

# Gordon Macdonald MSP

Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency Monthly Report — May 2015



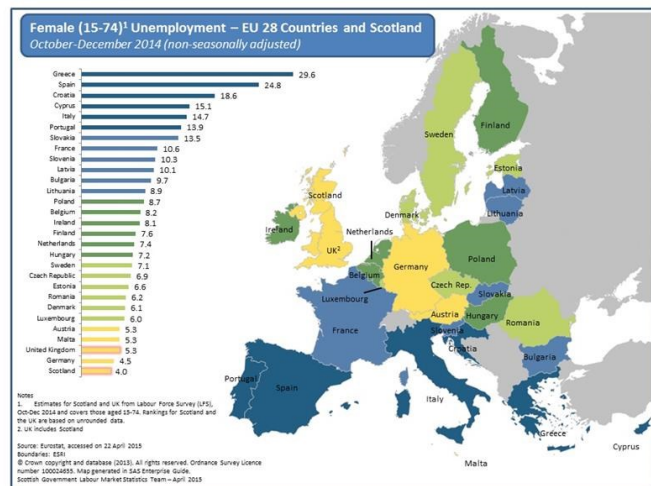
## Ratho GP Update

NHS Lothian have issued an apology to all residents in an email I received following representations on constituents behalf: *"We are sorry that patients in Ratho are having to wait so long for routine appointments."*

Steps being taken by NHS Lothian to resolve the situation include:-

- CHP staff are once again putting out an urgent call for a locum to start as soon as possible.
- The permanent GP post is being advertised - We will be recruiting for a GP to cover Tuesdays, Thursday afternoons and all day Friday
- Dr Simpson is working all Monday, all day Wednesday and Thursday mornings. As from 1st July he will be available for appointments on Tuesday afternoons too.
- CHP staff are talking with neighbouring practices to investigate sustainable ways that they might be able to support the practice if and when locum cover is not available.
- A Patient Participation Group has been established with a focus on the new surgery and their first meeting is in June. At the moment there are nine members.

## Gordon welcomes lowest female unemployment in Europe!



As the Parliamentary Liaison Officer for the Cabinet Secretary for Fair Work, Skills & Training, I welcomed the announcement that Scotland has the lowest rate of female unemployment of any country in Europe with the female unemployment rate at 4%.

In addition Scotland also has the second highest female employment rate at 71.3% with only Sweden higher at 72.6%.

Minister for Youth and Women's Employment Annabelle Ewing said: *"The Eurostat figures are worth celebrating. We are seeing attitudes change and respected, successful business leaders championing the benefits of being innovative with working practices that support all employees. I hope that any young women seeing how well we compare with other European countries will be inspired to pursue the career they want without any reservations and know that they have a place at the heart of our society, industry and economy."*

Keeping you informed @ [www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info](http://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info)

## Marie Curie Visit



Visited the Marie Curie Hospice in Fairmilehead to take part in its consultation with patients, families, carers and other interested parties on its plans for community service developments. The Coffee and Conversation event was aimed at involving people with personal experience to help shape Marie Curie services as it develops its community nursing provision.

The Edinburgh hospice supported a total of 1,159 patients with specialist nurses providing care through 3,200 visits and the Marie Curie Nursing Service carrying out 4,152 community nursing visits to people across Edinburgh and the Lothians.

I acknowledged the valuable work that Marie Curie nurses perform in the community by raising a motion in Parliament in May.

## Microsoft “Apprentice of the Year”



I hosted the Annual Microsoft “Apprentice of the Year” awards at the Scottish Parliament. The overall winner was Daniel Morrison, who works at Lockheed Martin and the employer category was won by Standard Life. The runner up in the apprentice small business category was Areyan Behravesh of SortmyPC based in Colinton.

Microsoft made a commitment in 2013 to support the creation of 2016 Modern Apprenticeships in Scotland by 2016 in a bid to tackle youth unemployment and national skills shortages. By March 2015, 1,541 apprenticeships had been created.



## Bring the bandstand back to life

The Friends of Saughton Park have an appeal launched to bring the bandstand out of storage and re-erected. You can donate by following the link <http://www.mypark.scot/projects/bring-back-the-bandstand-at-saughton-park/>

## Committee visit

As a member of the Education & Culture Committee I visited Craigie HS, Dundee to discuss sensory support for young people attending mainstream schools as part of our enquiry into Attainment.



How to contact Gordon Macdonald MSP:

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- 3 By letter: Gordon Macdonald MSP, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
- 4 By appointment: 69 Inglis Green Road, Edinburgh EH14 2EZ
- 5 Surgery: Held every Monday at 6.30pm at various locations throughout the constituency
- 6 Home visits are available for those people who cannot travel.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS**

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