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General Election 2019 - Scottish Manifestos summary

This is a summary of the parties' main manifesto pledges, with a focus on pledges of direct interest to the work of BSA members. All policies have been taken from the manifestos below unless specified otherwise.

Manifestos

- SNP - [Stronger for Scotland](#)
- Scottish Conservatives - [No To IndyRef2](#)
- Scottish Labour - [Real Change: For the Many Not the Few.](#)
- Scottish Liberal Democrats - [Stop Brexit, Stop Independence](#)
- Scottish Greens - [Demand Climate Action](#)

Policy areas

1. [Brexit](#)
2. [Business & Public Procurement](#)
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Brexit

Scottish National Party

- A second referendum on EU membership (or revoke Article 50 if there seems to be no alternative way to stop Brexit).

Scottish Conservatives

- Withdrawal Agreement Bill to go before Parliament before December 25th and UK to leave the EU by the end of January.
- Negotiate a trade deal with the EU next year.
- Rules out extending transition period beyond December 31st 2020 deadline.

Scottish Labour

- Second Referendum within six months with a choice between a Labour-negotiated leave deal or Remain.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- If elected with a majority they would immediately revoke Article 50.

Brexit Party

- 'Clean break' exit.

Scottish Greens

- Immediately call a second referendum in which they would campaign for Remain.

Business & Public Procurement

Scottish National Party

- Any goods or services procured by the NHS to be explicitly prevented from being subject to any future 'investment protection mechanisms' or 'investor state dispute resolution mechanisms'.
- SNP MPs will back moves to increase worker representation on company boards.

Scottish Conservatives

- Previous commitment to 33% spend with SMEs has been replaced by a commitment to 'support start-ups and small businesses via government procurement and commit to paying them on time'.
- Use government procurement to 'support new ideas and new companies and continue to support charities'.
- Strengthen the powers of the Small Business Commissioner to support small businesses.
- Reduce National Insurance contributions for employers if they employ ex-Service personnel.

Scottish Labour

- Presumption in favour of insourcing.
- Will take back all PFI contracts over time.



- Extending Freedom of Information rules to cover private providers of public services.
- Public procurement used to strengthen local jobs and supply chains.
- All companies bidding for public contracts required to recognise trade unions, pay suppliers on time and demonstrate equalities best practice.
- Late payers banned from public procurement.
- Government procurement contracts not granted to companies complicit in serious human rights abuses.
- Companies assessed against criteria including provisions for collective bargaining, fair wage clauses, adherence to environmental standards, full tax compliance and pay ratios.
- Give communities powers and resources to keep public spending circulating in the local economy.
- Companies Act will require prioritising long-term growth.
- Act to bring local services - from bin collections to management of local leisure centres - back in-house within the next Parliament.
- One-third of boards reserved for elected worker-directors.
- Large companies to set up Inclusive Ownership Funds. Up to 10% of a company owned collectively by employees. Dividend payments distributed equally, capped at £500 a year. Rest used to top up Climate Apprenticeship Fund.
- Any company failing to contribute to tackling climate emergency delisted from London Stock Exchange.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Require all government agencies and contractors and companies with more than 250 employees to sign up to the prompt payment code.
- Provide a supportive framework to develop social enterprises.
- Allow companies to claim R&D tax credits against the cost of purchasing datasets and cloud computing, simplifying the regulatory landscape and speeding up regulatory change.
- Give staff in listed companies with more than 250 employees a right to request shares.
- Require all UK-listed companies and all private companies with more than 250 employees to have at least one employee representative on their boards.
- Introduce a general duty of care for the environment and human rights.
- Reform fiduciary duty and company purpose rules to ensure that all large companies have a formal statement of corporate purpose, including considerations such as employee welfare, environmental standards, community benefit and ethical practice, alongside benefit to shareholders, and that they report formally on the wider impact of the business on society and the environment.
- Require binding and public votes of shareholders on executive pay policies.
- Extend the scope of the existing 'public interest' test when considering approvals for takeovers of large or strategically significant companies by overseas-based owners.

