

# Alan Campbell MP

## Community News June 2020



Good afternoon

I do hope that you and your family continue to stay safe and well.

Please find my latest update below.

If you need to get in touch please call 0191 2571927 or  
email [campbellal@parliament.uk](mailto:campbellal@parliament.uk)

You can also find useful information on my website  
at [www.alancampbellmp.co.uk](http://www.alancampbellmp.co.uk) or on Facebook at;

[https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt\\_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI\\_cGhOnsm\\_TvNnVuiYMhiLm](https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI_cGhOnsm_TvNnVuiYMhiLm)

I continue to write my fortnightly column for the News Guardian, you can access  
these [here](#).

I hope that you find this update useful. As lock-down is partly loosened, please  
still make sure you continue doing all you can to stay safe and protect lives.

With all best wishes

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

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## Changes to Government support schemes



There have been a number of changes announced to the government support schemes for Covid-19.

The Chancellor has announced changes to the furlough scheme - flexibility to bring workers back to work part time in July and a new tapering of relief from August. For full details please see the government website [here](#).

The Self-Employed Support Scheme is also being extended. If you are eligible for the SISS, you can claim for a second grant for the months of June, July and August (the first grant covers March, April and May).

- The grant will be made in August.
- It will be worth up to 70% of average monthly profits, with a cap on the grant of £6,570 (that is £2,190 per month).
- Applications for the first grant must be made before the 13th of July.
- Applications for the second grant will open in August and more information will be available on the 12th of June.

By way of reminder, the basic conditions of this grant are:

- Your average trading profit must be less than £50,000 a year.
- You must have filed a tax return for 2018/19.
- Your earnings from self-employment must be more than 50% of your total income.
- The grants will be based on an average of your profits for the last 3 years.

## Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Discretionary

### Scheme Launched



For those small businesses who were not eligible for the small business grant, North Tyneside Council has today launched a discretionary scheme for certain small businesses.

The guidance and application forms are on the council's [website here](#).

## Gaps in support schemes



I remain extremely concerned that there are still too many individuals and businesses falling through the gaps and not qualifying for any support from government.

I want to assure those people in this position that I am continuing to raise their concerns with the Government and I am working with colleagues to pressure the government to provide urgent help to those who have so far missed out.

## Local Education Concerns



I know from my postbag that many parents and families in our area are extremely concerned about the safe return of schools.

I would like to firstly place on record my sincere thanks to all of our local schools and teachers. All schools in North Tyneside have been open, albeit limitedly, throughout the pandemic to support children of keyworkers and those with extra support needs and I know that this has been an extremely challenging time. It should also be noted that many of our local schools have also been involved in the making of PPE equipment and I thank them for all their efforts.

I do share local concerns about the safe return of schools and I have raised these concerns with the Education Secretary. I have been clear, that schools should only open, however cautiously, when it is safe to do so and that the evidence must be there for this to happen.

I have also raised both with the Education Secretary and North Tyneside Council the issue of the 3 Tier system which we operate in parts of the constituency. It is imperative that the difference in transition years that that entails is taken into account.

I remain involved in ongoing discussions with North Tyneside Council about this matter. I understand that they are working closely with Headteachers and Governing Bodies to work through plans for the safe return of students.

The council have stressed to me in these discussions that they have not pressurised schools to return on 1st June and they are keeping this firmly under review. There is also an understanding that all schools are different, have different buildings and student numbers so it will be in this context that Headteachers and Governing Bodies, are working. I know that schools have been contacting parents to gauge their views on children returning.

The latest government guidance is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-confirms-schools-colleges-and-nurseries-on-track-to-begin-phased-reopening>

I understand that this is an emotive situation and there will be differing views of what is the right thing to do. Staff and children's safety must be the number one priority.

## Anti-Social Behaviour Concerns



I have been contacted by a number of residents with their concerns about anti-social behaviour on our beaches as the lock-down is loosened.

I want to be clear that there is no place for anti-social behaviour.

My office is in regular contact with North Tyneside Council, Northumbria Police and Nexus to raise constituents concerns about this and I know that they are putting in place a plan for this difficult and evolving problem. That includes bringing forward measures which would normally be in place during the summer months.

I am getting regular updates on the situation. I am grateful to our Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn for making this issue a priority.

## Stay safe on our beaches this summer



As many people may now be aware the RNLI have, due to the pandemic, recently advised nationally that they will only be able to provide a life-guard service for limited number of beaches this summer.

Here in Tynemouth constituency the only beach to have a lifeguard service will be Tynemouth Longsands.

I have been in contact with the RNLI, the council and local lifeguards about this and have been assured that although various workarounds have been considered the safest option for this summer is for a full lifeguard service at one beach, rather than a limited service on more. I am disappointed with this outcome and I remain in contact with the RNLI about the situation.

This means however that local residents are advised to be more careful than ever when at the beach this summer, DO NOT SWIM, unless at Longsands.

You can read the RNLI's advice on staying safe at the [seaside here](#).

## Help for Metro



The Government has confirmed it will be providing £8.6m of financial support for the Tyne and Wear Metro, as part of a package of measures for transport during the ongoing lockdown.

