



Scottish Labour

SCOTLAND NEEDS CHANGE

Easy Read version



The Scottish Parliament election

The Scottish Parliament election will happen on Thursday 7 May.

People can vote for MSPs in the Parliament.



The Scottish Labour Party

We are the Scottish Labour Party.

In Scotland our own leader is Anas Sarwar.



This is the easy read **manifesto** from the Scottish Labour Party.

A **manifesto** is a plan.



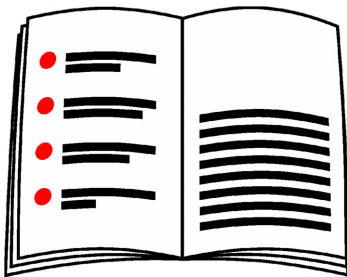
This manifesto tells you about what we need to change and why we think you should vote for us on 7 May.



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Anas Sarwar **1**



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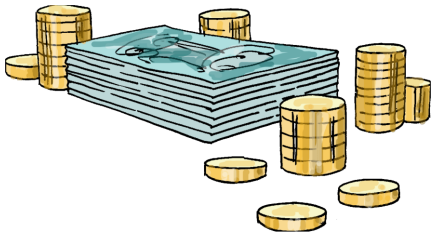
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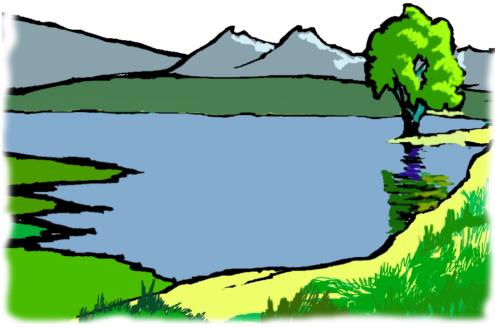
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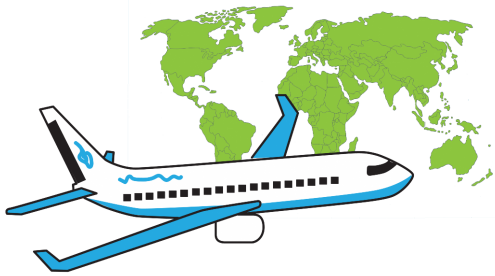
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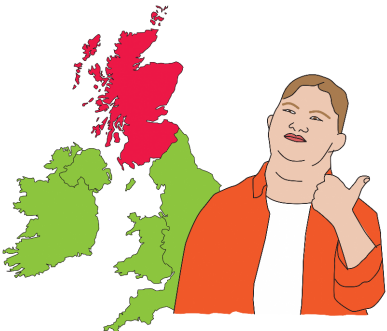
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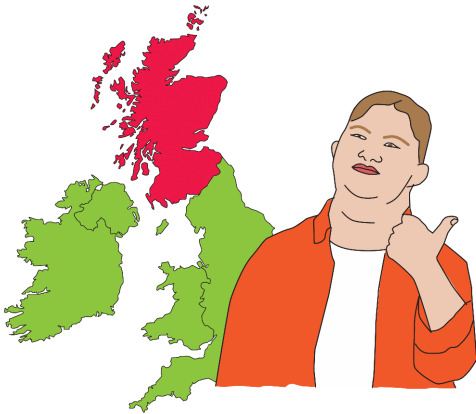


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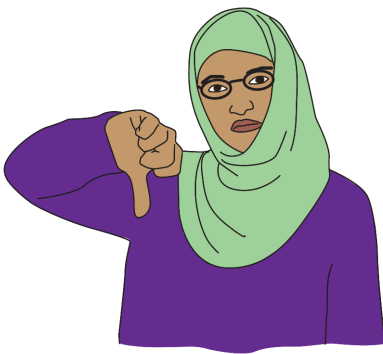


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A message from our leader, Anas Sarwar



Scotland is a great country.



But the Scottish National Party has been the government for 20 years and they are holding us back.



People tell me we need a change.

I want to make life better for you and your family.



You can read about my ideas in this manifesto.

