

Hepburn at Holyrood

Jamie Hepburn MSP - Serving the People of Central Scotland



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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It's been an exciting time at Holyrood since the New Year, with much of the focus on the Scottish Government's Budget, which was eventually endorsed in the Parliament with only two votes against. I've also been getting to grips with my new role as Vice Convenor of the special Parliamentary Committee reviewing the work of Parliament-supported Commissioners, and have spoken in several debates on topics of the day. You can keep up to date with what's going on by visiting my website www.jamiehepburn.org, and as always please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any issues you would like my help with. All the best, Jamie

Central Heating Programme: Jamie is encouraging older residents in Central Scotland to check if they qualify for the Scottish Government's Central Heating Programme. The current programme changes in March this year. Under the scheme, pensioners who have broken or inefficient systems could benefit from a replacement system, which could help to cut energy bills. A free phone call to **0800 316 1653** will get the ball rolling. An **extra £10 million** has been invested into the Scottish Government's Central Heating Programme this financial year to install more than 14,000 central heating systems before the current Programme changes in March. Jamie is pictured (right) with Frances Willis from Scottish Gas publicising the scheme.



Bus Services: Jamie has written to First Bus to clarify accessibility issues for those who have children in pushchairs and make use of the 262 service from Caldercruix to Glasgow, via Airdrie Town Centre. Jamie was contacted by people expressing their concern that parents with children in pushchairs were apparently being refused access to this service. Jamie described this as totally unacceptable. Mark Savelli from First Bus wrote back to say if people are treated this way they should contact him on: **0141-636-3011**.

Congratulations to Cumbernauld Village

Conservation Area: Jamie lodged the following motion in the Scottish Parliament: That the Parliament congratulates Cumbernauld Village Community Council and North Lanarkshire Council on the award of £375,000 from Historic Scotland's Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme for investment in the Cumbernauld Village Conservation Area; notes that this grant will fund a wide range of projects in the area; and believes this will make a huge difference in preserving and enhancing local heritage for future generations. (S3M-03400)



Jamie recently welcomed a group of P5 students from **Carron Primary School** near Falkirk to Parliament. The group (pictured right) impressed Jamie with their detailed questions about the work of Parliament.

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Jamie is pictured (right) with John Watson, Director of Amnesty International Scotland, at the launch of a Scots language version of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. Jamie held his second Member's Business Debate in the Scottish Parliament on 10th December to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration. The motion debated was: That the Parliament notes that 10 December 2008 will be the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the General Assembly of the United Nations; believes that the UDHR is one of the outstanding statements of the dignity, integrity and rights belonging to every human being, and further believes that the principles of the UDHR should continue to serve as inspiration for the future development of Scotland. (S3M-02630)

Towards Independence for Greenland: Jamie lodged the following motion in the Scottish Parliament: That the Parliament congratulates the people of Greenland on their historic vote for increased autonomy from Denmark; notes that some 75% of voters favoured the proposals to transfer a range of powers including those over police, courts and coastguard as well as a share of oil revenues to the island; welcomes this peaceful and democratic transfer of powers, and believes that this demonstrates that even in times of global economic uncertainty nations can move forward constitutionally. (S3M-02973)



Poverty Pledge: Jamie attended the launch of the 'Get Fair' Campaign, which aims to make sure action to tackle poverty is not forgotten during the economic downturn. Jamie is pictured (above) with Stephen Maxwell of SCVO, signing the campaign poverty pledge.



Tree-mendous Gift for Cumbernauld YMCA/YWCA: Jamie donated a Christmas tree to the Cumbernauld YMCA/YWCA on behalf of the Forestry Commission Scotland. Before the holidays, Jamie was able to stop by and see the tree in its new surroundings at the main YMCA building in Kildrum (above).



Jamie recently met with Emma Newlands of the Cumbernauld News (above) to discuss his work as an MSP for Central Scotland, and highlight the tours and services available to visitors to the Scottish Parliament.

Homecoming Scotland: Jamie's efforts to promote the Year of Homecoming among communities around the world which share the same name as towns in the Central Scotland region have received a boost when he received a reply from Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California. The largest state in the USA of course shares its name with California, near Falkirk. The community of Croy, Switzerland, and the MP for Kilsyth, Australia, have also written back to Jamie expressing their support for the Homecoming programme.



Jamie recently met with members of Oxfam Scotland to discuss the **Scottish Government's ambitious Climate Change Bill**. He is pictured (right) with a graphic demonstrating the size of Scotland's 'carbon footprint'.

Representatives from the Public and Commercial Services Union visited the Scottish Parliament to discuss concerns about the **proposed closure of 19 HMRC offices in Scotland**, including those in Falkirk and Grangemouth. Jamie is pictured (right) with PCS official Keith Bain at the meeting.

