for fundamental human rights and rule of International law.

### **Govan High School Fundraising Efforts**

Date tabled: 21.12.2017

Primary sponsor: Christopher Stephens

That this House congratulates the pupils of Govan High School who held fundraising events including a tea with tombola, packing at Asda and other events to restore the life savings of a Govan pensioner who had been robbed by bogus callers and were able to present him with a cheque for £1,000; and notes that this initiative shows the caring community spirit that young people can lead on and show the way to their elders.

### **Centenary of the Education (Scotland) Act 1918**

Date tabled: 21.12.2017

Primary sponsor: Christopher Stephens

That this House recognises that 2018 marks the centenary of the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act, which established in law the principle of state funding for Catholic schools in Scotland; notes the range of celebrations planned by the Scottish Catholic education community to mark the ongoing collaboration between Church and State; believes that the arrangements put in place by the Act represent a unique and successful partnership, that continues to serve the people of Scotland well; further believes that the anniversary year will provide an opportunity to rejoice in the academic, cultural, civic and social achievements of pupils who have attended Catholic schools in the last one hundred years, and is a chance to mark publicly the ways in which Catholic schools are not just good for Catholics, but good for Scotland; believes that the positive contribution of Catholic schools to Scottish society is well documented; notes the continuing support of government and all of the main political parties is encouraging for the future of denominational schools; further notes that during 2018 schools, families, parishes and

local communities across Scotland will reflect on the past, the present and the future of Catholic Schools, using the theme, Catholic Schools: Good For Scotland as a way to highlight the contribution Catholic schools make to wider society; and notes that by working with elected members from local authorities, and the UK and Scottish Parliaments, the Catholic Education Community aims to show that this distinctive collaboration for the governance of schools continues to reflect the diverse, inclusive and progressive nature of Scotland.

### **Sandwood Primary, Sumdog Competition**

Date tabled: 21.12.2017

Primary sponsor: Christopher Stephens

That this House congratulates all the pupils of Sandwood Primary who took part in the **UK Festive #Sumdog competition**, and in particular recognises an amazing performance by the P7/6 group, finishing as the top school in Scotland and fifth place overall in the UK out of over 4,000 schools that entered; and further congratulates the three pupils that finished in the top 150 overall, Saul Loveman (109th), Aiden Scott (119th) and Ellis Smith (140th); and thanks them for their efforts and hard work, as well as thanking all the staff and parents that supported the event.

There are too many to fit in the limited space, but see below for other groups mentioned in my recent early day motions:

- Christmas Collection, St Andrews and St Nicholas Church
- Community Kitchen, Hillington
- Tea in the Pot and Women's Support Services
- Priesthill Community Breakfast
- Coming Home Centre
- 50th Anniversary of the Bellahouston Sports Centre
- Challenge Poverty Week
- SAPC Glasgow - Glasgow Saltire Summit Award winners
- St Angela's Participation Centre  
Community Sports Hub

Constituents should know what their MP does in Parliament – type the address below into your browser to bring up my Parliamentary Record.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=4463>