



# David Linden

## Member of Parliament for Glasgow East



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## October 2018 newsletter

September was a little quieter for me than normal as I've taken some time out to welcome a new addition to my family. I'll be back to my normal routine this month, but in the meantime here's an update of some of what kept me busy during September.

And remember, if you want to be kept up to date with my work, you can sign up online to receive this newsletter in your email inbox every month at [davidlinden.scot/newsletter](http://davidlinden.scot/newsletter)



## Up and running

For the third year in a row, I took to the streets of Glasgow to participate in the Great Scottish Run at the end of September.

My charity of choice this time was Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity (formerly Yorkhill). My newly-born daughter has been in intensive care there, receiving the best possible care and treatment from our precious NHS. Seeing first-hand the excellent work they do to support families like mine, I decided to support them.

At the time of writing this, I'd smashed my initial fundraising target by over 100% and raised an incredible £635. I'm very grateful and humbled by everyone's generosity and privileged to have been able to support the charity in this way. If you'd like to donate, you can still do so at:

[justgiving.com/fundraising/david-linden8](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/david-linden8)



## Universal Credit reform overdue

Universal Credit, the system designed by the Department for Work and Pensions which aims to roll six benefits into one, has been plagued with problems and flaws from day one. Regular readers will know that myself and my SNP colleagues have been campaigning to have the roll-out of Universal Credit halted, so that these issues can be addressed and resolved.

Now, my colleague Philippa Whitford MP has brought forward reforms that would ensure that Universal Credit is paid to individuals, rather than into a single household bank account, as the current situation makes it easier for perpetrators of domestic abuse to exert financial control – leaving victims isolated and unable to leave an abusive relationship. I spoke in favour of the plan in the House of Commons last month, taking the matter up directly with The Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work.



## Painting parliament pink

I recently added a splash of pink to my usual attire to support Breast Cancer Now's wear it pink fundraiser, which will take place on Friday 19 October to raise money for vital breast cancer research. I was joined by over 200 other parliamentarians in Westminster last month, all encouraging people across the UK to take part on wear it pink day and raise money for Breast Cancer Now. You can join me, as well as thousands of others across the UK, to sign up and take part in wear it pink which takes place during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To take part in wear it pink this October, please visit [wearitpink.org/2018MP](http://wearitpink.org/2018MP) for further details.

## Bloodwise aim to make blood cancer visible

September was Blood Cancer Awareness Month and blood cancers are the fifth most common type of cancer in the UK and the third biggest cause of cancer death in the UK. Over 40,000 people are diagnosed with a blood cancer or related blood disorder each year in the UK. Despite being a common cancer killer, awareness of blood cancers among the general public and policy makers is low. That's why I'm backing a campaign by charity Bloodwise to raise awareness of blood cancer and put it at the forefront of the Government's cancer plans. 1 in 19 people are affected by blood cancer and it is vital that blood cancer awareness is central going forward.



## Out of bounds

Last month, the Boundary Commission released final recommendations for new UK Parliament constituency boundaries. If these changes were to go ahead, it would mean a reduction in the number of elected MPs by 50. It would also see integral communities such as Easterhouse, Craighend, Garthamlock and Gartloch taken out of Glasgow East.

Whilst I'm keen to see electoral reform, these plans are ill-judged and would result in less scrutiny of Government. I would much rather see an elected second chamber to replace the bloated, unelected House of Lords than a reduction in the number of Members of Parliament. The Government need to halt these ridiculous plans, for which I doubt they have majority support to enact.



## Proxy voting

Owing to the fact that I've taken a small amount of paternity leave recently, it looks likely that I'll have to miss some votes at Westminster once it returns following the conference recess period. Before that though, I took part in a debate on proxy voting, which would allow MPs like me to be able to cast our votes in such circumstances.

Recently, a Member of Parliament had to be wheeled through the voting lobby in a wheelchair with a sick bucket in her lap, because of the antiquated voting procedures in place.

There has been a great deal of consensus about this matter and it is time for the Government to stop dragging its heels and bring in proxy voting.

