In the run up to the election...

SNP Manifesto 2017

Overview
The SNP manifesto, Strong for Scotland includes commitments to push for increased workers’ rights, more funding for the NHS and a series of measures to protect EU staff working in the NHS and ensure continued access to research funding post-Brexit.

Key SNP manifesto pledges
1. SNP MPs will call for an increase in frontline health spending across the UK and is committed to increasing the budget of NHS Scotland by £2 billion by the end of the current Scottish Parliament in 2021.
2. Press the UK government to immediately protect EU staff working in the NHS’ rights to live and work in Scotland and the UK.
3. Reform primary care and increase the share of the total NHS budget that is committed to it.
4. SNP MPs will vote against any further privatisation of the NHS in England and back any moves to restore it to a fully public service.
5. Work with unions to submit evidence to the independent pay review body on the impact of pay restraint and commit to implementing the recommendations of the review body in full.

The full picture...
The summary below provides a full overview of the SNP manifesto pledges impacting upon the health and social care sectors, NHS staff and patients.

NHS funding
– The SNP is committed to increasing the budget of NHS Scotland by £2 billion by the end of the current Scottish Parliament in 2021.
– Will continue to call for increased health spending, passing on all health revenue consequentials in full for healthcare in Scotland.
– SNP MPs will call for an increase in frontline health spending across the UK. Arguing that overall health spending in Scotland is around 7 per cent per head higher than in England. If the UK government were to match Scotland, England’s Health investment would increase by over £11 billion above inflation by the end of this Parliament.
– Remains committed to free prescriptions.
NHS policy
- Reform primary care and increase the share of the total NHS budget that is committed to it, to support an increase in the numbers of GPs and nurses working in the community.
- Will vote against any further privatisation of the NHS in England and back any moves to restore it to a fully public service.
- Work on a cross-party basis to support an NHS Reinstatement Bill that returns the NHS south of the border to its founding principles.
- Enshrine safe NHS staffing levels in law.
- The SNP Scottish Government is committed to protecting free tuition and the non-means tested, non-repayable nursing and midwifery student bursary.

Mental health
- In Scotland the SNP has appointed a dedicated Minister for Mental Health and introduced a new ten-year Mental Health Strategy which includes 40 different actions – based around improving access to services and supporting earlier intervention.

Public health
- Developing and implementing the Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Press the UK government to re-commit to key obesity policies – such as closing the loopholes in the sugary drinks tax, tightening regulation of broadcast and digital junk food advertising seen by children, and introducing clearer food labelling.

Brexit and Immigration
- Press the UK government to immediately protect EU staff working in the NHS’ rights to live and work in Scotland and the UK.
- Call on the UK government to stay part of the European Medicines Agency and to participate in Europe-wide clinical trials and data sharing and to devolve responsibility for medicine and medical product regulation to the Scottish Parliament.
- Press the UK government to ensure continuity in cross-border health insurance arrangements – including the European Health Insurance Card.
- Work with Scotland’s universities and institutions to seek clarity from the UK government on what will replace funding from the EU, through programmes like Horizon 2020.
- Support the continuation of programmes like ERASMUS+ and other arrangements such as those being worked on by the AURORA group of universities including Aberdeen.
- Call for the full reinstatement of the Post-Study Work Visa scheme.
- Demand a place for Scotland at the Brexit negotiating table and the inclusion of the case for Scotland’s place in the Single Market in the UK’s negotiating remit.
- Work to prevent the threat of Brexit being used by the UK to reduce commitments to tackle climate change.

Social care and welfare
- An additional £1.7 billion will be invested in Scotland’s health and social care partnerships over this term of the Scottish Parliament.
- Vote against further cuts to social security and press for the abolition of the two child cap on tax credits and the associated Rape Clause.
- Support reversal of the Employment and Support Allowance cut and urge Westminster MPs to support a review of the Personal Independence Payments.
- Call on the UK government to reintroduce UK-wide targets to end child poverty and urge the UK government to follow the lead of the SNP Scottish Government, by working with devolved administrations to establish a Poverty and Inequality Commission that provides expert advice on tackling poverty.
Employment
- The Scottish Government will work with unions to submit evidence to the independent pay review body on the impact of pay restraint and ask it to make fair recommendations. And will commit to implementing the recommendations of the pay review body in full.
- Support repeal of the Trade Union Act 2016 and a ban on exploitative zero-hours contracts.
- Press the UK government to follow the lead of the SNP Scottish Government, by establishing a Fair Work Commission — with representation from trade unions, public sector organisations, and businesses — to ensure workers’ rights across the UK are not diminished as a result of Brexit.
- Call for the UK government to follow the lead of the Scottish Government by abolishing fees for Employment Tribunals.
- Champion equality by supporting lowering the threshold for pay gap reporting and the introduction of sanctions, including fines.

Education
- Call for a Scottish representative to be a standing member of the UK Research and Innovation Board.