

# Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

March  
2018

Delivering for the people of  
Edinburgh Pentlands



## Protecting the Devolution Settlement



The UK Government's EU Withdrawal Bill requires the Scottish Parliament's consent. However, the Scottish and Welsh Governments and the Scottish Parliament's Constitution Committee are opposed.

Gordon commented, "The UK EU Withdrawal Bill allows the UK Government to take control of devolved powers without the agreement of the Scottish Parliament. Both the Scottish and Welsh Governments have called it a power grab. The Continuity Bill is our proposed alternative and the Welsh Government are making their own version."

On 7 March, the Scottish Parliament voted 94 to 30 (only the Tories opposing) to pass the first stage of the Brexit Continuity Bill to protect and retain Scotland's devolved powers after Brexit.

The UK EU Withdrawal Bill would give the UK Government the right to take control of key devolved areas such as agriculture, GM crops, fishing, environmental policy, public procurement, and food standards.

Gordon noted, "These are policy areas the UK Government could negotiate with when seeking future trade deals. They could trade away Scottish fishing waters for continued City banking access to the EU, allow in GM foods from the US, or even sell out Scotland's *Protected Geographical Indication* that determines what can be called 'Scotch'."

## Congregations Invited to Meet Your MSP



Gordon Macdonald met Irene MacKinnon from Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office to support their Meet Your MSP project.

The project aims to build links between congregations and their elected members in Parliament.

Irene MacKinnon said, "We want church communities to be at the heart of the decisions that affect their everyday lives – and part of this is getting to know the politicians who represent them. The *Meet Your MSP* project has been very successful so far with around 100 meetings taking place. We are delighted that Gordon MacDonald is supportive of what we are doing."

# Out and About...

## Reading Force at Colinton Primary



Gordon attended Colinton Primary School for their “Reading Force” launch. Reading Force is a charity that provides free books and scrapbooks with competitions and certificates for children who have a parent in the Armed Forces.

Due to the proximity of the Edinburgh barracks, many of the children at Colinton Primary School are from a Forces family.

Gordon noted, “Children of armed forces families can face many challenges, interruptions and disruptions to their learning or home life and may go to several schools during the course of their education.

“This event is designed to offer support and quality time to bring families together through books and stories.”

Reading Force activities can also be undertaken over Skype or FaceTime to help maintain contact with their children.

Also in attendance for the day was author Vivian French who told a story to the assembled children and highlighted that they could also be authors.

## Buckstone PO Temp. Closure



Following the resignation of the Postmaster, Buckstone Terrace Post Office closed 28 February.

The Post Office notes that they would like to assure the public that they are working hard to try to keep any period of closure to a minimum.

The Post Office is currently investigating the options available that will enable them to provide a sustainable service for the operator, the Post Office, and, most importantly, the public.

The Post Office apologise for the inconvenience caused.

## Activities Phone Line for Over-65s



LOOPs Phonenumber (Local Opportunities for Older People) is a new service working alongside the Community Wellbeing projects aimed at helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness in over-65s. The service provides free advice on activities and services in the local area.

Commenting, Gordon said, “This service takes calls from individuals themselves or from others looking to help such an individual.

“If you would like to speak to one of their friendly volunteers about activities in your area, they can be contacted on 0131 603 8311.”

### Contact Details

**By email** [gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot)

**Home visit** Available for those who cannot travel

**By phone** 0131 443 0595

**By letter** The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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### Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfangs Library

5<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

# Working for Edinburgh Pentlands