Brexit Party

- Where existing private initiatives in the NHS have failed to deliver, they will be returned to public ownership.

Scottish Greens

- Grant 15% of government contracts to small and micro businesses.
- Revise the government contract application process, to remove the current barriers for entry to small business.
- Establish regional mutual banks to fund SMEs and VCSEs.



- Require business to report on the difference between agreed payment date and actual payment date (with fines for late payments).
- Ensure the maximum wage paid to any member of staff in an organisation should not exceed ten times that paid (pro rata) to the lowest paid worker in the same organisation.
- Installing a 40% quota for women on major company boards.
- Support employers to explore four day working weeks in their workplace.

Crime & Justice (Security & Home Affairs)

Scottish National Party

- Demand the UK Government refunds the £175 million in VAT owed to Scotland's emergency services.

Scottish Conservatives

- To prioritise 'recruiting, supporting, and giving space to frontline professionals'.

Scottish Labour

- 2,000 more frontline police officers than the Conservatives.
- PFI prisons back in-house and no new private prisons.
- Restore total prison officer numbers to 2010 levels.
- Reunify probation and guarantee a publicly run, locally accountable probation service.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- 2,000 more prison officers.
- Improve the provision of training, education and work opportunities.
- Improve and properly fund the supervision of offenders in the community, with far greater coordination between the prison service, probation service providers, the voluntary and private sectors and local authorities.
- Ensure that all prison-leavers have a suitably timed release and are supported with suitable accommodation, a bank account and employment or training, and are registered with a local GP.
- Invest £500 million to restore Legal Aid.
- Introduce a 28-day time limit on detention and close 7 of the UK's 9 detention centres.

Brexit Party

- Increase police numbers.

Scottish Greens

- Enhance the rehabilitation services on offer to long-term prisoners, commissioning rehabilitation services that have a track record of success.
- Develop a network of specialist women's centres.

Defence

Scottish National Party



- Scrap Trident.

Scottish Conservatives

- Continue to exceed the NATO target of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence and increase the budget by at least 0.5 per cent above inflation every year of the new Parliament.
- Maintain the Trident nuclear deterrent.
- Invest in training and equipping our Armed Forces.

Scottish Labour

- Commitment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence.
- Renewal of Trident.
- Defence Industrial Strategy White Paper, including a National Shipbuilding Strategy, that keeps all Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary shipbuilding contracts in the UK.
- Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Spend 2% of GDP on defence.
- Address critical skills shortages by recruiting STEM graduates to be armed forces engineers, providing 'golden handshakes' of up to £10,000.
- Improve the quality of housing for service personnel by bringing the Ministry of Defence into line with other landlords, giving tenants the same legal rights to repair and maintenance as private tenants.
- Maintain a 'minimum nuclear deterrent', while pursuing multilateral nuclear disarmament.
- Support the Armed Forces Covenant and ongoing work to support veterans' mental health.

Brexit Party

- Ensure that the UK maintains its commitment to NATO and spend 2% of GDP on defence as an absolute minimum.
- Withdraw from the European Defence Union. This will mean leaving the EU defence procurement directive so that the UK has the right to stipulate that defence contracts stay at home.

Scottish Greens

- Replace the Ministry of Defence with a Ministry for Security and Peace.
- Cancel the Trident nuclear weapons system and nuclear-powered submarines.

Democracy

Scottish National Party

- Support votes for 16/17-year olds.
- work to extend the franchise for Westminster elections to include EU citizens and all those with a right to remain in the UK.
- Continue to oppose the House of Lords and vote for its abolition.

Scottish Conservatives

- Review of the "relationship between the government, Parliament and courts".



- Get rid of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act.
- Redraw current constituency boundaries.
- Introduce voter ID.
- Not proceed with Leveson 2.
- Make it easier for expats to vote.

