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## Early Day Motions tabled on Wednesday 23 September 2020

Early Day Motions (EDMs) are motions for which no days have been fixed.

The number of signatories includes all members who have added their names in support of the Early Day Motion (EDM), including the Member in charge of the Motion.

EDMs and added names are also published on the EDM database at [www.parliament.uk/edm](http://www.parliament.uk/edm)

[R] Indicates that a relevant interest has been declared.

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### New EDMs

#### 917 Humanitarian and human rights situation in Zimbabwe

Tabled: 23/09/20 Signatories: 1

**Margaret Ferrier**

That this House is deeply concerned about the on-going humanitarian and human rights crisis in Zimbabwe, despite the fresh start promised by President Mnangagwa when he took office over two years ago after the end of former President Mugabe's rule; notes with alarm that over half the population is dependent on food aid, as well as the virtual collapse of the health and education systems, and more general infrastructure; further notes with regret that fundamental rights are routinely being violated, with reportedly more than 70 Government critics having been abducted and tortured by men suspected to be state security agents in the last year, including MDC Alliance MP Joanna Mamombe and activists Cecilia Chimbi and Netsai Marova, who are now incredibly being tried for faking their abduction and torture; urges the Zimbabwean Government to undertake meaningful political and economic reform, and particularly to investigate alleged serious human rights abuses and corrupt practice over the last two years and prosecute those responsible; and calls on the Government to continue providing vital humanitarian assistance to Zimbabweans on the basis of need, to support and protect Zimbabweans committed to democracy, rule of law and an equitable economic recovery, and to apply targeted sanctions on those responsible for the most serious human rights abuses.

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#### 918 Death penalty sentences against protestors in Iran

Tabled: 23/09/20 Signatories: 1

**Margaret Ferrier**

That this House is shocked by the execution of champion wrestler, Navid Afkari and the alarming frequency of death penalty sentences being handed down to those involved in anti-Government protests in 2018 and 2019 in Iran; notes with alarm that the execution of Mr. Afkari is the second recent execution in connection with those protests and that his trial was held behind closed doors

and allegedly relied on forced confessions extracted under torture; echoes the call of UN human rights experts earlier this month to the Iranian Government to immediately halt all executions of protesters sentenced to death; and calls on the Government to raise relevant concerns with the Iranian Government as a matter of urgency to ensure that the death penalty is imposed only for the most serious crimes and after proceedings meeting the highest level of respect for fair trial and due process standards.

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### 919 Shortage of learning disability nurses

Tabled: 23/09/20 Signatories: 1

**Bob Blackman**

That this house expresses concern that there will potentially be a repeat of the 134 per cent increase in deaths of people with learning disabilities that happened between 10 April and 15 of May 2020 with the recent rise of covid-19 cases without more learning disability (LD) nurses; notes that the NHS North West London Trust recently decided to recruit another learning disability nurse to address the issues that led to this increase in deaths; further notes that more LD nurses would help the Government implement its incoming Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training in Learning Disability and Autism; and calls on the Government to launch a campaign to support the recruitment of more learning disability nurses and get more into lead positions at hospitals.

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### 920 Freedom to worship

Tabled: 23/09/20 Signatories: 3

**Mr Gregory Campbell**

**Jim Shannon**

**Paul Girvan**

That this House notes recent court cases in the US where Churches that undertook reasonable restrictions while holding indoor worship services to help safeguard against the threat of covid-19 have been faced with more stringent demands, some being fined repeatedly as they remain open; and expresses the hope that across the democratic world, reasonable approaches and regulations can be taken which protect worshippers and their families, but do not extend to depriving them from the freedom to worship indoors.

