



The Redhall Walled Garden operated by the Scottish Association for Mental Health



Gordon presenting a framed motion commemorating Sighthill Parish's 80th



Balerno "Fairtrade Fortnight" morning with the Balerno Fairtrade Village Group



Gordon at a performance by BIG Drama at St David's Church Hall, Broomhouse



Gordon on a visit to the Army Training Unit (Scotland) at Redford Barracks



Gordon at a litter pick organised by Friends of the Pentlands



Gordon at a Tea & Talk coffee morning in aid of the Mental Health Foundation



Colinton Tunnel Mural with Mike Scott, chair, and Chris Rutterford, artist



Gordon hosted Fairmilehead Marie Curie at the Scottish Parliament



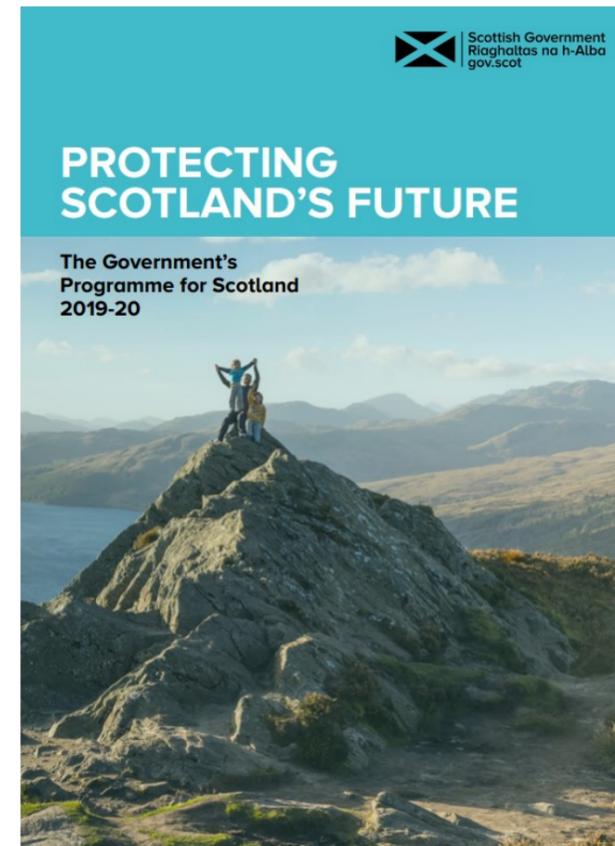
Gordon at Saughton Rose Gardens

Delivering for Pentlands — Programme for Government

In Parliament, I was pleased to support the Scottish Government's upcoming annual legislative programme. It is particularly satisfying to see that Edinburgh Pentlands will benefit so much from the programme.

We have challenges around homelessness and with people getting on the housing ladder — this programme will ensure the delivery of 50,000 affordable homes and provide up to £25,000 towards deposits for first-time buyers.

Being on the outskirts of Edinburgh, buses are crucial for many of us and this programme includes more than £500 million to improve bus infrastructure to help tackle congestion and raise bus usage.



Child poverty will also continue to be addressed via the new £10 weekly Scottish Child Payment for each child to all eligible families with children up to 16 years of age. To encourage and facilitate saving, a £10 million Credit Union Investment Fund will be introduced to grow memberships and improve their systems.

A "Green Cities Deal" will transform Edinburgh and other cities, combining public and private investment to reduce emissions. A further £3 billion of green projects, including renewables, waste and construction, will be realised with the backing of the Scottish National Investment Bank. Other measures include: -

- £1 billion school investment programme, including a new Currie Community High School
- An extra £15 million towards additional support for learning in our schools
- £20 million to help prevent drug deaths across Scotland
- A 24/7 crisis support service for children and young people and their families
- A commitment to decarbonise Scotland's railways by 2035

This Programme for Government puts health, prosperity, and wellbeing at its heart and will help make Edinburgh Pentlands Constituency a fairer and happier place.

Need to contact your Constituency MSP?

Email gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

Telephone 0131 443 0595

Letter 9 Kingsknowe Park, Edinburgh, EH14 2JQ

Web form www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info

Home visit Available for those who cannot travel

Or on social media: -

@GMacdonaldMSP gordonmacdonaldsnmpsp

MSP Advice Surgeries NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

- Wester Hailes Library**
1st Monday of month, 6.30pm
- Carrickvale Community Centre**
2nd Monday of month, 6.30pm
- Currie Library**
3rd Monday of month, 6.30pm
- Oxgangs Library**
4th Monday of month, 6.30pm
- Ratho Community Centre**
5th Monday of month at 6.30pm

NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

New Currie High School



Currie Community High School is set to be rebuilt as part of the first phase of a nationwide £1 billion investment programme.

We must ensure our schools are inspirational and nurturing places for learning. This investment will have a real impact on the experience of pupils, teachers and parents in Currie and the wider community.

The Scottish Government is committed to education and the rebuilding of Currie Community High and many others around Scotland is evidence of this. The whole community came together to save our schools and I am proud to have been part of the campaign to persuade the Council to retain our local high schools.