Scottish Labour

- Abolition of the House of Lords and its replacement with an elected second chamber: a Senate of the Nations and Regions.
- Reduce the voting age to 16.
- Give full voting rights to all UK residents.
- Introduce a system of automatic voter registration.
- Abandon plans to introduce voter ID.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Allocate to the Scottish Parliament all of the powers set out in the Scotland Act 2016
- Build on the recommendations of the Smith Commission by extending the accountability of UK-wide bodies such as the BBC and Ofgem to the Scottish Parliament.
- Replace First Past the Post with Single Transferable Vote.
- Give 16-year-olds and EU citizens who have lived in the UK for more than 5 years the vote.
- Introduce a written constitution for a federal United Kingdom.
- Convening a citizens' assembly to determine when it is appropriate for the government to use algorithms in decision-making.
- Reform the House of Lords with a proper democratic mandate.

Brexit Party

- Reform the voting system to make it more representative.
- Abolish the unelected House of Lords.
- Make MPs who switch parties subject to recall petitions.
- Overhaul the postal voting system.
- Reform the Supreme Court making judges subject to political scrutiny
- Ensure political balance by broadening participation in the Selection Commission or conduct interviews by Parliamentary Committee.
- Make the Civil Service more accountable to the public - require civil servants to sign an oath to act with political neutrality.
- Introduce Citizens' Initiatives to allow people to call referendums, subject to a 5m threshold of registered voter signatures and time limitations on repeat votes.

Scottish Greens

- Replace First Past the Post with a proportional voting system.
- Give 16-year-olds the vote.
- Devolve more powers to local government.
- Back a Citizens Convention and citizens assemblies to examine further ways to strengthen democracy.

Economy

Scottish National Party



- Bring to market a £3 billion portfolio of projects, including renewables, waste and construction, ready for green finance investment.

Scottish Conservatives

- Barnett Consequentials for the Scottish Government of £3.3 billion between 2018 and 2023.
- Net investment not to average more than 3% of GDP.
- Reassessment of fiscal rules if debt hits 6% of revenue.

Scottish Labour

- Scottish National Investment Bank will have £20 billion of lending power.
- £100 billion of additional resources for Scotland over two terms.
- Rail, mail, water and energy into public ownership.
- New Co-operative Development Agency with mission to double size of co-operative sector.
- National Transformation Fund of £400 billion. £250 billion of this goes to Green Transformation Fund.
- National Investment Bank, backed up by network of Regional Development Banks, to provide £250 billion of lending for enterprise, infrastructure and innovation over 10 years.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Ensure overall national debt continues to decline as a share of national income.
- Protect the independence of the Bank of England and keep the inflation target of 2%.
- Increase national spending on research and development to 3% of GDP via an interim target of 2.4% of GDP by no later than 2027.
- Increase the Strength in Places Fund.
- Expand the activities of the British Business Bank.
- Creating more 'Catapult' innovation and technology centres and backing private investment in zero-carbon and environmental innovation.
- Reform building standards to ensure that all new homes built from 2022 have full connectivity to ultra-fast broadband and are designed to enable the use of smart technologies.

Scottish Greens

- Introduce a Green New Deal to reach net zero by 2030 (est. £100bn per annum).
- Introduce a Universal Basic Income regime.
- No longer use economic growth as the measure of progress.

Education and Skills

Scottish National Party

- Introduce a Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan.

Scottish Conservatives

- Increase spending on schools to level up per pupil funding of £5000
- £600m a year for five years for a National Skills Fund
- £1bn per year in extra funding over 5 years for social care
- "Build a consensus" with other political parties on how social care should be funded over the long term



Scottish Labour

- National Education Service, including free university tuition and free lifelong entitlements to learning.
- Work to extend childcare provision for 1-year-olds
- Free schools and academies back under local control.
- Much more freedom in how to spend Apprenticeship Levy funds.
- Employers expected to allocate 25% of funds in Levy accounts to training Climate Apprentices.
- Scrap Universal Credit and the benefit cap

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Introduce a new two-year visa for students to work after graduation
- Major expansion of high-quality apprenticeships including Higher Apprenticeships, backed up by new sector-led National Colleges.
- Develop a national skills strategy for key sectors, including zero-carbon technologies.
- New Skills Wallets worth £10,000 for every individual.
- Expand the Apprenticeship Levy into a wider 'Skills and Training Levy' with 25% of the funds raised by the levy going into a 'Social Mobility Fund' targeted at areas with the greatest skill needs.
- Reverse cuts to school funding, employing an extra 20,000 schoolteachers, and clearing the backlog of repairs to school and college buildings.
- Invest an extra £1 billion in Further Education funding, including by refunding colleges for the VAT they pay.