The Metro has been taking NHS staff and other key workers to essential jobs ever since the lockdown began, and, with passenger numbers so reduced, it is costing almost £1m a week to do so. The Metro system needs to continue supporting key workers and the economy when the government starts to lift the lockdown and securing the necessary financial support is fundamental to this.

I am pleased that the government is providing emergency financial relief to the Tyne and Wear Metro system. The Metro and the Shields Ferry are public services and their importance to the economic and social life of our region cannot be understated. I am also clear that the government must continue to monitor this and provide further help if necessary.

## New campaign to end domestic violence launched



**“It’s just  
because...they  
drink a lot.”**  
If you’re worried,  
don’t make  
excuses, act.

**Domestic abuse  
is everyone’s  
business**

You might think it’s none of your business, or worry you’ll say the wrong thing, but now more than ever, we need to keep each other safe.

If you’re worried about someone:

- Be safe: remember - social media, phone and emails might be monitored. Don’t confront the abuser.
- Be kind: listen, make suggestions, not demands.
- Be there: be understanding and available.

- Get help: contact organisations overleaf for support and information.
- Call 101 if you are concerned about a friend or loved one, or that someone’s behaviour is abusive.
- Call 999 if you think there’s an immediate danger.

**If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, then these organisations overleaf can help.**

I am firmly supporting the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness’s new campaign to end domestic abuse.

Friends and family members are being urged to make domestic abuse everyone’s business in a new campaign designed to set out how they can help those at risk.

A series of posters and leaflets aim to dispel a range of excuses and myths around the causes of domestic abuse, such as blaming it on the stress or increased alcohol consumption.

The campaign comes after a survey of specialist Violence Against Women and Girls service providers revealed widespread concern over the impact of the pandemic.

Across the region, help groups said they are braced for a big demand on services, both during the different phases of the lockdown and in the recovery phase.

While some services reported an immediate increase in demand, many noticed a fall in calls and pleas for help as people trapped at home with their abuser struggled to reach out.

As well as the increased risk of violence and coercive control, service providers have also warned of increased demand around welfare issues, with access to food and food banks and fear of poverty and economic hardship a constant pressure.

[To find our more click here](#)

## Restoring our Railways Fund



Before the crisis began I worked alongside Mary Glindon MP, North Tyneside Council and Nexus to put in an application to the government's Restoring Railways Fund to bring the old Cobalt freight line back into use. The scheme would see an extension to the Metro, stopping at the Cobalt and down to Port of Tyne. It could become an important link for jobs and growth in the area. I have recently been contacted by the Department for Transport who, having evaluated the applications, have invited us to the next stage of the process which should happen later this month.

## Welcome help for the Fishing Industry



I've been working with local fishermen and national fishing organisations on the problem the local fleet has faced during the pandemic.

I took up their cause with the Government and the financial support package for the English fishing fleet which has come forward is welcome.

There is now a scheme worth £10 million lasting for three months, with fixed monthly amounts paid by the MMO.

Although not a long-term solution this should bring a level of certainty to local fishermen struggling in the current climate.

For North Shields it is a stark warning of what can happen when the export market effectively shuts down. I am now lobbying Defra on plans to extend the scheme should that be necessary either during a prolonged pandemic or in the event of a no deal Brexit.

## Port of Tyne Wind Farm



There has been good news for our region recently as Port of Tyne is to become the base for world's largest offshore wind farm, Dogger Bank.

The new multi-million pound facility, which includes both office space and a warehouse, will be the onshore base for Equinor's teams ensuring the efficient operation of the wind farm. The flagship project is expected to generate over 200 direct jobs in the region, as well as opportunities for

companies at all levels of the supply chain. The Dogger Bank Wind Farm is estimated to trigger a total capital investment of approximately GBP 9 billion between 2020 and 2026.

This new facility is fantastic news for our area. Renewable energy is one of the UK's great success stories, providing over a third of our electricity and thousands of jobs. With our strong industrial heritage this project is a perfect fit.

## Mental Health Awareness Week



Last month also saw Mental Health Awareness Week, the UK's national week to raise awareness of mental health.

The week, which is hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, is in its 20th year and the theme this year was kindness. It was great to see so many from our area celebrating kindness in a range of digital and creative ways within social distancing restrictions.

At time when we must socially isolate, stories of kindness have helped spread a shared sense of connection and joy. The research backs this up – kindness is deeply connected to mental health. The message this Mental Health Awareness Week is that kindness matters. It matters to our mental health and it will matter hugely in the society we build from here – one that better protects our mental health.

## Virtual English Tourism Week



Last month saw the first ever virtual English Tourism Week.

English Tourism is worth over £100 billion and provides 2.6 million jobs. Normally visitors would be urged to come to our regenerated coast and thanks go to everyone for showing the beauty of our region virtually.

This year however, in a strange change, I urged people not to come to the coast but to enjoy our area virtually and stay safe.

## Further Information

This list is not intended to be exhaustive but I have also put a further list of useful links on my website.

You can access the list at:

<https://alancampbell.laboursites.org/coronavirus/coronavirus-useful-links-for-information/>

