

Gordon Macdonald MSP

Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency Monthly Report — August 2015



NEET FIGURES AT ALL TIME LOW

Recently published figures reveal that the number of young people aged 16-19 not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Scotland is at an all-time low.

The official NEET figure is at 16,270 - down from the previous year's figure of 19,970 and down from the 2003 total of 27,790. The rates of 16-19 year olds who were NEET also decreased in 30 of the 32 local authority areas.

This follows the news that youth employment in Scotland is at a record high and the number of Modern Apprenticeships has increased by almost 60% since 2007.

Welcoming these findings, Gordon MacDonald MSP said: *"With further powers over the economy, employment and social security the Scottish Parliament would be able to take action to strengthen our economy to enhance our world class universities, strengthen the valued further education sector and create more and better paid jobs for young people."*

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First Minister launches education pledge in Wester Hailes



Gordon Macdonald MSP welcomed the extension of the Scottish Government's Attainment Fund to three primary schools in his constituency.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, speaking at the Wester Hailes Education Centre, has today announced that the fund will be extended to help Sighthill Primary, Clovenstone Primary and Canal View Primary taking the number of schools benefiting from the fund to more than 300.

The fund - launched in February this year - focuses on improving literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing in primary schools in these areas, with the clear objective being to give all primary-school age pupils regardless of background the best start in life.

Gordon, who sits on the Education Committee, said: *"The extension of the Attainment Fund is very welcome indeed. Scotland's children must be given everything they need to fulfil their full potential in life and the Attainment Fund is an important step in the right direction. We aim to make Scotland the best country in the world in which to grow up."*

Keeping you informed @ www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info

The BIG Choir at the Broomhouse St Party



The Big Project Choir entertained the crowds at the Broomhouse Street Party recently held at the Market. Gordon said : *"Thanks to everyone involved in organising this fantastic event, especially the Broomhouse Centre and the Broomhouse Health Strategy Group. The weather was excellent and as a result the local community turned out in droves in support."*



Consultation Health and Social Care
Have your say by the 31st October
[https://
consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/
hsc/edinburgh-health-and-social-
care-partnership-draft/consult_view](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/hsc/edinburgh-health-and-social-care-partnership-draft/consult_view)

Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre's 20th Anniversary



Gordon recently raised the following motion in Parliament:

That the Parliament congratulates the staff, volunteers and management committee of the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre on its 20th anniversary; understands that the centre is run by the community for the community and that it provides activities that respond to social needs, creating opportunities for relationship, friendship and personal growth; commends the centre on its founding ethos that all centre users are treated equally and all activities provided are enjoyable and fun, while developing positive relationships and promoting wellbeing, and sends best wishes for the future to everyone involved in the centre.

Stop Nuisance Calls!



Gordon Macdonald visited Which's Calling Time roadshow, when it dropped in at Waverley Station, to pledge support for the campaign to help end nuisance calls and texts which has already attracted over 230,000 supporters.

An analysis of data from the Information Commissioner's Office shows there have been around 61,500 official complaints about nuisance calls and texts since December. With just 2% of people who receive unwanted calls reporting them to the regulator, it means millions more are still being received.

The Which campaign urges the UK Government and regulators to renew their efforts to help cut down on the number of nuisance calls and texts. It aims to make it easier for people to report unwanted calls with its new complaints webpage where people can log the details to help identify offenders.

Gordon said: *"Many constituents are receiving these nuisance calls on a daily basis and people are sick of being bombarded with them especially as it is wasting their time and invading their privacy. I ask you to join the Which Calling Time on Nuisance Calls and Texts campaign"*

www.which.co.uk/callingtime

How to contact Gordon Macdonald MSP:

- 1 By email: Gordon.Macdonald.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
- 2 By phone: Local office: 0131 466 5810 or Parliament: 0131 348 5741
- 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