

# John Mason MSP

Member of The Scottish Parliament for  
Glasgow Shettleston Constituency



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Parliamentary Patter



June 2025



John meeting British Polio Fellowship

## Assisted Dying

The Scottish Parliament held an emotional debate with strongly opposing views on the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. Around 44 MSPs contributed personal and passionate speeches before the Stage One vote. The Bill, introduced by Liam McArthur MSP, passed its first hurdle with 70 votes in favour and 56 against. John voted against the Bill, warning it poses serious risks to older and vulnerable people and raising concerns about individuals feeling pressured to end their lives. He also criticised proponents for not addressing potential cost-saving motives behind the legislation.

## Education Costs

On May 7, the Education Committee began scrutinising the Tertiary Education Bill. Key stakeholders include Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). The Bill proposes shifting apprenticeships from SDS to the SFC, sparking debate over responsibilities and financial implications. John highlighted concerns over potential £23 million pension costs for staff transfers.

## Education Bill

The Education Committee concluded Stage 2 consideration of the Education Bill, working through all 350 amendments with lengthy sessions, some till 10pm! John and Ross Greer MSP unsuccessfully pushed to remove “HM” from the new Chief Inspector’s title. With tensions over language and structure still unresolved, Cabinet Secretary Jenny Gilruth faces significant negotiations ahead of Stage 3 deliberations.

## Theatre Performance (Scots Article)

On 15 May, John gied praise tae a pooerfu performance by Without Compromise Theatre at the Pairlament. The show delivered a sair-strikin message aboot the ruin drugs and drink can bring tae lives, freendships, an relationships. John said it could be gey effective if shown in schuils.

## Celtic FC Celebrations

John has questioned the large and disruptive gathering of football fans around Glasgow Cross on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May. He walked around the area and noted the heavy police presence, green smoke and blocked streets which caused significant disruption to residents, businesses, and public transport users. ScotRail also lost money as there were no ticket checks at High Street station. He also pointed out that while many fans tried to dispose of cans and bottles properly, the lack of bins made it difficult. During First Minister's Questions on May 22, John urged football clubs to take more responsibility for fan behaviour beyond the stadium, calling for better planning and stronger measures to curb anti-social activity.



John meeting with the Wise Group

## Financial Strategy

The Scottish Government has faced criticism for delaying the publication of its Medium-Term Financial Strategy, drawing sharp rebuke from the Finance Committee. John shared the Committee's statement, highlighting the value of planning a number of years ahead rather than just one year at a time.

## Music School Performance

On May 17, John attended the East Glasgow Music School's summer concert at Eastbank Primary. There were excellent performances by talented young performers from a range of schools. He expressed gratitude to the dedicated teachers, tutors and volunteers whose hard work and commitment make the event possible. John highlighted the important role these supporters play in nurturing young people's musical talents.

## Public Inquiries

John attended a thought-provoking session of the Finance Committee focusing on Public Inquiries. He highlighted concerns over the high costs and lengthy durations of public inquiries, questioning whether they truly prevent repeated mistakes. Since 2007, the cost of inquiries in Scotland has reached £230 million and continues to rise.

Office	Surgeries (Excluding School Holidays)	Contact
1335 Gallowgate Parkhead Cross Glasgow G31 4DN  0141 550 4327	<p><b>1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH</b> 14:00–Bridgeton Library, <i>Olympia Building, Bridgeton Cross, G40 2BJ</i></p> <p><b>2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH</b> 14:00–Baillieston Library, <i>141 Main street, G69 6AA</i></p> <p><b>3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH</b> 14:00–Shettleston Library, <i>154 Wellshot Road, G32 7AZ</i></p> <p><b>EVERY FRIDAY</b> 17:00–Constituency Office, <i>1335 Gallowgate, G31 4DN</i></p>	<p>0787 943 0877 john.mason.msp@parliament.scot www.john-mason.org</p> 