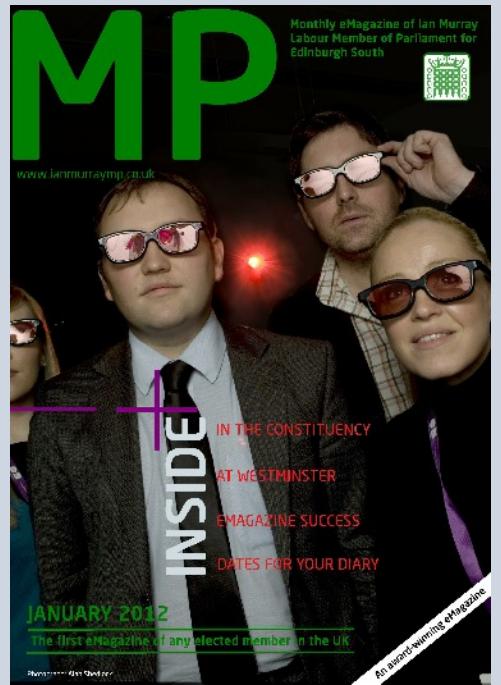




MP

Aug/Sept 2012

Twevle months of the first eMagazine of any elected member in the UK



Award-winning eMagazine

Welcome

to another edition of my eMagazine.

How time flies! My eMagazine has been going out in this innovative form for 12 months now.

I hope you continue to find it an interesting and useful update on my work as your Member of Parliament.

As I say in every edition, if you have any comments, criticisms or suggestions then do get in touch.

Click the play button below to watch my first welcome video.



Contact me (click on the highlighted links below)



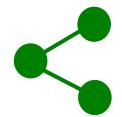
Constituency Office
31 Minto Street
Edinburgh
EH9 2BT



ian@ianmurraymp.co.uk



0131 662 4520



twitter.com/ianmurraymp



www.ianmurraymp.co.uk

Pages:

Contents

03 IN THE CONSTITUENCY

13 AT WESTMINSTER

17 AT THE DESPATCH BOX

19 CONSUMER INVESTIGATION



Something you want to discuss, perhaps something to share or you have an important question to ask? You can Tweet me by including @ianmurraymp and #MPemag

#MPemag TWEETS

Labour's BIS team @Labour_BIS team

@IanMurrayMP writes for the Guardian: Vince Cable is signing away the rights of people at work by the back door - <http://bit.ly/0OYOIT>
Retweeted by Ian Murray

South Team @south_team

Discover hidden gems at a beautiful display by the Scottish Mineral and Lapidary Club at #NewingtonLibrary <http://ow.ly/dAmhc>
Retweeted by Ian Murray

Ian Murray @IanMurrayMP

Just realised that my surgery at Waitrose tomorrow will be my 350th since I was elected in May 2010. #wheredoesthetimego

Ian Murray @IanMurrayMP

Helped launch annual charity appeal @sainsburys Cameron toll with @aslongasittakes Action 4 Children. Well done 2 all pic.twitter.com/efb2NY0d



If you have any issues or concerns that you would like to discuss with me, please do get in touch by the contact details over the page.