Brexit Party

- Abolish student loan interest.
- Abolish the target to push 50% of young people into Higher Education.
- Scrap the Apprentice Levy.
- Improve tax incentives for employers to take on genuine apprentices.

Scottish Greens

- Invest £2 billion a year in training and skills (including new apprenticeships).
- Give local authorities the power to direct the newly created training and skills programmes.
- Increase school funding by at least £4 billion per year.
- End academisation and bringing all schools back into the control of local authorities.

Energy and Environment

Scottish National Party

- Put a duty on energy suppliers to use clear language in explaining tariffs and costs.
- Introduce a cap on credit that can be built up.
- Ensure that, in the event an energy supplier fails, the full credit built up by a consumer is paid back and if there are arrears to be paid, then customers are treated fairly, and administrators follow Ofgem rules of repayment not their own.
- Demand the UK accelerates its action to meet Scotland's climate change targets of a 75% reduction in emissions by 2035, 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.
- Press for the accelerated deployment of fully operational carbon capture utilisation and storage facilities to ensure Scotland is not denied this opportunity again
- 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.

Scottish Conservatives

- Net zero by 2050.
- £640 million new Nature for Climate fund.
- First Budget will prioritise the environment.
- Invest £9.2 billion in the energy efficiency of homes, schools and hospitals.

Scottish Labour

- Green Industrial Revolution including Green New Deal.
- Aim to 'achieve the substantial majority of our carbon emissions reductions by 2030'.
- £250bn Green Transformation Fund.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- An emergency programme to insulate all Britain's homes by 2030.
- Invest in renewable power so that at least 80% of UK electricity is generated from renewables by 2030.
- Invest in public transport, electrifying Britain's railways and ensuring that all new cars are electric by 2030.
- Require all UK-registered companies/listed on UK stock exchanges to set targets consistent with the Paris Agreement on climate change and to report on their implementation.
- Regulate financial services to encourage green investments.
- Banning non-recyclable single-use plastics.
- Establishing a statutory waste recycling target of 70 per cent in England.
- Extend separate food waste collections to at least 90 per cent of homes by 2024.

Scottish Greens

- Introduce a Green New Deal to reach net zero by 2030 (est. £100bn per annum).
- Incentives to get 10 million homes to the top energy rating within 10 years.
- Ban single-use plastic and extend plastic bag tax to bottles, single-use plastics and micro-plastics.
- A carbon tax will apply to all oil and gas extraction and to the use of petrol, diesel and aviation fuels.
- Phase-in a tax on meat and dairy products over 10 years.

Health & Social Care

Scottish National Party



- Negotiate to increase NHS spending in England and Wales by £136 a head, bringing it to Scottish levels at an extra spend of £35bn by 2023-24.
- Any goods or services procured by the NHS to be explicitly prevented from being subject to any future 'investment protection mechanisms' or 'investor state dispute resolution mechanisms'.

Scottish Conservatives

- £1bn per year in extra funding over 5 years for social care.
- "Build a consensus" with other political parties on how social care should be funded over the long term.
- Increase spending on the NHS by £34bn a year by the end of the next Parliament.
- Build and fund 40 new hospitals over the next 10 years.
- Enshrine the long-term funding plan for the NHS in law.
- 50,000 more nurses in NHS England workforce by 2024-25.
- Create 50 million more GP appointments by recruiting 6000 more GPs and 6000 more primary care doctors.

Scottish Labour

- Comprehensive National Care Service for England.
- End and reverse privatisation in the NHS ensuring services are delivered in-house.
- Free prescriptions for all and free basic dentistry.
- Increase health budget by 4.3% a year.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Raise £7 billion a year in additional revenue by putting 1p on Income Tax, with this money to be ringfenced for spending on the NHS and social care.
- Reform the Health and Social Care Act to end the automatic tendering of services.