Scottish Labour's plan for change



We want to:

1. Make life more affordable for families.



2. Cut down the time you wait to see a doctor.



3. Help businesses and get the economy moving.



4. Create more jobs for young people.



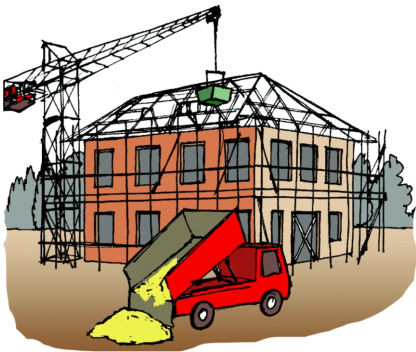
5. Employ more teachers and classroom assistants.



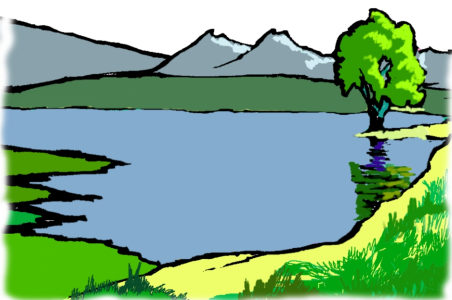
6. Build stronger communities.



7. Put community police officers in every neighbourhood.



8. Build more homes and help people buy their own home.



9. Protect our natural environment.



10. Look after public money and improve standards in politics.

Our plan in more detail

1. Make life more affordable for families



To help people who are struggling with the rising cost of living, Scottish Labour will:



- lower the tax for people buying their first home. This will save them up to £1,100



- help 3,000 older people make their homes warmer

- help pay for school meals



- start breakfast clubs in all primary schools so no child starts the day hungry



- offer cheaper childcare and summer holiday clubs



- stop income tax rate rises for 5 years

- make sure every young person leaves school with a bank account



- help families connect with support through Family Network Hubs



- help parents to find well paid jobs.

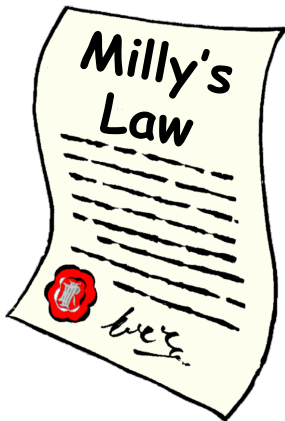
2. An NHS there when Scots need it



We want people to have the best free health service when they need it. Scottish Labour will:



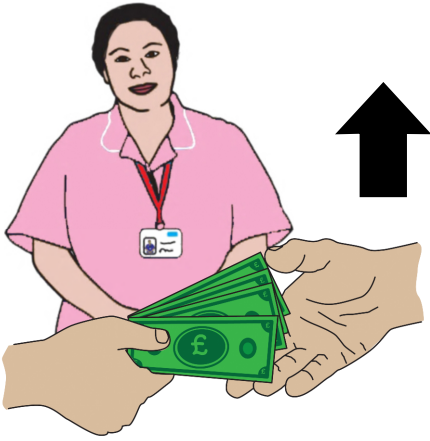
- cut down the waiting time to see a doctor
- make it easier to leave hospital care with extra beds in care homes and more at home care packages



- use Milly's Law to stop cover ups when things go wrong
- increase access to live-in rehab centres so more people who use drugs can get help

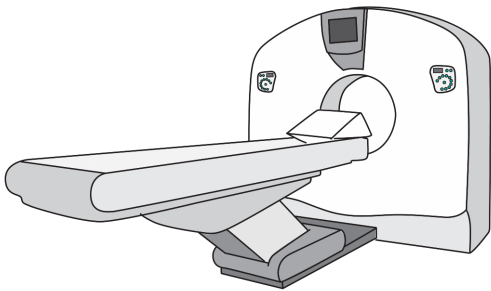


- bring back the family doctor



- increase the pay for social care workers to £15 per hour

- make a plan to train NHS workers, so new graduates will train and stay here to work



- pay for modern scanners that will catch cancer early

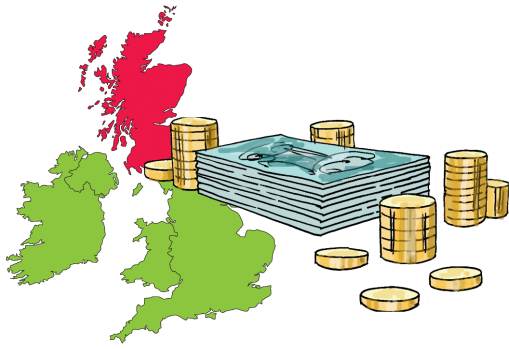


- make the NHS app available faster so people can use their phones to order medicine and make appointments