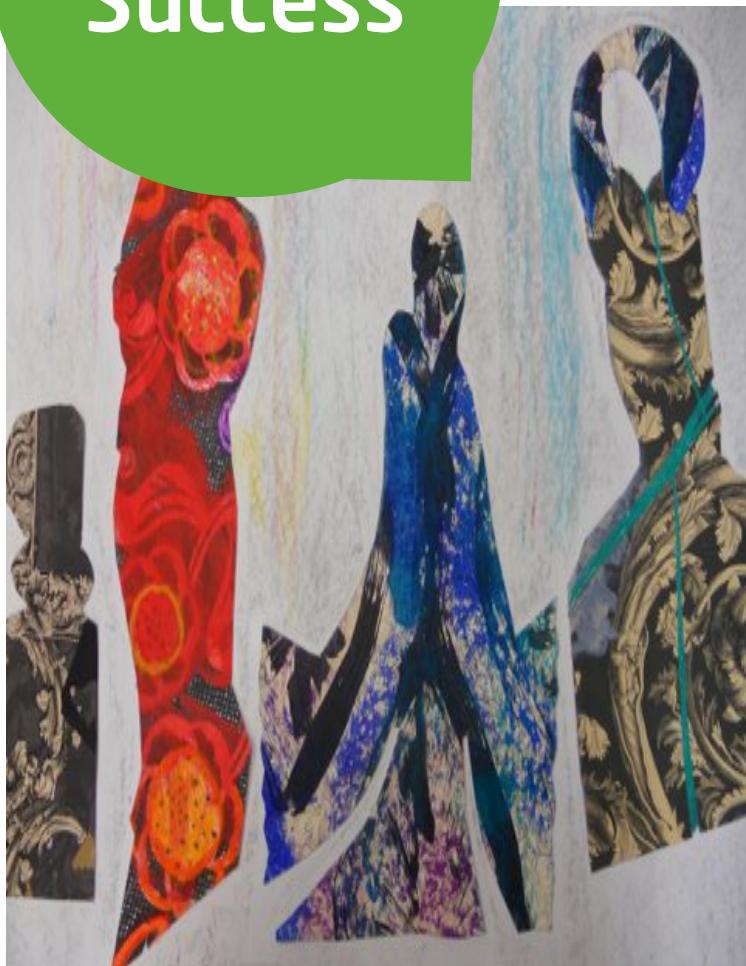
CLICK THE PLAY
BUTTON...
For instructions to
use the eMagazine

Top 3 Lobby Correspondence of the Month

Every month I include the top 3 issues that constituents have contacted me about. If you would like to see my responses, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

1. Air Passenger Duty
2. Beecroft by the Backdoor
3. Equal marriage

St Crispin's Success



During the summer, I was contacted by St Crispins Special School in the constituency regarding their latest school project. It is always a great pleasure to attend their excellent art exhibitions, putting on show the tremendous talents of the school's pupils.

St Crispin's School meets the additional support needs of children with severe and complex learning difficulties, and serves a wide area with pupils travelling from all parts of Edinburgh. The School uses art, photography and artistic expression as a way of communicating and teaching the pupils about the world around them and developing new skills.

The school recently participated in a public vote in a bid for them to secure a grant of £5000

IN THE CONSTITUENCY

DIG IN!

Local residents in Bruntsfield are in the process of setting up a fruit and veg co-operative.



This would be owned and run by local people for local people and located in the Bruntsfield area. Karen McKay from Nippers came up with the idea as a response to giving local people a greater variety of shopping in the street. It is a super idea that will support the local shops.

I have joined as a member of the co-operative and I hope others will too.

If you would like to join or get more information please get in touch.

from the Lloyds Banking Group Community Fund and I'm delighted to say they were successful!

I have seen at firsthand the joy and pleasure art can bring to the pupils and the standard of work is exceptional. The award will give the young people of St Crispin's the chance to use professional equipment for the first time and to push the boundaries of their creativity and knowledge with the ultimate goal of putting on an exhibition showcasing their talents to all.

I spoke with Head Teacher Ruth Hendery who said: "With the help of the Lloyds Community Fund it will be possible not only to make and display artwork but to build links with staff, pupils, parents and members of the local community and to work to sustain this in future."

First Class

I was recently given a unique insight into the work of our hardworking postmen and women. I joined Michael Lunn to get first-hand experience into what is involved in delivering the mail in South Edinburgh where he kindly took me on his daily round.

Being an MP and Shadow Postal Affairs Minister, I think it is hugely important to take time to experience the everyday challenges faced by Royal Mail staff. Alongside the hard work of postal workers, I also learned Royal Mail have invested around £59 million in Scotland in new sorting and delivery equipment in responding to the changing nature of the modern postbag.

Postmen and women perform an incredibly important function in our communities. I wanted to get a real understanding of the work that goes into delivering the mail on a daily basis. There can be no better way of getting that insight than going out and doing the job.

