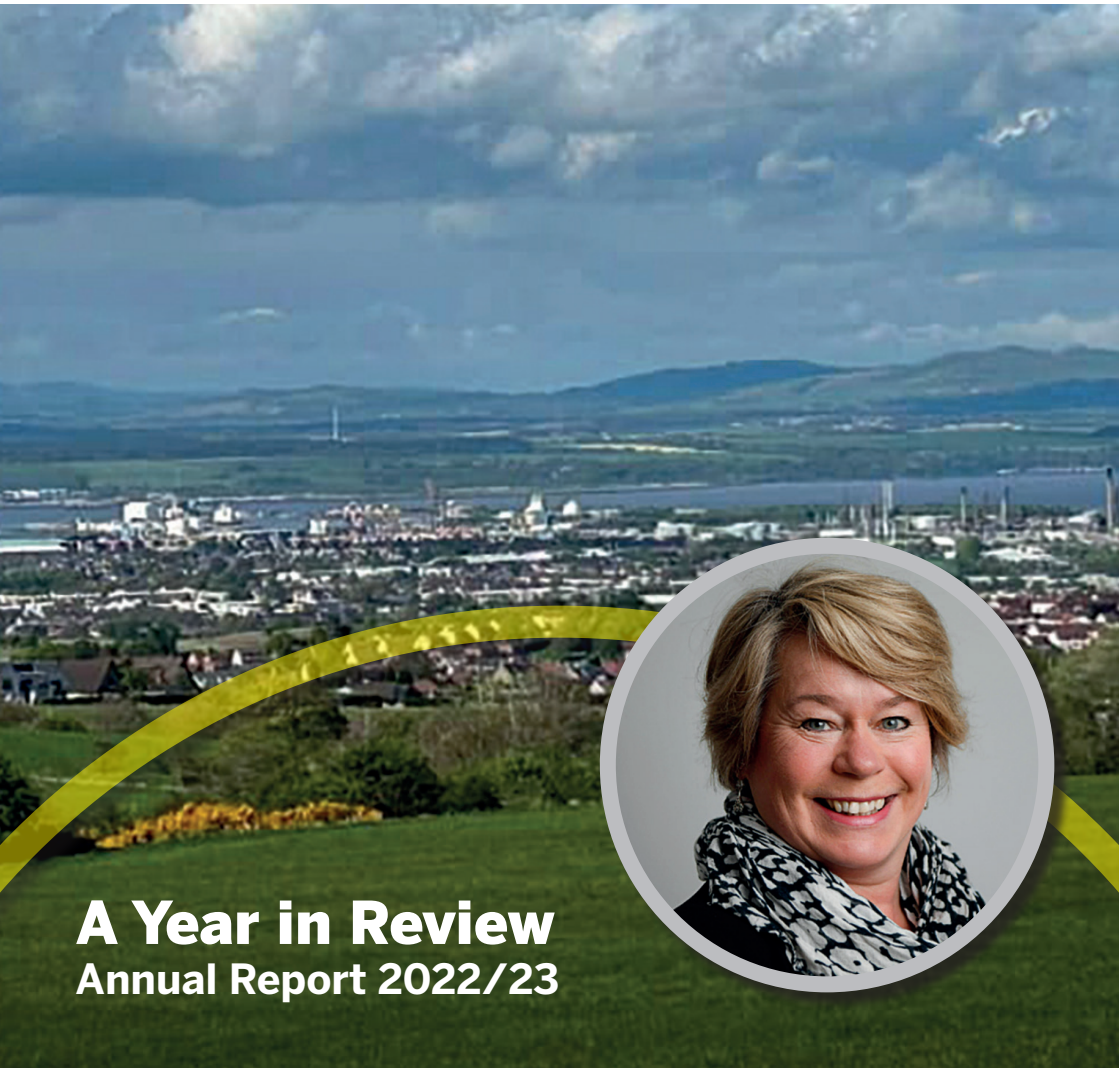




The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michelle Thomson MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Falkirk East Constituency



A Year in Review
Annual Report 2022/23

A Year in Statistics

Enquiries Received:953

Engagements: 28

Contributions to Parliament: 121

Motions Raised: 119

Local Businesses and Groups met: 86



Year Two as your local MSP

It has been two years since I was elected to represent the constituency of Falkirk East at the Scottish Parliament.

It continues to be a huge honour and privilege to be able to help resolve enquiries for those constituents and businesses in need of assistance.

Over the course of this year I have helped resolve a wide variety of issues for constituents; including energy bills, healthcare, education and social security benefits.

I have also helped many small businesses with grants and other issues affecting their running operations.

