

Your views matter to Jamie

Please let Jamie know of any issues by filling out this short survey and returning to the address below.

1 Do you think the Scottish Government has done enough to support local small businesses and your local High Street?
 Yes No Not sure

2 Do you think the Scottish Government understands the needs of rural and remote communities?
 Yes No Not sure

3 What local health services are you worried about? (tick as many boxes as appropriate)
 Local GPs Hospitals Emergency / Urgent Care Dentistry
 Maternity Social Care Ambulance Cover Mental Health

4 Which local transport links are you dissatisfied with? (tick as many boxes as appropriate)
 Roads Railways Buses
 Ferries Airlinks Accessibility

5 Do you think the Scottish Government is right to spend public money on another independence referendum?
 Yes No Not sure

6 In your opinion, what should the Scottish Government's number one priority be?

7 If you have any further comments please feel free to use this box or additional sheets of paper to outline them.

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Please cut along the line and return to: **Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP**, or take a photo of your answers and email them to: jamie.halcrojohnston.msp@parliament.scot
You must attach a stamp to the envelope, unfortunately the Scottish Parliament does not operate a freepost service.

The personal data provided in this survey is to inform Jamie's parliamentary work and will not be shared with third parties including campaign or political organisations. For more information on Jamie's privacy statement, email: jamie.halcrojohnston.msp@parliament.scot The cost of this publication has been met from Scottish Parliamentary resources. The SPCB is not responsible for the content of other internet sites.

Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Highlands and Islands Region



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Parliamentary Report for 2023



Dear Resident,

It's a privilege to serve as one of your Highlands and Islands MSPs, and I wanted to update you on just some of my work.

I have continued to focus on key issues across the region, including holding the Scottish Government to account for the 10 year delay in dualling the A9, the growing crisis in our vital ferries fleet, the downgrading of health services across the Highlands and Islands, and the ongoing pressure on local council budgets and the impact that is having on public services.

As one of your regional MSPs, and through my role as Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Islands, I have worked hard to ensure the voices of those who live in our rural and island communities are heard in a Parliament too often dominated by Central Belt issues.

As ever, I am always keen to hear from you if you think I can be of help, and my contact details are below.

With very best wishes,

Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Highlands and Islands Region
(Scottish Conservative and Unionist)

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The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP /
10 Drummond Street, Inverness, IV1 1QD
Telephone: 0131 348 6140
e: Jamie.HalcroJohnston.MSP@parliament.scot

f: [/JamieHalcroJohnstonConservative](https://www.facebook.com/JamieHalcroJohnstonConservative)
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BETTER LOCAL TRANSPORT LINKS

Good transport links across the Highlands and Islands are vital. But, too often, they do not meet the needs of local communities or provide a reliable service for local people and businesses.

Jamie has been fighting for the dualling of the A9 since 2006 and, working with local campaigners, is keeping the pressure on the Scottish Government to deliver. But roads across the region need improvement, with many riddled with dangerous potholes.

And given the growing need to replace Scotland's ageing ferries fleet, Jamie wants to see Scottish ministers in Edinburgh give more consideration to the use of fixed links to connect communities and our islands, including in the Northern Isles and across the Corran Narrows.



SUPPORTING OUR ISLAND COMMUNITIES



It can be hard enough living in rural Scotland, but some of our island communities face additional challenges.

Reliable transport links are vital, but there are many factors that need to be delivered to ensure islands are sustainable. Too often, there is a shortage of suitable, or affordable, housing. Access to health or social care can be limited or non-existent, as can reliable broadband and phone coverage. All these can make living, working or running businesses on our islands harder.

Jamie set up and convenes the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Islands, providing a new platform for islanders and island businesses to raise their concerns directly with MSPs and other key stakeholders.

STANDING UP FOR OUR LOCAL TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

Hospitality and tourism businesses are vitally important, supporting jobs and livelihoods in communities right across the Highlands and Islands.

However, it has been a tough few years for many in these sectors who, still recovering from the impact of the Covid pandemic, face new regulatory burdens and costs from the Scottish Government.

Jamie is a former Shadow Minister for Tourism, and as an MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has worked with colleagues and industry representatives to oppose the introduction of Short Term Lets Licensing, and was successful in helping force Scottish ministers to drop their plans for a Deposit Return Scheme.



BACKING LOCAL DEMOCRACY OVER CENTRALISED DECISION MAKING

No other part of Scotland can boast the stunning views and iconic scenery of the Highlands and Islands.

But the voices of those of us who live here - and even of those councillors we elect - are being ignored on major planning decisions such as new windfarms, housing or large-scale infrastructure projects. Too often, local planning decisions are being overruled by bureaucrats in Edinburgh, with the need to meet targets prioritised over the needs and wishes of local communities.

Jamie has regularly raised the concerns of local people and businesses with Scottish Government ministers, and will continue to fight for local democracy over centralised decision-making.



SUPPORTING FARMING AND FISHING



Our farming and fishing sectors are so important for many of our local communities, but both face challenges.

The Scottish Government's proposals for HPMAs would have closed off large parts of our seas and severely impacted coastal and island communities. Jamie was proud to stand with colleagues and communities as part of the successful campaign to block those plans.

As a Highlands and Islands MSP, and as someone whose family farms in Orkney, Jamie regularly meets with farmers and other key stakeholders over the future of the industry, and on the Scottish Government's new Agriculture Bill which must meet the needs of farmers, crofters and our rural communities.

FIGHTING FOR RURAL HEALTH SERVICES

Our health and social care services are under growing pressure, with services often being downgraded or withdrawn from communities. Hard-working staff are being asked to deliver more than ever, and having to do so in many buildings which are increasingly unfit for purpose.

Jamie continues to press Scottish ministers - including the First Minister - on the urgent need for a new Belford Hospital in Fort William, as well as on delivering on commitments to reinstate 7 days a week Urgent Care at Portree Hospital on Skye.

He has also raised concerns over the disparity of funding for rural GPs, the impact of the running down of maternity services, on the growing pressures on local ambulance crews, and on the lack of dental provision across the Highlands and Islands.