Thanks to all those at Royal Mail who made my experience possible and especially to Michael for spending the morning with me.



I was delighted to sponsor the annual Ian Murray MP mixed doubles match at the Mayfield Bowling Club over the summer.

It was a hotly contested match on a cold and windy Sunday afternoon. I presented the winners with the trophy and the prizes. Thank

you to the Club and all the Committee for making it such a memorable afternoon, especially Cynthia. If you fancy taking up bowls or at least having a try, get in touch with the Club itself on 0131 477 7114.



The proposed development at the Wintons has continued to develop over August with a site visit to the area being conducted by the Scottish Government's planning reporter who will make a decision on the developer's application.

As many are aware, the City of Edinburgh Council Planning Committee rejected the application by Miller Homes to build on this Greenbelt site. Miller Homes have appealed this decision to the Scottish Government Reporters Unit who will decide if the application should be refused or granted.

The accompanied visit was attended by myself and dozens of local residents to give their views to the Reporter. However, they were not allowed to pass judgment on the application but could only request that the Reporter look at the site from particular vantage

points and where problems could arise in terms of increased traffic. I spoke with many on the visit and it is clear that local people are vehemently opposed to this development.

The Reporter also indicated at the visit that he has asked the Council and the applicants for further information on 4 separate aspects:

1. How the site complies with the Planning Advice Notes on housing and land supply.
2. Sight of the Heads of Agreement on planning conditions in terms of a section 75.
3. Details of planning applications approved on the "urban fringe".
4. The Council's position on housing and land supply in relation to the site.

The information that the Reporter is asking for in terms of item 3 is particularly concerning given that the developers were granted permission on appeal to build 100



Winton Site Visit



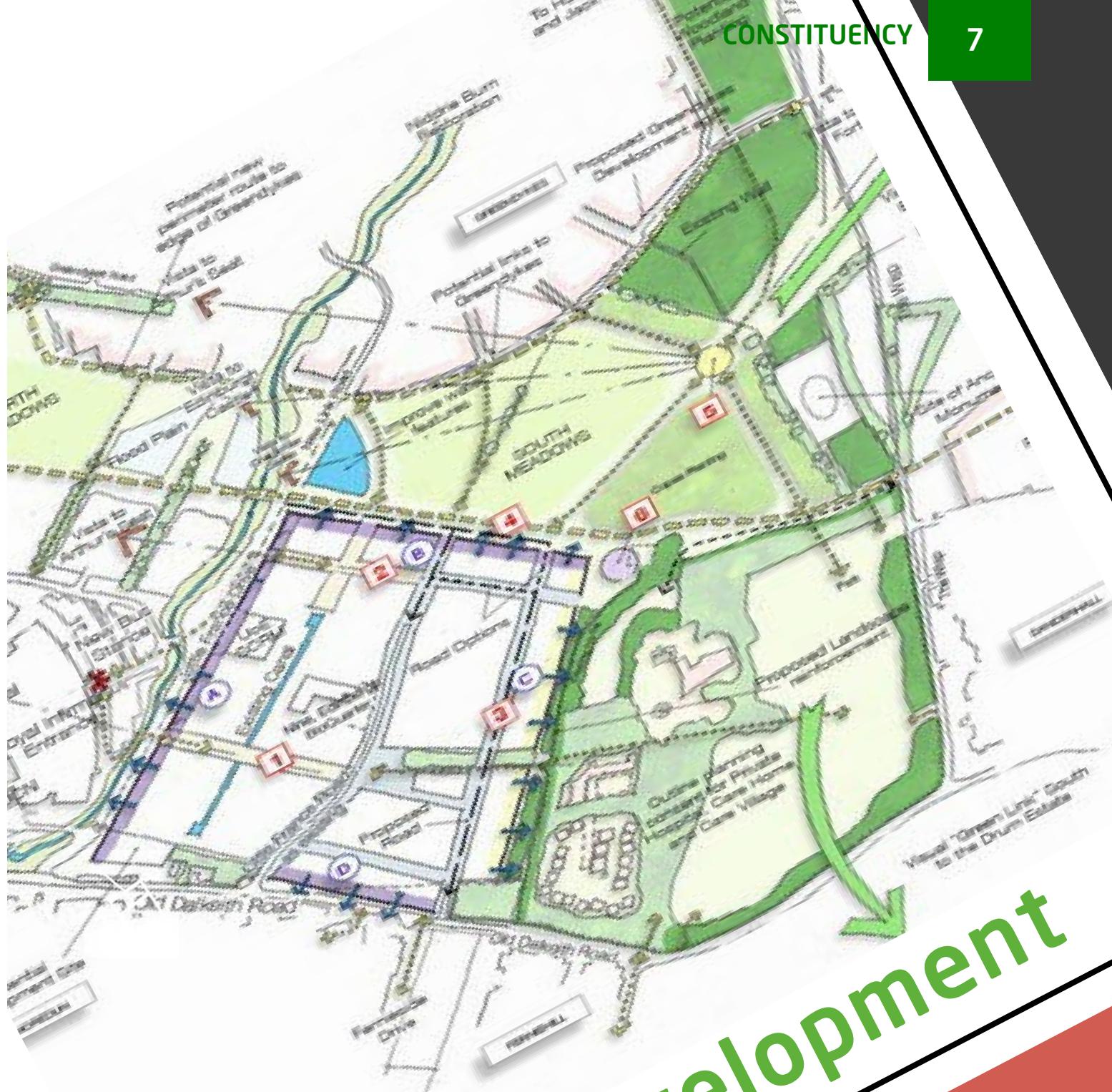
houses on the Greenbelt at nearby Burdiehouse. The Council opposed this development but I'm sure the developers will try and use the precedent set there to prosecute their argument for the Winton application.

