

# SNP FAILURES AND BROKEN PROMISES

## Health

1. Instead of ending delayed discharge in 2015 like they promised, in 2019/20 it cost the NHS £139 million.
2. The SNP have broken their own legal Treatment Time Guarantee for patients over 380,000 times.<sup>1</sup>
3. The 62 day waiting time standard for urgent cancer referrals has not been met since 2012.<sup>2</sup>
4. 1 in 4 young people are still being rejected from specialist CAMHS services<sup>3</sup>, almost three years after an external review called for rejections to end.<sup>4</sup>
5. The water contamination scandal at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital caused almost 40 infections in young cancer patients and the deaths of two children, but years on the families are still waiting for answers.<sup>5</sup>
6. The flaws in the construction of the delayed Edinburgh Sick Kids hospital led to the SNP paying £1.4million every month for an empty hospital which was not safe for patients.<sup>6</sup>
7. A decade of cuts has left the NHS with a maintenance and repairs backlog of £1.03billion.<sup>7</sup>
8. Increases to NHS funding in Scotland have failed to keep pace with those in England meaning Scotland's health spending advantage has almost been completely lost.<sup>8</sup>
9. Life expectancy has stalled in Scotland and there is at least a ten year gap between the richest and poorest areas.<sup>9</sup>

## Social Care

10. The SNP have failed to deliver fair work in social care – nearly 1 in 5 workers are on insecure or temporary contracts and 15% of staff work unpaid overtime.<sup>10</sup>
11. As of January 2021, Scotland had the second highest rate of care home resident deaths from Covid-19 in Europe.<sup>11</sup>
12. At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, 3,000 untested patients and 123 positive patients were transferred to care homes – Health Secretary Jeane Freeman admitted the SNP “failed” the social care sector.<sup>12</sup>

1 <https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/healthcare-resources/waiting-times/nhs-waiting-times-stage-of-treatment/>  
2 <https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/conditions-and-diseases/cancer/cancer-waiting-times/>  
3 <https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/conditions-and-diseases/mental-health/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-services-camhs-waiting-times/>  
4 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/rejected-referrals-child-adolescent-mental-health-services-camhs-qualitative-quantitative/>  
5 <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/19178500.glasgow-childrens-hospital-infections-led-death-two-patients/>  
6 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-55996608>  
7 <https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/report/nhs-in-scotland-2020>  
8 <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/15396>  
9 <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics-by-theme/life-expectancy/life-expectancy-in-scotland/2017-2019>  
10 <https://data.sssc.uk.com/data-publications/22-workforce-data-report/239-scottish-social-service-sector-report-on-2019-workforce-data> and <https://www.fairworkconvention.scot/our-report-on-fair-work-in-social-care/>  
11 [https://ltccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/LTC\\_COVID\\_19\\_international\\_report\\_January-1-February-1-1.pdf](https://ltccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/LTC_COVID_19_international_report_January-1-February-1-1.pdf)  
12 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-56680666>

## Education and Childcare

13. The number of full-time equivalent teachers in Scotland's schools is 1,700 fewer than when the SNP assumed office in 2007.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, more than 2,600 teachers have dropped or lost their professional registration over the last five years.<sup>14</sup>

14. The SNP's failure to work with the SQA to create a credible and fair moderation system for exams in 2020 led to a grading system with inequality baked in and rushed u-turns from Ministers.<sup>15</sup>

15. Failed to deliver their planned childcare expansion on time after years of opportunity to improve childcare for families.<sup>16</sup>

16. There are 578 fewer specialist teachers for children and young people with additional support needs compared with 2012, despite a near doubling of those with ASN.<sup>17</sup>

17. The SNP have failed to get all primary 1 – 3 pupils in classes with 18 or fewer despite promising to do so.<sup>18</sup>

18. They failed to deliver on their commitment to close the attainment gap<sup>19</sup> despite almost a decade and a half in government and Nicola Sturgeon saying it was her “sacred responsibility”.<sup>20</sup>

19. Students have been let down by the SNP scrapping their 2007 pledge to end student debt,<sup>21</sup> and they failed to return college student numbers to 2007 levels.<sup>22</sup>

20. They failed to scrap the Scottish National Standardised Assessments for Primary 1s, as instructed by Parliament.<sup>23</sup>

21. Forced to scrap their flawed Named Persons legislation<sup>24</sup> and permanently shelve their proposed Education Bill.<sup>25</sup>

## Economy and Jobs

22. 350,000 people in Scotland still do not earn the Scottish Living Wage.<sup>26</sup>

23. SNP cuts to local government have stripped £937.5 million from non-ringfenced revenue funding.

24. The SNP have repeatedly broken their promise to scrap the “unfair council tax”.<sup>27</sup>

25. Before the pandemic, the Scottish economy had grown at roughly half the rate of the rest of the UK following the 2008 crash.<sup>28</sup>

