



## John “Chips In” to help Dogs Trust

During December, Dogs Trust, the nation’s largest dog welfare charity with a new rehousing centre near Broomhouse, joined forces with John Mason MSP and special guests Dennis and Gnasher to help raise awareness for the charity’s compulsory microchipping campaign at a photocall event in the Scottish Parliament. Speaking at the event, John said;

“Microchipping has a number of welfare benefits – the most important being the ability to rapidly identify a stray or lost dog and return it to its owner. In 2014, **4,893** lost or straying dogs were picked up by Local Authorities in Scotland. Dogs Trust believes that compulsory microchipping will help to reduce these numbers, thereby cutting kennelling costs for Local Authorities and reducing the burden on animal welfare charities.”

### Contact John Mason MSP directly...

**Write to/visit my Constituency Office:** 1335 Gallowgate, Parkhead Cross, Glasgow, G31 4DN  
**Telephone:** 0141 550 4327 **Mobile:** 0787 943 0877  
**Email:** john.mason.msp@scottish.parliament.uk  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/jmasonscot  
**Twitter:** @JohnMasonMSP **Website:** www.john-mason.org  
**YouTube:** www.youtube.com/JohnMasonMSP

## Glasgow Shettleston MSP writes to City Link Administrators

John wrote to the administrators of City Link Limited on the 26th of December to ask for clarity after it was revealed that the organisation’s employees were made aware of the administration event over the course of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Commenting on the situation, John said;

“If it is at all possible to save jobs then all the necessary action should be taken to ensure that this happens. The administrator’s clarification in their response to my letter that employees will still be paid is welcome, but for families to receive this news on Christmas Day is a particularly cruel blow.”



### Proposed Organ Donation Bill

John is currently considering his position on the proposed Organ and Tissue Donation (Scotland) Bill. Currently, individuals have to formally “opt in” in order to donate an organ. The proposed Bill proposes to amend the law so that it would be assumed that we all want to donate an organ unless we formally “opt out” of the register.

Do you have a view on this that you’d like John to consider? He would be happy to discuss it with you.

 The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba	<h1>Parliamentary Patter</h1>	Parliamentary Report John Mason MSP
		January 2015

## John looks towards 2015

2014 has been an extraordinary year for both Glasgow Shettleston and Scotland as a whole. The Commonwealth Games, Ryder Cup and referendum are just some of the major events that have taken place here over the course of the past 12 months.

As a Clydesider volunteer I was able to experience all of the buzz and excitement that the Games brought to the East End first hand. I will never forget the crowds of happy spectators travelling to events in our surprisingly fantastic summer weather. Of course the games also caused disruption to a number of people in certain parts of the constituency and communication was not always perfect, but I would say that the games were broadly successful.

It is important to remember that 2014 also brought its own challenges. For example, at the end of the year Glasgow Shettleston has been faced with threatened redundancies at both City Link and McVitie’s. We have also shared in the pain caused by tragedies both at home and abroad.

Going forward into 2015 I am determined to continue working for the people of Glasgow Shettleston. We have now handled more than 4,000 constituency cases in my constituency office and, as always, I am available should you require any assistance with an issue. I would also like to wish you a Happy New Year.

John



### Local MSP leads debate on The Bellgrove

John Mason MSP continued to press the issue of the Bellgrove Hotel in the Scottish Parliament when he led a member’s debate on the subject in December. Commenting, John said;

“The Bellgrove Hotel is the largest remaining homeless hostel in Scotland. It has conditions that could be described as grim, Dickensian and comparable to a Soviet gulag. For the sake of the Bellgrove’s 140 residents it is imperative that better regulation and alternative provision is put in place by the UK & Scottish Governments, City Council and other relevant agencies as a matter of urgency.”

## Motions lodged at Parliament in December:

- ♦ **S4M-I 1876: Glasgow Association for Mental Health’s Future** — Expressing disappointment at Glasgow City Council’s decision to cut GAMH’s budget.
- ♦ **S4M-I 1899: Scottish Population Growth** – Welcoming the fact that less people died than were born in Scotland during Q3 2014.
- ♦ **S4M-I 1953: Sofa Surfing & Homelessness Services** — Recognising the increase in young people “sofa-surfing” and the ramifications that this may have for homelessness services.

The full text of all motions can be viewed at <http://www.john-mason.org/category/motions/>