I think the site visit was very useful in demonstrating the beauty of the site, the importance of it in the context of the local community and Greenbelt, the strength of feeling of local people, and the potential for the flood gates to open on the Greenbelt if the precedent from Burdiehouse was established.

Many thanks to all the residents who took time to attend the site visit. The number of people was not lost on the Reporter and that will certainly assist the case. As always, I will keep residents informed but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information on this or any other matters.

**TURNOVER....
Developments at
Little France**





Bio Quarter Development

Another development in the Little France area has been proposed for the Bio Quarter.

The exhibition boards for these proposals

community Council website - [click here to view](#). Please have a look as it is a major development in the Green Belt . The developers are looking to include housing, retail developments and a hotel in the proposals.

As with the Sick

Another development in the Little France area has been proposed for the Bio Quarter.

The exhibition boards for these proposals which is going out to consultation can be viewed on the Liberton & District

community Council web site - [click here to view](#). Please have a look as it is a major development in the Green Belt.

The developers are looking to include housing, retail developments and a hotel in the proposals.

As with the Sick Kids development, local residents from Moredun and Craigour have raised

Plans to build a replacement for Edinburgh's Sick Kids Hospital have finally been approved by the Scottish Government after a prolonged delay.

The hospital will be moving from its current site at Sciennes to Little France beside the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. The contract for its construction will be put out to tender this autumn and the new hospital is due to open in 2017.

The current hospital at Sciennes is known across the country for its dedicated staff and I'm incredibly proud that I represent the constituency where it's based. However, it has been recognised for some time that it would need to move. Indeed, parents across Scotland will be relieved to hear that progress is finally being made on delivering a new Sick Kids. But no amount of spin can

hide the fact that it will be delivered five years late and the current facilities were deemed not fit for purpose back in 2003. Staff, patients and parents will be disappointed that they will still have to cope for another four years with an unsuitable building.

Along with local Councillors, I am all too aware of the concerns that many local people already have about the provision of parking at the ERI and the possible impact that this new development will have on nearby Craigour. I'm hoping to meet with NHS representatives and developers soon to make them fully aware of these issues.

