



# David Linden

## Member of Parliament for Glasgow East



0141 778 1177

@ david.linden.mp@parliament.uk

facebook.com/DavidLindenMP

www.davidlinden.scot

@DavidLinden

### April 2019 newsletter

Brexit is still blundering on, but that doesn't mean I'm getting distracted from the day job. Over the past month, I've been even more busy than usual, with more hours spent down in London meaning working longer hours back in the East end to make up for lost time! As you'll see in this latest newsletter, there was no end of work for me in March, with plenty happening here and down the road at Westminster to occupy my time.

There's only so much that can fit into a newsletter though, so be sure to keep an eye on my social media channels and website for daily updates!



### A winning match for Glasgow Girls

I'm gearing up to run the London Marathon at the end of April and I've got two targets to beat—my finishing time from last year and the total raised for charity. My fundraising efforts received a massive boost recently with Glasgow Provan MSP Ivan McKee pledging to match the first £1,000 in donations.

Ivan's incredible generosity means that your donations will have double the value, and twice the benefit for Glasgow Girls FC, which is an amazing local club making a real difference to families right across the East end of the city.

With your spare change now going further than before, please give whatever you can to help this incredible local club by visiting:

<https://davidlinden.scot/marathon>



### Low stakes come into play

As a long-time campaigner for lowering the stakes on highly addictive electronic gambling machines I'm delighted that, as of the start of this month, change has finally come.

If you've followed my work you'll know that I've been ardently campaigning on this issue, even bringing a petition signed by East end residents all the way to the door of the Prime Minister. Despite Fixed-Odds Betting Terminals being dubbed the "crack cocaine of gambling", the campaign faced fierce opposition from powerful industry lobbying from bookmakers.

The reduction in the maximum stake from £100 to £2 will make a massive difference to our communities, reducing the misery caused to families and stopping the exploitation of vulnerable people. I'm proud to have played a small part in helping deliver that.



## Disabilities Minister missing in action

Last month, I met with the Minister for Disabled People to discuss a hugely important issue surrounding Universal Credit payments to disabled students. The very next day, the Minister became the latest in a long list of resignations amid the Brexit chaos.

Incredibly, the UK Government had still not replaced the Minister at the time of writing—three weeks later. It's clear that disabled people are being treated with utter contempt by a Government that has given up any pretence of doing the day job, favouring instead to devote its attention to Brexit and holding the Conservative party together. Scotland deserves much better.

## Pay rise leaves youth in lurch

April marks the annual rise in minimum pay bands, but also highlights the state-sanctioned age discrimination against under-25s, who are not entitled to the same pay protection as their peers.

A 20-year-old can legally be paid more than £2 less per hour than someone a few years older, whilst apprentices get the worst deal of all, with poverty wages as low as £3.90 per hour. I'll continue to campaign for pay equality, but if the UK Government refuse to deliver it then they must devolve the necessary powers to Scotland so that we can take care of it ourselves.

## The Bill

My job regularly involves quite a few meetings with local bodies and stakeholders. This kind of co-working is essential in order to properly tackle the problems people care about in the East end.

Last month, I met up with Glasgow East Police Area Commander, Chief Inspector Pat Murphy, for a catch up on progress being made towards ensuring that our communities are safer places.

Local police have a tough job to do and I was thrilled to hear about some recent success stories of hardworking officers fighting crime. The meeting also gave me a chance to raise some issues brought to me by constituents and resolve some issues.



## The Nappies Bill

As Brexit blunders on, I've been getting on with the day job and last month that included the launch of my very first piece of prospective legislation. The Nappies (Environmental Standards) Bill aims to prevent manufacturers of disposable nappies from making false environmental claims, and to protect and promote reusable nappies like those manufactured at incredible local business TotsBots up in Queenslie. Reusables have come a long way and are an incredible way for parents to not only save money, but to help save the planet. I'm proud to be doing my bit to help!

I'm even more delighted that the Scottish Government is now including a TotsBots voucher in all Baby Boxes so that new parents can get a reusable nappy for free!



So, the 29 March deadline passed and the UK remained in the EU. Despite telling the House of Commons over a hundred times that the UK would be leaving the EU on that date, Theresa May performed yet another screeching u-turn and negotiated an extension to the Article 50 process.

It's difficult to pick any particular moment in Theresa May's Brexit journey where it all went wrong. It has been a compendium of calamity; one ill-advised decision after another. All the while though, Scotland has been kept at arm's length, whilst the Prime Minister sought to cosy up to a tiny band of DUP MPs and the extreme right-wing of her own party.