Brexit Party

- Where existing private initiatives in the NHS have failed to deliver, they will be returned to public ownership.

Scottish Greens

- Increase funding for the NHS by at least £6 billion per year each year, until 2030.
- £1 billion a year in nursing higher education.
- Roll back privatisation of the NHS, through repealing the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and abolishing the internal market.
- Remove charitable status from private schools and charge full VAT on fees.
- Fully fund every higher education student and scrap undergraduate tuition fees.
- Funding local authorities to provide free social care at home for over 65.

Independence

Scottish National Party

- Referendum on independence in 2020.

Scottish Conservatives



- Stop plans for a second independence referendum next year.
- Protect the integrity of the UK single market and the ability of businesses to trade across the country.
- Strengthen the Union.

Scottish Labour

- “We want Scotland to stay in the UK, and we want the UK to stay in the European Union.”
- In early years of a UK Labour government, will not agree to a Section 30 order request.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Oppose a second referendum and oppose independence.
- Allocate to the Scottish Parliament all of the powers set out in the Scotland Act 2016
- Build on the recommendations of the Smith Commission by extending the accountability of UK-wide bodies such as the BBC and Ofgem to the Scottish Parliament.

Migration

Scottish National Party

- Would seek devolution of powers over migration.
- Protect freedom of movement.
- Call for an additional route for migration to Scotland, alongside UK routes, by means of a Scottish Visa. This could operate within a UK framework, but the requirements should be set by the Scottish Government, accountable to the Scottish Parliament, and be designed to reflect and address Scotland’s economic and demographic circumstances.

Scottish Conservatives

- Introduce an Australian-style points based immigration system.
- Commitment to ‘fewer lower-skilled migrants and overall numbers will come down’.
- The new system will prioritise those with a ‘good grasp’ of English, those without criminal records in their country of origin, and those with recognised qualifications.
- A clear job offer will be required.
- There will be no distinction between EU and non-EU citizens.

Scottish Labour

- Scrap the 2014 Immigration Act.
- End indefinite detention and close Yarl’s Wood and Brook House.
- If we remain in the EU, freedom of movement would continue.
- If we leave, it will be ‘subject to negotiations’ but Labour would ‘seek to protect’ freedom of movement.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- End indefinite detention and take powers away from the Home Office.
- Introduce a 28-day time limit on detention and close 7 of the UK’s 9 detention centres.
- Give asylum seekers the right to work three months after they have applied.

Brexit Party



- Reduce annual immigration (capped at 50,000 p/a) and introduce 'a fair points system that is blind to ethnic origin'.

Scottish Greens

- End indefinite detention and close the immigration detention centres.
- New immigration system with no minimum income rules for visas, full workplace rights for migrants, the right to work for asylum seekers and recourse to public support for migrants and asylum seekers who need it.
- Replace the Home Office with a Ministry for Sanctuary and a Ministry of the Interior.

Pension & Taxes

Scottish National Party

- Protect the Triple Lock, ensuring that pensions continue to rise by inflation, earnings or 2.5 per cent - whatever is highest.
- Oppose tax cuts for big business and the wealthiest, instead supporting a crackdown on tax avoidance and evasion.
- Back a reduction in employers' National Insurance contributions.
- Oppose any increases in VAT.
- Review of the tax rules around intermediaries - known as the IR35 tax rule - and problems with implementation of the Loan Charge

Scottish Conservatives

- National Insurance threshold to rise to £9,250 in 2020, with an ambition to raise it further to £12,500.
- No increase to national insurance or VAT for 5 years.
- Reduce National Insurance contributions for employers if they employ ex-Service personnel.
- Review of business rates with the intent of reducing them (beginning with pubs, live music venues, and retail).
- Keep the triple lock, the winter fuel payment, the older person's bus pass and other pensioner benefits

