

Health

NHS Inform

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

0800 028 2816 (8am – 10pm everyday)
for general information only

Call NHS 24 on 111 for advice if symptoms
worsen or if fever is ongoing after 7 days

Shielding local support

www.gov.scot/covid-shieldingcontacts


Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

✉ gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

0131 443 0595

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

 Gordon Macdonald MSP

 @GMacdonaldMSP

Due to the ongoing public health concern, in the interest of
public and staff safety, Gordon's surgeries are suspended until
further notice but he will continue to handle enquiries as usual.

National Assistance Helpline

For those over 70 or receive the flu vaccine for medical reasons, do not have any access to the internet, and do
not have anyone to help get essential supplies.

0800 111 4000 (Open office hours Monday to Friday)

This helpline is for those who cannot leave home and who cannot get help online.

Domestic Abuse Helpline

www.safer.scot

0800 027 1234

For Business Support

www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice

0300 303 0660

Easy-Read Coronavirus Guidance

www.sclcd.org.uk/information-on-coronavirus

0141 248 3733

Energy Advice

Home Energy Scotland

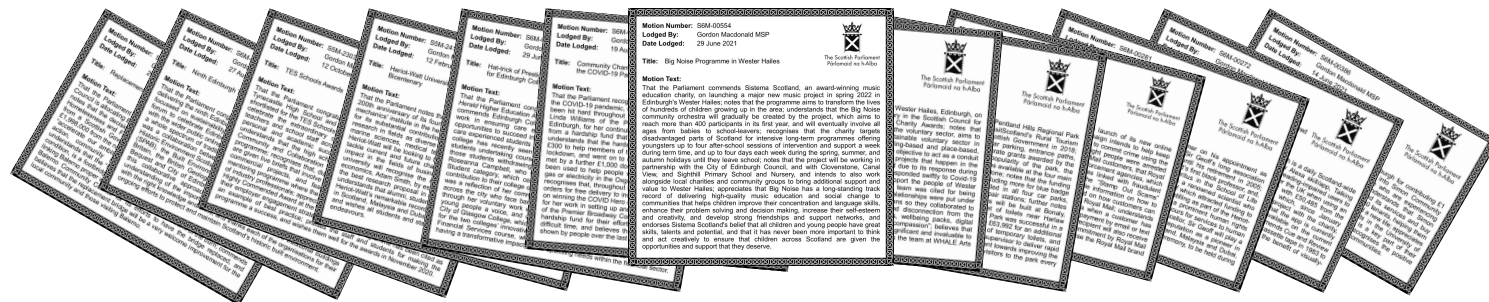
0808 808 2282

For Older People

www.agescotland.org.uk

0800 12 44 222

Motions to Parliament



Throughout the year, I have lodged numerous motions in Parliament to celebrate, congratulate, or commemorate local
events, organisations and constituents. Lodging a motion raises awareness and provides parliamentary recognition.
And, if the motion is marked for Members Business it will also, with cross party support, be debated in the chamber.

A recent example was recognising the contribution of community champions during the pandemic. The motion thanked
Linda Williams of Premier Broadway Store in Oxbgangs, for her continuing efforts to raise and distribute funds and
donations from the beginning of lockdown in 2020. They received an incredible £9,000 with Linda topping this up to
£10,000, an amazing effort and testament to community spirit.

If you believe an individual, group or business within the constituency deserves recognition please get in touch and we
can discuss how we can take this forward in the form of a motion.



Annual Report 2021/2022

Delivering for Pentlands — Programme for Government

This is the second year the Scottish Government has brought forward an ambitious Programme for Government that will
directly and positively impact the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency whilst we continue to deal with the pandemic. We
have good cause for optimism with the vaccination programme across NHS Lothian going well. The Programme sets out
plans to establish a national care service benefitting vulnerable people across the constituency, extend and increase the
Scottish Child Payment which currently supports over 8000 families across Edinburgh Pentlands and the city, guarantee
opportunities for young people, and build affordable houses that are critically needed in Edinburgh Pentlands.

The virus has put significant pressure on health services across the constituency and Edinburgh. NHS workers from nurses
to porters deserve our thanks for their outstanding efforts to support our most vulnerable through an incredibly difficult
time. I welcome the £2.5 billion more for frontline health spending, with 10% of all frontline health spend going to mental
health. Edinburgh Pentlands constituents have raised the matter of lengthy waits for mental health services and this
additional funding will go some way in tackling the problem. There will also be £10 billion for new and upgraded hospitals
and facilities, and £114 million specifically to support the recovery of cancer services, and £20 million for early detection.

The number of drug deaths in Edinburgh and across our country is a national shame. I welcome the £250 million allocated
to implement community-based interventions, quick access to treatment, and more residential rehabilitation. In addition,
a commitment has been made to ensure people have access to same-day treatment and wider treatment options.



Two issues that have become more significant in Edinburgh Pentlands during
the pandemic is child poverty and closing the attainment gap. I am pleased
that the Programme addresses these by rolling out the Scottish Child Payment
to children under 16 by the end of 2022 and doubling it to £20 per week as
quickly as possible. In addition, ahead of the full roll-out, a £520 bridging
payment will be brought forward for every child in receipt of free school meals.