- set up a new service to help people in mental health crisis get NHS care

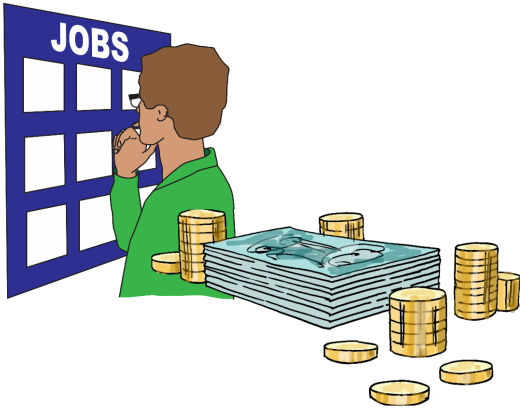


- reduce the number of NHS boards and spend more money on patient care.



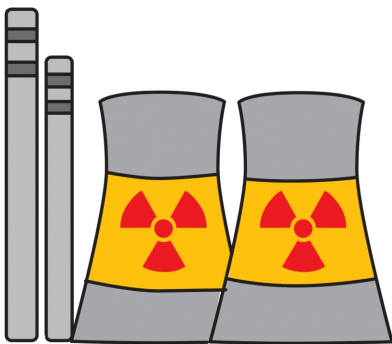
3. Get the economy moving

The economy is about how much money we have in the country.

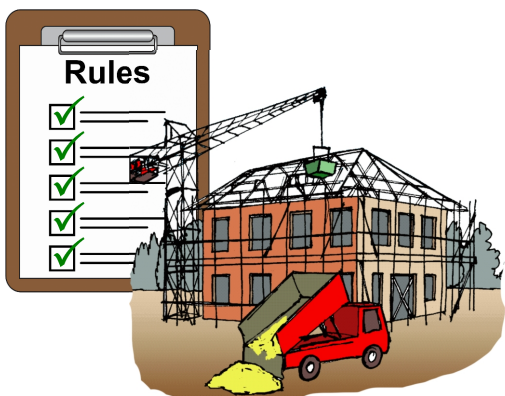


To give everyone a fair chance we need a strong economy that grows and creates jobs.

To improve our economy, Scottish Labour will:



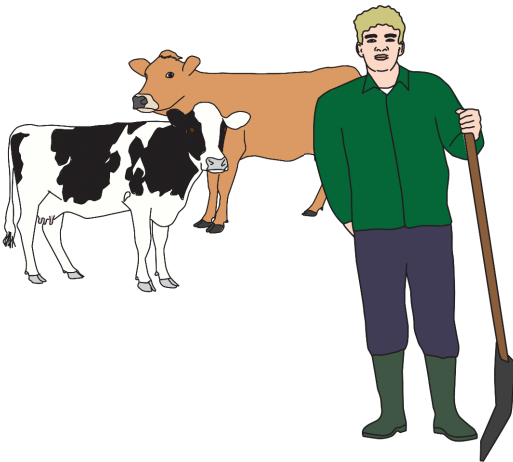
- welcome new nuclear energy so we have more jobs and less pollution



- change the planning rules to make it faster to build things and make sure projects can help the economy
- buy more from Scottish businesses to support local jobs



- simplify the way we work with business to make it easier and fairer for investors and business owners



- update the way we help Scotland's farmers so it is fairer for everyone



- make our economic groups work better together to help Scottish businesses

- change unfair business taxes to encourage local investment, help town centres, and make sure big online companies pay a fair amount



- work on a fast train line so people can move between our cities

- help businesses use new technology.

4. Help young people get jobs

People need the right skills to get jobs to live a good life.



Many young people are not at school, working or training for a job.



Our industries cannot find skilled workers.



We want to fix this.

