





Whilst it might not have the same ring to it as the original song, Santa has most definitely come early to Airdrie and Shotts. I had the pleasure of visiting his Salsburgh grotto and helping his team of elves get ready for Christmas. Local business Lexo Contracting have done a fantastic job in hosting Mr and Mrs Claus and have put together a community event for all the family to enjoy.







# ADVENT CALENDAR APPEAL

anum.mp@parliament.uk



Come together in the spirit of Christmas and please donate advent calendars for our chosen local organisations.









# EVERYONE DESERVES SOME FESTIVE JOY

Last year, I teamed up with a number of local organisations to run an advent calendar drive that aimed to raise 1,000 calendars for vulnerable children living across Airdrie and Shotts. After searching supermarkets across the constituency, and with the incredible support of local businesses, we managed to reach our target.

Fast forward to today and things have only gotten tougher for people right across these four nations. Energy bills - high. Mortgages - unaffordable. Food prices - uncapped. Now, more than ever before, people are feeling the squeeze from decades of Westminster economic incompetence.

With the cost of living crisis going nowhere, I once again teamed up with Airdrie Community School Uniform Bank and Paul's Parcels to run my Advent Calendar Appeal 2023 - this time with a higher target.

Over November, we aimed to raise 1,500 calendars, to reflect the circumstances that all too many families find themselves in. Yet, what we found was that our updated estimations were still too low. Schools were advising that they had more vulnerable children than in 2022, whilst community organisations also needed more calendars than before.

Luckily, many of the incredible local businesses, who have helped make Airdrie and Shotts a small business hub, were keen to support our community. Thanks to donations from Albert Bartlett, Christie the Baker, Airdrieonians FC, TRJ Contracts, McDonald's and more, we were able to surpass our target!

In total, the appeal ended up collecting over 2,000 advent calendars that were then distributed to local children via schools and partnership organisations.







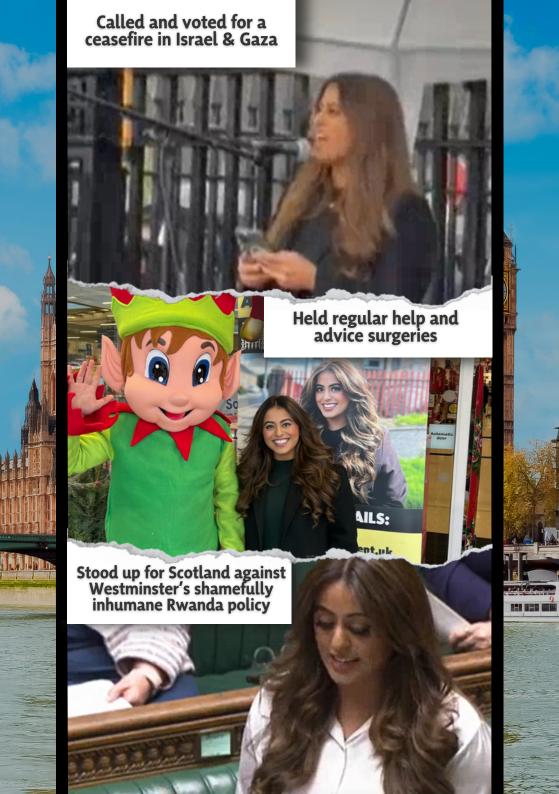
Since being elected in 2021, I have held an annual Christmas Card Competition for pupils across the Airdrie and Shotts constituency.

I often joke that it is my favourite time of the year because there is genuinely no better feeling than being able to see all of the incredible designs created by young constituents. Equally, however, there is nothing more difficult than trying to pick a winner from hundreds of fantastic entries.



# Recently I...









Earlier this year, Airdrie and Shotts was revealed to be one of the fastest growing small business hubs across the four nations. This remarkable growth has been down to innovative businesses like Autonomous iot, who are helping the constituency to become a hotspot for new entrepreneurs.

During my visit, I was blown away by their commitment to creating new solutions to the challenges that we face today.

They are a local business, who would not look out of place in Silicon Valley, with a clear drive for sustainable growth both in Scotland and internationally.

I look forward to continuing to support small businesses across Airdrie and Shotts.

## THANKS FOR READING!

### ANUM QAISAR MP | FESTIVE NEWSLETTER



### COST OF LIVING CONTACTS (C)

Remploy 0300 456 8119

Airdrie Community School Uniform Bank 07988648914

Routes to Work 0754 912 5435

NLC Financial Inclusion Team 01698 332 551

Warmer Homes Scotland 0800 011 6189

VoiceAbility 0300 303 1660

Social Security Scotland 0800 182 2222

Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership 07941 336611

Citizens Advice Bureau Airdrie 01236 754 109

Diamonds in the Community

diamondsitc@hotmail.com



If you live in Airdrie and Shotts, I can support you with:

Housing matters

**Immigration issues** 

Community challenges

Social security problems

And much more