

UKIP SCOTLAND MANIFESTO FOR THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SHAKE UP HOLYROOD

The UK Independence Party's platform for the Scottish Parliament election on 5th May 2016





SHAKE UP HOLYROOD

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The objective of our manifesto is to encourage Scots to stay in Scotland, build their businesses and employ their fellow Scots.

UKIP also wants to deliver the best social and health services we can for the money we're spending.

This can only be achieved through making the Scottish economy competitive. Scottish taxes must be no higher than the rest of the UK if not lower. We must keep Scottish business rates at a level that will not strangle enterprise. The UK must leave the European Union whose one size fits all trans-continental bureaucratic solutions damage our entrepreneurial society.

All the other parties in Scotland make extravagant promises on welfare which they cannot possibly fulfil while running a £15 billion black hole. They are just trying to buy your vote. UKIP wants to cut outrageous town hall fat-cat salaries and other extravagancies before plucking the poor tax payer or cutting front line service. Some people in the town halls are on more money than the Prime Minister!

As a libertarian party, UKIP opposes the authoritarian direction Scotland has taken such as the 'Named Person' scheme and the extravagant use of political correctness to stifle freedom of speech and thought.

UKIP are the only party in Scotland which wants to leave the bankrupt, sclerotic, undemocratic European Union and bring its powers back to Holyrood and Westminster where they belong. More power will be repatriated back to Scotland by leaving the EU than would ever been achieved by breaking up the UK.

Leaving the EU will give the Scottish Parliament the freedom to legislate on fishing, farming, environment, energy and social policy in the interest of the Scottish people and not the EU.

UKIP will shake up Holyrood's tired old establishment parties which spout the same old havers.

SHAKE UP HOLYROOD, VOTE UKIP

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INTRODUCTION

This Manifesto sets forth UKIP's plan for administrating a devolved Scotland within the United Kingdom so that the two parliaments can work more effectively together for the good of all our peoples.

UKIP remains a Libertarian party which fully supports the Union. UKIP is the only party which has contested and won elections in all four home nations as a unified party. There is no distinction between UKIP Scotland and the rest of UKIP so the policies laid out in this document accord with those of the party as a whole.

Scotland does however have some unique local issues and these are addressed here. Since there are ten devolved areas where the Scottish Parliament is the principal decision maker, it makes sense for a Scottish Manifesto to address those issues. Also included are other important Scottish issues such as Brexit and Defense.

This Manifesto also throws down the gauntlet to those who believe that the Scottish and UK parliaments operate separately. We believe that both parliaments should work in harmony with each other.

UKIP will:

- Oppose any suggestions which would result in taxes being higher in Scotland than the rest of the UK.
- Lower business rates and cut red tape.
- Open Grammar and Technical Schools in Scotland.
- Oppose the 'Bedroom Tax'.
- Protect the NHS from TTIP.
- Cut Stamp Duty and regulation for brown field sites to increase housing.
- Ensure all Armed Forces Veterans receive fast track NHS care for both mental and physical needs.
- Repeal the Named Persons scheme.
- Protect property rights and the Laws of Inheritance.

BREXIT

UKIP's position has been quite unfairly and misleadingly labelled 'anti-Europe'. We are not 'anti-Europe', but we are firmly opposed to political integration within Europe.

Back in 1972, we were told we were joining a 'common market'. What we actually joined was a supranational political union. We have lost our rights of self-government in the stealth creation of a United States of Europe which has its own flag, national anthem, parliament, central bank, court of justice, vast civil service and fledgling military and police forces.

The tentacles of the EU stretch into almost every area of our national life. The EU has complete control over Scottish fishing, farming, energy, environment and social policy. It dictates UK business and employment legislation and immigration rules. It seeks greater control over our law enforcement services, our foreign affairs and tax policy. There is significant momentum behind plans for an EU-wide army and police force.

On these and many other issues, our elected Holyrood and Westminster politicians are impotent. They pretend to have the power to influence these matters but actually they have none.

It is an out-of-sight, unaccountable, pan-European bureaucratic elite which has the final say and they do not consider Scotland & the UK's best

The European Parliament is no safeguard. It is a sham democracy. Our MEPs are not allowed to generate or revisit existing legislation. They can only vote on decisions made by unelected Commissioners and even then, their vote can be ignored.