The Prime Minister's deficient decision-making reached a crescendo this past month with several displays of unfathomable misjudgement; the worst of which was a hot-headed rant blaming MPs for her own shambles. In an attempt to distract from her failings, Theresa May broadcasted an eerie piece of propaganda in which she attempted to make a direct appeal to the public, whilst bunkered in a wood-panelled room in Downing Street. After speaking for just four minutes, the Prime Minister turned and walked away without taking a single question from journalists.

Condemning MPs and trying to turn the public against them is the height of irresponsibility from a woman whose Government was the first in history to be found in contempt of Parliament. A little under three years ago, MP Jo Cox was brutally murdered outside one of her constituency surgeries. This is still very much at the forefront of my mind, and of my colleagues and staff. Very regrettably though, it seems to have slipped the Prime Minister's attention and she should be utterly ashamed of her behaviour. Her desperate smear of MPs didn't work though and within hours, a petition to revoke Article 50 was gaining thousands of signatures every minute. Since then, it has become the fastest growing parliamentary petition in history, repeatedly crashing the website as it struggled with people arriving in their millions to sign it.

Now I know not everyone in the East end voted to remain in the EU, but the vast majority of people I talk to here, whether they voted leave or remain, don't want Theresa May's hard Tory Brexit, which will damage Scotland's economy and cause job losses. Even more worrying though is that, at the time of writing this, we are hurtling towards a no deal Brexit due to the Prime Minister's intransigence and obstinacy. I can't even begin to explain how deeply damaging this would be. The Government has now established a command centre for a no deal Brexit in a nuclear bunker under the Ministry of Defence in addition to spending billions of pounds in contingency planning. All the while, The UK Government has just given up on the day job; something we see clearly through soaring poverty rates and a knife crime epidemic in England.

One thing has been clear throughout this process. The House of Commons doesn't listen to people in Scotland. It didn't listen when we voted 62% to remain in the European Union. It's not listened in the indicative vote process. All the while Scotland's caught up in this mess. The only way to get rid of that, the only way to get out of it, is for Scotland to rejoin the family of independent nations within Europe.

## Cutting through the chaos

A lot of what's going on with Brexit is confusing, there's no shame in admitting that. If the Prime Minister herself doesn't know what's happening most of the time, how on Earth is anyone else meant to? With everything moving up a notch recently, I'm doing what I can to make sure my constituents are kept up to date with the latest developments in an easily digestible format. Not only have I launched the Brexit Breakdown—an ongoing series of short explainer videos available through my social media channels—but there's now a dedicated page on my website providing a rolling update on the process. Stay in the loop by visiting:

<https://davidlinden.scot/brexit>



## Parliamentary praise for scouts

I was delighted to accept an invitation to visit the Fifth Clyde Broomhouse Scouts recently to find out more about their work. I was really struck by the incredible work being done by the tireless volunteers, and by the inspirational young scouts themselves. I was also very touched to receive a special gift—a necktie which I duly wore in the House of Commons to heap some praise on this amazing group.

My words clearly struck a chord because the video of that subsequently went viral online, now having been watched almost 60,000 times. If you know of any other groups doing great work in Glasgow East, tell them to get in touch!



## World Book Day

Any parents of young kids reading this will know just how big World Book Day is, so I was delighted to be able to make it to Carmyle Primary to read to some of the pupils.

My book of choice—Danny Wallace's Hamish and the Neverpeople—went down a treat, and afterwards some of the children interviewed me about my reading habits for their school's social media channels. Later in the day I got even more into the spirit of things with some dress-up at Parkhead Community Nursery!

## Working for you in every community across the East end of Glasgow

I run a number of regular surgeries throughout the East-end of Glasgow. All of these operate on a first-come first-serve basis and there is no need to make an appointment.

If you need help or advice, pop along to see me. If none of these times are suitable, please get in touch by email or phone.

### Easterhouse surgery

This surgery will not run on 19<sup>th</sup> April due to it being Good Friday  
The Bridge, 1000 Westerhouse Rd, Glasgow, G34 9JW  
Third Friday of every month at 10am

### Cranhill surgery

Cranhill Development Trust,  
109 Bellrock Street, Glasgow, G33 3HE  
First Friday of every month at 10am

### Parkhead surgery

Parkhead Library, 64 Tollcross Road,  
Glasgow, G31 4XA  
Second Friday of every month at 10am

### Constituency office

Academy House, 1346 Shettleston Road, G32 9AT  
If you require an appointment to see me at my constituency office, please phone 0141 778 1177 or email [david.linden.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.linden.mp@parliament.uk) in advance

### Transport links

Services 2, 46, 60, 60A, 61, 310, 364, N2, N60 all have stops within walking distance  
Shettleston Rail Station is a five minute walk



### Baillieston surgery

Baillieston Library, 141 Main Street, Glasgow, G69 6AA  
Fourth Friday of every month at 10am