

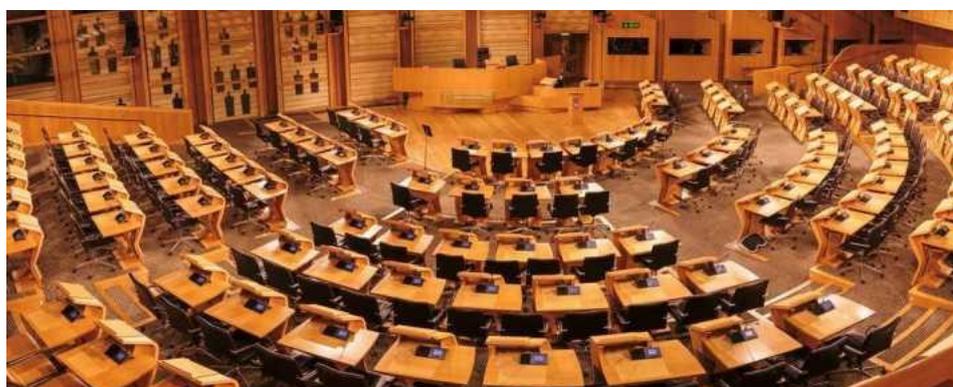
Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

May
2019



20 Years of the Scottish Parliament



After being dissolved on 1st May 1707, the Scottish Parliament was reconvened 292 years later on 12 May 1999.

Commenting on the 20 years of the Scottish Parliament, Gordon noted, "The Scottish Parliament has helped change the face and politics of Scotland. I campaigned most of my adult life for the creation of a Scottish Parliament and have been proud to serve as a member since 2011." Some of the pioneering legislation passed include: -

- University fees were abolished entirely by the SNP in 2008.
- Passed unanimously by all members, the Community Health and Care Act 2002 ensures the provision free personal care for the elderly.
- The Smoking Act 2005 banned smoking in public places and was eventually copied by the rest of the UK.
- The Alcohol Minimum Pricing Act 2012 requires at least 50p per unit.
- The Marriage and Civil Partnership Act 2014 was the first legislation in the UK to enable same-sex marriage.
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2018 widened the scope for prosecution.

Gordon said, "Legislation in Scotland now sets the benchmark for the UK to follow. We should celebrate our many achievements. Upcoming legislation will give children equal protection from assault, set tougher climate change emissions reduction targets, reduce fuel poverty, and tackle period poverty through free provision of sanitary products."

Works Underway at Ratho Primary



Ongoing works are taking place to upgrade and refurbish 15 schools in the city by the Council.

The Council are investing £50 million over the next five years to upgrade properties. Currently, works are progressing at Ratho Primary School in Gordon's constituency.

Commenting, Gordon welcomed the refurbishment and noted, "The works include a comprehensive electrical works and switchgear refit, lighting replacement, upgrading the kitchen to a 'cooking kitchen', toilet fit out, and improvement to offices and classrooms such as fitting new carpets, etc.

Several rooms at Ratho Primary have already been completed with the remainder due for completion in August.

Out and About...

Deposit Return Scheme



Gordon chaired a meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Independent Convenience Stores where the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Roseanna Cunningham MSP, addressed the packed meeting. Rosanna highlighted the Scottish Government's proposed Deposit Return Scheme. Most retailers were supportive of the proposal, although there were some concerns related to the deposit size and how to handle glass items.

Gordon noted, "There will be an opportunity when the legislation goes through committee at Stage 1 retailers and members of the public to make their views heard."

Prospect of More Homes



Prospect Community Housing are to work with contractor J Smart and Co in order to build 69 flats on the corner of Kingsknowe Golf Course off Clovenstone Gardens.

Gordon notes, "There is a great need for more social housing in this area of Edinburgh

"I am pleased that Prospect are helping to meet this massive demand."

A full planning application is to be submitted and there shall be a community consultation event once the proposed plans are ready.

Unforgotten Forces



Gordon was pleased to spend time with Poppyscotland during their visit to the Scottish Parliament to raise awareness of Unforgotten Forces, an organisation dedicated to support older veterans over the age of 65 and their families.

Gordon commented, "Unforgotten Forces is a partnership between 16 leading organisations to deliver a range of new services and enhancements in areas including advice, access to healthcare, social isolation, respite, along with creative activities and events for those in care settings. I was pleased to show my support when they visited."

EU Elections

	Votes	Percentage
SNP	11,407	34%
LibDems	6,386	19%
Greens	4,241	13%
Tories	4,187	13%
Brexit	3,209	10%
Labour	2,440	7%
Others	1,248	4%

The recent EU Parliament elections in South West resulted in a clear win for the SNP with Tories and Labour in 4th and 6th respectively.

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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 (Not 24 Dec)
- 5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Com. Centre (Not 31 Dec)

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands