

Foster Care Fortnight

John Mason MSP is backing **The Fostering Network's** call for the people of Glasgow Shettleston to come forward and make their connection with fostering during this year's annual Foster Care Fortnight.

Over **5,500 children** live with almost **4,500 families** across Scotland each day. There is a particular need for foster carers to look after teenagers, disabled children and sibling groups. This means that such children often end up far away from home and can be split up from their brothers and sisters.

Commenting on the event, **John** said;

"I am delighted to support Foster Care Fortnight. As each year passes we see that more and more children are coming into care, and so we need more people to open their hearts and homes to youngsters in need of support at what is a critical point in their lives."



Contact John Mason MSP directly...

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Office Flooded!



On the final Saturday of May John was shocked to discover that the Constituency Office was filling up with water. After quickly calling out a plumber the overflowing toilet was sealed up again within a matter of hours.

Commenting on the situation, John said;

"I am glad that I happened to go into the office on Saturday as it is normally closed for the entire weekend. Fortunately there was no long term damage.

"We have already had someone in to clean the carpet and I can thankfully announce that the smell has been taken care of!"

Assisted Suicide

Assisted Suicide was debated in the Scottish Parliament this month and there was a vote in Holyrood as to whether or not Scotland should legalise the practice. In the end 82 MSPs opposed the move and 36 supported it. John voted against the potential change as he was worried about older people who might consider themselves a burden on their families or that unscrupulous people might try to encourage the practice in order to obtain an inheritance earlier than they otherwise might.

Is there a controversial issue that you want to be discussed in Holyrood? Let John know!

Want to subscribe to Parliamentary Patter? Send an email to John.Mason.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk

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

John Mason MSP Wants More Autism Support

After speaking to parents from across the East End of Glasgow last month John asked a question in Parliament on how children with autism are allocated schools. John's question reflected concerns that children on the autistic spectrum are being enrolled in mainstream classes despite a need for more specialised education.

The Minister for Learning, **Alasdair Allan MSP**, responded by saying that local authorities are duty bound to place children into mainstream schools unless specific exceptions applied. These exceptions could include whether mainstream schooling is unsuitable for the child or whether the child's presence might disrupt others in the class.

Commenting on the question, **John** said;

"We know that many children with autism who are placed into mainstream schools are later found to have specific educational needs which have not been adequately catered to. This can lead to a number of issues for the children, their classmates, their teachers and their parents."

"I would therefore call on local authorities to actively ensure that children on the autistic spectrum are not being unduly placed into the wrong class. I understand that this can be difficult but the presumption of mainstream education is proving to be extremely disruptive and distressing for many families."



John Repeats Living Wage Call

Glasgow Shettleston MSP John Mason repeated his long standing support for the Living Wage at a debate in Parliament last month. Speaking after the debate, **John** said;

"I am fully supportive of rolling out the living wage as far as possible. It is absolutely unacceptable that full time workers in a country as wealthy as ours can receive their payslip and still not have enough to live on."

"The major problem with the living wage however is that it cannot be made mandatory. I will therefore not be satisfied until the Living Wage replaces the Statutory Minimum Wage as a basic requirement of employment."

Motions lodged at Parliament in May:

- ♦ **S4M-13311: Fifa Arrests** — Supporting the SFA's calls for a material change in the way that world football is governed.
- ♦ **S4M-13173: Rail Freight** — Noting the potential for growth which could be realised through investment in Scotland's Rail Freight network.
- ♦ **S4M-12955: Whose Recovery?** — Noting recent research by the Industrial Communities Alliance which showed that cutting welfare is economically damaging to places like Shettleston.

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