

JAMIE HEPBURN MSP

Serving Central Scotland

Scottish Parliamentary Newsletter from Jamie Hepburn MSP.
Issue 2. September 2007



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Saving Monklands A&E will Save Lives

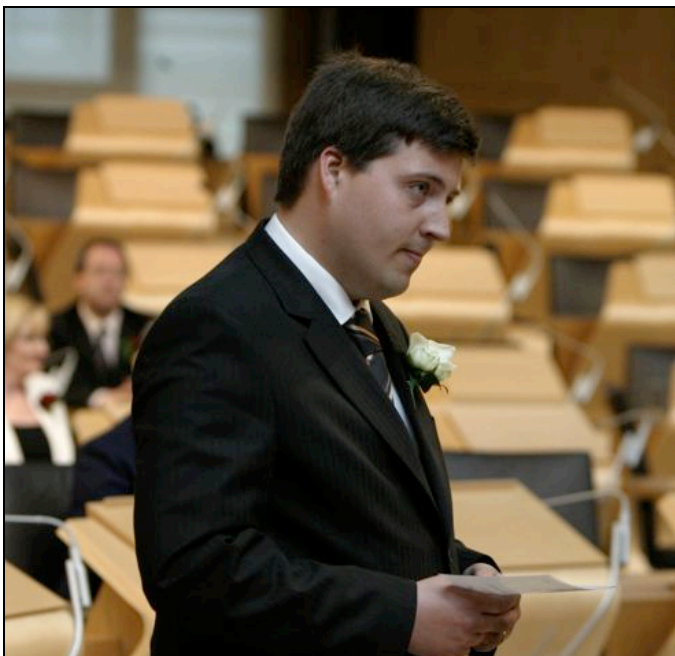
Having fought to secure the A&E unit at Monklands Hospital Jamie was delighted to have his support vindicated by a recent report in the British Medical Journal. The study led by Professor Steve Goodacre of Sheffield University examined the journeys of patients with life-threatening conditions to hospital.

The decision to shut down the A&E at Monklands was reversed by the Scottish government within the first few weeks of its administration. This was despite criticism from the outgoing government that this would harm health care in Lanarkshire. The new study however, finds that the risk of dying increased significantly if a patient had to travel more than 12 kilometres.

The study of more than 10,000 patients in England states:

“Our data suggests any changes that increase journey distances to hospital for emergency patients may lead to an increase in mortality for a small number of patients with life threatening emergencies, unless care is improved.”

The saving of the A&E at Monklands, which Jamie campaigned for, was widely welcomed across the region. Jamie welcomed the fact that the British Medical Journal has now confirmed the view of campaigners that lives would be at risk, a view that was dismissed at the time.



Left: Jamie making his affirmation as parliament is sworn in.

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Calls for Accreditation Scheme

Jamie has backed call for the creation of a national accreditation scheme for property managers. Recent surveys suggest that there is a lack of awareness as to the role of property managers and opportunities to employ or change manager.

The Scottish Consumer Council has backed the move, believing it would benefit residents. It would allow comparison between the services being offered and would help property managers by encouraging them to adopt best practise. Jamie believes this can only be in the interest of the consumer.

Jamie Targets Rogue Callers

Jamie recently added his support to a campaign by the Federation of Master Builders raising awareness of the rogue callers who target vulnerable people in their own homes.

Leaflets were distributed by the Federation of Master Builders as were door stickers warning potential rogue callers that they were not welcome. Residents who suspect rogue callers were urged to immediately contact the police.

