



Newsletter

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Member of Parliament for Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge:

The Rt Hon Sir Gavin Williamson, CBE MP

For news and other information visit: www.gavinwilliamson.org/

27 January 2026

Gavin signs Holocaust Educational Trust Book of Commitment

Sir Gavin Williamson signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment, and in doing so pledged his commitment to marking Holocaust Memorial Day – honouring the six million men, women, and children who were mercilessly murdered during the Holocaust as well as honouring heroic survivors.

Holocaust Memorial Day falls on 27th January, marking the anniversary of the liberation of the former Nazi concentration death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau.



As time passes, the responsibility falls to the next generation to remember and ensure the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten. In addition, Holocaust Memorial Day presents an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to all those who were persecuted by the Nazi's including Roma and Sinti people, disabled people, gay men, political opponents, and others.

Karen Pollock CBE, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Trust, said: "On Holocaust Memorial Day we remember the six million Jewish men, women, and children who were murdered by the Nazi's and their collaborators, and we honour the survivors who rebuilt their lives while coming to terms with unimaginable loss.

"This Holocaust Memorial Day comes at a moment of renewed danger to Jewish communities worldwide. From Bondi Beach in Australia to Heaton Park Synagogue in Manchester, in recent months we have seen Jewish people murdered on the holiest days. The atrocities did not occur in a vacuum. This followed two years where antisemitism has been permitted to grow louder, more brazen, and increasingly normalised."

Sir Gavin said: "Holocaust Memorial Day is a harrowing reminder of the atrocities experienced by millions of people during the Nazi occupation, however, it is also a reminder of the bravery shown by survivors and those who dedicate their lives to ensure that educating the next generation is central to remembrance.

"We have seen an alarming rise in antisemitism due to a combination of global events and political toxicity. I am unequivocal that any form of hatred has absolutely no place in society and all communities should be able to live in peace without fear of prejudice.

"History shows us the horrors that can happen when we are divided. I hope that future generations learn from the past and that Holocaust Memorial Day continues to honour those who are no longer with us as well as those who showed tremendous resilience in the face of evil."

Gavin calls for non-stun slaughter ban

Sir Gavin Williamson is calling for a total ban on the non-stun slaughter of animals after a significant increase in this “barbaric practice.”

The latest figures from the Food Standards Agency estimate that in 2024, 30.1 million animals were slaughtered in the UK without pre-stunning – representing an 18.5% from 2022.

Leading supermarkets including Tesco, Sainsbury’s, Asda, and others have been found to sell meat that had been produced initially by using non-stun slaughter practice.



Sir Gavin said: “Leading animal welfare charities including the RSPCA have all called for an end to this barbaric practice and I am entirely in agreement with them

“It cannot be right that in 2026 the law allows animals to be subject to horrific, unnecessary pain that rightly evokes outrage from charities, members of the public and animal rights campaigners.

“Whilst it is ever so important to be respectful and understanding to the culture of religious communities, I cannot stay silent and allow sentient animals to be killed in such a cruel way.

“I am calling on the Government to urgently act and ban all forms of non-stun slaughter so animals no longer have to suffer such unnecessary pain.”

Gavin calls for Government to apologise to farmers

Sir Gavin Williamson has demanded the Government apologise to farmers across Staffordshire after Labour's slew of measures continue to deeply impact the viability of the sector as well as food security.

The family farm tax has dealt a hammer blow to farmers with many expressing their deep concern that they will not be able to pass their farm onto future generations. Other possibilities include scaling back expansion plans, reducing produce, and even cutting jobs.



Under successive Conservative Government's, farmland was exempt from inheritance tax under a policy called 'Agricultural Property Relief (APR).' However, in the Budget the Chancellor announced that she will end this exemption by restricting APR.

This will mean that from April, a tax of 20% will apply to agricultural assets over £1 million. Many farmers earn less than the minimum wage, and have faced soaring energy costs as well as fertiliser and feeding bills.

The Family Farm Tax is not the only policy to hit farmers. The Government has also decided to accelerate the phase out of direct payments to farmers under the Basic Payment Scheme. It is estimated that all recipients will see the base amount of their payments cut by 76% this year.

Sir Gavin Williamson called for the Government to apologise to farmers during recent Parliamentary questions, with Minister Dan Tomlinson declining to do so.

Sir Gavin said: "Farmers are being continuously let down by punitive policies which are threatening the viability of the sector and causing chaos for our food security during geopolitical uncertainty. Labour are refusing to listen to the alarm bells that are being sounded by farmers and organisations including the National Farmers Union who are all calling for the Government to urgently row back on their attacks.