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### 921 Maira Shahbaz and child abduction, forced conversion and marriage in Pakistan

Tabled: 23/09/20 Signatories: 1

**Brendan O'Hara**

That this House notes with grave concern reports from Pakistan on Maira Shahbaz, a 14-year-old Christian girl who was abducted at gunpoint from the streets of Madina Town in Faisalabad by three men, forced to convert to Islam and then marry one of her abductors, Mr. Nakash; is further concerned that, despite her family producing a birth certificate showing Maira to be 14-years-old and the Grand Mufti of a local mosque condemning as false the marriage certificate produced in court by Mr Nakash, the Lahore High Court overruled an earlier decision by the Faisalabad Sessions and District court to place her in a women's shelter, subsequently forcing her to return to Mr Nakash; understands that recently, Maira managed to escape from the home of Mr. Nakash and that she and her family are currently in hiding; calls on the UK government to do everything in its power

to help Maira and all of the estimated 1,000 Pakistani Christian and Hindu girls who are kidnapped, forced to convert and marry their abductor every year.

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## 922 Relocation of asylum seekers and refugees from Aegean Islands

Tabled: 23/09/20 Signatories: 1

**Stuart C McDonald**

That this House recognises the deteriorating conditions faced by asylum seekers and refugees on the Aegean Islands and notes the recent fire at the Moria camp in Lesbos which has left 13,000 people without shelter; welcomes the fact that Germany, France and Norway have agreed to take some of those vulnerable people; and calls on the UK government to participate in relocating asylum seekers and refugees from the Aegean Islands to local authorities in the UK and to provide the necessary support to enable that relocation.

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## Added Names

Below are EDMs tabled in the last two weeks to which names have been added. Only the first 6 names and any new names are included.

### 868 10th anniversary of the papal visit

Tabled: 9/09/20 Signatories: 16

**Mike Kane [R]**  
**Mohammad Yasin**  
**Patrick Grady**  
**Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**John McDonnell**

John Spellar

That this House warmly recalls the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK between 16 and 19 September 2010; notes his address to parliamentarians in Westminster Hall where he reminded us that religion is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation; recognises the important contribution of Catholic parishes, charities and schools to our communities; and sends its best wishes to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pope Francis and the Catholic community across the entire UK on this important anniversary.

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**869 Casual Workers' Rights**

Tabled: 10/09/20 Signatories: 15

**Sir George Howarth**  
**John McDonnell**  
**Ian Lavery**  
**Claudia Webbe**  
**Mick Whitley**  
**Chris Stephens**

Sir Mark Hendrick

That this House regrettably notes that casual workers' rights are wholly inadequate; further notes that zero-hours, rolling and other forms of insecure contracts have eroded job security and work-based entitlements to the extent that many people employed by such means are unable to buy or rent a home, afford utility costs or food; and calls on the Government to introduce legislative proposals to regulate insecure employment practices and institute rights for those employed by such means.

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**872 Statutory sick pay (No. 2)**

Tabled: 10/09/20 Signatories: 17

**John McDonnell**  
**Ian Lavery**  
**Jeremy Corbyn**  
**Claudia Webbe**  
**Dr Philippa Whitford**  
**Kate Osborne**

Ms Diane Abbott

That this House recognises that the covid-19 pandemic has highlighted that statutory sick pay (SSP) of £95.80 per week is not enough to live on, and that nearly two million low-paid part-time or zero hours workers are excluded from any sick pay at all; is gravely concerned that this situation puts them in the impossible situation of having to work while potentially unwell, thus putting their lives and those of their colleagues, customers and even patients at risk; recognises that many thousands of good employers already offer decent contractual sick pay arrangements for their workers, and believes they should not be undercut by bad employers who pass their responsibility onto taxpayers; recognises that the cost of failing to protect public health also causes severe economic damage; and supports the Don't Leave, Organise campaign in calling for Full Sick Pay Now via legislation to make it compulsory for all employers to provide six weeks of contractual sick pay at full pay, followed by an increased rate of statutory sick linked to the level of statutory maternity pay, with further steps to cover self-employed and zero hours workers.

