

# John Wilson MSP

Representing Central Scotland

August 2015 Newsletter



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Closure of vital Wishaw service will put more pressure on A&E

John challenged the Scottish Government on the closure of the GP out of hours service in Wishaw in the face of A&E waiting time figures which show that A&E services in Lanarkshire are already under extreme pressure.

In August NHS Lanarkshire again failed to meet the target of 95% of patients seen within four hours at A&E. In other NHS areas out of hours services are used to reduce the burden on A&E doctors.

The closure is part of an interim plan while the NHS board awaits the results of the national out of hours review. However, NHS Lanarkshire's current proposals hold no plans for reopening the service, and outline the possibility of removing the second remaining facility at Airdrie to leave only one out of hours service in Hamilton for the whole of the area.

"GP out of hours services provide an important service to the people of Scotland. By closing the Wishaw out-of-hours GP service undue pressure has been put on A&E doctors and this is visible in the waiting times at A&E hospitals in Lanarkshire."

## Supporting SSPCA to cope with increased pressure

John submitted a Parliamentary motion highlighting the excellent work carried out by the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) and asking the government to ensure they have the support to

continue in the face of an increased workload. SSPCA investigation cases rose to over 78,000 last year, placing a massive strain on their resources. The

SSPCA, which receives no government or lottery funding, currently helps twice as many animals as they were able to in 2007, in spite of this, the average fine for animal abuse remains at only £139.



SCOTTISH SSPCA

"I am calling on the Scottish Government to demonstrate how seriously it takes this issue by ensuring that the SSPCA are funded appropriately, and that stricter penalties are imposed for those who perpetrate acts of animal cruelty."

## Local Democracy vs National Interest

John has asked the Scottish Government what criteria its reporters use when considering whether to overturn planning applications that have been previously rejected by local authorities. In the wake of several controversial reversals, John felt the criteria under which local democracy and public opposition are over-written in the national interest should be subject to public scrutiny. Commenting on the decision to allow 'Clean Power' a planning application for an incinerator in Hamilton.

"It is disappointing to see a decision made by South Lanarkshire council and backed by over 500 public objections overturned by a Scottish Government Reporter. This decision undermines the ability of local governments to effectively represent their local areas."

Other recent interventions by Government ministers or reporters include the decision by ministers to overrule council objections to the proposed 'PD Stirling' rail freight terminal at Mossend, which will remove the last remaining greenspace in the area and numerous applications for housing developments on greenbelt land opposed by communities and councils across the region.

"The Scottish Government has made unilateral decisions which will have dramatic impacts on local areas, without acknowledging the views of local communities."

## Autism support for apprentices



John recently submitted questions to the Scottish Government about apprenticeship prospects for people on the autistic spectrum.

Asking how many people with autism were undertaking modern apprenticeships, what support was available to apprentices, career advisors and job coaches and also how barriers that exist within the recruitment and interview process could be minimised to ensure more people on the autistic spectrum were able to access modern apprenticeships.

The costs of this publication have been met out of Scottish Parliamentary resources. Please note that the Scottish Parliament is not responsible for the content of other internet websites.

## Hidden Trade Agenda

John has submitted a motion to parliament condemning the increased secrecy around the controversial Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) trade agreement, a free trade and investment treaty that has been negotiated in secret between the European Union and the USA.

New rules mean access to documents is being further restricted, even to the MEPs who represent the public's interests. John has been a long term campaigner against the secret trade deal which gives large corporations power over the regulations and standards which protect public services like the NHS.



John in **Viewpark** campaigning against TTIP as part of the 38degrees national day of action

“TTIP will have a negative impact on the delivery of public services, employment rights, and the democratic process itself. I am concerned at the increase in secrecy around the trade negotiations. Lack of transparency in government is always a concern especially around such a controversial issue as TTIP.”

## Local Focus:

John joined Airdrie North Councillor Alan Beveridge to register opposition to plans for a new super quarry in **Caldercruix**.

Concerns have been raised that the quarry will serve only to create profits for already wealthy business owners to the detriment to Caldercruix and its residents with the anticipated excess traffic, noise and dust pollution.

John visited DNDP (Delivered Next Day Personally) in **East Kilbride** to learn more about their operation. The social enterprise, which offers an alternative ‘point to point’ community based delivery service, aims its services at organisations such as other social enterprises and charities, whilst helping people with disabilities and health barriers into self employment.



On the 6th of August John was joined by peace campaigners in **Coatbridge** at Drumpellier Peace Garden, to remember the hundred thousand innocent victims of the nuclear strikes on two Japanese cities in 1945.

At Carbrain Gala Day in **Cumbernauld**, John spoke with ‘Back to School Uniform Bank’ who redistribute donations of new school uniform for children of all ages to families unable to purchase new uniforms themselves.

## SURGERIES

**Friday 11th Sept**

Falkirk ASDA

**Monday 21st Sept**

Chryston Cultural Centre - 10.00am  
Coatbridge, New Townhead Community Centre  
11.30am

Coatbridge ASDA - 1.00pm

**Monday 28th Sept**

Bellshill Cultural Centre -10.00am  
Motherwell, South Dalziel Studios -11.00am

No Appointment Required

## CONTACT JOHN

**Email:**

john.wilson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

**Parliamentary Office:**

Room M3.18, Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH 99 1SP  
Tel: 0131 348 6684

**Regional Office:**

Unit 37, Coatbridge Business Centre  
204 Main St, Coatbridge ML5 3RB  
Tel: 0123 642 9120

**Website:**

www.johnwilsonmsp.com