26. In 2010 the SNP promised 130,000 green jobs by 2020 but instead the number of people directly employed had fallen to 21,400.<sup>29</sup>

27. The SNP's mismanagement of Scotland's manufacturing base has led to the loss of critical contracts and jobs in yards such as BiFab.<sup>30</sup>

13 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-schools-scotland-2020/>

14 <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/19225695.covid-19-recovery-fears-thousands-teachers-quit/>

15 <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18821236.coronavirus-scotland-john-swinney-let-exams-fiasco-fester/>

16 <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18943671.scotlands-free-childcare-expansion-delayed-august-2021/>

17 <https://www.thescsc.org.uk/coalition-raises-concerns-as-new-figures-highlight-slump-in-support-for-vulnerable-children/>

18 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-schools-scotland-2020/>

19 <https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/report/improving-outcomes-for-young-people-through-school-education>

20 <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-tells-record-readers-5757414>

21 <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18175231.student-loan-debt-triples-snp-despite-2007-manifesto-pledge-abolish/>

22 <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/statistical-publications/2021/SFCSTo12021.aspx>

23 <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/16889660.scottish-government-loses-vote-p1-assessments/>

24 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49753980>

25 [https://www.holyrood.com/news/view/scottish-government-confirms-education-bill-shelved-in-favour-of-collaborative-approach\\_10489.htm](https://www.holyrood.com/news/view/scottish-government-confirms-education-bill-shelved-in-favour-of-collaborative-approach_10489.htm)

26 <https://scottishlivingwage.org/living-wage-scotland-reflections-on-the-national-living-wage-increase/>

27 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-government-finance-circular-5-2021-settlement-for-2021-2022/>

28 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/towards-robust-resilient-wellbeing-economy-scotland-report-advisory-group-economic-recovery/pages/3/>

29 [http://www.stuc.org.uk/files/Policy/Research-papers/Renewable\\_Jobs\\_Crisis\\_Covid-19.pdf](http://www.stuc.org.uk/files/Policy/Research-papers/Renewable_Jobs_Crisis_Covid-19.pdf)

30 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-56037981>

28. There are 45,000 young people unemployed in Scotland following Covid-19 but the SNP young person's guarantee only provided funding to create 18,000 job opportunities – offering support to only 40% of the young people who need it.<sup>31</sup>

## Environment and Climate Change

29. In 2016 the SNP promised to have the first low emission zone in place by 2018, but their delays to enacting the Transport Act means the first zones will not be in place before 2022 at the earliest.<sup>32</sup>

30. Since 2017, Nicola Sturgeon has promised the creation of a publicly owned energy company, but it has not got beyond the business case stage.<sup>33</sup>

31. After 8 rounds of funding the SNP have supported the purchase of only 532<sup>34</sup> low emission buses, equivalent to only 12% of the Scotland's total fleet. Continuing at this rate it will take 65 year before all of Scotland's buses are low emission.<sup>35</sup>

32. The SNP has failed to protect wildlife. 49% of species have decreased in abundance, and there has been little change in the rate of decline over the last 10 years.<sup>36</sup> 1 in 9 species face extinction, including red squirrels, Scottish wildcats, and capercaillies.<sup>37</sup> Scottish breeding seabirds have declined by 38%.<sup>38</sup> A leaked Scottish Government report shows a 10 year target to prevent damage to marine wildlife has been missed.<sup>39</sup>

33. The SNP have slashed funding for major environment bodies – SNH, SEPA, Scotland's Rural College, and the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh.<sup>40</sup>

## Transport & Connectivity

34. Failed to deliver<sup>41</sup> their promise<sup>42</sup> of delivering superfast broadband to every home and business by 2021.

35. The SNP have presided over a catastrophic ferry building contract which has seen two ships delayed by four years and running at least £100 million over budget.<sup>43</sup>

36. Bus services have been dismantled under the SNP, with many local routes disappearing and passenger numbers down by 25% since 2007.<sup>44</sup>

37. The SNP's own cycling targets<sup>45</sup> have been missed – they promised that by 2020 10% of all everyday journeys would be made by bicycle but it has been stuck at 1% for the last decade and from 2009-2019, active travel and transport actually decreased.<sup>46</sup>

38. Glasgow airport is still without a rail link and after the SNP scrapped not one, but two proposed projects.

31 <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2021/03/labour-market-statistics-for-young-people-16-24-years-scotland-and-uk---january-2020-to-december-2020/documents/labour-market-statistics-for-young-people-16-24-years-scotland-and-uk---january-2020-to-december-2020/govscot%3Adocument/Labour%2BMarket%2BStatistics%2Bfor%2BYoung%2BPeople%2B%252816%2Bto%2B24%2B-year%2Bolds%2529%2B-%2BD20.pdf>

