



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (9th JUNE 2017)

ALMOST NINE OUT OF 10 SCOTTISH MPS WENT TO COMPREHENSIVES, BUT THEY'RE STILL TWICE AS LIKELY TO HAVE GONE TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL THAN THEIR CONSTITUENTS

SUTTON TRUST ANALYSIS OF THE EDUCATION BACKGROUND OF THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS

Just 7% of the 59 Scottish MPs in the new House of Commons were privately educated, with almost nine out of 10 attending a comprehensive school, Sutton Trust research published today reveals.

The research brief, *Parliamentary Privilege 2017*, shows that 6% of SNP MPs were privately educated, compared to 45% of all Conservative MPs and 14% of Labour MPs. 29% of UK educated MPs in the 2017 parliament were educated privately.

With only 4% of the general Scottish population attending independent schools, Scottish MPs are still twice as likely to have gone to a fee-paying school than their constituents. MPs generally are four times as likely.

The research draws on data compiled by the Sutton Trust and public affairs consultant Tim Carr from public sources.

Scottish MPs are more likely to have attended a comprehensive school than their Westminster colleagues. 89% of the 59 Scottish MPs and 88% of SNP MPs went to a comprehensive, compared to 51% of the House as whole. Just 4% of Scottish MPs went to selective state grammar schools, compared to 18% of all MPs.

72% of Scottish MPs are graduates and 29% hold a degree from one of the four Ancient universities (University of St Andrews, University of Glasgow, University of Aberdeen and

University of Edinburgh). 13% of all Scottish MPs hold a degree from the University of Glasgow.

Today's research follows the Trust's research [Leading People 2016](#), which looked at the educational backgrounds of those at the top of 10 areas of British life.

Sir Peter Lampl, Chairman and Founder of the Sutton Trust and Chairman of the Education Endowment Foundation, said:

“The landscape of British politics changed considerably this morning. This is reflected in the educational profile of the House of Commons where there has been an increase in the numbers of state-educated MPs.

“However, Scottish MPs are still twice as likely to have been to a fee-paying school than a state school. If parliament is to truly represent the nation as a whole, able people from all backgrounds should have the opportunity to become MPs.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The [Sutton Trust](#) is a foundation set up in 1997, dedicated to improving social mobility through education. It has published over 180 research studies and funded and evaluated programmes that have helped hundreds of thousands of young people of all ages, from early years through to access to the professions.
2. The [Mobility Manifesto](#), published by the Sutton Trust in May 2017, sets out 10 practical policy steps to improve social mobility.

METHODOLOGY:

For this study, we sought to get data on all 650 MPs elected on Thursday June 8th to the House of Commons. We were able to get data on the school background of 626 MPs (96%), including 304 Conservatives, 250 Labour, 34 SNP, 11 Liberal Democrats as well as 27 other MPs from Plaid Cymru, the Greens and the Northern Ireland parties. In our analysis, we excluded a small number of MPs who were educated overseas or home-educated.

We were able to get data on the higher education background of 639 (98%) MPs, excluding 4 Conservatives, 6 Labour, 0 Lib Dems, 0 SNP, as well as 1 MP from a small party (Plaid Cymru, UKIP, the Greens and the Northern Ireland parties).

At the time of publication, the MP for Kensington had not been announced.

The internal Sutton Trust analysis by Rebecca Montacute - supported by Urte Macikene - was combined with data collected by public affairs consultant Tim Carr. Information on MPs' education and career histories was taken primarily from public sources, such as candidates' campaign web pages. The school and university backgrounds of MPs were obtained by using a number of publicly available sources, such as *Who's Who* and MPs' websites, and by contacting prospective MPs directly.