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**873 The global wildlife trade and prevention of future zoonotic pandemics**

Tabled: 10/09/20 Signatories: 8

**Sir David Amess**  
**Jonathan Edwards**  
**Lloyd Russell-Moyle**  
**Martyn Day**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Claudia Webbe**

Hannah Bardell

Kenny MacAskill

That this House notes with concern the increased risks of future pandemics from the continued exploitation and commodification of wildlife in the global wildlife trade; further notes that zoonotic diseases are responsible for over two billion cases of human illness and over two million human deaths each year, that sixty percent of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic and that seventy percent of these are thought to originate from wild animals; understands that the trade in wild animals is the likely cause for the emergence of the covid-19 pandemic and that the over-exploitation of wildlife has been identified as one of the dominant drivers of biodiversity loss; considers that this is not the first time that infectious zoonotic diseases have been linked to wild animals in recent years with SARS, Ebola and MERS all believed to have passed from wildlife to humans; and calls on the Government to show global leadership to ensure a pandemic like this never happens again by utilising the opportunity of the G20 meeting of world leaders in November to call for a ban of the international commercial trade in wild animals and wild animal products, and to work with other Governments, global institutions and bodies elsewhere to bring about an end to the global wildlife trade.

**878 Auchengeich Mining Disaster**

Tabled: 11/09/20 Signatories: 33

**Steven Bonnar**  
**Dr Philippa Whitford**  
**Stuart C McDonald**  
**Dave Doogan**  
**Allan Dorans**  
**Kenny MacAskill**

Neale Hanvey

That this House acknowledges that Friday 18 September 2020 is the 61st anniversary of the Auchengeich Mining disaster; respectfully remembers the 47 men who lost their lives after a fault with equipment caused a fire in the mine; further remembers that 41 women were widowed by this tragedy, and 67 children lost their father; expresses gratitude to the Auchengeich Memorial Committee for their commitment in continuing to commemorate the disaster by arranging a memorial service every year at the Auchengeich Memorial statue in Moodiesburn; notes with regret that the memorial service due to take place on Sunday 13 September 2020 has had to be cancelled but that a prayer and a blessing will be conducted after a wreath is laid by the Memorial Committee; and conveys its sympathies to the family and loved ones of the miners.

**880 Suspension of income requirements for family visas**

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 45

**Stuart C McDonald**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Jonathan Edwards**  
**Deidre Brock**  
**Margaret Ferrier**  
**Richard Thomson**

Neale Hanvey

Hannah Bardell

That this House notes that there are thousands of couples and families who are currently separated, or at imminent risk of becoming separated, due to restrictive income requirements for British nationals and settled residents wishing to be joined in the UK by a partner from outside the EEA; welcomes the Minister for Immigration's commitment of 23 March 2020 that no one will have a negative outcome through the immigration system due to a circumstance that was beyond their control; further notes that family separation would clearly constitute such a negative outcome; further welcomes that Minister's statement of 1 September 2020 that the circumstances brought about by the coronavirus pandemic are exceptional; notes with concern, however, that income requirements continue to be imposed on the sponsors of people applying to enter or remain in the UK with their British families despite those assurances; notes that guidance for caseworkers makes no mention of flexibility in the application of income requirements; is deeply troubled by the potential impact on those who must meet those income requirements of mass job losses caused by the coronavirus pandemic; and calls on the Government therefore to immediately suspend income requirements.

**882 BBC Scotland and daily covid-19 briefings**

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 14

**Patricia Gibson**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**John Nicolson**  
**Stewart Hosie**  
**Chris Stephens**  
**Alyn Smith**

Neale Hanvey

That this House condemns the decision of BBC Scotland to stop broadcasting the Scottish Government's briefings on the covid-19 pandemic in Scotland; notes the consistent public interest in these briefings throughout this health crisis; is bewildered by the timing of this decision given that this is now a critical point when the public needs to be kept fully and speedily informed of any changes in public health advice as covid-19 cases begin to rise again; questions the BBC's status as a public service broadcaster in the light of this decision given that these televised covid-19 updates are particularly valuable to older people, those with hearing difficulties and those who are not always able to access online information; is not aware that medical experts were consulted on the efficacy of this decision and the implications it potentially poses for public health; is concerned that this decision was made following pressure from both the Conservative and Labour parties; and is aware that many have questioned the political neutrality of this BBC decision given that the new BBC director general is a former Conservative party councillor.

