

SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVE MSPs

Scottish Conservatives MSPs are making the difference in the Scottish Parliament. Our 16 MSPs in less than **12 months** have delivered **12 solid achievements**:

1,000 extra police officers

Conservative pressure during the budget making process secured a Government commitment to increase police numbers by 1,000 - with 300 being recruited next year alone. These extra police officers will cut crime and make Scotland a safer place.

Big cuts in business rates

During the budget making process the Conservatives secured big cuts in business rates. Scotland's 150,000 smallest businesses will pay no rates at all from April 2009. Larger businesses will also experience significant cuts. This decision to get off the back and out the pocket of Scottish businesses is long overdue.

A new drugs strategy

Conservative MSPs secured commitment for a National Drugs Strategy that places greater emphasis on abstinence and recovery. For the first time in years Scotland has a real chance in the fight against drugs.

A freeze in council tax

Our support helped introduce the freeze in council tax. We continue to campaign for a cut in council tax for hard-pressed taxpayers across Scotland.

An end to tolls on the Forth and Tay bridges

Our support helped ensure the end of tolls on the Forth and Tay bridges. Our amendments mean that these

tolls cannot be resurrected under the guise of a road charging scheme, as proposed by the previous Lib/Lab Executive.

The maintenance of A&E services

Our local campaigns were instrumental in saving A&E departments at Ayr and Monklands Hospitals. We will continue to fight against the over-centralisation of key hospital services.

A strong defence of the Union

There is no question that Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland are stronger economically, culturally and internationally as a result of the Union. We are Holyrood's staunchest supporters of the United Kingdom. The Scottish Parliament must be about delivery, not divorce.

A bill to protect rural schools

Too often in the past we have seen small schools closing. This rips the heart out of rural communities as young families move away from the area. Conservative MSP Murdo Fraser has proposed a Member's Bill to safeguard rural schools and the communities that depend upon them.

A tough stance against classroom indiscipline

A Conservative Freedom of Information request revealed that a member of staff is physically attacked every 14 minutes of the school day.

Control of our schools should be handed back to head teachers, who must be given the freedom to decide if unruly pupils are permanently excluded from the classroom.

Better protection against sex offenders

Within weeks of the election the Government agreed to our proposal that sex offenders who breach the terms of registration requirements should have their details published, when in the best interest of the public safety. Pictures of those who breach the terms of their sex offender registration are now published on the internet.

A major drive to promote local produce

Buying local produce is good for the economy, public health and the environment. Our "Buy Local, Eat Local" campaign will continue to press the minority SNP Government to take the necessary action to make it easier for public agencies to procure local produce.

A new bill to enhance Scotland's tartan industry

Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor has launched a Member's Bill to introduce a National Register of Tartans. This has been adopted by the Government to ensure that the future of a hugely important part of Scotland's heritage is protected.



Annabel Goldie
West of Scotland
Leader of the Conservatives in The Scottish Parliament



Bill Aitken
Glasgow
Justice



Ted Brocklebank
Mid Scotland & Fife
Europe



Gavin Brown
Lothians
Enterprise and Tourism



Derek Brownlee
South of Scotland
Finance



Jackson Carlaw
West of Scotland
Health



Murdo Fraser
Mid Scotland & Fife
Deputy Leader & Education



Alex Johnstone
North East
Transport



John Lamont
Roxburgh & Berwickshire
Community Safety



Jamie McGrigor
Highlands & Islands
Communities and Sport



David McLetchie
Edinburgh Pentlands
Chief Whip & Business Manager



Mary Scanlon
Highlands & Islands
Health



Nanette Milne
North East
Environment



Margaret Mitchell
Central



John Scott
Ayr
Rural Affairs



Elizabeth Smith
Mid Scotland & Fife
Schools

Making the difference