"I called for the Government to apologise in Parliament, which the Minister unsurprisingly refused to do. Instead, he provide a mediocre response and claimed 'the Government is listening to farmers, – which is very strange as this is not the experience felt by dozens of farmers in my constituency. I urge the Government to row back on their farming assault before it is too late."

Gavin fights Wheaton Aston Development Proposal

Sir Gavin Williamson is joining forces with residents and campaigners to strongly oppose an application for 46 dwellings and associated infrastructure on land at Fentonhouse Lane, Wheaton Aston.

Richborough Commercial state on their website that they are “promoting a 13.5 acre parcel of land to the south-east of the village of Wheaton Aston in South Staffordshire.” A planning application has been submitted to South Staffordshire District Council and will be considered by officials and Councillors shortly.



All public comments are so far in opposition to the plans with residents stating they are concerned about erosion to the green belt, straining public infrastructure further, affecting the character of the village, traffic, walking access routes, flooding, and much more.

Sir Gavin said: “This is yet another example of developers identifying green spaces to concrete over to the delight of a Labour Government who seem to relentlessly wage war on rural communities.

“Their destructive policies on farming and pursuing ideological housing targets has left rural communities feeling under siege and fearful of how their lives will be impacted by continuous overdevelopment as well as erosion of green spaces.

“Wheaton Aston already has had it’s fair share of development, and as a ‘Tier 3’ village, its infrastructure cannot cope with more dwellings that inevitably leads to an influx of traffic and pressure on local services.

“I am unequivocal in my opposition to this development, and will do everything in my power to ensure it is rejected at every available opportunity.”

Gavin visits SI Group European Innovation Centre

Sir Gavin Williamson visited Si Group's new state-of-the-art European Innovation Centre which is located on the Four Ashes Estate near Coven

The SI Group is a leading global developer and manufacturer of performance additives, process solutions, and chemical intermediates with facilities across the USA, India, and China. The products and services produced are essential to enhancing the quality and performance of industrial and consumer goods within plastics, rubber and adhesives, fuels and lubricants, oilfield, and pharmaceutical industries.



The new European Innovation Centre (EIC) is equipped with advanced tools and resources to support a wide range of research activities. With a focus on plastics and rubber application development, as well as analytical characterisation, the EIC will serve as a collaborative hub for addressing technical challenges as well as driving sustainable innovation in partnership with customers and industry leaders.

Robert Kaiser, VP Strategic Marketing and Managing Director - EMEA at SI Group. "Together with our five additional Innovation Centres, we're building a robust, globally connected R&D network that enhances competitiveness, delivers advanced solutions tailored to regional needs, and supports the long-term growth of our business."

Sir Gavin said: "SI Group's continued expansion and exciting future plans for its Staffordshire facility is very welcome news which can only greatly benefit the local economy as well as boost employment.

"With over 16,000 employees worldwide, the SI Group has a reputation for innovation and providing its workforce with diverse opportunities to grow in a personal and professional capacity.

"The EIC will provide further opportunities for the SI Group to expand and advance their range of services. Whilst the public may not be aware of their work, everyday products that contain plastics and rubber are often influenced by the SI Group in some way.

"I very much look forward to seeing the company's continued growth and how this will benefit Staffordshire."

Join the Campaign. Shape the Future.

Your Federation is calling on members to get involved and help spread the Conservative message across our two Parliamentary Constituencies:

- Stafford
- Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge

By joining our campaign groups, you'll be supporting Conservative candidates and promoting Conservative values at the heart of our local Staffordshire communities.

IMPORTANT COUNCIL ELECTIONS – MAY 2026

We have vital council elections taking place in May 2026 in Loggerheads and Maer & Whitmore wards.

We are looking for members who would like to volunteer to help us campaign in advance of these very important elections.



Campaign activities include:



- Delivering leaflets
- Door knocking
- Collecting voter data
- Spreading the message about Conservative candidates and Conservative values

No experience is required – just enthusiasm and a willingness to help.

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP CAMPAIGN GROUPS

Stafford Campaign Group: <https://11nk.dev/KEdkt>

Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge Campaign Group: <https://acesse.one/rpUmZ>

GET IN TOUCH

If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact us:

Tel: **01785 252 273** or email: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Together, we can deliver strong Conservative results across Central Staffordshire.

SPRING CONFERENCE TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

HARROGATE 6TH - 8TH MARCH 2026

Join campaigners and friends from across the country for a development-led weekend of renewal and action - packed with energy, ideas and the practical skills to win.

In partnership with the Conservative Councillors' Association and the Campaign Academy, Spring Conference will equip campaigners and councillors with the tools and support to lead winning campaigns.

