

# Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for Edinburgh Pentlands

August  
2018



## MoD: Selling Out Colinton



Gordon Macdonald is calling for the UK Government to be honest about their intentions to close and sell off Redford Barracks. Despite writing to the Defence Secretary in May, the Tory Government have not replied.

Gordon has been campaigning against the closure of Redford Barracks since 2011, which would have “extensive consequences for Edinburgh.” The Barracks accommodate 320 personnel and provide needed accommodation and rehearsal space for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Since closure was first suggested, the MoD has claimed that it would generate savings; however with the running cost of Redford Barracks approximately £3.1 million per year, Gordon has questioned the need for this particular 0.009% saving to the £35.3 billion MoD budget.

Gordon added, “The MoD claim the barracks, built in 1909, are ‘no longer fit for purpose’; however, they have no plans to close Wellington Barracks in central London, built in 1833. The likely real reason is to sell off the land for development — without Edinburgh or Scotland seeing a penny of it. Colinton and the conservation village would, however, experience the construction traffic, dust, and commuter congestion.”

The MoD confirm there is capacity for up to 711 houses on the 200 acre site — at up to £2 million an acre this would be worth over £250 million.

## No Banking in the Community



As a member of the Economy Committee, Gordon recently participated in a report into bank closures.

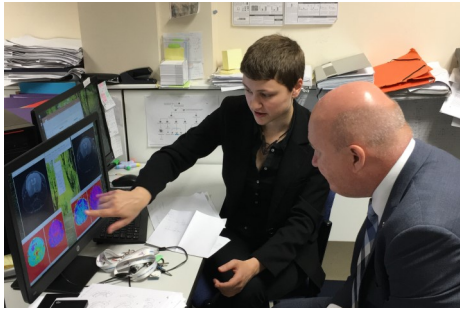
Between 2010 and 2018, 45% of bank branches in Scotland have closed, with RBS closing 70% of their network.

This has created significant financial exclusion in many communities and there is no doubt that the rate and scale of bank closures in Scotland has negatively affected people and businesses.

Commenting, Gordon said, “Banks seem to have forgotten that they provide a vital social function in their communities — for the vulnerable, elderly, immobile, and for businesses. The public saved them in 2008, and now they are abandoning the public.”

# Out and About...

## Pioneering Research



At the University of Edinburgh's world-leading Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences, Gordon met with Dr Jill Fowler, an Alzheimer's researcher, who is leading a pioneering project into the protective properties of the protein Nrf2. It is hoped this research will help create interventions to slow the progression of Alzheimer's.

Dr Jill Fowler said, "To bring about a life-changing treatment for dementia we must be able to work collaboratively, pooling expertise and learning from around the world. Mr MacDonal and other MSPs play an important role in making sure we can do this."

Dementia is caused by physical diseases, and through research it is possible to find a way to stop or prevent the condition.

Gordon said, "There is extremely valuable and innovative work taking place here. It's great to learn first-hand about specific research projects that will contribute to the fight against Alzheimer's disease — Scotland is recognised as a world leader when it comes to Alzheimer's policy."

## Marie Curie Fundraiser



As part of Gordon's continued support of Marie Curie he hosted a "Blooming Great Tea Party" in the constituency office.

Inspired by a love of baking, the campaign encourages people to get together with colleagues or friends to serve cakes and cuppas. Funds raised are used employ nurses to provide home care for people living with terminal illness.

Commenting Gordon said, "I was pleased to see many people from the local community join us. Thanks to everybody's generosity, we raised around £200 at our event for the charity."

## Living Wage at the Fringe



Gordon was pleased to lodge a motion in Parliament welcoming the New Festivals Workers' Welfare guidelines. Published by Edinburgh Council following talks with unions and event organisers, organisers are now required to pay a living wage, guarantee rest breaks and protect employees from harassment. Gordon also highlighted that "Exploitative practices such as unpaid trial shifts and tips to top up wages are prohibited." As a Living Wage Employer himself, Gordon is encouraging all employers during the Fringe, and throughout the year, to pay the living wage.

### Contact Details

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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 Oxgangs 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