



Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

February 2020

Tory ERASMUS “Sell-Out” to Impact 3,484 Edinburgh Students



Thousands of students in Edinburgh could lose the opportunity to study abroad after the Tory government pulled support for the Erasmus+ programme. Figures from the Scottish Parliament’s Information Centre (SPICe), show that, between 2014 and 2018, 3,484 students from the city’s colleges and universities studied abroad through the programme.

With Boris Johnson’s Tory government voting against continued membership of Erasmus, the same number of students could miss out over the next four years if Scotland is blocked from the scheme.

Erasmus aims to promote and modernise education, training, youth work, and sport across Europe, and gives students from various backgrounds the chance to live, work and study around Europe.

Commenting, Gordon said, “The Erasmus programme has been hugely valuable to our city’s students over the years, so it’s saddening the Tories have decided to sell out and pull support for the programme.

“Our students here in Edinburgh have benefitted massively from the opportunity to take a year abroad in Europe, giving them the chance to experience new cultures and ways of learning.

“My message to Edinburgh’s students is this – don’t let Boris Johnson cut you off from the world. It’s time to put Scotland’s future in Scotland’s hands so we can build a fairer, more outward-looking nation.”

Parole Changes



Following discussions and meetings with Gordon and constituents, the Justice Minister, Humza Yousaf, confirmed in the Scottish Parliament that he intends to bring forward changes that will explicitly state that the Parole Board for Scotland will consider the failure of an individual to disclose the location of a victim’s body.

Gordon noted, “I have been working with the families of victims who are retraumatised day in, day out due to the refusal to disclose the location of their loved one. I am pleased that these changes will mean that, for the first time, the Parole Board will consider the non-disclosure of a body in their judgement.”

Out and About...

Turing Trust, 1000 computers



Following a successful campaign by Gordon on behalf of the Turing Trust, the Scottish Government agreed to donate 1,000 used computers to the Trust to be recycled and used by students and trainee teachers in Malawi.

Gordon noted, "The Turing Trust do excellent work supporting education in sub-Saharan Africa by reusing computers and improving teacher training using ICT.

This donation of 1,000 PCs will help about 18,000 students to learn vital IT skills. Beyond this, the environmental impact from the donation will offset 280 tonnes of CO2 emissions, which is the equivalent of planting 700 trees.

The Trust publicly thanked Gordon, noting he "played a fundamental role in inspiring this donation of computers from the Scottish Government".

Gordon is continuing to pursue the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body in order to have them also donate used computers from the Parliament to the Trust

Appeal for New Currie Postmaster

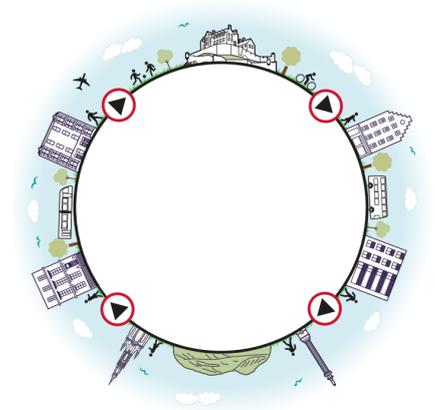


The Post Office have made an appeal to find a new postmaster/mistress for the Currie Post Office. The current postmistress is due to retire after over 30 years.

Gordon said, "The Post Office has been advertising for the last four years for a new local business to take over the Post Office. Unfortunately, there have been no takers of late.

"Therefore, if there are any businesses interested in providing a post office service in Currie, please let me or the Post Office know."

City Plan 2030



Edinburgh Council are preparing the next Local Development Plan to set out locations for new homes and businesses, protect places of value, and provide necessary public transport, schools, and green space.

The proposals, *Choices for City Plan 2030*, are out for public consultation until 27 March and can be found at: -

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cityplan2030

Gordon commented, "These proposals will shape our city for the next ten years and this is your opportunity to have your say."

Contact Details

By email gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

Home visit Available for those who cannot travel

By phone 0131 443 0595

By letter The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

 Gordon Macdonald MSP  @GMacdonaldMSP

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