Get ready to level up your campaigning with sessions including:

- Digital and social media that cuts through
- Tried-and-tested campaigning techniques
- Essential briefings for agents and campaigners
- You'll hear keynote speeches from the Shadow Cabinet, MPs and senior conservatives, plus enjoy networking opportunities, social events and evening entertainment. The National Convention will also meet during the weekend.

Whether you're a first-time organiser or a seasoned campaigner, this is your rallying point for Campaign 2026 and the future!

The programme is being brought together and will include speeches from the senior members of our Party and a range of development opportunities for councillors, activists, officers, agents and the wider membership. Working in partnership with the Conservative Councillors' Association (CCA), we expect this to be an enjoyable occasion to either get last minute tips (for those with elections in May) or to plan further ahead for those with elections in 2027 or 2028.

Alongside this there is also the opportunity for you to join

- a Drinks Reception hosted by the CCA
- a pub quiz and social event
- a Reception with the Candidates Department
- a Members' Gala DinneR

So there will be plenty of opportunities to meet with friends and colleagues. All of these can be added at the point of purchase, and some are space-limited so an encouragement to book early.

Tickets are available at: conservatives.com/spring-conference/2026

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

FEDERATION NOTICES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE FEDERATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL?

The Executive Council is the governing body of the Federation and we have some vacancies for ward representatives for the following areas:

Maer & Whitmore, Essington, Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon, Great Wyrley Landywood, Great Wyrley Town, Huntington & Hatherton, Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston, Penkridge North & Acton Trussell, Penkridge South & Gailey, Baswich, Coton, Doxey & Castletown, Forebridge, Highfields & Western Downs, Holmcroft, Littleworth, Milwich, Rowley, St Michael's & Stonefield and Walton.

If you'd like more information, please contact the Chairman at the following address chairman@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or at our Castle Street office address.

AGM SEASON IS HERE

Dear Member,

As the new year gets underway, it also marks the start of our Annual General Meeting season.

Over the coming weeks, each branch will be holding its Branch AGM, along with the Federation's own Annual General Meeting. We would encourage all members to take part and support these important meetings in the life of our Association.

Please keep an eye on your inbox for emails confirming the date and venue of your Branch AGM. Details of the Federation AGM will also be shared shortly — this will be held in March.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGMs in the weeks ahead.

With best wishes,

Duncan

Duncan Sandbrook

Chairman

Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation

FEDERATION NOTICES

Support the Federation. Enjoy the Chance to Win!



*Join for just £4.34 a month or £52 a year
and you could be our next winner!*

- ✓ Support the Federation's vital work
- ✓ Monthly prize draws
- ✓ A little flutter for a good cause

Apply today!

☎ **Call: 01785 252 273**

✉ **Email: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk**

Full details at:
www.centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk/100-club

 **Conservatives**

100 Club

JANUARY WINNERS:

1st Prize: **ROY WHALLEY**

2nd Prize: **SUSAN DUNCAN**

3rd Prize: **ENID POULSON**

Congratulations!



SUPPER CLUB

Join us for an evening of
good food and lively conversation!

£23 per person – Monthly from March to October
contact us for more information:
contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk



*Enjoy delicious food and engage in
stimulating discussion with fellow Conservatives.*

Contacting the Federation

Your Federation is staffed by volunteers, the office is not permanently staffed. The telephone line is diverted to a mobile number and calls are answered if someone is available to take your call. But please remember that the volunteers who manage your Federation work full-time, so sometimes it's not possible to answer your calls and in these circumstances you are able to leave a voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please note that members can also contact the Federation by email (which is often a quicker way of getting a response) at contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Car Parking at our Castle Street HQ

The Federation generates important revenue towards the upkeep of our Castle Street HQ by renting car parking spaces to both members and non-members.

Occasional parking at our HQ remains free for members, but we would ask that members inform the office if you will be parking at HQ at least 24-hours in advance, with details of the car registration number so that you do not receive penalty notices. You can get in touch with the office to notify your intention to use our car park, by telephone to **01785 252 273** or by email to contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

We would also ask that members please park with consideration for other car park users.

Parking is at the owner's risk. The Federation does not accept any responsibility for theft or any damage, intentional or otherwise, to vehicles or vehicle contents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Details of any upcoming events will be advertised in our monthly newsletter and on our website EVENTS page. **SUPPER CLUB** dates for the 2026 season are currently being finalised and will be advertised shortly.

If you'd like to get involved with our campaign activities, please join our WHATSAPP groups. Contact Deputy Chairman Political, Jonathan Price for further information.

Key Contacts

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