32 <https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/environment/low-emission-zones/>

33 <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nicola-sturgeon-criticised-over-failed-pledge-to-deliver-public-power-company-hp7m7wpqv>

34 <https://www.transport.gov.scot/public-transport/buses/scottish-green-bus-fund/>

35 <https://www.transport.gov.scot/public-transport/buses/scottish-ultra-low-emission-bus-scheme/>

36 <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-10/State-of-nature-Report-2019-Scotland-full-report.pdf>

37 <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-10/State-of-nature-Report-2019-Scotland-full-report.pdf>

38 <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-10/State-of-nature-Report-2019-Scotland-full-report.pdf>

39 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/04/leaked-report-shows-scotland-missed-target-for-marine-wildlife-protection>

40 <https://www.scotlink.org/funding-the-nature-and-climate-emergency-reversing-a-decade-of-austerity-for-the-environment/>

41 <https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/scotland>

42 <https://www.snp.org/delivering-superfast-broadband-for-all-homes-and-businesses-in-scotland/>

43 <https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/Committees/Report/REC/2020/12/9/5517356c-7b44-11ea-af53-000d3a23af40-1>

44 <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/scottish-transport-statistics-no-39-2020-edition-pdf-only/>

45 <https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/10311/transport-scotland-policy-cycling-action-plan-for-scotland-january-2017.pdf>

46 <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/scottish-transport-statistics-no-39-2020-edition-pdf-only/>

## Housing

39. The SNP were failing to deliver their promise of 50,000 new affordable homes by 2021,<sup>47</sup> even before Covid and in the end they missed their social homes target by over 22%.<sup>48</sup>

40. Their £60m First Home Fund was so inadequate that it is closed to applications because it was exhausted only 5 working days after it reopened.<sup>49</sup>

41. The Fuel Poverty Bill failed to meet the ambitions of the SNP's promised Warm Homes Bill, while figures show a quarter of households in Scotland are living in fuel poverty.

## Poverty & Social Security

42. The proportion of Scottish pensioners stuck in persistent poverty has increased under the SNP and is now higher than levels elsewhere in the UK.<sup>50</sup>

43. More than one in four (260,000) of Scotland's children are officially recognised as living in poverty and more than two-thirds of children in poverty live in working households.<sup>51</sup>

44. Despite welfare powers being devolved to Holyrood the SNP have twice delayed taking over control of benefits, choosing instead to leave them the responsibility of the with the UK Government and DWP.

45. In 2015/16 the SNP cut funding for alcohol and drugs services and now Scotland has the highest drugs death rate in Europe; over 1,260 people lost their lives to drugs in 2019 alone.<sup>52</sup>

46. Food bank use has been rising, with the Trussell Trust recording a 75% increase in need in Scotland between 2015/16 and 2018/19.<sup>53</sup> This pre-dates Covid-19, which saw further rises, and is a greater increase than in other parts of the UK. Meanwhile the SNP failed to introduce a Good Food Nation Bill.

## Justice

47. In 2007 the SNP promised to put more police on local streets but their centralisation of police forces has resulted in a reduction of over 500 local officers since 2017 alone.<sup>54</sup>

48. In the eight years since the creation of Police Scotland there have been at least four chairs of the Scottish Police Authority, three Chief Constables, and a recent independent report<sup>55</sup> found serious flaws in Police Scotland's misconduct proceedings, along with evidence of mistreatment of minorities across the institution.

49. In 2013 the SNP closed a fifth of all sheriff courts<sup>56</sup> and following Covid-19 there is now a backlog of over 34,000 court cases to be heard.<sup>57</sup>

50. The Scottish Government's flawed sexual harassment policy led to the concession of a judicial review, costing the taxpayer over £500,000 and failed at least two women who had raised complaints.

47 <https://www.snp.org/policies/pb-what-is-the-snp-doing-to-boost-affordable-housing/>

48 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-statistics-scotland-quarterly-update-published-23rd-march-2021/>

49 <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scotlands-first-home-fund-runs-23881865>

50 [https://data.gov.scot/poverty/persistent.html#All\\_individuals](https://data.gov.scot/poverty/persistent.html#All_individuals)

51 <https://cpag.org.uk/scotland/child-poverty/facts>

52 <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland>

53 <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/>

54 <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/policy-scotland/police-scotland-officer-numbers/>

55 <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/11/review-calls-overhaul-scotland-police-complaints-system>

56 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-22215741>

57 <https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/docs/default-source/aboutscs/reports-and-data/criminal-court-statistics/2020-2021/scts-quarterly-criminal-court-statistics---bulletin-q3-2020-21.pdf?sfvrsn=2>