



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

**The Right Honourable Gareth Thomas MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Services, Small Business and Exports  
Old Admiralty Building  
Admiralty Place  
London SW1A 2DY

UK Parliament, 16 July 2025

Dear Minister,

The small businesses on Falkirk High Street have seen the substantial impact of a lack of affordable parking in proximity to Falkirk High Street. From 8.45pm-5.30pm Monday to Saturday parking charges are in place for Falkirk Council owned and operated car parks and parking charges operate similarly at all privately operated car parks. This is compared to the proximate Falkirk Retail Park which provides 1538 spaces for 4 hours of free parking for customers of predominately larger retailers.

Attempts to bolster our local economy and the re-generation attempts on Falkirk High Street will be severely hampered unless this affordable parking situation is resolved. A prior scheme, 'Free After 3' was removed by Falkirk Council and corresponded with a decline in Falkirk High Street footfall.

Our town is proud of its industrial heritage, however sadly with a substantial amount of consolidation and deindustrialisation around Scotland over the last 50 years the identity of our towns have become more reliant on our cultural, retail and hospitality hubs. The further depreciation of our town centre would be an unacceptable outcome, requiring direct intervention from all levels of Government.

I would appreciate your indicative support for a strategy to direct resource for any successor fund to the 'Shared Prosperity Fund' being directed towards Falkirk and similarly sized towns to support free and concession parking schemes to stimulate footfall.

Therefore, can I request:

- 1) A meeting with yourself alongside Elaine Grant, the Business Manager at the Falkirk Business Improvement District (Falkirk Delivers) to discuss how this scheme would benefit the small businesses on Falkirk High Street.
- 2) An indication whether town centre parking will or will not be addressed within the small business strategy.

**Euan Stainbank MP**

**Member of Parliament for Falkirk**

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- 3) What level of detail or business case could be co-designed between my office, Falkirk Council and Falkirk Business Improvement District to demonstrate the need for the small business strategy to address Falkirk Town Centre parking?

Yours sincerely,  
Euan Stainbank, Member of Parliament for Falkirk  
Elaine Grant, Business Manager at Falkirk Delivers

**Euan Stainbank MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Falkirk**

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