New Sick Kids Gets Go-Ahead



issues about additional parking as they have had a bad experience due to the presence of the Royal and other traffic related issues. These will need to be addressed.



For further info, click here



Buckstone Water Works Development

Local residents may be aware that Scottish Water were granted planning permission in principle in June last year for a development of up to 300 houses, in accordance with the Council's Local Plan allocation.

Scottish Water has now submitted a full planning application to the Council for the site containing a detailed scheme with plans showing access, design, housing layout, house types and

landscaping. The application is for 277 units of both flats and houses with 587 associated car parking spaces. It can be viewed on the Planning Portal of the City of Edinburgh Council here - <https://citydevportal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idoxpaweb/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=M9FATEEWL0000>

If you have any comments or concerns then please do get in touch.

NEW STATUTORY NOTICE SYSTEM

The council is consulting on a replacement for the old statutory notice system.

This system is very important in a tenemental area like Edinburgh South with a considerable number of conservation areas and listed buildings. It's very important that local people contribute to this important consultation.

You can submit a response to the consultation online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/propertyconsultation or email propertyconservation.redesign@edinburgh.gov.uk. You can also get it by post. To get a form call 0131 529 4594.



Ignorance, Injustice and Neglect



Ignorance, injustice and neglect



An investigation into NHS specialist service provision for people with M.E./CFS



I was recently contacted by a constituent who wanted to highlight the work of Action for ME and particularly their recent study "*Ignorance, Injustice and Neglect*".

The research uncovered a postcode lottery in the way that people with ME, or Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, were treated, with large variances in treatment across the UK. ME is a long-term chronic illness which attacks people's nervous and immune systems and affects 250,000 people in Britain.

As I have mentioned before in these pages, ME needs more research and understanding and the Action for ME study shows that, even within the health service, there is a lack of knowledge and appropriate health plans.

The report's authors conducted a Freedom of Information survey of trusts and health boards in the UK and found that these health plans were largely being ignored. Only 15 of the trusts - fewer than a third of those in England which responded to the survey - offered a specific "pathway" to getting

sufferers the right treatment. A similar problem exists in other parts of the UK, with half of Scotland's health boards and no Welsh health boards offering health pathways for ME sufferers. The investigation also found that 37 out of 151 trusts provided some sort of domiciliary care and only a third of those provided figures about how many were treated. Only one Scottish, one Welsh and one Northern Irish health board offered home visits for ME sufferers.

I fully appreciate the concerns of Action For ME, who said in response to the report that "clear requirements and standards" for sufferers "appear to be largely ignored". I hope this study will be looked at and acted upon by governments across the UK. It is an issue I will monitor closely in Parliament.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE OPEN DOOR

Congratulations to The Open Door in Morningside who celebrated their 30th birthday over the summer.

The Open Door, in the heart of Edinburgh's Morningside community, provides vital support services to the elderly, those with support needs, and the carers of these individuals.

Manager, Sandra Dixon, and her dedicated team provide a vital service to the local community and the tea and cakes in the cafe aren't bad either.

More info here
www.theopendoor-morningside.org.uk/index.htm



Mortonhall Caravan Park

I had a wonderful visit to the Mortonhall Caravan Park during the summer.

I met with Mr Trotter and his staff who showed me their excellent facilities. It really is a hidden gem in the area, set in over 200 acres of parkland.

They have hundreds of pitches for camping and motorhomes as well as fixed site caravans, and Wigwams. Don't forget the Stable bar facilities as well. Have a look at their website for more details.
<http://www.meadowhead.co.uk/>

MortonhallHome/tabid/55/Default.aspx

The visit had been arranged following the announcement by the Chancellor in his budget for a "caravan" tax. Thankfully this has now been all but scrapped.



Ed Miliband in Edinburgh South



I was delighted to welcome the Leader of the Labour Party, Ed Miliband MP, to Edinburgh South over the summer.

He met with the wonderful nursery staff at Morningside Children's Nursery to discuss a variety of issues. I'm told he thoroughly enjoyed his visit and loved being in the constituency.

