

Parliamentary Patter



August 2011 Issue 1 Parliamentary Report: John Mason MSP

MSP SAYS CUT THE VAT ON HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Scottish National Party Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, has urged the UK Government to cut the VAT on housing repair and improvement works to support employment in Scotland, tackle rogue traders and to support the most vulnerable groups in our communities.

Research by Experian, commissioned by the 'Cut the VAT coalition', found that a cut in VAT could create 3,170 new construction jobs in Scotland within a decade by increasing the workload for Scottish construction companies through incentivising home owners to repair and improve their homes.

John Mason is supporting a Scottish Parliamentary motion to introduce this targeted VAT cut after hearing the arguments from the Cut the VAT Coalition which believes that reducing VAT from 20% to 5% for all

maintenance and home improvement work would benefit millions of homeowners by getting rid of rogue traders and help those who cannot afford vital repairs or worse to heat their homes.

Commenting, John Mason MSP said:

"I am pleased to support the Cut the VAT campaign. Small and medium sized construction companies in the East End are crucial to the local economy and would receive a much need boost from this VAT reduction. A VAT cut would also have many other social benefits including reducing rogue traders, poor quality housing and the number of empty properties in the area. Only the UK Government has the power to introduce this change and I urge them to act swiftly so every local area can reap the benefits."

Grahame Barn, Director of FMB Scotland, added:

"Small building companies in Scotland suffered

another decline in conditions during the second quarter of 2011 according to the FMB's latest State of Trade Survey.

"A cut in VAT on home repair, maintenance and improvement work to 5% would help the small construction companies who are still struggling as a result of the economic downturn. Many of these companies work in the residential home improvement sector and have seen a huge decrease in work over the last few years as consumer confidence has fallen.

"A VAT cut would incentivise homeowners to improve their home thereby creating more work for small construction companies and creating more jobs as a result.

"The contraction in construction is hurting businesses and undermining overall growth, cutting VAT could help increase confidence and help return Scotland to growth."

DALMARNOCK STATION GETS THE GREEN LIGHT

Scottish National Party MSP for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, has warmly welcomed news that Network Rail will begin preparatory works at Dalmarnock Train Station this month.

John Mason, who fought much of his recent election campaign on the record of investment in Glasgow's transport infrastructure, said he was 'delighted' with the news that work was to begin at Dalmarnock Station.

Commenting, John Mason MSP said:

"I am pleased that Dalmarnock Station has got the green light for works to begin in the next month.

"There is a lot of good news here in the East End and the new refurbished Dalmarnock station will be the latest in a string of SNP Government investments, which include the recently opened M74 motorway extension, the M80 upgrade, the new East End to Edinburgh rail link and a commitment to modernise Glasgow's Subway.

"All this just goes to show that it's the SNP who stand up for Glasgow whilst Labour, the Tories and the Lib Dems fight over the calamity that is the Edinburgh trams.

"With the 2014 Commonwealth Games fast approaching, the new refurbished Dalmarnock Station will be a huge asset to the overall success of the games and I am sure this will be one of a number of lasting legacies that will transform Dalmarnock and the East End of Glasgow".

GARDEEN'S GARDENS ARE BLOOMING BRILLIANT, SAYS MSP!

East End MSP, John Mason, has congratulated Gardeen Housing Association and its residents on a "brilliant" gardening competition which he helped judged in July along with Kenny Sewell, a retired Barlanark Community Cop.

During his visit, John also presented the Scottish National Standard's Information and Advice Award to Gardeen Housing Association Chairperson, Rena Quinn.

Speaking after the visit, local MSP John Mason said:

"I was very impressed with a number of the gardens that I saw.

"The East End often gets a bad reputation but it is events like this that highlight the enormous good work and pride in our local community.

"As a Barlanark resident myself, I suppose the pressure is on my neighbours and me to beat the high standard which Gardeen tenants have set!"



Parliamentary Patter is published by John Mason MSP to give members of the community a window into his parliamentary and constituency work. This newsletter is distributed monthly to those who have asked for an opportunity to read what their Member of the Scottish Parliament does and thinks. For further information and distribution enquiries, contact David Linden on 0141 550 4327 or write to 1335 Gallowgate, Parkhead, Glasgow, G31 4DN.

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