Scottish Labour

- Reverse some corporation tax cuts while keeping rates lower than in 2010.
- Windfall tax on oil companies, with safeguards.
- Raise income tax a little for those earning more than £80,000 a year. Freeze NI and income tax rates for everyone else.
- Target for 3% of GDP to be spent on R&D by 2030 Pension age to remain at 66 while retirement ages for those in arduous and stressful jobs reviewed.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Restore Corporation Tax to 20%.
- Retain the Triple Lock on the basic state pension, so that it rises in line with the highest of wages, prices or 2.5 per cent.
- Abolish the separate Capital Gains Tax-free allowance and instead tax capital gains and salaries through a single allowance.
- Simplify business taxation to lower administration costs.
- Replace Business Rates in England with a Commercial Landowner Levy.



- Support and build on the OECD's proposals to require multinationals to pay a level of tax which is more closely related to their sales in every country in which they operate.
- End retrospective tax changes like the loan charge.
- Review recent proposals to change the IR35 rules.

Brexit Party

- Abolish Inheritance Tax.
- Zero rate Corporation Tax for the first £10,000 of pre-tax profits.

Scottish Greens

- Merge Employees National Insurance, Capital Gains Tax, Inheritance Tax, Dividend Tax and Income Tax into a single Consolidated Income Tax.
- End the double taxation of pension funds, which are currently subject to Corporation Tax and then Income Tax when paid out to individual pensioners.
- Introduce a Land Value Tax.
- Increase the rate of Corporation Tax to 24%.

Transport & Infrastructure

Scottish National Party

- Bring to market a £3 billion portfolio of projects, including renewables, waste and construction, ready for green finance investment.
- Insist railways are run here in Scotland and that they can be run by the public sector.
- Investing over £500 million in improved bus priority infrastructure to make bus travel the faster, greener option and encourage people out of their cars
- Reduce emissions from Scotland's railways to zero by 2035
- Pursue the UK Government to commit to improvements on the journey times between Scotland and London - improving connections to the North of England at the same time.
- To reduce domestic flights, the Scottish Government will work with the UK Government to improve our rail journey times between Edinburgh and London.

Scottish Conservatives

- £100bn in additional spending.
- £28.8bn for road including £1bn for fast charging network and £500m a year for four years for filling potholes.
- £6.3bn for upgrades to homes, such as grants for improving boilers and insulation.
- Build "Northern Powerhouse Rail" between Leeds and Manchester and invest £28.8bn in strategic and local roads.
- HS2 decision will follow the outcome of the Oakervee Review.
- Pledge to restore 'many of the Beeching lines'.
- Heathrow's third runway will receive no new public funding.
- Full fibre and gigabit capable broadband to every home and business across the UK by 2025.

Scottish Labour

- National Transformation Fund of £400 billion. £250 billion of this goes to Green Transformation Fund.
- National Investment Bank, backed up by network of Regional Development Banks, to provide £250 billion of lending for enterprise, infrastructure and innovation over 10 years.



- £150 billion Social Transformation Fund for schools, hospitals, care homes and council houses.
- Long-term investment plan including delivering Crossrail for the North and completing full HS2 route to Scotland.
- Rail electrification and expansion across the whole country, including in Wales.
- Any airport expansion must pass tests on air quality, noise pollution, climate change obligations and countrywide benefits.
- Will kick-start Green Industrial Revolution creating one million jobs to transform industry, energy, transport, agriculture and buildings.
- Green New Deal aims to achieve substantial majority of emissions reductions by 2030
- Local Transformation Fund in each English region.
- New social housebuilding programme of more than a million homes over a decade.
- Free full-fibre broadband to all by 2030. Establish British Broadband. Bring the broadband-relevant parts of BT into public ownership.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Investing £130 billion in infrastructure.
- Continued commitment to HS2, Crossrail 2 and other major new strategic rail routes.
- Significant investment in public transport, including converting the rail network to ultra-low-emission technology (electric or hydrogen) by 2035.
- A programme of installing hyper-fast, fibre-optic broadband across the UK - with a particular focus on connecting rural areas.
- New direct spending on housebuilding to help build 300,000 homes a year by 2024, including 100,000 social homes.
- An emergency ten-year programme to reduce energy consumption from all the UK's buildings, cutting emissions and fuel bills and ending fuel poverty.
- Capital investment in schools and hospitals to support capacity increases and modernisation.
- £5 billion of initial capital for a new Green Investment Bank, using public money to attract private investment for zero-carbon priorities.