Sainsbury's Cameron Toll Charity Appeal Launched



I was joined by staff (and one or two ex-staff) and members of the charity to launch the annual Sainsbury's Cameron Toll charity appeal.

They have chosen local charity Action for Children, based in Gilmerton. The aim is to have a

number of fundraising activities over the next 12 months to support the charity. Action for Children works with vulnerable children, young people and families to make a difference to their lives. It is a tremendous organisation, and if you happen to

be around Sainsbury's Cameron Toll when they have a fundraising event on, please give as generously as you can.

More info can be found at <http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/our-work-in-scotland>

AT WESTMINSTER

Since the last edition, Parliament has gone on summer recess and returned at the beginning of September for a short spell. It's been a busy time.

Last week saw a slight fall in the headline rate of unemployment which is welcome, but this has been tempered by the fact that the unemployment figures show that Britain's jobs crisis is becoming deep set for young people, for women, for our construction industry and for swathes of the UK.

Looking at our own area of Edinburgh South, the number of people out of work in August 2012 was 1,512. This represents a rate of 3.4% of the economically active population aged 16 to 64 and is up on the number of people unemployed in August 2011. The Government has got to wake up to this crisis; they must take action now and they

should start by looking at a Jobs Guarantee which Labour have proposed to get our young people back to work. I believe their newly announced industrial strategy won't do enough to help those women and young people who are unemployed.

And the SNP Government at Holyrood have to shoulder the blame as well. Last year, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced what he described as his Budget for jobs and growth. He said he planned to steer 'Scotland in a distinct course'. However, one year on, unemployment in Scotland is higher than the UK average and our country has sunk back into recession - for the second time under his stewardship. An extra 31,000 Scottish women are now unemployed. Women account for 7,000 out of the 10,000 job losses over the last year (a 7.7% increase compared to 2.9% for men)



although the overall female unemployment rate is now slightly lower in Scotland (7.3%) than for the UK as a whole (7.5%).

73,000 young Scots are out of work, up by 6000 on this time last year. This equates to a youth unemployment rate in Scotland of 20%.

In fact, the decisions taken by this Finance Minister and this SNP administration have led directly to the loss of 30,000 public sector jobs in little over a year. One of the few scraps of good news in this Budget is some help for the housing sector, but given the 30% cut in the housing budget last year and the 34% cut the year before that, Mr Swinney is again not even undoing the damage he has wrought on the sector. 12,000 builders lost their jobs last year - at least in part due to the budget.

There has also been much debate on the UK Government's continued changes to the welfare system. With support for millions of working families relying on Ministers getting the new 'Universal Credit' right, the project is too important to mess up, particularly in these difficult times. I'm concerned about reports detailing that the project is in trouble.

There has been suggestions that chaos is swirling around the Government department in charge, with ministers having failed to take into account basic details of how the scheme will work. I'm in favour of Universal Credit and welfare reform. That is why I want it to succeed. The Government needs to come clean about the problems and set out a plan to address its flaws before it's too late, and people across the UK end up paying the price.

Many constituents have been in touch about rail fares following the recent announcements on the West and East Coast rail franchises. I share the growing anger at the eye watering prices many people are having to pay. This was debated in the House of Commons last month where Conservative and Lib Dem MPs voted against a strict cap on future annual rail fare rises of no more than one per cent above inflation.

The rising cost of rail travel is adding to the financial pressures that many people are facing and this is an area where something can be done to make a real difference.



NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK

MONDAY 17 - SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2012

YOUR VISION MATTERS

I was delighted to back National Eye Health Week which took place between 17 - 23 September.

