



Malcolm Bruce MP

Reporting back

Dear resident,



The past year has proven to be a busy one, both in the constituency and at Westminster.

In Parliament, I have put forward a Bill to improve school bus safety. Though there seems to be a reluctance to change the law, I am seeking common ground on measures that I hope will reduce accidents and save lives. I am also grateful to those who have those who took part in my recent meeting to take forward constructive proposals on school bus safety

The tragic crash of Bond Helicopters flight 85N in April was a reminder that nothing in the offshore industry is ever routine. We owe it to those involved and their families to respect that, and to fight for the highest possible standards of safety in the industry.

I have been heartened by the efforts of local campaigners over the course of the past year and have been pleased to support the community campaign to re-open Leith Hall to the public.

If you have any issues or concerns you would like to raise with me please contact my office on 01467 623 413. To arrange an appointment at one of my regular advice surgeries, please contact 013398 89120. As always, it continues to be an honour and a privilege to represent you at Westminster.

Best wishes,

Malcolm Bruce

Speaking up for school bus safety and supporting community campaigns

Malcolm introduced a Private Member's Bill to improve school bus safety.

The Bill would have introduced better signage of school buses, made seatbelts compulsory, and would have made it an offence to overtake a stationary school bus.

"This is not a back-of-an-envelope Bill. It is a short Bill containing very specific proposals, and I have consulted widely on it and continue to do so. I am not suggesting that it would be a definitive law. I am not even asking the Government to adopt the Bill, much as I would like them to do so, but I would ask them to recognise that it contains serious proposals, which might need to be refined or modified but which could make a serious contribution to road safety."

- Malcolm Bruce, House of Commons, July 2009

Unfortunately, despite gathering cross-party support, Malcolm has encountered a reluctance to change the law. He is determined to continue working for practical measures that have broad agreement and will save lives, and recently held a public meeting that brought together road safety campaigners and



Listening to campaigner Ron Beaty at the school bus safety meeting (top left); meeting with Transport Minister; Sadiq Khan, to discuss school bus safety (top right)



representatives from the industry . He called for the Dept of Transport to help develop new national guidance for signage

Malcolm has also been happy to support the community campaign to re-open Leith Hall to the public, and pleased to note that the National Trust will consider various options to re-open the Hall.

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Supporting local businesses

The tragic crash of a Bond Super Puma helicopter minutes from Aberdeen Airport in early April brought home the dangers of working in the offshore industry. Four of the sixteen passengers who lost their lives lived in Gordon. Speaking in the House of Commons, Malcolm urged the Secretary of State for Scotland to provide reassurance to the thousands of his constituents who work in the offshore industry.

"I hope that the Secretary of State [for Scotland] understands that we need the earliest possible reassurance, and to know how, on a fine day, a helicopter only minutes from Aberdeen airport had such a catastrophic failure... We understand the professionalism of the AAIB. I am sure that it appreciates that we must get to the bottom of the incident as soon as possible and reassure people. Everybody depends on the workhorse of the North sea, but the House must understand that people will not feel comfortable flying in helicopters today or for the next few days until they know."

- Malcolm Bruce, House of Commons, April 2009

The Gordon constituency has the highest proportion of workers in the oil industry in the UK. Malcolm knows this is an industry that employs nearly half a million people, accounts for billions of pounds in investment and contribution to our balance of payments and needs to be nurtured for the long term. He has



At Bristow Helicopters with Nick Clegg MP (left) ;opening Newmachar Business Centre (above)

continued to fight for a stable tax regime that will encourage investment.

Onshore, Malcolm was pleased to open the Newmachar Business Centre, the sixth such centre to be opened across the constituency.

To capitalise on the self-reliant, entrepreneurial spirit of the North East, businesses need support. Malcolm has taken up the concerns of many business owners who have encountered difficulties finding finance in the current climate.

Malcolm was also delighted to congratulate local architect Willie Lippe on 25 years in business.

Campaigning for better transport links

Malcolm has continued to put forward the case for better transport links both to and within the North East

Commenting on the the news that there will be a new operator of the East Coast main line franchise - the third in as many years - Malcolm urged the Government to consider keeping the franchise in public ownership.

"The North East has a good quality of life and contributes enormously to the national wealth but we are a long way from everywhere else and deserve decent communications with the rest of the UK.

There is, I believe, a good case for keeping the east coast franchise in public ownership and even allowing a publicly owned company to bid for it in due course."

- Malcolm Bruce, July 2009



Malcolm has continued to press for better commuter and national rail services (left, above) as well as a Third Don crossing (right)

always intended to compliment the Western Peripheral and should not be seen as an optional extra.



Malcolm has also called for rail fare structures to be simplified to make them more competitive with other forms of transport.