I look forward to a world-class learning environment in Currie, and the WHEC and Balerno being included in future rounds.

Visa Controls Impact Festival



I led a debate in Parliament on the UK Government's hostile environment policy and the truly devastating impact it is having on the ability to attract international guests to Edinburgh's festivals.

Since the UK Government introduced hard-line visa controls, performers have been hit by refusals and delays, with some acclaimed international writers, actors, and musicians forced to cancel visits.

The city is recognised for its world-leading festival scene including the Fringe, International Festival, Book Festival, and Art Festival.

Artists are facing a humiliating application process. Their visas are being refused. Festivals rely on the seamless flow of artists from across the world and it's time for the UK Government to listen.

MoD Defer Closure of Redford Barracks



The Minister for Defence, Tobias Ellwood MP, has deferred plans to sell-off Redford Barracks until 2025. However, I am disappointed that the MoD still intend to dispose of the site.

It is clear that the MoD plan to sell off the land to the highest bidder and pocket the money — in a report

to the House of Commons, *Defence Infrastructure Organisation Disposals Database*, the MoD identified that there is the potential to build up to 711 houses on the Redford Barracks site.

If the site is to be sold, it should be for the benefit of the people of Edinburgh. The MoD must use this extra time to work with the council to bring forward proposals for land use that benefit the local community and provide much needed affordable homes.

Ironically, many of those in desperate need of affordable homes are ex-forces themselves. I suggested to the MoD to let out empty army homes in the Edinburgh area, and I welcome recent news that they plan to do this.

Tiphereth Summer Fair



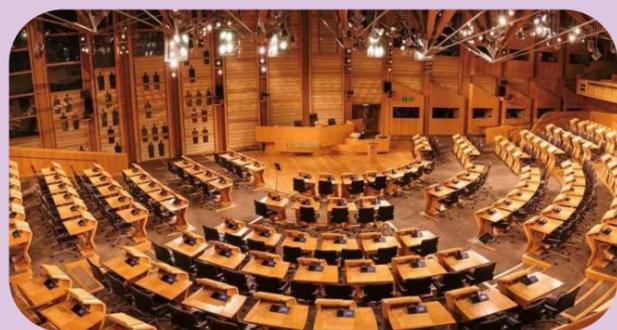
I attended the wonderful summer fair held by Tiphereth, a community care and social enterprise services for people with learning disabilities.

I have attended for the last eight years and have tried to help out ever since. At the event, I had the honour of drawing the winning tickets for the prize draw.

Finance and Constitution Committee: Referendums (Scotland) Bill

In my role as a member of the *Finance and Constitution Committee*, a number of important bills are to be reviewed. One of the most significant is the *Referendums (Scotland) Bill*, which seeks to make provision for the holding of referendums throughout Scotland.

This bill will provide a legal framework for the holding of referendums on any matters within Scotland's control and ensure that we will have the legal powers to conduct the poll and count.



20 Years of the Scottish Parliament

Dissolved on 1st May 1707, the Scottish Parliament was reconvened 292 years later on 12 May 1999. Over the last 20 years, the Scottish Parliament has helped change the face of politics in Scotland. I campaigned most of my adult life for the creation of a Scottish Parliament and have been proud to serve as a member since 2011. Pioneering legislation has improved the lives of people of Edinburgh Pentlands and include: -

- The Abolition of university fees entirely in 2008
- The Community Health and Care Act 2002, which ensures the provision free personal care for the elderly
- The Alcohol Minimum Pricing Act 2012, which requires a cost of at least 50p per unit
- The Marriage & Civil Partnership Act 2014, the first legislation in the UK enabling same-sex marriage
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2018, which widens the scope for prosecution to include coercive control
- The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill, which will protect children from assault

Our legislation sets the benchmark for the UK to follow. Upcoming legislation will set tougher emissions targets, and tackle fuel and period poverty.

Superfast Fibre Broadband Coming to Edinburgh



Edinburgh is one of the first cities to benefit from *Fibre-To-The-Premises*, with the Calders and Balerno some of the first beneficiaries to be connected. Residents and businesses will soon be able to access superfast fibre broadband.

Edinburgh is now very much a digital city and businesses and households will benefit from this innovation. *Fibre-To-The-Premises* will change the way we work, learn, communicate, and are entertained.

The programme will see the city's existing fibre network expanded as a major milestone in the countrywide "copper switchover". I am pleased that CityFibre in partnership with Vodafone is investing £100 million into Edinburgh's digital network — the project will see almost everyone able to access superfast fibre broadband.

Economy Committee: Scottish National Investment Bank



As a member of the *Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee*, over the last year I have been helping to oversee the creation of the Scottish National Investment Bank. The Bank will be operationally and administratively independent, and will play a critical role in the development of social housing, reducing climate change, and infrastructure.

Other committee business includes a proposal to create a new body called Consumer Scotland that will provide advice, represent the views of consumers, organise research, and carry out investigations.

Other considerations of the committee are to establish a publicly-owned, not-for-profit, energy company to supply consumers at as close to cost price as possible, as well as to undertake an inquiry into the range of support services available to new and existing small and medium sized businesses a local level across Scotland.