**883 19th anniversary of the arrest and disappearance of Aster Fissehatsion**

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 11

Carol Monaghan  
 Jim Shannon  
 Chris Stephens  
 Tommy Sheppard  
 Chris Law  
 Alison Thewliss

Hannah Bardell

That this House notes that 18 September 2020 marks the 19th anniversary of the arrest and disappearance of Aster Fissehatsion and 10 other political leaders following their demands that Eritrea's constitution be implemented and that elections be held; condemns the ending of media freedom a few days later with the closure of all non-Government newspapers and the arrest and disappearance of Dawit Isaak, Seyoum Tsehaye and nine other journalists; urges the UK Government and international institutions to press the Government of Eritrea to release those prisoners who are still alive and to advise the families of those who are deceased; and calls for recognition of the thousands of other Eritreans who have been arrested and disappeared during the past 19 years.

**884 Centrica**

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 50

John Cryer  
 Chris Stephens  
 Dawn Butler  
 Neil Coyle  
 John McDonnell  
 Judith Cummins

Layla Moran

Chris Law

Sir Mark Hendrick

That this House recognises the constructive approach taken by GMB Union and Unison in negotiations around their members' pay and conditions with British Gas and its parent company Centrica; condemns the tactics employed by that company in commencing those negotiations with threats to dismiss and re-engage its UK workforce on lesser terms; commends British Gas workers who while furloughed during the covid-19 outbreak voluntarily delivered thousands of food parcels with the Trussell Trust; and calls on the company to do the right thing, withdraw the Section 188 notice of potential redundancies and negotiate in good faith with workers' unions.

**886 Heartstone project in Glasgow North**

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 13

Patrick Grady  
 Drew Hendry  
 Kirsten Oswald  
 Jim Shannon  
 Jonathan Edwards  
 John Nicolson

Hannah Bardell

That this House welcomes the efforts of Heartstone a non-profit project helping to educate young people on issues of racism and xenophobia; notes that Heartstone has been working for over 35 years to challenge prejudice and intolerance most recently through its publishing of Heartstone

Odyssey, a trilogy of children's fantasy books addressing issues of race and gender; recognises Heartstone's commitment to tackling bullying and hate crime, the results of which were presented in an event in the Palace of Westminster in 2016; welcomes Heartstone's latest project launching in Glasgow North this year; encourages local businesses and organisations to support Heartstone in reaching its fundraising target; and wishes Heartstone every success in growing the Heartstone project in the future.

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## 888 Rural crime

Tabled: 15/09/20 Signatories: 7

**Jim Shannon**  
**Paul Girvan**  
**Lloyd Russell-Moyle**  
**Sir Mike Penning**  
**Allan Dorans**  
**Jonathan Edwards**

Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson

That this House notes that rural crime cost the UK £54 million in 2019, an increase of almost 9 per cent on the previous year according to the NFU which represents three quarters of farms and rural businesses; further notes the need for investment in security on farms; and calls on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to consider a scheme which would improve security on the farm and prevent rural crime from making the difficult life of a farmer from being unnecessarily more stressful and difficult.

