

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

April
2022



Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2022

Supporting Ukraine



In support of Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2022, Gordon visited Baberton Golf Club.

Scottish Apprenticeships are backed by the Scottish Government and enable businesses to adapt, sustain, and strengthen their business.

The combination of commitment from employers with the backing of the Scottish Government ensure apprenticeships work for everyone, making a significant contribution to Scotland's recovery and productivity growth.

Commenting on his visit Gordon said "It was a pleasure to meet with Keith Nicholson, the General Manager, Brian Toall, the Course Manager and the apprentices. I had a really interesting morning seeing first hand the work carried out by the greenkeepers in providing and maintaining a first class golf course for their members.

"Scottish Apprenticeship Week highlights the vital role apprenticeships play in supporting people, employers and the economy. I know that employers recognise the benefits apprenticeships bring to their business and ensure that they can maintain skill levels within their businesses.

"Baberton Golf Club illustrates the contribution apprenticeships make in supporting local businesses."

Gordon lodged a motion in Parliament recognising the long-standing relationship between the sister cities of Edinburgh and Kyiv, which were twinned in 1989 prior to independence from the USSR.

The motion applauded and endorsed the proposal passed unanimously by the City of Edinburgh Council that "Commends the outstanding leadership of the Mayor of our twin City, Kyiv and the President of Ukraine who has remained in Kyiv to fight against the Russian invasion" and "Commends the heroism of the Ukrainian people, led by their President, members of parliament and Mayors from across the Country in fighting side-by-side to defend their nation".

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Calls to Use MoD Homes



Gordon has again written to the UK Secretary of State for Defence to raise the issue of empty MoD homes around Dregghorn and Redford barracks on how they could be used to home those fleeing Ukraine.

Gordon also raised the issue during First Minister's Questions. The First Minister noted that the scale of the current humanitarian crisis in Ukraine means that it is important that all housing options are fully explored, and agreed that MOD housing should and must be considered as part of that process stating she would "welcome the UK Government, which has sole responsibility for MOD property, making empty homes available."

Gordon stated, "Many of the local MoD homes have been left empty for years, and I'm sure most people would agree that if the choice is a family home or a hotel bedroom for months on end then most people would choose a family home. I believe it would be a failure of the MoD not to utilise these empty properties which would provide a safe, warm home for displaced Ukrainian people."

The Scottish Government is working with key partners to ensure effective co-ordination in addressing the accommodation needs of displaced Ukrainian people.

Kythera AI "Rising Star"



At the Tech Nation "Rising Star" Awards, Gordon met with staff and the founder of Kythera AI a company specialising in artificial intelligence for gaming development.

Kythera AI are a small and growing company who work with game studios around the world, helping them develop games of all genres across multiple engines and platforms

At the awards, Kythera were cited as being "on an ambitious mission to bring intelligent life to virtual worlds in games and beyond, through their leading AI middleware."

Gordon commented, "Kythera AI are at the leading edge of the high-tech economy and have decided to locate themselves in Edinburgh.

"This is testament to the availability of high-qualified potential employees and the quality of life that Edinburgh offers."

Supporting WASPI Women



At the Scottish Parliament, Gordon met with representatives of WASPI Scotland to support their campaign against unfair changes to the UK state pension age.

The significant changes to women's state pension age were imposed without appropriate notification and much faster than previously promised with some women being hit by more than one increase.

Gordon noted, "The changes to women's pension age introduced by Westminster have denied many women of their pensions for years.

"The way the increases were brought in, women born in the 1950s have been hit particularly hard. There is real anger that they have been treated unfairly and unequally just because of the day they were born. Hundreds of thousands are suffering financial hardship, with not enough time to re-plan for their retirement."

Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

✉ gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

☎ 0131 443 0595

📍 The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

📘 Gordon Macdonald MSP

🐦 @GMacdonaldMSP

Weekly Surgeries

Gordon is now holding open surgeries for constituents to attend every Friday at 10am. The locations for these can be found at: -

<https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands