



# Stewart Maxwell MSP

Scottish National Party

Representing you in the West of Scotland

Aug—Oct 2003

## Contact Stewart

### Parliament

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### Constituency

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0141-887 2185

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## Maxwell pledges to fight cuts in local maternity services

Stewart Maxwell MSP has pledged to fight the proposed cuts to maternity services across the west of Scotland.

Speaking after the latest announcement on closures to maternity services Stewart said;

“Enough is enough. The Vale of Leven hospital supposedly had its maternity services temporarily closed down, but this was quickly followed by the announcement that full services would not be restored. Then the Rankin Hospital in Greenock had its consultant led maternity service cut.

“Now we see the announcement of a plan to close the Queen Mother’s Hospital in Glasgow. Maternity services are under attack right across the west of

Scotland and it is time we told the health board bureaucrats and government politicians that we will not accept these closures without a fight.

“When the Argyll & Clyde Health Board announced its plans for maternity services at the Rankin and the Vale of Leven it was stated that mothers-to-be could choose to go to Glasgow if they wished. Well I want the health board managers to answer this question. Now that the Queen Mothers is earmarked for closure, where should mothers-to-be go if they do not want to travel to Paisley?

“The truth is that as a result of the announcement by Greater Glasgow Health Board that they are to shut the

Queen Mothers, Argyll & Clyde Health Board have no answer. Their strategy for maternity services is in tatters.

“Women now have no choice. As far as the Health Board is concerned they can go to Paisley and either like it or lump it.

“The worst of the situation is that Labour MSPs who are in government in Edinburgh have stood idly by and watched while the local health service is destroyed. They have fiddled while the health service burns.”

Stewart will be attending a public meeting concerning the Vale of Leven Hospital on the 19th November. The meeting will be held in Dumbarton Burgh Hall and starts at 7:30pm.

## Anti-smoking proposal gains widespread support

Since the announcement that West of Scotland MSP, Stewart Maxwell is to publish a Bill to ban smoking in premises where food is supplied and consumed, hundreds of messages of support have flooded in.

Speaking about the reaction to his announcement to publish the Bill Stewart said;

“I am delighted and overwhelmed by the level of public

support for my proposal. Over 90% of all those who have contacted me have been right behind my proposed Bill.

“I have met with the health minister and have urged him to support this measure and vote to pass my Bill and bring clean air to people in Scotland. Passive smoking kills and we have to bring in legislation to help protect all non-smokers, especially children and those staff who work in the hospitality industry.”

## Constituency Office Opens

Stewart Maxwell MSP has opened a new constituency office in the heart of the West of Scotland.

The new premises will provide a much needed central point of contact within the West of Scotland region. The offices are located in Paisley, which is the main centre of the West of Scotland region.

Speaking after the opening of the offices, Stewart said;

“These offices are an invaluable resource and will allow people to contact me through either the Parliament or the local office. The office is now fully staffed and is open 5 days a week. I will be working 2 days per

week in the constituency office and 3 days per week in the Parliament in Edinburgh. However members of my staff will be available at the office all week and if nobody is around when you phone then just leave a message and we will get back to you.”

The office also has a private meeting room where you can meet Stewart in confidence.

### Surgeries

Starting in November, Stewart will be holding a surgery in his office on the last Friday of the month between 09:30 and 12:30 with the exception of July, August and Decem-

ber. If you cannot make these times then please contact the office and arrange for a more convenient time. If you have a problem getting to Paisley then please contact the office and arrange to meet Stewart at a location that suits you. Contact details for the office are;

14 William Street  
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PA1 2LZ

Tel: 0141-887 2185

Fax: 0141-887 2183

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## Maxwell defends local fire stations

Stewart Maxwell MSP has urged all those who want to retain their local fire station to fight any attempts by the Labour led Government to downgrade or even close their local station. Mr Maxwell took the opportunity of a speech in Parliament to make a pledge to fight any cuts in the fire service stating; “I welcome, as does the fire service itself, any measures that will improve the-

service to the public and make public safety the number one priority, but if this Labour/Lib Dem Government intend to use ‘modernisation’ as an excuse to cut the service then I will oppose them all the way.

“The Labour Minister in charge

of the fire service has already stated in an answer to me that she is expecting to save money from the proposed changes. “All of us need a fully crewed fire station close to our homes. None of us know when we will need the fire brigade to come to our aid. The fire service should be about saving lives not saving money.”

*“The fire service should be about saving lives not saving money”*

## PFI is putting private profit before public safety

Stewart Maxwell MSP has vowed to continue the fight against Labour’s disastrous PFI scheme.

Stewart said, “PFI is nothing short of a disaster for the public. We have more and more examples of cost-cutting putting the public at risk in our schools and hospitals.

“In East Renfrewshire the new Mearns primary school, built using the PFI scheme, had its roof ripped off by the wind within days of open-

ing. An example of profit before children’s safety.

“In the Highlands and Islands Labour is attempting to privatise the fire brigade using PFI. It is incredible that they would put private profit before public safety, but they carry on unashamed of the risks they are taking.

“In Edinburgh the new Edinburgh Royal Infirmary is an example of all that is wrong with this scheme. PFI cost cutting has resulted in the failure

of power supplies, fewer hospital beds for patients, lack of proper ventilation in the hospital and patients, staff and visitors being ripped off for using the car park.

“PFI is about private profit and not public service. It is about hocking the future and leaving our children with a mountain of debt. The SNP have promoted a not-for-profit trust as the solution, but Labour will not listen.