I hope this newsletter gives you some insight into the work I do to represent and support Falkirk East both in Holyrood and across the constituency itself.

This has been a year of change – with local government elections and a new First Minister.

There are many exciting developments ahead for Falkirk East, including the Local Development Plan and a Just Transition to Net Zero.

I look forward to being a part of these developments and proactively engaging with constituents, community groups and stakeholders to move Falkirk East forward.

Michelle R. Thomson

Snapshots of my year

This year it has been a privilege to both meet and inspire so many learners. I was pleased to attend the Grangemouth High School careers fair and networking lunch. I also met with Braes High School senior Modern Studies students to be challenged on my thoughts across a wide variety of topics. Pupils at Maddiston Primary School also kept me on my toes as they sought to learn more about my role as an MSP. I have met with the Principal and Chief Executive of Forth Valley College to keep up to date with the opportunities they offer. In November 2022 I met with pupils from Larbert High School, St Mungos High School and Falkirk High School at the 'Fuel Change Challenge' at Dynamic Earth.



I have been delighted to host many events in the Scottish Parliament for causes that I was keen to support. As an alumna of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, I hosted an event marking their 175th anniversary. This year saw the 300th anniversary of Adam Smith, Scotland's greatest economist and Glasgow University asked me to host the first of many events to celebrate. The David Hume Institute event gave fellow MSPs insights into financial risks. I also helped organise the inaugural St Andrew's Day event, which celebrated the diversity of Scotland. I also hosted an event for Culture and Business Scotland recently to celebrate the launch of the Culture & Business Marketplace.

Alongside colleagues from other political parties, I attended The British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference at Westminster. The conference seeks to promote parliamentary democracy around the world and it was an excellent opportunity to contribute my experience of our national parliament. Representatives from many locations in the Commonwealth discussed ideas to meet our shared challenges.



During Parliamentary recess, my team and I headed out into the constituency for impromptu meetings with local people and give them the opportunity to raise any issues they had on the spot. Over the course of four days in July and August, we visited 19 areas across Falkirk East. It was great to see so many people from across the Falkirk East constituency stop by to chat at the surgery tour. My team and I took a number of enquiries forward and gained multiple successful resolutions for constituents.

This year I have been honoured to be able to support some Scotland-wide and local support groups including women's bladder cancer, long Covid and pancreatic cancer. The local Long Covid support group, which started its meetings in Brightons, was set up to help those struggling with both physical and mental effects of Long Covid. The group are an excellent source of support for those who need it and I continue to assist them wherever I can. I have also met with cancer support groups this year, a hugely beneficial support network for those with cancer and a cause to which I am very close.



Following the pandemic and given the continuing cost of living crisis which has dominated the last year, it was important to visit local groups and businesses in Falkirk East. This year I have met with INEOS, Bailliesfield Community Hub, Barleystone Care Home, McLeans Pharmacy in Stenhousemuir, Falkirk Citizen's Advice Bureau, Jenkins Fabrications, Alistair Walker Whisky and Central Taekwondo Academy to name just a few. I also meet with local councillors and one of the Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Falkirk East, Daniel Cameron.

I am a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee and the Finance and Public Administration Committee. The Economy and Fair Work Committee have looked into issues including Scotland's supply chain, town centres and legislative consent memorandums on UK Bills impacting Scotland. We are shortly completing our enquiry into a Just Transition for Grangemouth. The Finance and Public Administration Committee have looked at Scotland's public finances in relation to Covid-19 and the cost of living, and scrutinised the 2022/23 Budget. I am a member of 11 Cross-Party Groups, including being the Deputy Convenor of both the CPG on Europe and CPG on USA, and the Convenor of the CPG on St Andrew's Day, CPG on Music and CPG on Women in Enterprise.



Aside from meeting with a multitude of businesses and constituents throughout Falkirk East, I have also attended many events. Highlights include the Bo'ness Children's Fair Festival – what a spectacle! As a renowned lover of music, I have also enjoyed supporting the local arts, including Larbert Musical Theatre performing 'Kinky Boots' and the Big Bad Wolf Children's Theatre Company performing 'School of Rock'.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

You can contact my office at

michelle.thomson.msp@parliament.scot

01324 357373

**Unit P, Newhouse Business Park,
Grangemouth, FK3 8LL**

Opening times – Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30

**Meetings and appointments
available upon request**



 [MichelleThomsonSNP](https://www.facebook.com/MichelleThomsonSNP)

 [@MichelleThomson](https://twitter.com/MichelleThomson)

The costs associated with this publication have been met from Parliamentary resources. The SPCB are not responsible for the content of any external website