



Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Pentlands

# Gordon Macdonald MSP

April 2024 Newsletter

## 2024-25 Scottish Budget



Gordon was pleased to vote in favour of the Scottish Budget 2024-25 Bill, which was passed by Parliament after the final Stage 3 Debate at Holyrood on Tuesday 27th February.

The budget will see investment of £6.3 billion in social security which will support over 1.2 million people — including £457 million for the game-changing Scottish Child Payment which now reaches over 20,000 families across the city.

Gordon said “The Scottish Government recognise the impact of the cost of living by increasing benefits in line with inflation. Seven of the fourteen benefits funded are unique to Scotland, demonstrating the Scottish Government’s pioneering approaches to deliver the best for people in Scotland.”

The budget commits funding over £19.5 billion for health and social care, ensuring a real-terms uplift in the face of unprecedented fiscal pressure. Over £13.2 billion is allocated to frontline NHS boards to take forward the improvement of health in their communities and to deliver the most effective care for people they serve.

There will be continued provision of £145.5 million to local authorities to maintain staffing levels of teachers, £200 million to address the attainment gap and £2.4 billion to support colleges and universities. Free School Meals is further expanded by targeting primary 6 and 7 pupils receiving Scottish Child Payment.

## Visit to Mark Murphy Foodservice



Gordon visited Mark Murphy, part of Dole Foodservice, at their factory last month.

Mark Murphy is Scotland’s largest fresh produce supplier to the hospitality sector and are among the constituency’s biggest employers with c. 270 staff.

Gordon said “It was good to meet up with General Manager Brian Breslin and his colleagues at Mark Murphy to see up close how they operate. They make a huge contribution to food produce supply in Scotland and to be awarded UK Foodservice Supplier Of The Year last October was just reward for their work to embed and grow the business in Scotland”.

The business operates all year round and offer fixed shift and permanent employment. Roles are advertised on [Indeed](#), [Capital City Partnership](#) or contact [scott.grieve@markmurphydole.com](mailto:scott.grieve@markmurphydole.com) direct.

## SP Energy Networks priority services register



SP Energy Networks Scotland encourage those eligible to sign up to the free Priority Services Register (PSR).

The free service provides extra support to customers who are over the age of 60, have children under the age of 5, have a chronic illness or mobility issues.

More information on [the website](#).

# Wester Hailes Community Trust Adopt Wester Hailes Train Station



Wester Hailes Train Station is to be adopted as part of Scotrail's Adopt A Station scheme.

The initiative is being taken forward by Wester Hailes Community Trust (WHCT) who will enrol community volunteers to help. The scheme involves activities such as building gardens, installing information

boards and other creative ideas to improve the look and feel of train stations.

Gordon put his good wishes on record by lodging a motion in the Scottish Parliament, encouraging others to wish WHCT well.

To get involved more information and a volunteer form is available [here](#).

# Office Carbon Report



Change Works have compiled a Carbon Report reflecting the volume of waste and recycling produced by

Gordon's office over the last year.

Weight of Material Recycled	February 2024 (kg)	Total since March 2023 (kg)
Paper	23.20	174.00
Cardboard bundles	14.00	63.00

This means that 154.66kg of carbon has been diverted from our atmosphere. With a target of Net Zero by 2050 and reducing carbon emissions by half by 2030, businesses need to understand their own carbon emissions to make critical reductions.

# Balerno Fairtrade Village Group Event



Gordon attended this year's Fairtrade event at St Joseph's Hall in Balerno, which marks 30 years since Fairtrade was established.

The event was attended by well over 300 people from across Balerno and beyond, including the Lord Provost.

As with previous Fairtrade events there was plenty on offer from craft and food stalls, competitions and activities for children including the annual schools art display. Gordon even rode on a 'smoothie bike', a stationary bicycle that harnesses a cyclist's pedalling to power a blender.

Gordon said "I would like to thank Balerno Fairtrade Village Group for again inviting me to this important event both locally and globally to maintain conditions and sustainability for workers and the environment."

# Young Carers Action Day



Young Carers Action Day took place on 13 March last month highlighting support available for teenagers who look after others

through a grant which is only provided in Scotland.

Since being introduced in 2019 by the Scottish Government, Young Carer Grant has delivered over £3 million to over 6,600 teenage carers. Scottish Government figures suggest around 25% of those eligible for Young Carer Grant in 2022-23 did not apply.

Gordon commented "Any young person aged 16, 17 or 18 who looks after someone else should check if they're eligible for Young Carer Grant - more information is available on [this page](#) of Young Scot's website or contact Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

# Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

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Gordon holds open weekly surgeries for constituents every Friday at 10am.

The locations for these can be found at: <https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>