## Brexit update

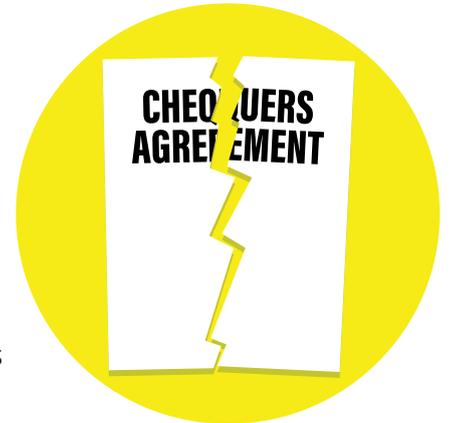


At the time of writing this, there is a fleetingly limited window for agreement on the terms of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. A process that has lasted for over two years now has fewer than two hundred days left, with no concrete signs of progress.

The party in charge is determined to deliver its own Brexit, a Tory Brexit, and has stubbornly refused to listen to sensible voices, such as those from the SNP, which have called for reasonable compromise measures to limit the inevitable damage that leaving the EU will inflict upon us. The Tories cannot seem to agree with one another, so please excuse me if I appear sceptical that they will deliver a reasonable deal with the remaining 27 EU member states.

The EU referendum delivered an overwhelming vote in Scotland for us to remain, yet in less than half a year, the UK Government intends to drag us, and the rest of the UK out of the EU. Over the past couple of years they have risen roughshod over not only the views of the Scottish people, but of their elected representatives and of the devolved settlement.

The Prime Minister clings to her "Chequers Agreement", seemingly unwilling to compromise despite having little support from even within her own party. It is reported that at least 80 of her own MPs will not back Chequers and will be prepared to vote it down because they think it would deliver too soft a Brexit. Meanwhile, the EU have been clear that her proposals on customs and trade in goods are unacceptable and need to be softer. The risk of the UK exiting the EU in March with no deal is, disturbingly, very real. That prospect is unthinkable and would cause untold disruption and damage right across the UK. Consequences range from flights being grounded to medicines running out. This isn't baseless scaremongering either, this is very real and incredibly serious.



A 'No Deal' scenario should be an unthinkable prospect, yet the Prime Minister has constantly underplayed its damning ramifications with her 'No deal is better than a bad deal' rhetoric. Her Chequers Deal, however, is completely unworkable, and a Brexit with little detail about our future relationship with the EU, a 'blind Brexit', would be chaotic.

The UK Government's Secretary of State for Health recently wrote to suppliers of over 8000 medicines asking them to stockpile up to 6 weeks of supplies. This one example alone should make every reasonable individual sit up and take notice of the complexity of the problems created by Brexit.

The time for talking is very nearly over and as we near the end of the negotiation process, it is clear that the only acceptable alternative to staying in the EU is continued membership of the Single Market and Customs Union. Both are essential for our economy, and for the people of Scotland.



## Council boundary change Steps forward

Recently, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland brought forward proposals to move almost 200 houses in Steps from Glasgow City Council into North Lanarkshire Council boundaries following overwhelming support from local residents.

I've been chasing the progress of this matter and am pleased to announce that I've had confirmation from the Scottish Government that the proposals have been accepted in full and will now move on to the next stage towards implementation - welcome news to many in the area!

# You spoke, I listened - more Supermarket Surgeries coming

As the East-end's MP, I'm always keen to offer new and different ways for people to chat with me about anything they'd like help or advice with. That's why I recently launched a series of Supermarket Surgeries to complement my established regular surgery schedule. Importantly, these additional drop-in sessions provide an accessible and informal way for folk to see their MP in person and to discuss whatever matters to them.

Following successful surgeries at Tesco and Asda stores in Shettleston and Parkhead, I'll be visiting Morrisons next to reach out to other areas in the East end. If you'd like to attend, there's no need to make an appointment - just pop along during the advertised times below.

**Morrisons Baillieston** - Saturday 20th October, 11am-12:30pm  
**Morrisons Easterhouse** - Saturday 24th November, 9:30am-11am



## 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

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

