

First Minister's New Year message

John Swinney became First Minister in 2024, and mentions this important event for him in his message this Hogmanay.

The First Minister said: "Hogmanay and New Year are important celebrations in Scotland, and have been for many centuries.

"Here, the end of one year and the start of another is a time for togetherness and also for reflection.

"And 2024 was a remarkable and memorable year for me as I was given the honour of serving you all as First Minister of Scotland.



PHOTO North Edinburgh News

"I will also be remembering the many moments of joy that we shared together in 2024, from joining the Tartan Army in Munich, to appointing the first Gaelic-speaking Makar, to celebrating 25 years since the Scottish Parliament was reconvened.

"These are the moments, alongside time spent with my family, that fill me with purpose and with energy.

"And like many of you, I am also reflecting on the challenges that we faced over the last year, and there have been many.

"With higher bills to pay, winter can increase financial hardship for many families and for pensioners.

“That is why my Government has set out a Budget to ensure that pensioners will once again receive universal Winter Fuel Payments, that will move a step closer to eradicating child poverty by mitigating the two-child cap, and that will deliver record investment for our precious National Health Service.

“For some, the turn of the year can also be a lonely time.

“So, let me encourage you to look out for your neighbours and ring-up an old friend or a family member.

“New Year is an ideal time to look forward, to engage in acts of kindness and to renew past friendships.

“Our dedicated public and armed services, and many charities, community groups and volunteers, continue working hard to look after us all throughout the winter.

“And in the year ahead, my Government will also be working hard to eradicate child poverty, to grow the economy, to tackle the climate crisis and to improve our public services.

“So, for now, I wish you and your loved ones every health and happiness in 2025.

“Please be safe and enjoy your celebrations.

“And, as First Minister of Scotland, I wish you a very happy New Year.

“Bliadhna Mhath Ùr.

“Happy New Year.”



First Minister, John Swinney, with his wife, Elizabeth Quigley, and son, Matthew, outside the Court of Session 8 May 2024. PHOTO ©2024 The Edinburgh Reporter



5/7/2024 First Minister John Swinney after the General Election visiting Port of Leith Distillery, Edinburgh PHOTO Alan Simpson