General Election briefing for BMA members
Scottish National Party manifesto 2019
Overview
The SNP manifesto, *Stronger for Scotland* includes commitments to lobby the UK government to match Scottish per capital NHS spending, enshrine public ownership of the NHS in law, and a series of ambitious targets for climate change and the environment.

Key SNP manifesto pledges
1. Ask the UK government to match Scottish per capita NHS spending, which will deliver increased funding for Scotland.
2. Demand that the UK government pass a National Health Service Protection Act to guarantee that the NHS be protected from trade deals and profit-driven exploitation.
3. Maintain the commitment to spend at least £15 billion by 2021/22 on healthcare frontline services in Scotland.

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
- Commit to spending at least £15 billion by 2021/22 on healthcare frontline services in Scotland.
- Lobby the UK Government to close the spending gap (in per capital spending) with Scotland and increase health investment by at least £740 million, and pass on all health revenue consequentials in full for healthcare in Scotland. This would represent frontline investment to NHS Scotland of more than £17 billion by 2024/25.
- Demand that the UK Government refund the Scottish emergency services £175 million in VAT.

Public ownership
- Demand introduction of the NHS Protection Act, which would enshrine in law that the NHS must be protected as publicly owned, publicly operated, and its services publicly commissioned. This legislation would also include measures to protect the NHS from trade deals (see section on Brexit and immigration below).
- Support moves to replace or significantly amend the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- Ask Government to take responsibility and pay compensation to those affected by the contaminated blood scandal.

Public health
- Call for devolution of the Misuse and Drugs Act, to allow for the full range of effective public health measures to tackle the drugs death crisis.
- Ask the UK Government to introduce a Supervised Drug Consumption Facility.
- Push the UK Government to treat gambling as a public health issue and press for greater devolution of gambling regulation.

Social care and welfare
- Demand further support to care-experienced people from the UK Government, including the ‘levelling-up’ of incomes of care leavers through the real Living Wage and ensuring exemption from the Shared Accommodation Rate for Housing Benefit.
- Demand the end of the two-child benefit cap, the rape clause and a halt to Universal Credit.
- Demand an immediate end to the benefit freeze and the abolition of the bedroom tax.
- Demand the introduction of a period of above inflation increases to benefits.
- Demand an end to the benefit sanctions regime.
- Demand a UK wide benefit take-up campaign.
- Demand the adoption of a fair definition of terminal illness based on clinical judgement.

**Brexit and immigration**
- Support a second EU referendum with the option to remain, or else advocate for the revocation of Article 50.
- Work to prevent a no deal Brexit.
- Make the UK Government pay all the costs to Scotland’s rural economy resulting from any Brexit.
- Support an extension to the no-deal three-year Temporary Leave to Remain scheme.
- Seek devolution of migration powers so that Scotland can have its own migration policy.
- Lobby any future UK government to pass a new National Health Service Protection Act, guaranteeing that trade deals do not undermine the founding principles of the NHS nor open it to profit-driven exploitation.
- As part of the NHS Protection Act, ensure that future trade deals would require the explicit consent of the Scottish parliament, Welsh Assembly, and Northern Irish Assembly.
- Work to extend the franchise for Westminster elections to include EU citizens and all those with a right to remain in the UK.
- Oppose plans to introduce a minimum salary threshold (preventing anyone earning less than £30,000 from being admitted to the UK).
- Continue to campaign for an extension to the no-deal three-year ‘Temporary Leave to Remain’ scheme, which discriminates against students in Scotland.
- Campaign for the UK’s Immigration Skills Charge to be scrapped, especially if applied to workers from the EU.
- Seek devolution of migration powers so that Scotland can have its own migration policy.
- Campaign to end visa fees for children and to ensure an automatic system of settled status for children in care and care leavers.
- Introduce a Scottish Visa that would operate within a UK framework, but with requirements set by the Scottish Government, accountability to the Scottish Parliament, and a design that reflects and addresses Scotland’s economic and demographic circumstances.
- Continue to urge the UK government to introduce a less restrictive approach to family migration, including the minimum income requirements for family visas.
- Continue to press the UK government to end indefinite immigration detention, the detention of children and vulnerable people, including pregnant women and people with mental illnesses.
- Demand that an independent body make decisions on asylum applications in place of the Home Office.
- Introduce a fair asylum system and end detention for those claiming asylum.
- Push for reform of the detention and asylum system for LGBT+ individuals escaping countries where homosexuality is still criminalised, removing unfair and invasive demands for ‘proof’ of sexuality or gender identity.