Despite the fact the UK is the world's fifth largest economy and the seventh largest manufacturing nation, we can't make direct trade deals with any other nations while part of the EU. Once out of the EU, the UK can take her seat at the World Trade Organisation and make her own, more advantageous trade treaties designed to suit us and not the EU. While in the EU, we will never be able to prevent foreign trawlers plundering Scottish waters of precious fish and our farmers are bound by rules that only benefit multinational corporations. If the EU's plans for 'tax harmonisation' comes to fruition, we may find that neither Westminster nor Holyrood will be able to set taxes.

A UK exit from the EU is the only choice open to us if we are to make our own laws and control our own destiny. Unless we leave, our democracy, our law-making powers and our sovereignty will continue to be skimmed away by the EU. Genuine reform is impossible. Successive EU Presidents,

senior officials and European Prime Ministers have confirmed there is no hope of Britain negotiating any opt-outs or real special treatment.

As far as our 'influence' goes, we have very little in the EU project. As the EU has expanded, our vote share in the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, and the European Commission has declined to a point where it is now almost insignificant. We can vote 'no' to proposals as often as we like but unless other countries agree, measures will go on and become UK law anyway.

For all these reasons and more, the United Kingdom is Better off Out.



ECONOMY & TAXATION

Our approach to the economy revolves around restoring incentives for workers and entrepreneurs by cutting taxes and unnecessary red tape.

UKIP would look to a fairer tax system for Scotland. We cannot be sure of the economic situation created by the devolution of income tax, therefore we can only state that our guiding principal would be to lower taxes and oppose any suggestions that would result in income tax being higher than the rest of the UK. Scotland charging a higher rate of Income Tax than the rest of the UK would be unfair on hard working aspirational Scots and lead to a flight of Capital south taking jobs and opportunities with it.

- We believe that the current higher rate of income tax is now out of date and should not be levied on middle-income earners such as school teachers and senior nurses. As soon as the budgetary implications of devolving income tax become apparent we will propose the introduction of a new intermediate tax rate of 30 per cent on income tax ranging between £45,300 and £55,000. The higher rate of 40 per cent will begin at the threshold of £55,000.

The Long term aspiration of a UKIP government will be to create an income tax structure of a basic rate of 20 per cent, an intermediate rate of 30 per cent, and a top rate of 40 per cent meaning income taxes will be flatter and lower.

Large corporations should pay their fair share of tax. It cannot be left to hardworking families to shoulder the burden alone. UKIP believes that cosy agreements between multi-national conglomerates and governments to pay as little tax as possible are grossly unfair on ordinary people. These deals are made possible by EU rules that allow a company to pay tax in whichever EU member they choose, rather than in the countries where they are making their profits. A UKIP government in Scotland would work closely with the UK government in identifying companies that are not paying their fair share of tax.

