

John Attends Breast Cancer Care Strawberry Tea!

John Mason MSP recently attended **Breast Cancer Care “Strawberry Tea”** event in **Calton Heritage and Learning Centre**. Strawberry Teas are fun lunch-time social events which raise awareness and money for Breast Cancer Care, a charity providing information and support to those affected by breast cancer.

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

“I had a great time at the tea and it was good to see so many people coming along to support Breast Cancer Care and enjoy one another’s company.”

“I was also very pleased with the range of strawberry treats on offer. I felt that I had to eat as much of it as I could — all in the name of a good cause!”



Contact John Mason MSP directly...

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John Welcomes New Gambling Initiative



This month a **new anti-gambling initiative** was announced which will be pioneered in Glasgow City Centre. The scheme will mean that problem gamblers will be able to call a confidential helpline and request that they be refused service at any of the 36 participating city centre betting shops in Glasgow.

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

“I welcome this new scheme and I am hopeful that it will help to tackle a problem which has blighted our city for a number of years.”

“Glasgow currently has the highest number of betting shops per person of any city in Europe, with an even higher rate in poorer areas, and I have no doubt that this is linked to our high levels of problem gambling.”

*“I look forward to seeing this scheme **expanded beyond the city centre** and into areas such as Glasgow Shettleston.”*

Surgeries In August

As the Scottish Parliament is currently on recess John has no outside surgeries booked until 17th August. If you would like to speak to John before then he will still be holding his weekly drop-in surgery between 17:00 and 19:00 on Fridays at 1335 Gallowgate.

If this does not work then you can always drop into the constituency office during the week or get in touch using the contact information above!

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

John Marks Commonwealth Anniversary

John Mason MSP marked the anniversary of the Commonwealth Games this month by examining the legacy which has been left behind after that wonderful month of sport.

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

“The Commonwealth Games really showcased what the East End has to offer. The weather was excellent, the sport was entertaining and Team Scotland managed to win an abundance of medals! I was even fortunate enough to serve as a Games ‘Clydesider’ volunteer.”

“One of the most important selling points of the Games was the legacy that it was to leave behind for people living in the East End. An obvious example of this legacy is the Athletes’ Village, which includes 700 new homes and has brought a lot of new people to our community.”

“However the village does have some problems including vandalism, antisocial behaviour and a lack of bins. I have recently met with factors to discuss some of these issues and I am hopeful that they can be ironed out soon. The year delay in the opening of the new Dalmarnock Care Home is also concerning.”

“It is crucial that we make use of the opportunity afforded to us by the games and I believe that continued investment and effort must go in to ensuring that locals, especially children, are able to make use of our now world class sporting facilities.”

Motions lodged at Parliament in July:

- ◆ **S4M-13851: The Winchburgh Tunnel**—Welcoming the completion of this complex work.
- ◆ **S4M-13754: Inheritance Tax**—Condemning the UK Government’s decision to increase the inheritance tax threshold to £1 million as it means less wealth will be spread from rich to poor.
- ◆ **S4M-13752: The Living Wage**—Noting that the “Living Wage” is a term which means enough money for someone to live on, regardless of what the Chancellor chooses to define it as.

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



Circus Animal Welfare

John recently signed a motion calling for an end to the exhibition of animals for the purpose of entertainment. This would include circus animals which are often kept in particularly appalling conditions.

Commenting on the motion, John said;

“I believe that we have a duty to look after animals and to make sure that they are not suffering, especially for entertainment.”

“I can understand why zoos are important for education and preservation, but I am very uncomfortable with locking up wild animals for the purpose of putting on a show.”