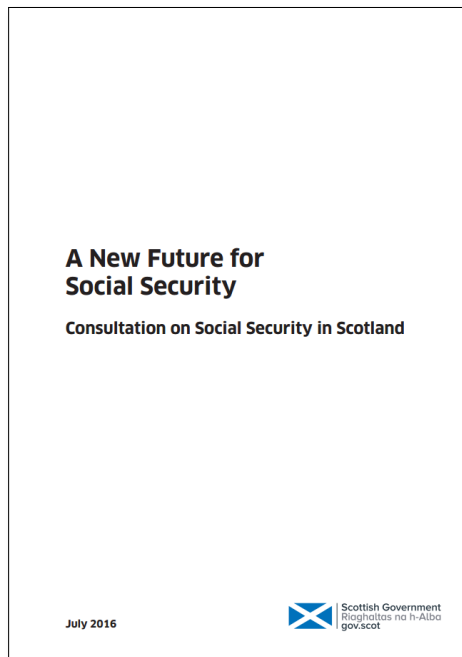


Gordon Macdonald

Delivering for the people of Edinburgh Pentlands



New Future for Social Security



Scotland is now forming its first ever social security system following the announcement of further powers under devolution. A number of welfare policies that were previously under the control of Westminster are being devolved to the Scottish Parliament. These include Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Sure Start Maternity Grants, Cold Weather Payments, Winter Fuel Payments, and Discretionary Housing Payments.

Gordon Macdonald MSP welcomed these changes noting *"One of the first proposals will be to expand and replace the current maternity grant with a Maternity and Early Years Allowance. This will mean more support will be given to families to cover the costs of having a child."*

In order to create a social security system which meets Scotland's needs and will treat people with dignity and respect, the Scottish Government wants to gather views from as many people as possible about their own experience of the existing welfare programmes, and how they think the system could be improved in the future.

Gordon commented, *"I would invite all my constituents to complete this consultation and make your views known. The consultation is not just about what social security we have but also how it is designed, assessed, and delivered. This is our opportunity to help design a welfare system for the 21st century."* The consultation ends on the 28th October 2016 and the document can be found from the below website at: -

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/social-security/social-security-in-scotland>

Currie Bank of Scotland Closing



Unfortunately, the Bank of Scotland are to close their Currie branch – the only bank in Currie. However, people and small businesses still need banking facilities and Gordon will be working with the local community to see what options are available.

New MSP Offices



Gordon's new constituency office at 9 Kingsknowe Park is taking shape and is due to open later this summer. The office will be open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to assist with enquiries by appointment.

Out and About...

Gordon Macdonald Supports Organ Donors

SNP MSP Gordon Macdonald has called on constituents living in Edinburgh Pentlands to join the NHS Organ Donor Register following the launch of a new TV publicity campaign by NHS Scotland.

The "We Need Everybody" campaign is seeking to highlight that anyone can be an organ donor and that by having more people on the register more lives can be saved.

MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands, Gordon Macdonald, commented: "This is an important campaign – one which will help save lives in the Edinburgh area and across Scotland. Signing up to the Organ Donor Register could not be easier – I have and I would encourage my constituents to spare the two minutes that it takes to sign up and join the 43% of Scots who, like me, are also registered."

People can sign up to the Donor Register at www.weneedeverybody.org



Calders Residents' Day



Gordon Macdonald recently attended the Calders Residents' Association Community Day, which was a great success. The day included face painting, a bouncy castle, and music. Residents organised the day to raise money for local community projects.

Gordon stated "The success of the day was due to the hard work of local volunteers who should be congratulated for their contribution to their community."

Pupils Illustrating

Gordon recently lodged a motion in Parliament congratulating the new initiative Meet the Police. It is designed to break down barriers between the police and prisoners' families, especially their children. In the motion he asked that the parliament "thanks the pupils of Stenhouse Primary School for taking part in the drawing competition to provide illustrations for the booklet". The booklet is due to be launched on the 22nd August.

Contact Details

By email
Home visit
By phone
By letter

gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot
Available for those who cannot travel
0131 443 0595
The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Gordon Macdonald MSP

@GMacdonaldMSP

Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

1 st Monday of the month, 6.30pm	Wester Hailes Library
2 nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm	Carrickvale Community Centre
3 rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm	Currie Library
4 th Monday of the month, 6.30pm	Oxgangs Library
5 th Monday of the month, 6.30pm	Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands