

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Immediate Release**

**Attention: News Desks, Industrial and Political Correspondents**

**GLASGOW CITY AND INVERCLYDE HAD SCOTLAND'S DIRTIEST STREETS: PERTH AND KINROSS HAD CLEANEST STREETS NEW GMB ANALYSIS SHOWS**

**Councillors should be clear that for street cleaning, as for other public services, "you get what you pay for" GMB Congress in Southport is told**

Scotland's dirtiest streets were in Glasgow City and Inverclyde while the cleanest were in Perth and Kinross according to the latest available official figures from Audit Scotland. The figures are contained in a league table for Scotland, set out below, which was compiled by GMB and was published today at the GMB Congress in Southport. (See Note 1 below for details on GMB Congress).

In Glasgow City and Inverclyde the overall cleanliness index achieved was 68% the lowest in Scotland. It means that 32% fell below an acceptable level. (See Note 2 below on definitions and standards). Next in the league were Midlothian and West Lothian the overall cleanliness index achieved was 69% followed by Aberdeen City with an overall cleanliness index achieved of 70%.

Perth and Kinross had the cleanest streets in Scotland where the overall cleanliness index achieved was 81%.

For all 32 councils in Scotland the overall cleanliness index achieved was 73%. 10 councils in Scotland had streets dirtier than this national average. In Edinburgh City the overall cleanliness index achieved was 71% while the figure for Dundee was 73%.

The figures for each of the 32 councils in Scotland for 2008/09 are shown in the table below. (See Note 3 for sources).

**LEAGUE TABLE ON CLEAN STREETS FOR 32 COUNCILS IN SCOTLAND**

		<b>Cleanliness - overall cleanliness index achieved</b>
Rank	Scotland	73
1	Glasgow City	68
2	Inverclyde	68
3	Midlothian	69
4	West Lothian	69

5	Aberdeen City	70
6	Edinburgh, City of	71
7	Falkirk	71
8	East Dunbartonshire	72
9	Eilean Siar	72
10	South Lanarkshire	72
11	Angus	73
12	Dundee City	73
13	East Lothian	73
14	Moray	73
15	South Ayrshire	73
16	Aberdeenshire	74
17	Clackmannanshire	74
18	East Ayrshire	74
19	North Lanarkshire	74
20	Orkney Islands	74
21	Renfrewshire	74
22	Argyll & Bute	75
23	Dumfries & Galloway	75
24	East Renfrewshire	75
25	Fife	75
26	North Ayrshire	75
27	Stirling	75
28	Scottish Borders	76
29	West Dunbartonshire	76
30	Highland	77
31	Shetland Islands	79
32	Perth & Kinross	81

Harry Donaldson, GMB Scotland Secretary, speaking at Southport said, **“There is an alarmingly high and dangerous level of dirty streets and pavements in far too many places. On average the 27% of streets that are officially classified as not clean is bad enough but there are 10 councils in Scotland that have a higher proportion than that which is totally unacceptable.**

**Local communities deserve clean and healthy environments. GMB know that clean streets are perfectly feasible everywhere, it’s just a matter of ensuring there are enough properly trained and equipped street cleaners employed to do the job.**

**Councillors should be clear that for street cleaning, as for other public services, you get what you pay for. The next thing that failed politicians may come out with is that people, as well as paying their council tax, should clean the streets themselves.”**

End

**Contacts:** GMB Scotland Harry Donaldson 07885 456726 or Alex McLuckie 07885 348269 or Martin Doran 07921 289736 or GMB Press office Steve Pryle 07921 289880 and Rose Conroy on 07974 251823 GMB delegates and officers are available for interview via the GMB Press Office

### **Notes to Editors**

1 GMB Congress 2010, which comprises up to 1,000 delegates and workplace representatives from all over the UK including Scotland, is being held at the Floral Hall Southport Convention Centre from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. GMB is Britain’s third largest union with 611,000 members who work in every industry in the UK economy. You can watch GMB Congress 2010 Live on GMB Congress TV at [www.gmb.org.uk/congresstv](http://www.gmb.org.uk/congresstv)

## 2 Definitions and standards

What needs to be cleaned from relevant land and highways and pavements include:

1) Detritus comprises dust, mud, soil, grit, gravel, stones, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, and fragments of twigs, glass, plastic and other finely divided materials. Detritus includes leaf and blossom falls when they have substantially lost their structure and have become mushy or fragmented. A significant and avoidable source of detritus is uncollected grass cuttings that have started to decompose.

2) Litter includes mainly synthetic materials, often associated with smoking, eating and drinking, that are improperly discarded and left by members of the public; or are spilt during waste management operations. Litter may also include putrescible or clinical wastes, or faeces such as dog, bird and other animal faeces.

3) For Scotland how relevant land and highways is assessed and how the overall cleanliness index is calculated is set out <http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/performance/docs/2008/service/profWM08.pdf>

For England there is a different measure. What are the levels of detritus and litter that fall below an acceptable level is set out in website <http://cleanliness-indicator.defra.gov.uk/>

3 Source: The league table for England was compiled by GMB from the National Indicators 2008-2009 for which the source is the Audit Commission and the data is from National Indicator Set 195a & b Improved street and environmental cleanliness. For Scotland the data is from Scotland Performance Indicators 2008-2009 and the source is Audit Scotland. For information on how measures in England, Scotland and Wales compare call 07739 182691.