To help people build their skills, Scottish Labour will:

- pay for training with the Apprenticeship Levy





- guide and support colleges to train students for real jobs



- plan for the jobs and skills that are needed in the future



- make sure government money helps create good jobs

- keep university free and look at how universities will work best in the future

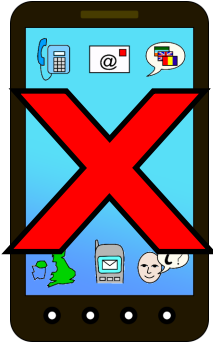
- create 9,000 new apprenticeships places so there is one for everyone who wants one



- set up a Digital Skills Passport that people can show employers their skills.

5. Children and young people in school

To make sure all children have a good education, Scottish Labour will:



- ban mobile phones in classrooms

- hire more specialist teachers and classroom assistants to help students who need extra help



- bring in better and fairer primary school testing



- improve how we teach children maths and reading



- help young people to link their school learning to future jobs

- arrange industry work experience for secondary school students



- give every P5 student the chance to learn to swim.

6. Stronger communities



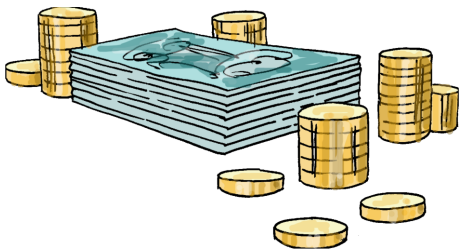
We want our towns and cities to be places where people can raise families, live well and grow old together.

To make life fair for all people in Scotland, Scottish Labour will:

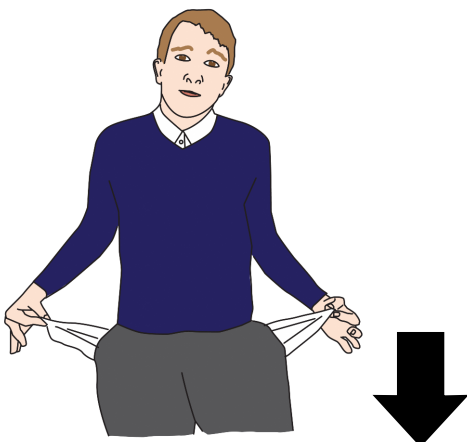


- fix roads and ferries

- help local artists to set up businesses with more creative funding



- fairly fund local government to deliver local services



- help community bodies with funding so they can make things fairer for all people and reduce poverty



- help more people get online so they feel included



- use £100 million from ScotWind income to help communities own their own energy

- bring our bus services back under local control



- give more power over regional services to local people.

7. A safer Scotland



Policing in Scotland is not working as well as it could.

To make our neighbourhoods safe again, Scottish Labour will:



- bring back more community police and put a crime prevention officer in every neighbourhood



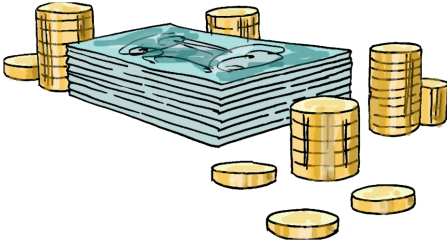
- make sentencing for younger people fairer
- destroy illegal e-bikes and take away bikes that do not have licenses



- stop bail for people who have been violent to women
- make it a crime to take advantage of young people



- support victims of crime
- make it easier to get legal aid



- bring back the Cashback for Communities Youth Work Fund



- £1 million will be used to support local groups that help young people and stop crime.



8. Homes

We believe that everybody should have a safe, warm home that they can afford to pay for.



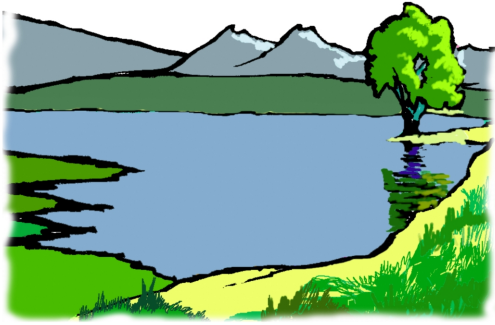
To deal with the housing emergency, Scottish Labour will:

- free up land and build 125,000 homes in 5 years
- make sure there are more affordable homes for people waiting for a home
- set up the Ending Homelessness Unit to help people who are sleeping rough
- give people who own their own home more control over who looks after the local neighbourhood





- help renters save a deposit to buy a house
- combine all the funds for rural housing.



