

Scottish Parliament bans smoking in cars carrying children

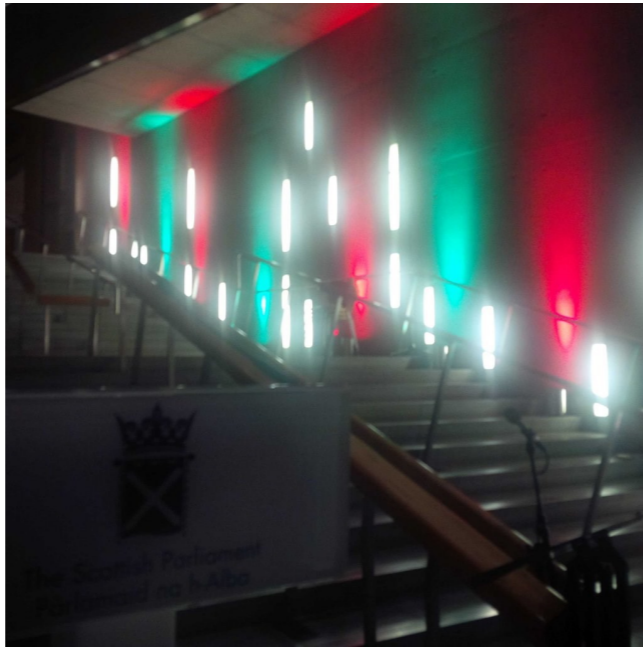
John welcomed the new legislation banning drivers from smoking in cars which are carrying children under the age of 18.

The legislation was passed after MSPs voted unanimously in favour of the change.

Commenting on the vote John Mason said :

“I am delighted to see this bill pass with such overwhelming backing from MSPs from across the different parties.

“Once again the Scottish Parliament is helping lead the way in protecting the most vulnerable in our society with the backing of organisations such as British Medical Association and Cancer Research UK.”



 The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba	<h1>Parliamentary Patter</h1>	Parliamentary Report John Mason MSP
		January 2016

New Year Message

As we enter into 2016 I want to wish all constituents a very happy New Year. 2015 had many ups and downs for Scotland as for other nations. On the down side there have been terrorist attacks around the world, businesses closing, and unexpected challenges like flooding and the Forth Road Bridge closure. More positively other businesses have been expanding, new housing has been built, and Glasgow has a new ultra-modern hospital at the Southern.

For us as individuals too, some have faced financial, health, and family challenges. And we wonder what the New Year will bring. A major challenge for myself in 2016 will be the Scottish Parliament elections in May. Can I predict the results? No!

Others reading this will face their own personal uncertainties. But at a deeper level I believe there is a plan for each of our lives. Each of us can do things that no one else can. So I look forward to the New Year with optimism and I hope you can too.



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 **Home Phone:** 0141 771 3260
Email: john.mason.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/jmasonscot

Wales move to opt out donations

John Mason MSP submitted a motion to the Scottish Parliament congratulating Wales on the introduction of an opt-out system of organ donation.

This change from the opt-in system of donation could lead to a 25% increase in donations, meaning more people can get the organs they need.

Speaking on the new system John said :

“I am delighted to see Wales taking action to increase organ donation at a time when Wales has seen a small drop in overall donations last year. I hope the Welsh model with its focus on rights of the individual and family will prove successful and can then be brought to Scotland.”

Small Business Saturday

It was Small Business Saturday on 5 December - a day when the contribution of small businesses to the economy and local area is highlighted.

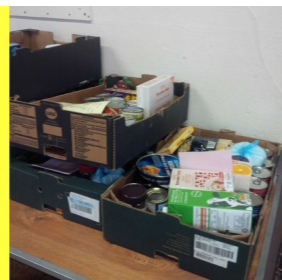
Research from the Federation of Small Businesses shows that for every pound spent at small or medium sized stores 23p more is spent in the local area when compared with larger businesses.

John spent the Saturday visiting several small shops across Shettleston Constituency.

Last year on Small Business Saturday 16.5 million people supported local businesses leading to £504 million of sales for small firms in a single day.

Calton Parkhead Church Foodbank

John visited some of the volunteers at the Trussell Trust Calton Parkhead Foodbank who went out of their way over December to help provide extra gifts alongside food to those having to use the service over Christmas.



Tesco Parkhead Foodbank Drive

John Mason MSP visited the Parkhead Tesco store earlier this month and was shown the large number of donations received during the seventh Neighbourhood Food Collection.

Motions by John at Parliament :

- ♦ **Motion S4M-15114: Congratulating Wales on opt out system of organ donation** — Congratulating Wales on the introduction of an opt out system for organ donation and hopes that this type of system can be brought to Scotland.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-15127: Deploring George Osborne's comments on Syrian Bombings** — Deploring Osborne's recent callous comments regarding Britain “finding its mojo” due to bombing Syria.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-15211: Caledonian Sleeper Service Strike** — Hoping that RMT and Serco can work together towards an amiable outcome for the Sleeper Service and Staff.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-15214: Faith Schools** — Noting with interest the news that Al-Qalam school in Glasgow seeks to become state funded. Thinks that faith schools should be considered were there is demand.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-15244: Increasing inequality** — Noting the findings of the wealth and assets survey by the ONS which shows that the gap between the richest and the poorest is widening rather than closing.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-15246: Forth Road Bridge Reopens** — Noting the encouraging news that the Forth Road Bridge has been reopened to vehicles under 7.5 tonnes.

The full text of all motions , questions and answers can be viewed at

<http://www.johnmason.org/category/motions/>

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