

# Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for Edinburgh Pentlands

December  
2020



## NHS Workers In Lothians To Receive £500 Bonus



BBC NEWS BREAKING  
SNP conference: Leader's speech  
Sturgeon: To the other countries of the EU, Scotland wants to return

Gordon is delighted to confirm that around 21,000 staff members in NHS Lothian will be recognised for the incredible hard work and sacrifice they have shown during the COVID-19 pandemic by receiving a bonus of £500 from the SNP Scottish Government.

The payment was announced by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon that all NHS staff would receive the bonus as a thank you, with part-time workers being given a proportionate amount.

The bonus was one of several policies announced at the SNP 2020 Conference to support hard-working families, including a promise to extend free school meals to all primary school pupils all year round and a £100m hardship fund to help those most in need during the pandemic.

Gordon commented, "NHS staff in Edinburgh have worked so hard to keep everyone safe during the pandemic and put their lives on the line to treat some of the sickest patients with the disease."

"No amount of money will ever be able to thank our NHS and care workers enough but I am delighted to see all their work is being rewarded by the Scottish Government with this £500 payment."

"It is now up to the Tories at Westminster to make sure NHS staff receive payment in full, if not then all their clapping on their doorsteps in the early stages of the pandemic will be worth nothing."

## Free School Meals For All Primaries



Every primary school pupil in Edinburgh will be eligible for free school meals, all year around, if the SNP is re-elected in May.

Gordon said, "The pandemic has put real financial pressure on families, and it's right that the Scottish Government ensured that children continue to receive free school meals over the holidays.

"However, I am happy we are not stopping there. If the SNP is re-elected in May, every single primary pupil will be eligible for free breakfast and lunch, all year round.

"This ambitious expansion of the free school meals scheme is the next step in our battle to stop the UK Government forcing more and more kids into poverty."

# ALSO THIS MONTH...

## Protection and Support This Winter



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

The Scottish Government has committed to protecting and supporting people during these unparalleled times. The winter period will be challenging for many, with continued COVID restrictions, colder weather and the threat of a no-deal Brexit.

£100 million has been invested in a Winter Plan for Social Protection. The Plan includes:-

- £22 million to support families on low incomes, including a £100 per child payment for those in receipt of Free School Meals in December
- £23.5 million to support services for vulnerable children.
- £15 million to enhance capacity within the third sector.
- £15 million of flexible funding for local authorities moving into level 4.
- £7 million to further help with fuel costs.
- £2 million further investment in strategic national food activity.
- £5.14 million to support people affected by homelessness.
- £5.91 investment to promote equality and tackle social isolation and loneliness.

## Colinton Village Enterprise Funding Success



Community Group, Colinton Village Enterprise (CVE), has secured funding from the Scottish Land Fund to convert a former coach house into a Community Hub.

The funding will enable the group to buy the building from the City of Edinburgh Council which approved the sale in March 2020 under the community asset transfer scheme.

A new charity, Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO, was formed to take ownership of the coach house on behalf of the community.

Gordon noted, "The support from the people of Colinton has been crucial in taking this project forward. However, time, effort, and further funding will be required to bring the building back into regular use."

## Christmas Eviction Ban



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

Enforcement of evictions from rented properties will be halted in Scotland between 11 December and 22 January, except in cases of serious anti-social behaviour.

The move will give extra protection to tenants during the COVID pandemic and will reduce the burden on local authorities, who have a duty to rehouse people made homeless through evictions.

Gordon said, "A temporary ban on carrying out evictions will give additional peace of mind to tenants over Christmas and into the new year. It will also prevent additional burdens being placed on health and housing services.

"However, where there is evidence of serious anti-social or criminal behaviour, evictions can still proceed as normal."

## Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

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## Monthly Surgeries

Due to the ongoing public health concern, in the interest of public and staff safety, Gordon's surgeries are suspended until further notice but he will continue to handle enquiries as usual.

# Working for Edinburgh Pentlands