

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

February
2018

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



Extra £1 Million a Week For NHS Lothian



NHS Lothian is set to receive an extra £52.5 million compared to last year — just over £1 million a week — taking the total investment from the SNP Scottish Government for the year ahead to £1.4 billion.

The commitment is part of a funding increase of over £400 million across Scotland – and NHS staff are also set to benefit from the ending of the public sector pay cap, boosting wages for hard working nurses, doctors, cleaners and clerical staff throughout the NHS.

Commenting, Gordon Macdonald said, “The SNP in Government continues to deliver for our NHS in the Lothians. The extra £52.5 million will ensure that Scotland continues to have the best performing NHS across the UK – with lower waiting times and higher patient satisfaction.

“NHS Lothian having an extra £52.5 million to spend in the coming year will be transformational for our communities – supporting frontline health care and helping us meet new demands and pressures across primary, community and social care, as well as in mental health.

“And this SNP Scottish Government budget also delivers a pay rise for workers in our NHS – the only part of the UK to make such a commitment, proving that when it comes to supporting workers in our NHS, only the SNP can be trusted.”

Army Recruitment Crisis



A new report, *Filling the Ranks – A Report for the Prime Minister on the State of Recruiting into the UK Armed Forces* by Mark Francois MP notes that the British Army has a 30% recruitment shortfall.

Gordon commented, “No doubt much of the shortfall is due to the recruit wage of £14,931 being less than the real living wage.”

“If the MoD really want to address the recruitment crisis, then they should set pay at a higher level.”

SNP tax plans will ensure that everyone in Scotland, including soldiers based here, who earn less than £33,000 will pay the same or less income tax.

Gordon noted “This includes all soldiers earning standard pay and holding the ranks of private, lance corporal, or corporal.

Out and About...

Dementia Friendly Pentlands



This month Gordon attended an event in Parliament with *Dementia Friendly Pentlands*.

The group met with numerous MSPs and were able to highlight the support they provide. MSPs heard first hand the experiences of carers of those with dementia.

It is the objective of the group to create a “dementia friendly community” where the whole community from police to shop assistants to local leaders enable those with dementia to remain part of the community.

Commenting, Gordon said, “This involves members of the community learning a little about dementia and doing a few simple things that can make an enormous difference to those suffering from dementia.”

Currie Balerno Rotary, Village Trust Thanked



Gordon submitted a motion before Parliament congratulating the Currie Balerno Rotary Club and the Balerno Village Trust for the creation of a small grants scheme. The scheme provides funds to local organisations with small projects that benefit the local community.

Gordon noted, “A proportion of the funding is generated from Harlaw Hydro, a community-owned power company, which, at the end of each financial year, donates its surplus to the Balerno Village Trust.”

Applications can be made at www.balernovt.org.uk/community-chest

Speed Limit at Dalmahoy Junction



City of Edinburgh Council intends to upgrade the Ratho junction of Dalmahoy Road on the A71.

Discussions with landowners are ongoing but, in the meantime, the speed limit on the junction approaches on both the A71 and Dalmahoy Road has been lowered to 40mph to reduce the risk of accidents.

This new speed limit is permanent, and will remain in place once the junction layout improvements and traffic signals have been delivered.

Contact Details

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Home visit Available for those who cannot travel

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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library

2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre

3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library

4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfgangs Library

5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands