



Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Pentlands

Gordon Macdonald MSP

August 2024 Newsletter

£30 Million To Reduce NHS Waiting Times



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Significant activity is underway to clear NHS waiting times as a result of covid with the allocation of £30 million targeted funding.

The funding has been allocated to specialty areas where it can have the greatest impact against the longest waits – this includes cancer, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, dermatology and diagnostics.

It is estimated the £30 million, will help boards across the country deliver around; 12,000 additional procedures, 40,000 extra diagnostic procedures and 12,000 new outpatient appointments.

Activity levels will increase over the coming weeks and the Scottish Government will work closely with Boards to support delivery.

Speaking on a visit to Ninewells Hospital’s ophthalmology ward in Dundee, Health Secretary Neil Gray said:

“This initial investment of £30 million will target reductions to national backlogs that built up through the pandemic. This is all part of our programme to tackle waiting times, including waiting lists for orthopaedic treatment and diagnostics for cancer.

“Together, our actions will help Scotland’s NHS maximise capacity, build greater resilience and deliver year-on-year reductions in the number of patients who have waited too long for treatment. The number people waiting over two years for a new outpatient appointment is down by more than half in the last two years, and we want to build on that progress.”

A720 Baberton to Lothianburn—Overnight Drainage Works



BEAR Scotland, acting on behalf of Transport Scotland, is planning to carry out drainage improvement works on the A720 westbound off

and on slips at Dreghorn Junction, as part of ongoing works between Lothianburn, Dreghorn & Baberton junctions.

Works will commence on Monday 5th August until Wednesday 21st August between 8.30pm and 6.00am (excluding weekends) with road closures at A720 Lothianburn to Straiton. This will be followed by road closure at A720 Lothianburn to Straiton between Monday 26th—Friday 30th August between 8.30pm and 6am. Also on Sunday 11th August the A702 Lothianburn North Roundabout will be closed between 8.30pm and 6am for one night. Signed diversions will be in place.

Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained at all times and all traffic management will be removed out with working hours. For more information or to comment on the proposed works please contact David Jackson by email - SEConsultationroads@bearsotland.co.uk.

Family Fun Day



The City of Edinburgh Council, in partnership with the [Edinburgh](#)

[Combat Project](#) and [the WHY project](#), will be

holding a Family Fun Day at Gate 55 on Friday 2 August 2024, 11.00am – 2.00pm.

The day is free with lots of fun activities taking place including martial arts, bouncy castle, face painting, cupcake decorating and bracelet making.

There’s no need to book, just drop by and join in the fun. For information call Gate 55 – [0131 458 5095](tel:01314585095).

Good Luck With Exam Results!



Exam results day this year is on Tuesday 6th August.

Certificates will arrive on 6th August and those who signed up for MySQA will

also receive results by text or email.

Receiving results can be an anxious time. Those feeling stressed, are encouraged to talk to a friend, family member, teacher or lecturer about how they're feeling as a good first step.

Skills Development Scotland are running a helpline between 8am—6pm for help and support on 0808 100 8000. Young Scot have also posted a [blog on their website](#) which outlines how to access advice and support from mental health resources on dealing with exam results.

Gordon said "I wish everyone the best of luck and hope they receive the exam results they had hoped and worked so hard for. If anyone is disappointed with their results I would encourage them not to lose heart and to access the support provided."

Liver Disease Campaign



Gordon has pledged support for a campaign run by the British Liver Trust to improve early detection of liver disease.

Three quarters of people with liver disease are diagnosed at a late stage when it is often too late for treatment or intervention. There are now 50% more liver transplants than ten years ago – but not everyone is lucky enough to receive a transplant. A quarter of people who are diagnosed late in hospital die within 60 days.

Gordon said: "90% of liver disease is preventable but sadly three out of four cirrhosis patients are diagnosed at crisis point. I'm backing British Liver Trust's vital campaigns to save lives through prevention and early detection of liver disease and liver cancer".

Friends of Saughton Park 10th Year Anniversary



Friends of Saughton Park (FoSP) celebrated their 10 year anniversary on Saturday 27 July 2024 with live music at the bandstand and a range of family activities.

FoSP was set up in 2014 after two of the founding members attended a meeting with a council development officer

who was working on a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. They soon set up FoSP to support and promote the park, running regular activities such as family friendly events each quarter, teddy bear hunts, story telling and home baking.

FoSP has gone from 7 people turning up at the first meeting in 2014 to over 160 members. Membership is £2 per family forever and you can be the first to hear about what is happening at the park. FoSP meet on the first Thursday of every month in the park with meeting details posted on our blog hosted on their [website](#).

Police Road Safety Checks



Police have been carrying out road safety checks as part of their Summer Drink Driving Campaign.

Checks were carried out at Buckstone Terrace, traffic stops at Swanston Avenue where drivers were making illegal left turns, and speed checks were made at Wilkieston Road. This

resulted in ten drivers being breathalysed, identification of an untaxed car and issuing of three verbal warnings.

The focus on Swanston Drive was a result of Gordon following up a constituent's concern about drivers making left turns onto Swanston Drive during rush hour, despite it being clearly signposted that no left turns are allowed.

Gordon said "I was pleased to see Police Scotland take appropriate action to deter these practices. I thank the constituent who brought this to my attention and I encourage others to do the same should they be aware of dangerous driving."

Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

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Gordon holds open weekly surgeries for constituents every Friday at 10am.

The locations for these can be found at: <https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>