

## **Marlyn Glen MSP**

news release

### **Cost of unemployment in Dundee put at £40 million a year**

10 September 2010

Present levels of unemployment in Dundee could be costing around £40 million a year, according to Marlyn Glen, the Dundee-based MSP.

An answer to her recent Parliamentary Question indicates that in July last month there were 5,094 people in the city claiming unemployment-related benefits.

Academic research suggests that the cost of unemployment per person is roughly between £8,000 and £9,000 a year.

This costing breaks down as follows :

£3-4,000 in adult benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance

£1,750 in housing benefits/council tax benefit

£1,500 in child benefits including free school meals

£2,000 in lost income tax payments and National Insurance contributions and lower VAT receipts.

Ms. Glen said,

“ In these tough times, the money would be far better spent in providing productive work that matches the skills and talents of those who have lost their jobs.

“This would support the city’s economy.

“ However, coming cuts in government expenditure will damage both the public and the private sectors and put the recovery at risk which in turn will cost us more in the long term.”

“In general, people who are on benefits deserve and genuinely need this money.

“People contribute to benefits through their taxation and national insurance payments to this entitlement.

“That money helps them and it helps the economy, but it would help them better if it were used to create jobs to get them back into the labour market.

“To give some examples.

“The condition of the construction sector is a good indicator of the overall health of

the economy , which is why it must be supported by capital investment and by retaining skilled workers and apprenticeships

“The construction sector in the city needs to be boosted having suffered from the millions of pounds cut from the city’s affordable budget allocation.

“ Dundee would benefit from more trade apprenticeships. Over each of the past three years the percentage of those in work in Dundee who have completed a trade apprenticeship has been below the Scottish average.

“The public sector in general is good for boosting local growth.

"The TUC estimate that for every £1 spent on public services to create jobs or to purchase supplies and services generates a further 64p for the local economy.”

The answers to her parliamentary question also provided figures for the number of unemployed in several identifiable areas of Dundee.

These included :

**Douglas 266**

**Hilltown 241**

**Baxter Park 192**

**Ardler 152**

**Stobswell 253**

**Lochee 396**

**Broughty Ferry 250**

**Levels of unemployment in various areas of Dundee : answer to parliamentary Question**

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN ANSWER

6 September 2010

Index Heading: Finance and Sustainable Growth

**Marlyn Glen (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many people were claiming unemployment-related benefits in each Dundee City Council ward at the most recent date for which information is available, broken down by gender.

Mr John Swinney :

The claimant count is a measure of those claiming unemployment related benefits. Claimant counts are not yet available for the new wards as used in the 2007 Scottish Parliamentary Elections. However, data is available for the 2003 CAS (Census Area Statistics) wards. Tables 1 contains claimant counts for each ward within Dundee City.

Table 1: Claimant Count in each Dundee City council ward by gender, July 2010

	Male	Female	All People
Dundee City Council	3,728	1,366	5,094
Ardler	106	46	152
Balgay	90	35	125
Balgillo	69	18	87
Balgowan	144	48	192
Barnhill	38	20	58
Baxter Park	142	50	192
Bowbridge	166	46	212
Brackens	128	46	174
Broughty Ferry	48	20	68
Camperdown	177	73	250
Claverhouse	123	53	176
Craigiebank	82	24	106
Douglas	191	75	266
East Port	188	83	271
Fairmuir	143	37	180
Hilltown	182	59	241
Law	193	60	253
Lochee East	132	47	179
Lochee West	156	61	217
Logie	106	45	151
Longhaugh	221	78	299
Ninewells	122	41	163
Pitkerro	213	92	305
Riverside	39	21	60
Stobswell	184	69	253
Strathmartine	82	30	112
Tay Bridges	132	66	198
West Ferry	26	11	37
Whitfield	148	37	185

Source: Office for National Statistics