Brexit Party

- Scrap HS2.
- Invest at least £50bn in local road and rail schemes in development-starved regions.
- Provide free "base level" broadband for all homes and free wi-fi on all public transport.

Scottish Greens

- Cancel the HS2 project.
- Electrify all railway lines that connect cities and bring all railways back into public ownership over ten years.
- Fund local authorities to improve the appearance and facilities of bus stops, bus stations and train stations.
- Create a network of electric vehicle charging points across the country, requiring their construction through the planning system and encouraging the private sector to deliver them.
- Develop the infrastructure necessary to enable large corporations and individuals to recycle close to 100% of the items they use.

Workers' Rights & Employment

Scottish National Party

- Seek devolution of powers on employment law.



- Call on the UK Government to adopt the SNP's 'Fair Work First' approach.
- Press for the statutory living wage to rise to at least the level of the real living wage, and for an end to age discrimination.
- A halt to Universal Credit
- Demand an immediate end to the benefit freeze, the abolition of the bedroom tax and the introduction of a period of uplifts to benefits of at least inflation.
- Demand an end to the punitive benefits sanctions regime.
- Oppose any rise in the pensions age.
- Demand a UK wide benefit take-up campaign so people are encouraged to get the help they are entitled to, particularly pension credit.
- 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.

Scottish Conservatives

- Nation Living Wage to be set at Two Thirds of average earnings (currently £10.50 p/h).
- Create a single enforcement body for labour standards.
- Ensure workers have the right to request a more predictable contract.

Scottish Labour

- Real Living Wage of at least £10 per hour for all workers aged 16 and over.
- New employment rights, strengthened union rights, equal rights at work from day one.
- Larger employers to obtain government certification on gender equality or face further auditing and fines.
- Pay-gap reporting extended to BAME groups.
- Within a decade, average full-time weekly working hours reduced to 32, with no loss of pay.
- Maximum public sector pay ratios of 20:1.
- Year-on-year above-inflation pay rises in public sector pay, starting with a 5% increase.
- Start roll out of sectoral collective bargaining across economy.
- Paid maternity leave extended to 12 months. Doubled paternity leave. Statutory bereavement leave.
- Pension age to remain at 66 while retirement ages for those in arduous and stressful jobs reviewed.
- End Universal Credit.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Establish a new 'dependent contractor' employment status in between employment and self-employment, with entitlements to basic rights such as minimum earnings levels, sick pay and holiday entitlement.
- Review the tax and National Insurance status of employees, dependent contractors and freelancers to ensure fair and comparable treatment.
- Setting a 20% higher minimum wage for people on zero-hour contracts at times of normal demand to compensate them for the uncertainty of fluctuating hours of work.



- Giving a right to request a fixed-hours contract after 12 months for 'zero hours' and agency workers, not to be unreasonably refused.
- Reviewing rules concerning pensions so that those in the gig economy don't lose out, and portability between roles is protected.
- Shifting the burden of proof in employment tribunals regarding employment status from individual to employer.
- Providing free, high-quality childcare for children of working parents from nine months.
- Strengthen the ability of unions to represent workers effectively in the modern economy, including a right of access to workplaces.
- Extend the Equality Act to all large companies with more than 250 employees, requiring them to monitor and publish data on gender, BAME, and LGBT+ employment levels and pay gaps.
- Invest £6 billion per year in the benefits system and reduce the wait for the first benefits payment from five weeks to five days.
- Introduce an incentive-based scheme to replace the current sanctions system.

Scottish Greens

- Review current employment law to close loopholes that allow employers in the gig economy to deny gig workers key rights.
- Provide 35 hours a week of free childcare for all, from the age of nine months.
- Introduce a Digital Bill of Rights.
- Increase the Living Wage to £12 and extending it to workers aged between 16 and 21.

