

Hepburn at Holyrood

Jamie Hepburn MSP - Serving the People of Central Scotland

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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



I hope you find this, the latest edition of my parliamentary newsletter of use. As usual you will be able to read about some of the work that I have been up to of late, and details of how to contact me. If you or anyone you know is in need of my assistance then please do

not hesitate to contact my office and I will be glad to help. *Jamie Hepburn*

Cumbernauld Theatre:

Jamie was delighted to learn that the Scottish Arts Council have awarded a grant worth £140,000 to Cumbernauld Theatre for the 2009-11 period. The grant was made to support a programme of performing arts and the production of theatre work and was part of a range of awards totalling £6.9m across Scotland announced by the Scottish Arts Council. Jamie wrote to the Chair of the Cumbernauld Theatre Trust to pass on his congratulations to all those involved in the Theatre.

Grangemouth Oil Dispute:

Jamie was greatly concerned to learn of the dispute between workers and management at the Ineos Oil Refinery in Grangemouth. He signed the motion S3M-1760 before the Scottish Parliament about the subject, which stated concerns about changes being made to the pension scheme operated at the Refinery.

Jamie also questioned the First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, John Swinney about the matter on 24th April. Jamie's asked John Swinney, "The cabinet secretary will know that employment at the Grangemouth site contributes significantly to the central Scotland economy. Will he confirm that the Government is committed to the Grangemouth area's continued success and that it will support continued talks between the two sides to reach a resolution that ensures that workers are not disadvantaged?" John Swinney replied, "I agree with Jamie Hepburn. It is important that there is discussion to ensure that the dispute is resolved and that the wider process of investing to strengthen the Grangemouth plant, which is critical to the Scottish economy, is taken forward effectively."



Jamie (pictured, left) visited St Helen's Primary, Condorrat, recently to congratulate pupils on earning a second 'Eco-Flag' for their commitment to fair and ethical use of the world's resources.

Jamie was delighted to welcome a group of visitors from the Abronhill Seniors Forum to the Scottish Parliament. The group were able to see the Debating Chamber, Committee Rooms and learn more about the work of MSPs. They are pictured (right) with Jamie on the Parliament's famous staircase used by MSPs on their way to debates.



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Presidency of the EU: Jamie recently lodged the following motion at the Scottish Parliament about the Presidency of the European Union:

That the Parliament notes recent reports that heads of government across Europe are increasingly opposed to Tony Blair being nominated for the position of President of the European Union; believes that whoever takes up this position should be capable of uniting the people of Europe behind shared values of peace and justice, and further believes that under no circumstances could the former Prime Minister fulfil such a role, given his responsibility for taking the United Kingdom into an illegal war in Iraq against the wishes of a majority of people in the UK and the European Union.

Jamie has added his support to a campaign aimed at preventing violence against betting shop workers. He is pictured (right) with John-Paul McHugh, from the Community Trade Union, promoting the campaign in Condorrat.



Epilepsy Nurses: Jamie has written to the Chief Executives of both NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Forth Valley to express his concern at a lack of specialist nurses to deal with epilepsy in these two regions. According to the Joint Epilepsy Council there should be 6.5 epilepsy nurses in Lanarkshire, when there are only 2; and there should be 4 in Forth Valley, when there is only one specialist nurse. Jamie is pictured with Aileen Campbell MSP and representatives from *Epilepsy Scotland* at the Scottish Parliament.



Jamie is pictured above with, from left: Cabinet Secretary for Finance John Swinney MSP; Jamie's wife Julie; Leader of Renfrewshire Council, Cllr Derek Mackay; and Constituency Office Assistant Neil McCallum

Housing Debates: On 1st May and 8th May, Jamie took part in two debates in the Scottish Parliament on housing. The following are extracts of some of what Jamie said in those debates:

"To respond to the demand for homes, we need a mix of housing tenure, but above all we need a new generation of council housing. The policy that the Government is pursuing of restricting the right to buy in respect of new council homes is a huge incentive for local authorities to build such homes. We are already seeing plans to construct more council homes than have been built for many years." (1st May 2008)

"Too many people languish on homelessness registers. We must ensure that their fundamental human right to shelter and a home to call their own is upheld." (8th May 2008)

Olympic Games: Jamie lodged the following motion about contracts for the 2012 Olympic Games:

That the Parliament notes with concern that only 3% of contracts for the 2012 London Olympic Games have been awarded outside England, despite claims by the UK Government that Scotland would benefit from London being awarded the Games; believes that Scotland is due to see millions of pounds worth of lottery funds displaced due to the way that these games are being financed; considers the news that Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have been awarded minute numbers of the contracts associated with the 2012 Olympics thus far is further evidence that Scotland will see little in the way of tangible benefits from the games, and calls on the authorities awarding the contracts to assess whether they are being awarded fairly across the United Kingdom.