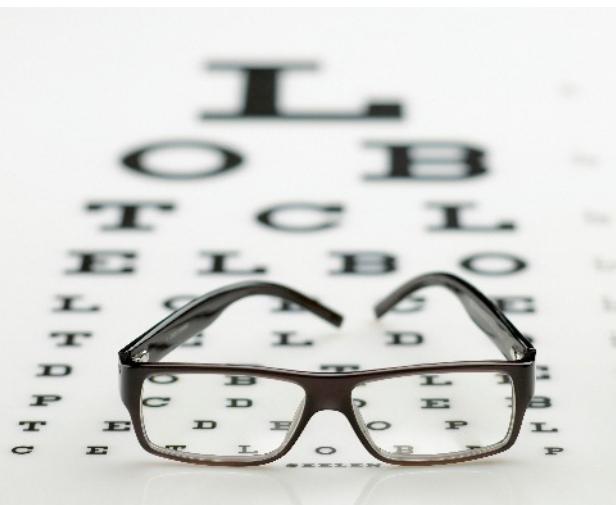
The week aims to raise awareness of the importance of eye health and the need for everyone to have sight checks every two years to look after their eyes.

As someone who ran a joint-campaign with local opticians the Optician at Marchmont last November, I'm all too aware of the importance of having healthy eyesight, particularly at a young age. As we did during that campaign, I now

encourage all my constituents to find out how they can look after their eye health and to ensure they have their eye health checked by going for a sight test every two years.

Sight is the sense people fear losing the most, yet many of us don't know the best way to look after our eyes. This is why it is so important you get your eye health tested every two years even if you think your vision is fine as some eye conditions may not show symptoms.

Visit www.visionmatters.org.uk for more information.



A Gathering for Syria

Tuesday 30th October 2012, St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh
6pm-7pm

A coming together of civic and faith communities: with music, readings and reflections to express shared support and hope for the people of Syria.

This event is hosted by the Church of Scotland and supported by Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association and City of Edinburgh Council.



Buying on your doorstep? Know your rights



The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) have launched a campaign that residents may be interested in.

The OFT's 2012-13 'Doorstep Selling Campaign' aims to empower older or vulnerable consumers to make effective purchasing decisions when buying on their doorstep and reduce their vulnerability to rogue traders. The OFT is working with local authority Trading Standards Services, Citizens Advice and other key players to increase awareness of the issue of rogue doorstep trading, particularly amongst people over 70 years and their families, friends, carers and neighbours.

The campaign provides consumers with practical tips and informs them of their rights including the following:

- Think twice before you buy and, if you are made to feel under pressure to make a purchase, have the confidence to say no.
- Be wary of time-limited or exclusive offers that need to be signed on the spot - this can be a high pressure sales tactic.
- Double check the facts. Do you fully understand the costs

and know whether it includes extras like installation, on-going serving charges or warranties?

- Always shop around to compare products and prices.
- Talk to someone you trust for a second opinion.
- If you spend more than £35 with a trader on the doorstep, you usually have seven days in which to cancel (subject to certain conditions).
- If in doubt, call the Citizens Advice consumer line on 0845 404 0506 or visit www.adviceguide.org.uk

Research conducted on behalf of the Office of Fair Trading highlights the elderly as being particularly at risk of doorstep selling scams. One in five people over the age of 70 who were interviewed admitted to not being confident in deciding whether to employ a tradesperson and a fifth of those questioned couldn't see through pressure sales tactics such as having to pay cash in advance or having to make a quick decision to get a good deal.

Not all doorstep sellers are bogus, however unlawful traders can be unscrupulous and

use a range of persuasive tactics to sell seemingly irresistible offers to unsuspecting and often vulnerable people in their homes. I'm urging everyone who knows or cares for a vulnerable, elderly person to make sure they are aware of their rights when it comes to suspect door step approaches. No one should feel pressured into making a rash buying decision. If in doubt always think twice and get a second opinion.

Complaints about home maintenance and illegitimate doorstep sellers traditionally peak in the summer months. While it is not illegal to canvas for work door to door, rogue doorstep trading remains a serious issue for vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly who live alone. Decisions made on the doorstep can result in a great amount of distress for those who are duped out of money for substandard products or services. It is crucial to be aware of your consumer rights and share this knowledge.

