

# Matthew Patrick, Labour MP for Wirral West

## Background

Matthew Patrick lives on the Wirral and grew up locally in Birkenhead, Merseyside. He's one of the younger MPs in Parliament aged thirty six. He studied at Liverpool John Moores University.

Prior to entering Parliament he served on Wirral Council from 2013-18 where he was cabinet member for the environment. He then worked in regulation across financial services and energy with the Financial Ombudsman Service.



Outside of politics he enjoys football and is an avid West Brom fan. Matthew is Jewish and was sworn in to Parliament on the Torah.

## Constituency

The Wirral West constituency has changed hands frequently since its creation in 1983. In recent years it was held by the Conservatives until it was won for Labour by Matthew's predecessor Margaret Greenwood in 2015. Following her decision not to stand in the 2024 general election Matthew Patrick became the Labour candidate and went on to win the seat with 46.4% of the vote.

Matthew's constituency's local authority is Wirral Council, one of 5 Metropolitan Boroughs in Merseyside, and a constituent member of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. Since its establishment in 1973 it has been controlled by both Labour and Conservative, as well as having no overall control. It is currently under no overall control, however, since 2012, the Leader of the Council has been Labour.

The council seems to be focused on and concerned about climate change and nature, scoring higher than average on action on climate, and being one of the first to announce a climate emergency, and having a clear Environment and Climate Emergency Action Plan. Key areas of focus for improvement seem to be recycling, transport and nature protection. For a more thorough analysis of Wirral Council, and detail on its approach to climate policy, please see this [2024 Wirral Borough Council TLS](#)

## Political Activity

Matthew Patrick's political activity is relatively limited due to the fact that he was elected so recently, however he has started to build his profile in parliament in a number of key ways.

Notably he has recently been selected for the Foreign Affairs Committee, an important committee that examines the expenditure, administration and policy of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). In a post on X he mentioned climate as a priority: “I want to be a strong voice on the Committee ensuring @FCDOGovUK returns Britain to its place as a leader on the global stage – in peacebuilding, **climate leadership** and security.”

Matthew is also a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse and has mentioned preventing economic abuse as being a key priority.

[Local press](#) has identified Matthew as belonging to the centre ground of the Labour Party, although there is little evidence to base this on. So far Matthew has never rebelled against the Labour whip. However there is a very limited sample size to judge whether or not this will be a long term habit. We’d recommend looking at his profile on [They Work for You](#) to see how this changes.

Given his lack of a parliamentary track record his [maiden speech in parliament](#) is a useful glimpse into his potential priorities. Encouragingly he did speak about climate issues in the speech. In particular he mentioned climate coming up on the doorstep as a key concern of constituents. Of particular relevance to COP 29, and his select committee role, is that he spoke about international action on climate with partners around the world. This is hopefully a sign that he does indeed want to prioritise the climate in his Foreign Affairs Committee role. Closer to home he mentioned being proud of the Wirral as a home of green energy and green jobs and referenced their importance to the area.

Whilst not climate related, Matthew received media attention after speaking in Parliament on the importance of remembering those who lost their lives in the October the 7th attacks. His constituency is also a key priority for him, in his maiden speech he stressed the importance of listening to constituents about their priorities and restoring faith in parliament.

In his election campaign, and since, he has been managing a difficult balancing act on planning and housebuilding. Both agreeing with the labor policy of encouraging construction but also stressing the importance of protecting the greenbelt and of councils and local residents having the final say. He supports the council's policy of “brownfield first”. This will be something to keep on eye on particularly as Labour moves ahead with their house building plans.

## **Areas of common ground**

From our research the key areas of common ground that stand out are **championing the UK’s role in international efforts to tackle climate change**, particularly through the UNFCCC, and **green jobs for the Wirral**.

Firstly on **international climate action and COP 29**. Matthew’s previous comments and international focus in parliament lends itself well to approaching climate from

an international perspective. The upcoming COP 29 is Labour's first since returning to power and they may well want to use COP as a chance to publicly show their commitment to international climate action and differentiate themselves from the last UK government. In addition COP29 is being framed as a "finance COP" where a key focus will be getting wealthy states to finally provide adequate climate finance for "developing" countries (note the term developing is the language of the convention). This has been a major sticking point in negotiations since the early days of the convention and making progress is perceived as essential for unlocking the talks. Given Matthew's position on the Foreign Affairs Committee and their role scrutinizing FCDO spending he would be well placed to push for greater commitments from the UK and in particular assess our contribution to international climate finance as part of the committee's work.

**Green jobs in the Wirral.** The fact that Matthew has highlighted the importance of green jobs to the constituency gives us a great area of common ground. He has specifically mentioned wind farms, but the framing of green jobs could be a useful way to look at other issues as well. For instance if you are interested in pushing for greater government investment in insulation, heat pumps or domestic renewables then framing these issues in terms of green jobs for the Wirral could be a good way to get positive engagement from Matthew as an MP. It's worth noting that the government recently announced an initial [£3.4bn](#) in spending on their "warm homes plan" focused on energy efficiency and decarbonising housing. This was presented as a first step with more funding to come so there is scope for pushing the government to go further. In addition, given the co-benefits of warm homes MPs have an incentive to make sure that their constituencies draw down this funding and reap the rewards, particularly in terms of green jobs.

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Please do [get in touch](#) with us too at [info@hftf.org.uk](mailto:info@hftf.org.uk) or by calling 0114 312 2619 if you'd like to discuss asks for other areas of common ground, as well as accessing our free, tailored support for engagements with your MP.

Please keep in touch with us and let us know how your engagement progresses. We use this information to help us work as effectively as possible and to report to our funders so we can continue to provide this service to others.

HFTF Completed: 11/11/2024