

19th Scottish Government's Programme for Government

Foreword from the First Minister

The guiding principle of my government will be to build a fairer Scotland, as set out in this document. As Scottish politics enters a new era dominated by progressive politics and saying goodbye to right-wing, conservative politics of the old, this government will continue Scotland's progressive governance, grounded in the values of social democracy and liberalism. We will continue the work to build a fairer Scotland begun during the Rainbow Coalition in late 2021, and continued last term by Scottish Labour and its coalition partners.

Scotland and the wider world is facing many challenges, whether that is the cost of living crisis eating into household budgets, the climate emergency, the shortage of affordable housing in Scotland's cities, or the poor state of our public transport services. Our plans for a fairer Scotland, as outlined in this document, have made tackling these crises a priority. We will craft a fairer deal for workers through our plans for a Good Work Charter setting out best standards for employers. We will increase the pay of our hard-working teachers, nurses and public sector staff so that they can cope with the rising cost of living, and work to cut the costs of essential public services like public transport or social care for members of the public struggling with the cost of living. We will set out an ambitious plan to tackle the climate crisis and reach net zero while simultaneously boosting growth. We will accelerate the construction of affordable housing and ensure a sustainable housing supply. We will set out a new Infrastructure Strategy building on the 10th Scottish Government's Infrastructure Strategy to invest in our bus services, railway services, and ferry services to the Scottish Islands, while bringing public transport services into public control to ensure the provision of reliable and affordable services.

Through our plans laid out in this document, this government will build a fairer Scotland than the one it inherited at the beginning of its term.

LightningMinion

First Minister of Scotland

Government Executive

First Minister: LightningMinion

Deputy First Minister: Nick_Clegg_MP

The Government Executive is the leadership of the Scottish Government and consists of the leaders of the 2 government parties, plus any other senior cabinet members the 2 coalition parties may appoint. The Government Executive will lead on relations between the Scottish Government and the UK Government, and on issues relating to the Union and to the constitution. The Government Executive will be assisting the different government departments in achieving this programme for government, with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister serving as ex-officio members of every government department.

The Government Executive intends to:

- Seek the replacement of Section 30 Orders under the Scotland Act with orders granting approval for referendums held by the Scottish Government on the topics of reserved matters
- Negotiate with Westminster to seek the devolution of powers pertaining to welfare and the personal allowance
- Negotiate with Westminster to clarify the devolution of health-based interventions for drug misuse, and planning permission for safe drug consumption rooms.

Finance and the Economy

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy: phonexia2

The Department for Finance and the Economy is responsible for managing Scotland's public finances, government expenditure, and raising revenue. The department's primary aim will be to publish a budget this term adhering to the principles of a Clean Slate Budget, and setting out the government's policies on public expenditure and taxation. The department is also responsible for managing Scotland's economy and the labour environment.

The Department for Finance and the Economy will:

- Draft a Good Work Charter in collaboration with trade unions and workers setting out good employment standards, including an end to exploitative working practices, a guarantee that all employees are paid a living wage, that the employer won't undermine the work of trade unions, that the employer commits to tackling inequalities within the organisation, and that the employer has a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with Scotland's emission reduction targets. Adhering to the Good Work Charter will be a requirement for a corporation to benefit from public procurement and public investment;
- Work to revitalise public sector collective bargaining and sectoral bargaining, and promote trade union membership;
- Create a National Scottish Investment Bank to invest in growing the Scottish economy, particularly in deprived areas, in green jobs, and in cooperatives, social enterprises and alternative business models;
- Boost public sector jobs;
- Give an above inflation pay rise to public sector workers;
- Expand apprenticeships and vocational programmes;
- Introduce Small Business Grants;
- Abolish non-domestic rates and introduce a tax on the value of land.

Education

Cabinet Secretary for Education: Frost_Walker2017

The Department for Education is responsible for managing and overseeing Scotland's education system. It oversees primary and secondary education, further education, higher education and the universities sector, apprenticeship programmes, adult education, and skills and retraining programmes.

The Department for Education will:

- Lead a review into adult education;
- Lead a review into reforming examinations to make the examination process more accurate and less stressful for students;
- Reform student finance to end the means-testing of maintenance, and to increase maintenance payments so that they fully cover living costs together with basic income payments;
- Review democracy in schools and explore establishing Summerhill-style schools;
- Allow schools to enact individual curriculums on a subject-by-subject basis;
- Implement the remainder of the Beyond 16 White Paper, except for tuition fees for higher education, and fees for taking exams;
- Adopt "Learning through play" methods in school;
- Guarantee every qualified teacher a job in public sector education;
- Increase the pay of teaching staff by inflation plus £1 000.

Healthcare

Cabinet Secretary for Healthcare: antier

The Department for Healthcare is responsible for managing Scotland's healthcare system, and for overseeing NHS Scotland. It is additionally responsible for the social care system.

