

Parliamentary Patter



September 2025



John with Humane World for Animals.

Donald Trump's Visit

John has lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament highlighting the recent private visit of US President Donald Trump to Scotland. While noting the international attention the visit brought, John expressed concern about the heavy cost to public services. Reports suggest around 5,000 police officers were deployed, with rest days and annual leave cancelled, placing pressure on routine policing. John praised the professionalism of Police Scotland but argued that, since the trip was not official, Scottish and UK taxpayers should not bear the cost. Instead, he called for recovery of expenses from Mr Trump or his businesses.

Farrowing Crates

John was pleased to meet Humane World for Animals on Argyle Street, where they were promoting their Crate Free Britain campaign. He expressed full support for ending the use of farrowing crates, which restrict pigs' movement and wellbeing. John highlighted that just as many people now choose free-range eggs, we should also ensure that the pork and pig products we buy come from higher-welfare systems.

Hebrew Congregation

John was privileged to attend the Annual Civic Service at Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, held as part of the Edinburgh International Festival. The event brought together politicians, consular representatives and community leaders. John reflected on the Rabbi's challenging sermon, which urged building bridges not only with those we agree with, but even with those we may not like.

Value of Free Education (Scots Article)

John welcomed the recognition of Glaswegian-born artist Jasleen Kaur, a Turner Prize winner who gained credit for free, state-funded education for her success. John highlighted her story as proof that talent can be paired with opportunity, emphasising the need to protect free access to education for everyone.

If you would like to receive this each month, please contact the office on 0141 550 4327 or email john.mason.msp@parliament.scot.

Power of Attorney

John has raised concerns about weaknesses in Scotland's Adults with Incapacity law, now 25 years old. While powers of attorney and financial guardianships are important tools, John highlighted that attorneys and guardians face too little oversight, creating risks of misuse. A recent case in the constituency saw nearly £28,000 taken from a vulnerable relative by their appointed guardian, exposing gaps in supervision. John argued that long-delayed reforms must be prioritised, with stronger safeguards, training, and accountability measures.



John with British Heart Foundation staff & volunteers.

British Heart Foundations


John visited the BHF Scotland shop at Parkhead Retail Park, celebrating its first anniversary. He was impressed by the wide range of affordable furniture, clothes and other items, supported by both staff and volunteers. John also discussed the urgent need for more defibrillators in Glasgow's East End to improve community health and safety.

UK Aid Cuts

John has warned in a motion that UK aid cuts are disproportionately harming Africa. He noted that asylum costs, while important, are set to take up one fifth of the reduced aid budget, leaving only 0.3% of national income for overseas development. Direct funding to partner countries has halved since 2019, with serious consequences for the poorest communities. John urged the UK Government to restore its commitment to those most in need.

Tax Justice

John expressed full support for Tax Justice Scotland's call to reform Scotland's outdated Council Tax system. He backed key proposals, including a property tax based on actual value, regular revaluations, and new legislation to protect low-income areas. John stressed that bold, cross-party leadership is urgently needed to ensure fairer local government funding.

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

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