

Stewart Maxwell MSP



The Scottish Parliament

MAXWELL ATTENDS REHIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As an Honorary Vice-President of the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland I was delighted to attend REHIS's 27th annual conference which was held on 19th and 20th May in Renfrew.

I heard some very interesting speeches from the President of REHIS, Mr Roderick House, and from the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Harry Burns who spoke on the tremendous effect that environment and social conditions have on health, not just on infection but on diseases such as heart conditions. This, of course, shows the continuing and perhaps under-appreciated importance of public health.

Stewart chatting to Dr Burns at the REHIS Annual Conference



NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Faces £1 billion Burden

I was dismayed at figures released recently showing that over the next five years NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde faces a £141.5 million bill for PPP/PFI projects, including the new Victoria & Stobhill ACADS. Figures from the Treasury show that the contracts will end up costing NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde a total of £1 billion, part of a £7 billion burden faced by health boards across Scotland.

The capital value of the two new ACADS at Victoria & Stobhill is £177.9 million, but over the next 30 years we will pay £773.11 million for them, almost 4.5 times what they are worth.

This is a devastating hit to the budget of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde particularly at a time when budgets are under increasing pressure.

The table below shows just how much we will all have to pay for these projects.

Project Name	Term of Repayment	Est Tot Cap Value (£ mill)	Est Total Repayment (£ mill)
Gartnavel Royal Hospital	30	17.00	87.60
Larkfield	25	9.40	47.03
SCG –geriatric medicine	30	11.60	44.60
Stobhill & Victoria ACADS	30	177.90	773.11
Stobhill Local Forensic Unit	35	17.00	111.24



STEWART HOSTS BIG LOTTERY FUNDING ADVICE SESSION

I was delighted to host a Big Lottery Scotland funding advice session on Monday 14th June at Woodfarm High School.

In conjunction with Big Lottery Fund Scotland advice was offered to sports clubs, voluntary and community organisations and local schools in the area on some of the grant schemes available.

The event was well attended and many organisations indicated that they had found the session most useful.

I hope that many of the groups who attended the event will apply for funds and will benefit from the funding that is available, as demonstrated by the fact that three East Renfrewshire community groups have recently been successful in applying for *Awards for All* funding, securing a total of £21,660.

This is great news for East Renfrewshire and a real testament to the hard work, dedication and many hours invested by all those involved. These recent grant awards illustrate that the Big Lottery offers a great opportunity to put some really worthwhile local community projects into action.



Stewart with John Duncan, Public Affairs Mgr, Big Lottery Scotland

Maxwell Meets Muslim & Jewish Representatives On Non-Invasive Post Mortems

I was pleased to be asked to attend a presentation given by Prof Derrick Pounder from the Centre for Forensic & Legal Medicine at Dundee University. This presentation was given in the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities offices in Giffnock and was most interesting and instructive.

As part of my work in the Justice Committee I have been dealing with the Criminal Justice & Licensing Bill and one issue which I have been pursuing vigorously for some time now is the subject of non-invasive post mortems.

Some religious groups, and, of course, some people of no religious persuasion at all, are distressed by a post mortem being carried out on the body of a loved relative.

The Crown Office at the moment can instruct pathologists to carry out view and grant post mortems where it is possible to determine the cause of a person's death simply by examining the body and the patient's records and perhaps taking blood samples and ordering an x-ray and so on.

I have been working to make this 'view and grant' service more widely available, always ensuring, of course, that the interests of justice are served first and that if an invasive post mortem is required it is carried out.

Get in touch...

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