

Stewart Maxwell MSP

Representing You in the West of Scotland



Maxwell Fights for Scottish Produce

West of Scotland MSP Stewart Maxwell is campaigning to get Scottish Bottled Water sold at WH Smith Travel shops in all major rail stations throughout Scotland. Stewart said,

“I noticed over a period of time that WH Smith Travel shops in Glasgow Central, Glasgow Queen Street and Edinburgh Waverley stations sell many different types of bottled water, including English, French and Italian makes, but no Scottish bottled water. Given that these shops are situated in our major rail stations and are potentially the first and/or last places that tourists see on their visit to Scotland, I felt it was important that these shops should be stocking Scottish products.

“I therefore contacted WH Smith’s to ask them why this was so and what they were willing to do rectify this situation. Unfortunately their response was very disappointing. They told me that their marketing and stocking decisions were based on market share and that none of our Scottish brands fulfilled their criteria. Frankly I do not believe that Scottish bottled water has a lower market share in Scotland than those brands stocked by WH Smith Travel.

“I contacted them again to point this out and that if you do not stock and prominently place something then there is no chance of that market share growing. However once again I was disappointed by their dismissive response.

“It is clear, despite my letters and a Motion to Parliament, that WH Smith has no intention of stocking Scottish bottled water and I feel it is now time for you to show them that you will not sit back and see Scotland’s products undermined.

“If you want to see Scotland’s bottled water stocked and prominently displayed in WH Smith Travel stores in all of Scotland’s rail stations it is time to make your voices heard. Write and show your anger at this anti-Scottish behaviour to Ms Kate Swann, Chief Executive, WH Smith, Greenbridge, Swindon, SN3 3LD.

“Let your voice be heard and support Scottish workers, Scottish companies and Scottish produce. You can make a difference.”

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Maxwell Opens Scottish Tobacco Control Alliance AGM

Stewart Maxwell MSP was delighted to be asked to open the STCA AGM on 11th May in Dundee. Stewart said,

“It’s a great honour to be asked to open this prestigious event. I was particularly delighted when told I had been invited due to the prominent role I played in the campaign for an enclosed places ban on smoking in Scotland.

“Members of the STCA worked tirelessly alongside me to ensure that the smoking ban came to fruition and I am delighted to support their conference.

“However there is still much to be done. New figures obtained by my colleagues revealed that no one was proceeded against for selling tobacco to under-16’s last year.

“It beggars belief that not one single person was prosecuted for selling under-16’s cigarettes last year when we know that smoking among youngsters is such a serious problem in Scotland. It is illegal to sell cigarettes to those less than sixteen years of age and yet all research shows that the vast majority of those under the age of sixteen who smoke get cigarettes from shops.”

Maxwell Wins Doubling of Sentences for Knife Crime

West of Scotland MSP Stewart Maxwell was delighted that his amendment to the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice Bill, which doubled the maximum sentence for carrying a knife in public was passed by the Justice 2 Committee. This amendment means that the maximum sentence in summary cases will increase from 6 to 12 months in jail. Stewart said,

"I am delighted that the committee supported my amendment to enable the doubling of sentencing for knife possession in summary cases. The West of Scotland suffers more than double the rate of knife crime than the rest of Scotland. Figures show that 72 people were killed by a 'sharp instrument' last year and the vast majority of them came from the West of Scotland. I believe that my amendment, along with other measures, will deter young men from carrying knives and help to save the lives of many Scots.

"This Bill required an amendment such as mine to ensure that those who carry knives are dealt with appropriately. My amendment will allow Sheriffs to deal appropriately with those who terrorise neighbourhoods and cause fear and misery to society at large through the carrying of knives.

"I hope the fear of spending much longer in prison for the carrying of illegal knives will go some way towards making the streets of the West of Scotland safer for people of all ages.

"As well as ensuring that those convicted of possessing a knife are adequately punished we must try to deter people from carrying a knife in the first place. That is why I am also campaigning for the use of hand-held metal detectors at the doors of certain pubs and clubs in a bid to curb knife violence in Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

"My proposal is that, as part of the licensing process, Licensing Boards attach conditions to applications to ensure that hand-held metal detectors are used at the doors of pubs and clubs, either where door stewards are used or where there is particular police intelligence to suggest such measures would be appropriate.

"It might be impossible to stop fights from breaking out late at night after several drinks, but if we are able to prevent individuals from carrying knives then such fights become far less dangerous. If people

know they will be detected if they try and bring a concealed knife into a pub or club, then they will stop carrying them. It will be a simple choice of going into town and enjoying yourself with your friends or staying at home with your knife.

"Standard hand held metal detectors cost approximately £110 so would not be a large financial burden on business owners. I have no doubt that this change in licensing policy would save many lives and prevent countless injuries and I look forward to local authority support for this measure throughout Scotland.

"I look forward to the day when my campaign is successful and the streets of Scotland are knife free and safe for everyone to walk in."



Maxwell Made Patron of Paisley NOS Support Group

West of Scotland MSP Stewart Maxwell was honoured to accept being made a patron of the new Paisley District National Osteoporosis Society Support Group. Stewart said,

"I am honoured and delighted to be asked to be a patron of the new Paisley District NOS Support Group. Since being elected as an MSP I have been actively involved in campaigning on behalf of those suffering from osteoporosis and I am delighted that an osteoporosis support group has now been

established in the Paisley area.

"Support groups exist throughout the country and they are an extremely important source of



advice, information and support for those who suffer from osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a widespread problem. It is estimated that there are 200,000 women and 40,000 men in Scotland who suffer from Osteoporosis and I am delighted that Paisley will now have its own support group. I wish the group every success and hope it will go from strength to strength in the coming months and years. I look forward to helping in any way that I can"