

# Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for Edinburgh Pentlands

July 2022

## Independence Referendum: Delivering the Mandate

## Balerno Gala Day



The Scottish Government has announced the launch of the campaign to become an independent country. As part of the campaign, the first in a series of papers has been published, “Building a New Scotland”, that will set out detailed analysis of the UK’s performance across a range of economic and social indicators relative to that of ten European countries.

Gordon said, “Analysis shows the UK is performing poorly and there is a broad consensus that Brexit will lead to a further deterioration in the economy. It is therefore vital that we free ourselves from the disastrous UK model.

“What do these other ten countries have that Scotland does not? They have significantly more economic policy autonomy and a much greater ability to tailor policies to their own specific circumstances. The evidence points to independence broadening the policy options available to address areas of relative under-performance and to make the most of Scotland’s potential.”

The paper, which can be found at [www.gov.scot/newscotland](http://www.gov.scot/newscotland), notes Scotland has everything hugely successful nation, according to comparisons with European countries of similar size like Ireland, Denmark, or Finland, which use their independence to achieve economic success and fairer societies.

Gordon continued, “Independence gives Scotland the opportunity to fulfil its full potential to be a fairer, greener and more equal nation. It puts the power into the hands of Scotland — not Tory governments that Scotland didn’t vote for. It must be up to the people of Scotland — not a Westminster government they didn’t vote for — to decide how Scotland is governed.”

Gordon attended the annual Balerno Gala Day held at Malleny Park.

Gordon commented, “The gala season is well and truly underway, and it was great to finally attend the Balerno Gala Day celebrations which wrapped up the week’s events which started with the crowning ceremony.

“This event has been running for 60 years thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment from members of the local community who work tirelessly to ensure the week’s celebrations run smoothly.

“I was particularly pleased to meet with some Ukrainians who are embarking on a new life in Balerno with the support of local families.

“The day was a huge success and certainly long overdue and I want to thank everyone involved for a great day out.”

# ALSO THIS MONTH...

## CAMHS Waiting List



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have entered into a partnership with Healios who will be working with CAMHS to provide 450 online neurodevelopmental assessments over the coming months.

NHS Lothian over the last few years have recognised the value of working closer with Independent Providers with the skills and expertise to help support children and young people who require a specialist mental health service and specialist neurodevelopment assessments.

Gordon noted, "Healios is a specialist online mental healthcare and neurodevelopmental service that provides a range of high-quality services for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services teams across the country.

"Their highly experienced and qualified clinicians undertake evidence-based and quality-assured assessments and connect with young people and their parents via a smart device or computer. CAMHS have invited families to consider taking this approach.

"Even if individual families are not eligible or do not wish to have their assessment with Healios, the cumulative effect will mean that many more families will be seen sooner."

## Gordon Visits Tiphereth



Gordon visited Tiphereth a registered charity based in the Pentland Hills and.

Gordon said, "I have visited Tiphereth on a number of occasions and always find it an uplifting experience meeting the members, many of whom have learning disabilities, autism or other complex needs, and hearing about the services they provide."

Many of the young volunteers are from EU countries and face over 1,000 euros in charges just to come to Scotland. The charges consist of £247 for the Visa, and a £624 NHS access fee, but given that they are overwhelmingly young and healthy, most will not require to use our health facilities during their stay.

Gordon noted, "I believe this is nothing more than a tax on volunteering and the very least the UK Government can do is refund the fee if NHS services are not used before the volunteers return."

## Canal Safety



Scottish Canals are running a summer campaign targeting canal-side communities across the country including areas close to Union Canal.

The campaign will focus on engaging primary school children, to educate and inform of the dangers of canals, and to encourage children to enjoy the canals responsibly.

Gordon commented, "Scottish Canals have put together a digital school resource bundle that teachers and parents can download and share with students. These materials have been shared with local schools, including those in the Edinburgh Pentlands."

Scottish Canals will also be rolling out an engaging social media campaign. The campaign ties in with the Water Safety Scotland multi-agency working group which has been set up to prevent drowning deaths in Scotland.

[www.scottishcanals.co.uk/canal-careful](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/canal-careful)

### Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

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### Weekly Surgeries

Gordon is now holding open surgeries for constituents to attend every Friday at 10am. The locations for these can be found at: -

<https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

# Working for Edinburgh Pentlands