AT THE DESPATCH BOX





Questions to the
Secretary of State for
Business, Innovation and
Skills

Due to the recent Government reshuffle, I am now shadowing a new Ministerial face as Norman Lamb was moved to the Dept for Health. He has been replaced by fellow Scot Jo Swinson.

Earlier in September, I had my first opportunity to question her on the Government's continued attempts to water down the rights of employees. Click the play button below to watch the exchange.



Labour's
Policy
Review

**Confidence and Competitiveness:
The new consumer policy agenda**
A consumer investigation for
Labour's Policy Review by Ed Mayo





Since February, in my Shadow Ministerial role, I have been working with consumer champion Ed Mayo in taking forward Labour's investigation into the UK's consumer landscape.

Ed Mayo is Secretary General of Co-operatives UK, the membership network for co-operative businesses. From 2003 - 2009, he was Chief Executive of the National Consumer Council, merging this with two other bodies to found a new statutory con-

sumer champion, Consumer Focus, in 2008. Ed has been described by the Independent as "the most authoritative voice in the country speaking up for consumers". The report forms part of Labour's Policy Review.

The investigation found billions of pounds have been lost through consumer cons, where annual consumer loss in the financial services sector accounts for as much as £11bn per year. It also revealed that the poorest in

our society pay more for services and called for a new collective action power and consumer fighting fund to restore confidence and trust.

We held three evidence hearings and took submissions from various organisations and businesses which have built up a picture of the scale of consumer loss. Those on lower-incomes pay on average £1,289 per year more for goods and services than those on average incomes, while

a small number of consumer problems account for more than three quarters of all financial loss. Tackling these would significantly reduce overall loss to consumers.

Some markets and services fare better than others, with vehicle repairs, banking and utilities scoring most poorly on consumer experience, while the

To deal with Britain's consumer cons, the investigation calls for an overhaul of consumer protection, putting consumer confidence at the heart of economic policy. 'Trust in consumer protection rules' was identified by consumers themselves as the most significant root cause of success in individual markets.

The consumer investiga-

procedure would put the consumer at the heart of the economy, improve consumer confidence and better promote good business practice. It will equally provide a carrot and a stick to business that makes individuals as powerful as the businesses that serve them.

At the launch earlier this month, Report author and

Ed Mayo's Report Recommendations:

- Introduction of class action to the UK - empowering people so they can club together more easily to seek redress in cases which affect many consumers, such as the PPI mis-selling scandal. Currently, individual consumers have to opt in for group action in the UK, making it cumbersome, and Which? is the only organisation able to launch collective redress proceedings.
- Consumer enforcement fighting fund - establish a 'fighting fund' to help consumer and boost enforcement from a proportion of the fines levied on companies for malpractice.
- Open Access Obligation for lifeline services - Set an Open Access Obligation to encourage access to lifeline services based on a principle of inclusion - services which are essential for people to operate in a modern market economy and could include broadband and banking services.
- Confidence policy objective - Set consumer confidence as a government policy and regulatory objective.
- Government consumer lead - A consumer lead working across government, which could include helping amplify the voices of consumers more effectively through civil society organisations.

most common complaints relate to poor service quality (20 per cent of complaints) and defective goods (17 per cent). An analysis of post codes and complaints revealed consumer 'black spots', with complaints far higher than the national average including in Bradford, Manchester and Cowbridge, South Wales.

tion is clear that the balance of power between business and customers has to be rebalanced towards the customer. Good businesses lose out to bad businesses and the recommendations of the investigation attempt to provide consumers with a better deal. The idea of a Portuguese style collective action

consumer champion Ed Mayo, said: "The experience of consumers is a litmus test for future economic success. Where consumers are confident, they can reward good business practice.

IAN MURRAY MP

**Your Member of Parliament for
Edinburgh South**

Twice Weekly Advice Sessions

Every Monday and Friday at 9.15am

At 31 Minto Street

Just drop in - no appointment necessary

Every 3rd Saturday of the month

9am - Gracemount Leisure Centre

10am - Liberton High School

11am - Constituency Office, 31 Minto Street

Noon - The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road