

# Gordon Macdonald MSP

January 2026 Newsletter



## 480 People In Edinburgh Pentlands Helped By Warm Homes Scheme



Gordon has welcomed the local impact of a scheme aimed at helping homes become warmer, more comfortable, and more affordable to heat.

Warmer Homes Scotland, the Scottish Government's national fuel poverty scheme, has delivered energy efficiency improvements in 480 homes in the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency over the last ten years.

The Warmer Homes Scotland scheme provides a step-by-step service to identify where energy efficiency improvements can be made in the home and arranges for this work to be carried out. The scheme offers new central heating systems, including renewable heating technologies such as air source heat pumps, in all property types and in all regions of Scotland. All of the work delivered under the scheme is carried out by registered and accredited local sub-contractors, working to rigorous quality

standards, with completed work independently checked to guarantee that these standards are met.

Gordon said "I'm pleased to learn that the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme has supported so many people in my constituency to be warmer and more comfortable in their homes.

"The scheme is designed to help those living in, or at risk of, fuel poverty through the installation of energy efficiency improvements. I'd encourage everyone to contact Home Energy Scotland to check if they are eligible to receive help under the scheme, as the improvements it offers could make a real difference this winter and in the years to come."

You can check your eligibility now for the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme by getting in touch with Home Energy Scotland on **0808 808 2282**.

## Finding New Owners For Empty Homes



A new online portal has been launched to bring empty homeowners together with prospective buyers or developers with the aim of facilitating more properties to be used as homes again.

The portal is hosted by the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership and has been developed as part of a £2 million investment this year to recruit additional empty homes officers and fund initiatives that will

accelerate the pace and numbers of empty homes that are brought back into use.

Gordon said "Over the past 15 years the Scottish Government have helped return almost 13,000 privately owned homes to use. I would encourage anyone who has a home lying empty to use this scheme and seek advice from the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership and their local council to bring their home back into use." More information at <https://emptyhomespartnership.scot/matchmaker/>.

## Christmas Card Competition

Tesco Store Hermiston Gait were once again the sponsors of the Christmas Card Competition, providing prizes for the winning entrants and hosting a prize presentation event.



The overall winner, Shadrach Babido from Clovenstone Primary, was presented with their prize along with the runners-up, Ollie Jammeh from Canal View Primary School and Rory Gibson from Currie Primary School.

Gordon said "Thank you and well done again for all the fantastic entries and also to Tesco for their support over the years."





## Financial Boost For Carers



Starting from 4 December, more than 96,000 unpaid carers in Scotland will receive the Carer's Allowance Supplement. This automatic payment of £293.50 is unique to Scotland and recognises the vital contribution carers make to their communities.

To qualify, individuals must have been in receipt of Carer Support Payment or Carer's Allowance on the qualifying date of **13 October 2025**. Social Security Scotland will send letters to eligible carers before the payment arrives. No application is necessary for those already receiving qualifying benefits.

If you believe you are eligible but have not received a letter or payment by **15 December**, contact Social Security Scotland for free via **0800 182 2222**.

## Big Noise at the Parliament

Young musicians from Big Noise Wester Hailes performed at the Scottish Parliament last month, marking a major milestone for the Primary 6 pupils. The event gave the group a platform to showcase their skills to politicians, tour the building, and engage directly with MSPs in an experience designed to build confidence and community.



Operated by Sistema Scotland, Big Noise utilises a "more than music" philosophy to support communities facing significant barriers. For 17 years, the program has combined musical tuition with nurturing relationships to improve school outcomes and help families access education and employment.

Gordon said "It is always a treat to see Big Noise perform and I hope that they enjoyed their time at the parliament. This music-based project has gone from strength to strength over the years, helping to create better long-term prospects for children across the country - long may it continue."

## Christmas Visit To Thank Posties In Edinburgh Pentlands



Gordon took up the annual invitation from Royal Mail to visit a local delivery office this Christmas to see for himself the lengths posties are going to deliver Christmas for constituents.

These visits have become something of a tradition, as Royal Mail welcome MSPs to hundreds of operational sites up and down the UK before Christmas Day. Christmas is the time of year when family and friends send cards and gifts far and wide. Royal Mail have been working hard over recent months to ensure that they deliver each and every one of those cards and gifts sent in the post in time for Christmas Day.

Gordon said "Posties deliver Christmas cheer as well as parcels year on year throughout the constituency. I'm sure constituents will want to join me in saying "thank you" to them for not just what they do at Christmas time but 365 days a year, come rain or shine."

## City Plan 2040 Update

Edinburgh Council City Plan 2040 is the next local development plan after City Plan 2030.

Edinburgh Council are working on the Evidence Report which is the first stage of preparing a local development plan. This will contain topic papers on a wide range of issues and will provide a baseline of information for what might need addressing in City Plan 2040.

Gordon said "Edinburgh Council need to get an understanding of each area, what it's like to live there and what is needed to plan for in City Plan 2040. I hope many constituents will contribute to gather people's views on how best to plan developments and improvements."

You can visit the Consultation Hub at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/place/>, where you can also find details about drop-in events so you can discuss the plan in person. The deadline for contributions is **23 January 2026**.



## Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

[gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot)

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Gordon Macdonald MSP

@GMacdonaldMSP

0131 443 0595

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

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