A further £1 billion will be invested over the term to tackle the poverty related
attainment gap, and recruit 3,500 permanent teachers and support assistants,
this is over and above the 1,400 extra teachers recruited during the pandemic.

One of the most critical issues across the constituency is a lack of affordable
housing. The Programme aims to give everyone a safe, warm home by
delivering 110,000 affordable homes by 2032 and by investing an additional
£50 million over the Parliament to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

This Programme will deliver for the people of Edinburgh Pentlands by tackling
our current reality but by also looking forward with confidence and ambition.

Changes to Fire Safety



Although there has been a reduction in the numbers of fires across the city, our firefighters are still called to almost 2800 fires a year. With this in mind I wanted to highlight and remind constituents of changes to fire safety legislation and what this means for homeowners. From February 2022, all homeowners will be required to have interlinked alarms under legislation brought forward after the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017.

These alarms significantly reduce casualties by alerting everybody in a property to a fire. The cost of these alarms and fitting will be the responsibility of home owners and landlords, and will depend on what you currently have in place and the alarms you choose to install.

Estimates on the cost for an average three bedroom house which requires three smoke alarms, one heat alarm and one carbon monoxide detector will be around £220. This estimate is based on sourcing the type of alarms that you can install by yourself without the need for an electrician.

I would urge constituents to think about getting these alarms fitted sooner rather than later and avoid the rush in the early part of 2022.

Spaces for People



Edinburgh Council has published the plan for the future of the temporary Spaces for People measures. These have included pop-up walking and cycling routes, and temporary improvements, to enable physical distancing.

I have been in ongoing dialogue with the Council regarding the measures for the past year.

I'm glad to see the intention to keep the 30mph speed limit on Lanark Road and if the cycle lane is to be retained, the safety concerns need to be addressed. I remain committed to finding a solution to the concerns of all of those travelling on the Water of Leith Path.

CALA Housing Development in Currie



CALA Homes have again undertaken a public consultation to gauge public opinion of another of their proposed large housing developments.

This development will be between Currie and the rail line to the north of the village. Many of you will be aware of my opposition to numerous developments proposed not just in Currie but across the constituency where I believed they would have a negative impact.

I do not believe this is the right development for the area and have made my views clear to CALA. The road network would be negatively affected with increased traffic on an already congested Lanark Road and the impact on the Calderhame Road which from my understanding would see the cul-de-sac become part of the link road.

Despite the land area being capable of holding 2,000 homes, CALA stated that they intend only to build 600 to 900 homes. However, CALA did not rule out selling plots of land to third party developers. Therefore, I think there will be concerns that we might see these lower figures proposed but, by the time plots are sold off to other developers, this number may increase.

Given the number of houses proposed, I would anticipate an additional primary school might be needed, and, if this is the case, then the development is effectively adding an entirely new village.

Free School Meals



Access to free school meals is an essential tool in tackling the attainment gap and supporting children's learning. Children and young people across Edinburgh Pentlands are already benefitting from free school meals thanks to policy changes from the Scottish Government.

The pandemic has caused untold financial pressures for families across the constituency, and its right that the Scottish Government ensured that children continued to receive free school meals over the holidays. However the Scottish Government have pledged to go one step further with every primary school pupil eligible for free school meals, all year around.

This ambitious expansion of the free school meals scheme will go some way in tackling poverty and inequality and supporting young people across the constituency.

Free Bus Travel



In Parliament earlier this year I took the opportunity to raise the issue of free bus travel for younger people with the Scottish Government.

The cost of travel whether it's taking the bus to school, employment or further or higher education can be significant for young people in the constituency.

I was delighted with the response from the Scottish Government confirming that the Young Persons' Free Bus Scheme will launch on 31 January 2022 and will be extended to include 19 – 21 year olds.

Murrayburn Owner-Occupiers



City of Edinburgh Council have put in motion the start of a major refurbishment of parts of the Wester Hailes estate, to include Murrayburn, Hailesland and Dumbryden.

The first phase of the project is in Murrayburn which will see homes rehauled and reinsulated. Whilst this is to be welcomed particularly given many of these buildings have been neglected since

they were built in the 1960s, what homeowners and landlords were not prepared for were the huge costs involved.

Constituents affected contacted me raising their understandable concerns. Bills had initially ranged from £34k to £42k, extremely large sums that were completely unaffordable to many of the homeowners.

Having met with representatives from the Council I raised a number of avenues that could be pursued to bring those costs down including pushing the council to extend the repayment period and reduce the percentage interest rate as well as approaching Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland (HEEPS) for grant support.

The council did indeed review their approach and along with securing HEEPS funding has resulted in a combined saving of up to 75% for homeowners.

This news has been welcomed by homeowners and landlords but I will continue to pursue this issue with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government when I meet with her later in the year. I do not want to see more homeowners landed with hefty bills when support is available.