**Environment**
- Demand the UK accelerates its action to meet Scotland’s climate change targets – the toughest legal targets in the world – of a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030, net zero carbon emissions no later than 2040 and net zero of all emissions by 2045.
- Campaign for the UK government to bring forward plans to move to electric vehicles to match the Scottish target of 2032.
- Support substantial reforms to the UK tax system to support greener choices, including a greener tax deal for heating and energy efficiency improvements in homes and businesses and new vehicle and tax incentives regime for transport.
- Campaign for the UK to remain aligned with EU environmental regulations even if Brexit takes place.
- Propose a Green Energy Deal that will ensure renewable energy schemes get the long-term certainty needed to support investment.
- Invest over £500 million in improved bus priority infrastructure to make bus travel the faster, greener option and encourage people out of their cars.
- Help people with the cost of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), including second-hand cars, by providing an additional £17 million for loan funding.
- Bring to market a £3 billion portfolio of projects, including renewables, waste and construction, ready for green finance investment.
- Press for an increase in new woodland creation, working towards a target of 60 million trees planted annually in the UK by 2025, with 30 million of these in Scotland to help tackle the Climate Emergency and to support biodiversity and rural employment.
- Ensure that, from 2024, all new homes must use renewable or low carbon heat.
- Press the UK to properly support the renewables industry or else devolve the powers to Scotland to let us get on with the job.
- Oppose new nuclear power plants and prioritising investment on cleaner, cheaper forms of electricity generation, including reform of the UK support for renewables to ensure it takes into account wider economic considerations such as supply chain benefits, not just price.

Diversity and Equality in the Workplace
- Increase maternity leave to one year.
- Set maternity pay at 100% of average weekly earnings for the first 12 weeks, then 90% for 40 weeks or £150.00, whichever is lower.
- Increased shared parental leave from 52 to 64 weeks, with the additional 12 weeks to be the minimum taken by the father in order to encourage an increase in shared parental leave.
- Introduce a principle of ‘use it or lose it’ – whereby the paternity leave cannot be transferred in order to encourage fathers to take the leave - while protecting maternity leave if a couple choose not to take advantage of the provision.
- Introduce legislation so that parents receive an extra statutory paid week of leave for every week their baby is in neonatal care.
- Increase paternity rights by increasing the statutory weeks allowed, as well as the weekly rate of Paternity Pay to 100% of average weekly earnings for one week, then 100% for 2 weeks or £150.00 (whichever is lower).
- Increase fathers’ paid leave for antenatal appointments from two to six.
- Continue to press for extended legal protection against redundancy for pregnant parents, those on shared parental leave, and adoption leave, and new parents for up to six months after their return to work.
- Maintain campaign for a three month time limit for bringing a claim in redundancy cases to be extended to six months to allow parents more time to enforce their rights.
- Urge the UK Government to match the Scottish commitment to support low income families by introducing payments at key times in a young child’s life, as the SNP Scottish government have done with nursery and school payments of £250 as well as matching the new Scottish Child Payment.
- Press for statutory living wage to rise to at least level of real living wage.
- Demand fines for businesses that fail to meet an agreed Equal Pay Standard.

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- Demand fines for businesses that fail to meet an agreed Equal Pay Standard.
- Support UK legislation on statutory targets for women and ethnic minorities on company boards.
- Support statutory measures to ensure executive pension contributions are the same for all workers in a company.
- Demand the end of the two-child benefit cap, the rape clause and a halt to Universal Credit.
- Abolition of the bedroom tax.
  Demand the adoption of a fair definition of terminal illness based on clinical judgement.