The Department for Healthcare will:

- Establish Multi-Speciality Care Providers and boost community nurses to increase the accessibility of healthcare, particularly in rural communities;
- Nationalise any privatised auxiliary services;
- Invest in GP services, including hiring more GPs, with the pledge that no one should have to wait more than a week to see their GP;
- Invest in a specialist mental health service for NHS staff to help NHS staff deal with poor mental health which may arise due to their job or otherwise;
- Hire more nurses to plug the shortage of nurses within the NHS, and to improve the standard of care for patients;
- Create a National Care Service to ensure that social care is affordable for those who need social care;

- Expand rehabilitation centres, including those dealing with tackling drug addiction.

Justice

Cabinet Secretary for Justice: PoliticoBailey

The Department for Justice is responsible for overseeing all aspects of Scotland's justice system. This includes overseeing policing, public safety, criminal and civil courts, prisons and related services.

The Department for Justice will:

- Promote the use of non-custodial sentences where a custodial sentence would fail to rehabilitate the offender, and the offender doesn't pose a realistic threat to the public;
- Promote the use of rehabilitative justice rather than punitive justice in prisons;
- Reform the Mental Health Act to make the process more humane, including removing the definitions of learning disabilities from the Act's definition of mental disabilities, and reforming sectioning and the burden to use the Act;
- Make fines proportional to the income of the offender to ensure that fines are effective for offenders of all income levels;
- Set up a community-oriented policing system;
- Enhance vetting for police officers and for prison officers, and ensure those with prejudiced views and criminal behaviour are removed from their jobs;
- Enhance diversity training, and training on sexual assault cases for police, prison and court staff;
- Expand the use of mental health professionals in policing;
- Expand the role of CyberScotland in cracking down on cybercrime.

Environment

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment: localds124

The Department for the Environment is responsible for the Scottish Government's environmental policy. It is responsible for managing Scotland's natural environment, Scotland's agriculture, Scotland's fisheries and other aspects of the food industry. It is additionally responsible for leading the Scottish Government's fight against the climate crisis, and promoting policies to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The Department for the Environment will:

- Move the net zero target from 2050 to 2040;
- Create a Green Grants Scheme to fund energy efficiency improvements to homes and buildings, such as improved insulation and more energy efficient household appliances;
- Reform the agricultural subsidy system;
- Invest in sustainable methods of farming and fishing;

- Create a rewilding fund and expand Scotland's traditional forests;
- Promote community-led environmental initiatives.

Transport

Cabinet Secretary for Transport: theverywetbanana

The Department for Transport is responsible for overseeing Scotland's public transportation system. It is responsible for overseeing the provision of bus, tram and subway services, the provision of railway services, the provision of ferries and flights, and other elements of public transportation. Additionally, it is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and operation of Scotland's roads and road vehicles, and active methods of transportation.

The Department for Transport will:

- Pass the legislative consent motion on the Railways Act 2022;
- Bring bus services into public control;
- Introduce a new Infrastructure Strategy, which will:
 - Construct the Glasgow Airport Rail Link,
 - Extend the Borders Railway to Carlisle,
 - Expand the rural and regional railway network,
 - Expand rural bus networks,
 - Set out plans for a high-speed railway line between Edinburgh/Glasgow and London,
 - Fully electrify the railways in 15 years,
 - Promote the transport of freight by rail rather than road,
 - Phase out diesel buses by 2030,
 - Invest in better cycling and walking infrastructure,
 - Invest in adoption of electric vehicles and the required infrastructure;
- Reform ticketing, including introduction of a national smartcard, making transport free for under 18s and for those in education, and affordable for others;
- Legislate for low emission zones in Scotland's cities and towns.

Local Affairs

Cabinet Secretary for Local Affairs: CountBrandenburg

The Department for Local Affairs is responsible for overseeing Scotland's local communities, including the provision of housing. The department also oversees local government in Scotland.

The Department for Local Affairs will:

- Reform planning laws to increase the number of affordable houses being built, with a target of 24 thousand new houses per year;

- Increase the Affordable Housing Fund to increase the number of affordable houses being built;
- Seek a solution to the Glasgow student housing crisis in collaboration with Glasgow University and its affected students, local government in the Glasgow City Region, and with local housing developers;
- Implement the Scottish Green Housing Plan's recommendations on adopting the Housing First model of ending homelessness, abolishing right-to-buy, and ending no-fault evictions;
- Review local government, including the powers of directly-elected mayors and whether Scotland should transition to a 2-tier system of local government;
- Introduce a public grant to help renovate deteriorating and old homes;
- Create a Local Hospitality Fund for local authorities to draw on from tourism revenue.

Culture and Sport

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Sport: Nick_Clegg_MP

The Department for Culture and Sport is responsible for overseeing Scotland's cultural sector. This includes cultural events and programmes, artwork, music, sport, the Scots and Scots Gaelic languages, and other aspects of Scottish culture.

The Department for Culture and Sport will:

- Support Scots and Scots Gaelic language and culture programmes;
- Bring the National Sports Performance Centres into public ownership;
- Introduce a public fund to help restore privately owned sites of historic significance;
- Expand Historic Environment Scotland's budget;
- Work with the Crown Estate Scotland to display buildings and artworks of national importance.