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## 890 Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Tabled: 15/09/20 Signatories: 28

**Alexander Stafford**  
**Tim Farron**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Ben Lake**  
**Jonathan Edwards**  
**Lloyd Russell-Moyle**

Fiona Bruce

That this House welcomes and applauds that nothing stops a Macmillan Coffee Morning, not even coronavirus; acknowledges that cancer hasn't stopped during the pandemic where one in two people will be diagnosed in their lifetimes; recognises that Macmillan Cancer Support is currently campaigning to restore cancer care and treatment to prevent cancer from becoming the forgotten C in the coronavirus pandemic; notes the charity believes it is facing its hardest year in its 109-year existence, as it juggles delivery of its critical support for people with cancer from its famous nurses to its vital free helpline, alongside a significant drop in income due to fundraising events being cancelled; congratulates Macmillan Cancer Support who will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary of World's Biggest Coffee morning on Friday 25 September; understands that it is more important than ever to support this much loved annual event and calls on all members to raise a mug on social media this September to demonstrate support for the three million people living with cancer across the UK and show that they will not be forgotten within this crisis.

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**895 Extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**

Tabled: 17/09/20 Signatories: 16

**John Nicolson**  
**Alison Thewliss**  
**Carol Monaghan**  
**Stephen Farry**  
**Allan Dorans**  
**Liz Saville Roberts**

Neale Hanvey

Hannah Bardell

Ben Lake

That this House recognises the importance of retaining jobs in industries still affected by the ongoing covid-19 pandemic; further recognises that the cliff-edge October cut-off date of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is set to result in hundreds of thousands of avoidable redundancies; notes research from the Trussell Trust that the end of coronavirus job and income support is expected to spark a 61 per cent rise in food bank use this winter, plunging families across Scotland and the rest of the UK into poverty; and calls on the Government to act in line with other countries such as France, Ireland and Germany by extending the Job Retention Scheme into 2021.

**901 Loch Ness Hub**

Tabled: 21/09/20 Signatories: 4

**Drew Hendry**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Chris Law**  
**Hannah Bardell**

That this House welcomes the news that the Loch Ness Hub in Drumnadrochit will be used as a Community Transport Hub, tours and ticket sales office, baggage transfer base, tourist information hub and will promote local business, and things to do in the area; recognises that the hub is a community benefit company, which will put profits from its operations back into the community; notes that the hub has launched a community share offer, to allow the local community to invest in what matters to them; and wishes the hub continued success for the future.

**906 Midlothian Young People's Advice Service award from BBC Children in Need**

Tabled: 21/09/20 Signatories: 4

**Kenny MacAskill**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Chris Law**  
**Hannah Bardell**

That this House welcomes the contribution of £67,851 by BBC Children in Need's Next Steps Fund to Midlothian Young People's Advice Service (MYPAS); notes that this will fund a full-time counsellor over the next 18 months, engaging with young people aged 12-18, across Midlothian and East Lothian, adversely mentally affected by the situations brought about by the covid-19 outbreak, with particular regard to LGBT+ young people; and congratulates MYPAS on this award which will allow their excellent work to further develop in East and Midlothian.

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**907 Presbyterian Church in Ireland support for South Sudan**Tabled: **21/09/20** Signatories: **4**

**Jim Shannon**  
**Paul Girvan**  
**Gavin Robinson**  
**Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson**

That this House notes the work of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in marking UN World Peace Day by highlighting the violence in South Sudan; further notes the statement produced by churches and agencies affiliated to the Ecumenical Network on South Sudan calling church partners to stand with the world's newest nation and points out that the conflict has led to a dire humanitarian situation with 7.5 million people requiring humanitarian assistance, and more than 2.2 million fleeing the country; and reaffirms the position of this House to speak up and stand up against persecution in South Sudan.

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**908 The Maltby Miners Welfare Institute**Tabled: **21/09/20** Signatories: **4**

**Alexander Stafford**  
**Paul Bristow**  
**Jim Shannon**  
**Andrew Rosindell**

That this House notes the proposed sale of the Maltby Miners Welfare Institute, the Stute, by CISWO, the coal mining charity; acknowledges that miners have paid for the Stute over the years out of their wages to safeguard their mining heritage; is disappointed that CISWO has chosen to put the site on the market; believes CISWO should be the guardian of this site for local people and should safeguard it accordingly; recognises the Stute as being a valuable community asset which is vital to the prosperity of Maltby; asks for CISWO to work with the Maltby Miners Welfare & Recreation Protection Group and other similar organisations to protect this community asset; and calls for the Stute to be opened for use by everybody in the area and wishes for the site to be protected for Maltby's future generations.