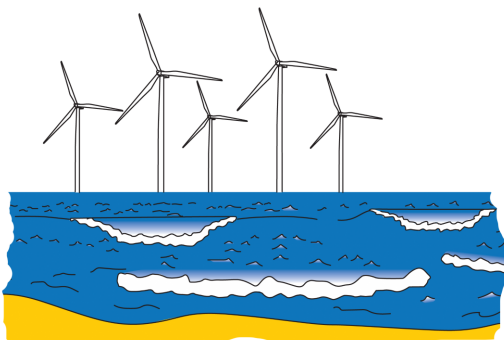
9. Protect our natural environment

Scotland has beautiful natural areas.



To protect our natural environment, Scottish Labour will:

- check our sewage overflows
- start a program where you get money back when you return your empty drink containers so people do not litter with drink containers
- help natural areas recover
- improve the way we run Scottish Water
- set up a Marine Recovery Fund to help our sea recover after wind farms are built





- show people how to heat their homes cheaply using new technology



- teach people how to stop wildfires

- teach children at school how to look after the environment



- reward farmers who look after the environment in the ways they farm

- grow community heat and power networks.

10. A government that works for you

Scottish Labour will look after public money in these ways:



- reduce the government organisation that are not serving you well



- let you read government files about recent problems
- set up a Scottish Treasury to look after the way we spend your money



- make sure the government is focused on how to improve things for you, not themselves.



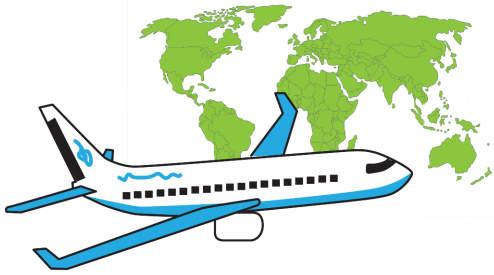
- make it possible to replace Members of the Scottish Parliament who are not working honestly for you
- look at ways to finish our projects more quickly and cheaper.

11. Connect with the rest of the world

To attract people and business from other countries, Scottish Labour will:



- support the Glasgow airport rail link for faster travel to the city
- set up a Major Events Bureau to bring international events to Scotland



- fund more international air routes



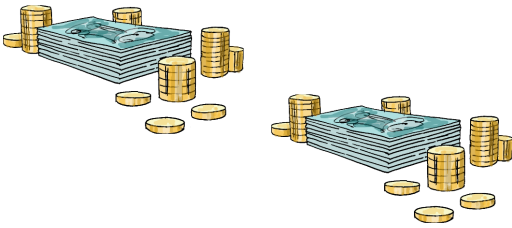
- build our whisky and salmon trade
- advertise Scotland around the world



- increase our exports



- hold a yearly forum to show off Scottish products to people from different countries



- create a program to match donations. This will double the money the Scottish people give to help people in need.

How we will pay for our promises



Spend money carefully.

All of our plans can be paid for from the Scottish government's budget.



We think our plans will also:

- give us more money to spend on public services by 2030
- reduce the amount of tax Scottish people must pay
- help businesses to grow and create more jobs.



A new Scottish Treasury will look for ways to spend our money well.

The election is your chance to make Scotland better



By voting for Scottish Labour on 7 May, you will see good changes in your community.



We promise to:

- cut down the time you wait to see a doctor



- employ more teachers and classroom assistants



- create jobs through 9,000 new apprenticeships for young people



- help Scottish industry



- build 125,000 new homes



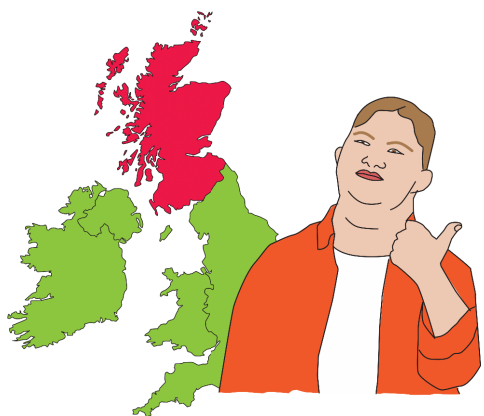
- fix our roads



- put community police officers back in every neighbourhood



- look after public money.



**We think Scotland
can do better.**

We can make a difference.



**Vote for Scottish Labour
on 7 May.**