

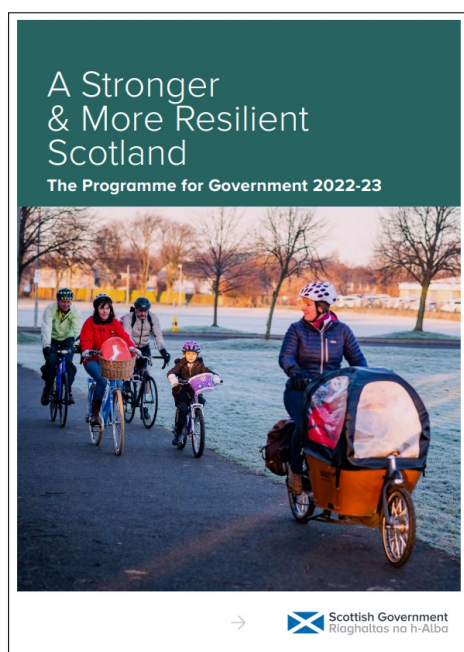
# Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for Edinburgh Pentlands

October  
2022



## Cost of Living Crisis



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon set out a raft of actions in the annual Programme for Government designed to help people through the cost of living crisis.

The package will include an increase in the Scottish Child Payment to £25 per eligible child per week from 14 November, with the ground-breaking anti-poverty benefit opening to applications for all eligible under-16s.

Gordon noted, “The Scottish Child Payment is unique to Scotland and is the most ambitious child poverty reduction measure in the UK. For eligible families in Edinburgh, this

payment will help mitigate the growing cost of living crisis. The payment was doubled to £20 per week per child in April and the further increase to £25 from November represents a 150% rise. Last year, 7,555 eligible children across Edinburgh benefited from the scheme, and no doubt a similar number will do so this year.”

Unfortunately, the recent Westminster “mini-budget”, which included lifting the cap on bankers’ bonuses and tax cuts for the rich, has directly resulted in the pound plummeting to record lows, interest rates for borrowing soaring, and mortgage deals disappearing.

Gordon commented, “Here is a clear example of the Scottish Government working to alleviate poverty whilst the UK Government is pulling the rug from beneath people’s feet.

“UK government reckless policies have been subjected to rebuke by the IMF and severe warnings from credit agencies. The UK economic crisis shows exactly why Scotland needs to become an independent country.”

## Electric Vehicle Chargers Go Live



Gordon was pleased to welcome the installation of 141 new electric vehicle charging bays across the city over the summer, which includes 72 rapid and fast charging bays at on-street sites with the remainder located at Hermiston and Ingliston Park & Ride sites.

The project was funded by £2.3 million awarded through Transport Scotland’s *Switched on Towns and Cities Challenge Fund*.

Gordon noted, “The additional provision of electric vehicle chargers funded by the Scottish Government will encourage and support the take-up of cleaner, low-emission electric vehicles. Transport contributes significantly to carbon emissions, and the switch to more sustainable vehicles is essential to meeting the city’s Net Zero target.”

# ALSO THIS MONTH...

## Help for Cost of Living



**The Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

A new website has been launched by the Scottish Government to provide a “one stop shop” for cost of living advice and information on financial support. The website includes information on help available for households to meet rising energy, housing and other costs.

It also provides details on accessing Scottish and UK social security payments, including online benefit calculators, as well as wider health and wellbeing information.

Gordon noted, “Many people are struggling with the cost of living crisis right now and may not know where to turn for help. The cost of living website is a trustworthy online resource with information on a wide range of vital support available.

“The cost of living crisis is impacting every household in the UK and this website aims to encourage people to find out if they are eligible for the extensive support available to access the advice they need.”

The site can be found here:

<http://gov.scot/costoflivingsupport>

## Currie Riding of the Marches



Gordon recently attended the Currie “Riding of the Marches”, which returned this year after a two year break due to the Covid pandemic.

During the Marches, the Ensign accompanied by the Equerry paraded the Currie Flag on horseback throughout the Parish touching the boundaries of Balerno and Juniper Green returning to Wester Kinleith Farm.

The Ensign and Equerry were accompanied by local horses and riders along with an ever growing number of visiting riders from other Common Riding towns.

Gordon said, “It was an enjoyable day and I was pleased to be called upon to say the traditional announcement that all the riders were ‘Safe oot, safe in’.”

## Police Consultation



**POLICE SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**

Police Scotland has launched a consultation on the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities in order to help improve how they deliver policing services in local communities and ensure they are accessible for everyone.

Gordon commented, “This consultation will help determine how Police Scotland will respond to the needs of the public in future. I would urge as many people as possible to complete the survey and let Police Scotland know what you think.”

You can share your views at the below link in order to inform service delivery:

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2022-2023/>

### 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