

# Stewart Maxwell MSP

## Representing You in the West of Scotland



### Successful Conclusion to 'Health for All' Campaign

After a two year campaign Stewart Maxwell MSP welcomed the news that ISD (NHS Statistics Division) will soon, publish Scottish data for more than 450 indicators on the same basis as the World Health Organisation's *Health for All* database. Stewart said,

"The publication of this data represents the successful conclusion of a two year long campaign. In September 2004 I discovered that Scotland was not represented as a separate country on the very useful European *Health for All* database compiled by the World Health Organisation. I pursued the matter with the Scottish Government, demanding that they provide Scottish data for all the indicators on the *Health for All* database so that Scotland would be identified as a separate country from the rest of the UK.

"The government refused to agree to this and responded by saying that they had "no plans to pursue the possibility of Scotland separately submitting information directly to the World Health Organisation for the population of their European Health For All Database.

"Instead they stated that they had already commissioned work to publish the Scottish figures, but would not be submitting them to the WHO. However on further investigation it became apparent that they had only commissioned the work after I had

demanded that this work be done and not prior to it as they had suggested.

"After months of pursuing the government for the Scottish data I was eventually sent a private copy of it, but no attempt was made to publish the information more widely. In fact people asking the government for a copy of this health data were refused permission to view it. This deliberate attempt to conceal the Scottish data only ensured that I re-doubled my efforts to have the material published.

"I wrote to the WHO and they agreed to provide me with a free copy of their database, all the European data with which to populate it and all the free technical assistance we required to run the database. This allowed me to meet with ISD and push for them to collate and publish the information.

"That work has now been completed and a copy of the WHO Health for All database will be hosted on the Scottish Public Health Observatory's website. [www.scotpho.org.uk](http://www.scotpho.org.uk) This will allow direct comparison between Scotland and other countries in Europe on around 450 different health indicators.

"I am delighted that two solid years of behind the scenes campaigning by me has resulted in the publication of hitherto hidden data."

#### Constituency

Saltoun House  
14 William Street  
Paisley  
PA1 2LZ

(Tel) 0141 887 2185  
(Fax) 0141 887 2183

#### Parliament

Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
Holyrood  
EH99 1SP

(Tel) 0131 348 5669  
(Fax) 0131 348 6479

#### Email Stewart

Stewart. Maxwell.  
[mstp@scottish.  
parliament.uk](mailto:mstp@scottish.parliament.uk)

### Vote to protect Scottish Bottled Water

Stewart Maxwell MSP has continued his campaign for W H Smith travel to stock Scottish bottled water. As part of his campaign to see Scottish bottled water stocked by WH Smith travel shops in Scotland's main railway stations, Stewart has launched an online poll on his website,

[www.stewartmaxwellmsp.com](http://www.stewartmaxwellmsp.com)

to enable you to register support for his campaign. Stewart said,

"Despite many letters to the company and a motion to Parliament, WH Smith travel have thus far refused to stock Scottish bottled water. Therefore I have now launched an on-line poll because I feel that the only

way to persuade the company to change its mind is through public pressure. This is why I am asking you to log on and register your vote on this poll on my website. By doing this you can express your disapproval of the anti-Scottish action W H Smith travel have taken in their stores throughout Scotland."

# Fire-Safe Cigarettes Debated in Parliament

Stewart Maxwell MSP was delighted to get the opportunity on the 18<sup>th</sup> May to hold a Members' Debate in the Scottish Parliament on the subject of fire-safe cigarettes. This debate was aimed at highlighting the danger of unattended lit cigarettes and how the introduction of fire-safe cigarettes in Scotland would help to save lives. Stewart said,

"Both the Chief Fire Officers Association and the Fire Brigades Union, have backed my campaign. Introducing fire-safe cigarettes to Scotland would cut fires, reduce fire injuries and save lives and with Scotland's unenviable record of fire fatalities this is something that is desperately needed.

"Of the 77 fire deaths in Scotland that occurred in the home in 2004, 30 were caused by fires started by cigarettes. Making fire-safe cigarettes the norm in Scotland would play a huge role in reducing the number of fatalities, as well as reducing damage to property, the overall number of fires and injuries from fires.

"Three US states; New York, Vermont and California, have already passed laws on fire-safe cigarettes, while Canada has also passed similar legislation.

"New York was the first to complete a year with fire-safe cigarettes and the initial figures show that in the first year

the state saw the number of people killed by cigarette-related fires fall by almost a third. A similar move here could result in 10 fewer deaths in the first year alone in addition to the many hundreds of people who would escape injury.

"If we are serious about reducing the number of deaths from fire in Scotland, we must support the implementation of a new fire safety law that would require all cigarettes sold in Scotland to be fire-safe cigarettes."

## Metal detectors would help to tackle knife carrying

Stewart Maxwell MSP welcomed the news that the Scottish government are planning to purchase 1000 hand held metal detectors to be used by the police to search for offensive weapons on the streets of Scotland. This comes after Mr Maxwell campaigned to have such detectors used at clubs and pubs which are deemed to require them. Stewart said,

"I am delighted that the government have responded to my call for the use of hand held detectors to help stop knives

being carried in public. I have no doubt that the use of metal detectors on the streets of Scotland will have a significant impact on the culture of knife carrying. Using metal detectors will assist in decreasing the number of knives that are carried in public and help to apprehend those that carry such weapons.

"However the work is not yet complete. I have contacted Licensing boards throughout Scotland to ask them to attach conditions to the licences given

to pubs and clubs. This would ensure that they had to use hand-held metal detectors at their entrances when it was deemed appropriate by the local authorities or the police.

"So far the response from the local authorities has been mixed, but I will continue to pursue them to ensure that local authorities face up to the problems with knife crime and the important role they could play in combating it through the adoption of this measure."

## Scotland must bid for European Football Championships

Stewart Maxwell MSP has asked his fellow MSPs to support his motion calling for Scotland to launch a solo bid to host the European Football Championships. Stewart said,

"Scotland is a well established footballing nation in its own right and has a long and glorious tradition in European and world football. I believe that Scotland is more than capable of hosting the European football championships on its own and I feel the benefits of a solo bid are both obvious and plentiful.

"If Scotland managed to win the fight to

host the championships the benefits of bringing this tournament to Scotland would far outweigh the costs involved. The construction of new or improved stadiums in our cities, combined with the upgrading to our transport infrastructure, would bring a short term jobs boost followed by long term economic benefits. These benefits would be accompanied by the opportunity to enhance the Scottish tourist industry and to promote sport and healthy living to the next generation.

"It is clear from the previous unsuccessful joint Scotland-Ireland bid that it would be far better for Scotland to launch a solo bid. Such a Scotland

only bid would be far more likely to succeed than the previous effort and would ensure that all the benefits that would accrue from hosting the championships would come to Scotland.

"However, for such a bid to be successful it must involve the combined effort of the Scottish government, the Scottish football authorities and the public and private sectors all working together to secure the tournament for Scotland. It is time for Scotland to be ambitious and a bid for the European football championships would help promote Scotland around the world."