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**910 Plastic-free Dalgety Bay**Tabled: **22/09/20** Signatories: **2**

**Neale Hanvey**  
**Hannah Bardell**

That this House congratulates Dalgety Bay on becoming the third community in Fife and one of just over 100 in the UK to be awarded Plastic-free Community status by Surfers Against Sewage; recognises the hard work of volunteers to gain this accreditation in June 2020, just nine months after forming Plastic-free Dalgety Bay; and welcomes efforts to unite campaigners against single-use plastics from across Fife under the banner of the Plastic-free Fife Network to help communities eliminate unnecessary use of single-use plastics.

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**911 Battle of Prestonpans commemoration**Tabled: **22/09/20** Signatories: **2****Kenny MacAskill**  
**Neale Hanvey**

That this House joins in commemorating the 275th anniversary of the Battle of Prestonpans; notes that the battle was a decisive victory for Jacobite troops, dramatically increasing morale and leading directly to the early success and eventual failure of the 45 Rising; congratulates the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust on holding a small socially distanced event; and notes that a fuller commemoration of that battle is planned for 2021.

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**912 Riverside Hall's response to covid-19**Tabled: **22/09/20** Signatories: **2****Chris Stephens**  
**Hannah Bardell**

That this House commends the Riverside Hall in Govan, Glasgow, for their inspiring work during the covid-19 outbreak by supporting families and children in the community with the delivery of over 5,000 emergency food parcels to isolated pensioners and local children and the offer of a regular prescription pick-up service; further commends the effort of their staff and local volunteers at the hall to bring a little cheer and combat the risk of mental health difficulties and social isolation among vulnerable people in the Govan area by reaching out with daily contact to make sure that those people knew they had support if they needed it; and thanks everyone involved with that community hall including staff, external agencies and volunteers who gave up their time to support those people most at need in their community at a time of national difficulty.

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**913 First Ministers' call for aerospace support**Tabled: **22/09/20** Signatories: **6****Gavin Robinson**  
**Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson**  
**Mr Gregory Campbell**  
**Carla Lockhart**  
**Ian Paisley**  
**John Spellar**

That this House commends the joint position taken by the First and Deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland, the First Minister of Scotland and the First Minister of Wales in calling upon the Government to provide targeted, bespoke assistance for the UK's aerospace sector; agrees that without such intervention tens of thousands of high-skilled jobs across the UK could be lost; implores the Government to consider seriously and advance quickly its proposal for an aerospace task force; urges the Government to urgently confirm an extension to the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme for that vital sector that spans the economies of the UK's four nations; and expresses admiration for the constructive co-ordination that Unite, the trades union, has deployed in that regard.

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**914 Upgrading digital selling skills to safeguard jobs**Tabled: **22/09/20** Signatories: **2****Martyn Day**  
**Hannah Bardell**

That this House recognises that with unemployment rising Britain needs to sell its way out of recession to safeguard jobs; notes that the covid-19 pandemic has speeded up the digitisation of how UK businesses sell by 5.3 years; further notes that 93.3 per cent of SMEs do not train their staff in digital skills; and calls on the Government to take forward a range of measures to promote digital selling skills especially in SMEs in order to safeguard jobs across the whole economy.

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**916 Ian Miller's retirement from Scotmid Co-operative**Tabled: **22/09/20** Signatories: **2****Owen Thompson**  
**Hannah Bardell**

That this House sends its best wishes to Ian Miller upon retiring from Scotmid Co-operative after 17 years on the co-operative's East Regional Committee and nine years on its central board; notes that Ian served as a branch manager in Penicuik for 15 years and has held society membership for 36 years; and commends Ian for his contribution to the community.