The delays in building the Western Peripheral route, in Malcolm's view, threaten Aberdeen's economic competitiveness at a difficult time. He is adamant that the Crossrail project was

Improvements to Aberdeen's current road system must also be made, and to that end, Malcolm continues to support calls to upgrade the Haudagain Roundabout, and build a Third Don Crossing, and welcomes their inclusion in the recent Structure Plan

The year in international development

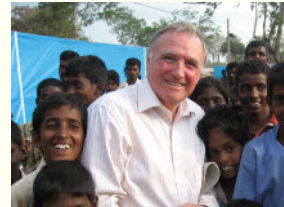
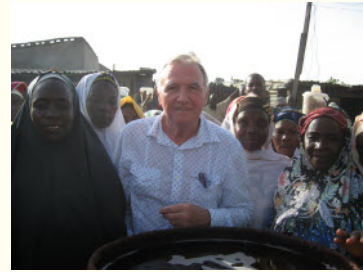
Amid the refugee crisis in Sri Lanka, Malcolm was part of a cross-party delegation that was amongst the first outside observers to reach the camps in formerly Tamil held areas.

In the past year, the International Development Committee, which Malcolm chairs, has published reports on development in Nigeria and China, urban slums, sustainable development in a changing climate and aid under pressure. It has also announced inquiries on HIV and AIDS and the Department of International Development's work in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Malcolm was also delighted to present to Number 10 Downing Street the work of the pupils of Kellands School, Inverurie as the culmination of their Send my Friend to School 2009 campaign.

The pupils had made cards modelled on the door of Number 10 Downing Street and written in their own words the case for finding the money to enable the 75 million children in the world denied education to receive at least primary education.

Information on the Committee's work can be found at http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/international_development.cfm. Malcolm also speaks frequently to schools groups and Rotary Clubs about the work of the IDC.



In Nigeria (top left), at a refugee camp in Sri Lanka (bottom left) and delivering Send my Friend to School campaign material from Kellands School to 10 Downing Street

“ I thank the Secretary of State for his answer, but does he not acknowledge that the economic downturn and climate change have mostly been caused by the G20, yet the impact is felt mostly by poor and developing countries? What steps will he take to ensure that the Copenhagen summit delivers for the poor, that there is a Doha development round, and that the pledges made at Gleneagles will be not only maintained but supplemented? ”

- Malcolm Bruce, House of Commons, June 2009

In brief...

In the past year, Malcolm has...

Signed over 170 Early Day Motions and tabled 5 EDMs, as well as co-sponsoring others

Has spoken in 31 debates - above average amongst MPs (source: www.theyworkforyou.com)

Voted to give Ghurkas full citizenship rights in the UK.

Has continued to support a 50m pool in Aberdeen City (and campaigned for the replacement of Inverurie swimming pool).

Met with the Royal British Legion to discuss the needs of serving members of the armed forces as well as veterans.

Supported Fair Trade Fortnight, attending a number of events across the constituency.

Written regularly to ministers in various Government departments on a wide range of issues particularly on the economy, oil and gas taxation, support for local businesses and the housing sector.

Met with dozens of constituents in the House of Commons who have arranged tours of both Houses of Parliament and Big Ben through his office



With Towera Jalakasi, fair trade business consultant, during Fair Trade Fortnight (left); meeting with the Royal British Legion (right)

And has helped hundreds of constituents with their CSA, tax credit, national and local government related problems...

Accountable to you

Like all MP's, Malcolm is allocated allowances to cover staff costs, office costs and expenses

Full details of all expenses Malcolm has claimed over the past few years are available on his website - www.malcolmbruce.org.uk , as well as www.theyworkforyou.com

Malcolm realises that MP's allowances are a controversial subject, and has consistently voted for them to be fully transparent and independently audited. He is always happy to meet any constituent who wishes to discuss any aspect of this issue

How to contact Malcolm Bruce MP



BY EMAIL

Email Malcolm at
info@malcolmbruce.org.uk



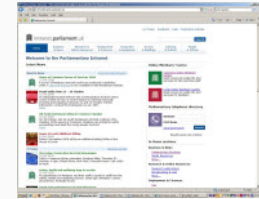
BY POST

Write to Malcolm at
67 High Street
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire AB51 3QJ



BY PHONE

Phone Malcolm's office on
01467 623413



WEBSITE

Keep up to date with what
Malcolm's doing at
www.malcolmbruce.org.uk

The Gordon Westminster Constituency covers...

The Gordon constituency covers a large area including Dyce, Danestone, Bankhead and Bridge of Don in the City of Aberdeen and Kintore, Inverurie, Huntly, Ellon, Inch, Oldmeldrum, Newmachar, Rhynie, Lumsden, Pitmedden, Tarves, Potterton, Balmedie, and Newburgh in Aberdeenshire. It is the only constituency which covers both City and Shire.

This list is not exhaustive - if you are unsure, please contact the office