

ELECTION COMMUNICATION

[ADDRESS DETAILS]



@PAULWHEELHOUSE



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ETTRICK, ROXBURGH & BERWICKSHIRE

Hello,

The election on 6th May is crucial; your vote can change Scotland's future. It will be **Scotland's choice: whether Scotland's destiny should be in Scotland's hands, or stay in Boris Johnson's.**

The choice in May is about who is best placed and trusted - nationally and locally - to lead our communities through the final stages of the pandemic; rebuild our economy; and face up to the challenges that lie ahead, including tackling the impact of Brexit.

Despite having to deal with COVID-19 and Brexit, the Scottish Government has delivered tremendous achievements in this last Parliament, including: nearly 3,000 'Baby Boxes' for Borders' parents; a 68% increase in superfast broadband coverage in the Borders, to reach 89%; invested £89m on new schools in the Borders; established Social Security Scotland and the new Scottish Child Payment worth £520 per year.

If re-elected, we will go further, including: doubling the Scottish Child Payment; building 100,000 new affordable homes; establishing a new National Care Service; and bringing ScotRail back into public hands. As part of ensuring our economic recovery, we'll create a new Rural Entrepreneurs' Fund to support 2,000 new businesses with up to £10,000 each; and we'll guarantee a place in education, work or training for every 16-24 year old in Scotland.

However much we might wish it away, Brexit impacts on local farmers, fish processors and businesses, every day. **It was opposed by nearly two-thirds of Scots, but in an unequal UK, Scotland's voice was ignored by Boris Johnson.** The election will not settle whether or not Scotland regains her independence, or her place in the EU - if re-elected, we intend that that will be for you to decide in a new vote, once the pandemic passes. However, the London-controlled parties all say they will neither rejoin the EU nor will they 'allow' Scots to chart a better course.

Leadership at a local level is crucial. I've lived in Berwickshire for 21 years and have been honoured to serve as an MSP for South Scotland since 2011 - working with local partners and agencies to get results. **My team in Hawick and I have helped or supported over 10,000 constituents since 2016.** I've brought to the role my experience as an economist and as a Minister, covering issues like business, innovation, justice, environment, digital connectivity, energy and climate change.

I've secured £133m in investment in gigabit speed broadband for South Scotland and two new 4G phone masts at Ettrick and Whitropefoot. I helped secure a new Reston railway station and **I've always backed the reinstatement of the Borders Railway**, helping secure £5m from the Scottish Government for a feasibility study to examine extension of the route to Hawick, Newcastleton and Carlisle. The climate emergency is real, so I'm proud to lead Scotland's energy transition, with 97% of Scotland's current electricity needs now able to be met by renewables.

I am proud of my record as a South Scotland MSP, but now I'm asking you - on the 6th May - to put your faith in me as your next constituency MSP. In return, you'll get a strong local representative who will listen, engage with you and work constructively in the best interests of all those who choose to make this beautiful constituency of ours their home.

Yours,



Paul Wheelhouse

SNP Candidate for Ettrick, Roxburgh & Berwickshire





"I still remember the joy of Paul getting elected on the list at the last elections and thank goodness he did. Paul has served as a Minister in the Government with distinction, covering portfolios - including policy on the environment, business, digital connectivity and energy - that are critical to rural areas like the South of Scotland, and giving the Borders a voice at the heart of Government. He's been a great MSP for the more than half a million people of South Scotland, but I hope that voters in Ettrick, Roxburgh & Berwickshire give him the opportunity to focus his whole experience, passion and undoubted ability on their constituency alone - that will be to their advantage in the years to come."

CALUM KERR | FORMER MP FOR BERWICKSHIRE, ROXBURGH & SELKIRKSHIRE

"Paul has been a constant support to our Local Project - Friends of Eyemouth Fort. He instigated and enabled an event held at Holyrood which showcased our initial project and our vision for the way ahead. We give talks all over Scotland every year because of that! Eyemouth is now 'on the Scottish Map'! His continuing interest in all local activities is so refreshing."



FIONA GLOVER | FRIENDS OF EYEMOUTH FORT



"Paul has been a great help in the cause to bring the Waverley line back through Newcastleton and onto Carlisle and made sure I could put our case forward to the Scottish Government's Transport Secretary. He has also been a source of advice and support on our successful bid for funding to the Scottish Land Fund, helping us to secure the 750 acres of land at Holm Hill for the ownership of the community."

GREG CUTHBERT | COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, NEWCASTLETON

EVEN MY OPPONENTS SAY I'M AN EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTARIAN

"I, too, must praise the Minister for his approach. I do not want to embarrass him too much, but I have to say that he has given something of a masterclass in cross-party co-operation. The process has been driven by the Minister. He has managed to get people virtually round the table and to agree on pretty much everything [...]. Anyway, I say to the Minister, 'well done - really well done'."

GRAHAM SIMPSON, CONSERVATIVE

"I again pay tribute to the Minister, Paul Wheelhouse, for the way in which he has engaged with other parties across the Parliament. That is the right way to make legislation, as was evidenced by all the amendments being dealt with in record time."

ALEX ROWLEY, LABOUR

"I thank the Minister again for the way he has sought to take on board proposals from Opposition members. [...] I thank all those who have played their part in a productive and genuinely collaborative process."

LIAM McARTHUR, LIB DEM



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WHEELHOUSE, PAUL
FOR ETTRICK, ROXBURGH & BERWICKSHIRE



SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (SNP)



**SCOTLAND'S
FUTURE
SCOTLAND'S
CHOICE**