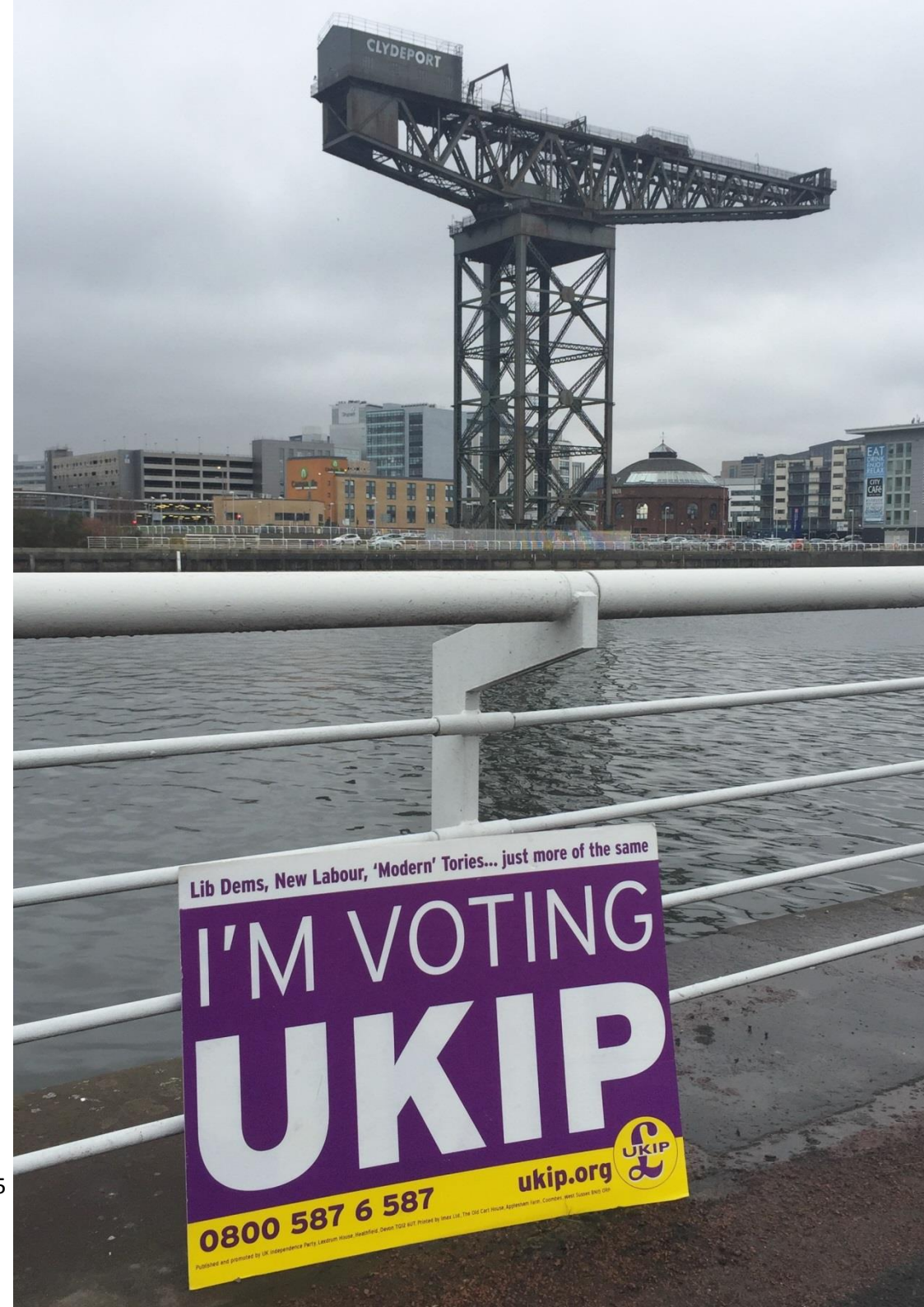
BALANCING THE BUDGET

UKIP feels strongly that the ability of the Scottish Parliament to borrow money should be very tightly controlled and should only be done in the most extreme of circumstances.

- We will therefore be looking to introduce a locking mechanism to ensure fiscally prudent use of this right in the future. UKIP would only borrow to finance infrastructure or capital projects and never for ongoing costs.

UKIP will finance a fairer tax system and fund our public spending by sharp reductions in spending on certain public sector programmes, departments and quangos.

- A UKIP administration would aim to only appoint Ministers with remits that are linked to devolved portfolios. We see no reason to appoint Ministers to do jobs or represent interests which fall outside the competencies of the Scottish Parliament. UKIP want to see a significant reduction in the number of Scottish Senior Ministers and an end to the Holyrood gravy train.
- UKIP will close down the Scottish Parliament “Diplomacy Project” which is a duplicate of the existing Foreign Office Diplomatic Service and is NOT a devolved area of competence.
- UKIP would review the number of Quangos and the amounts paid to them to ensure value for money. Too many produce little or no discernible benefit to the Scottish taxpayer and this must be stopped.
- We would review all wages and expenses paid to both senior bureaucrats and politicians to ensure the public are getting value for money from those that represent them.



BUSINESS

Too often, our small and medium sized businesses are not supported. Entrepreneurs who work hard and struggle to set up businesses are quite often put off by high business rates and excessive regulation. All this must stop.

REDUCING BUSINESS RATES

Business rates as a tax are a great burden on business and especially so on small businesses where they represent a disproportionately high fixed cost. Having business rates in Scotland disproportionately high compared to England would create an unnecessary barrier for businesses who want to set up in Scotland and results in a flight of capital and jobs to cheaper parts of the UK. The effect of high business rates ripple through the economy and doesn't only affect the business which occupies the site. It can also act as a deterrent to investment in Scotland with developers and construction companies unwilling to erect new offices, warehouses, and shops.

- We believe that business rates in Scotland have become excessively high which is creating an unnecessary barrier to economic growth. A UKIP government would lower business rates in Scotland allowing companies to reinvest the money back into growing their business and creating jobs.

CUTTING RED TAPE

Massive over-regulation by the European Union impacts disproportionately on smaller business. Fewer than one in ten British businesses trade with the EU, yet 100 per cent of them must comply with thousands of EU laws. This burden can be overwhelming for small firms.

A report by Business for Britain concluded that 3,580 new laws passed between 11 May 2010 and 1 October 2013 affected British business, with legislation running to over 13 million words. The EU's most costly regulations cost Britain an estimated £27.4 billion a year, according to 2013 research by think-tank Open Europe. The federation of Small Business says 61 per cent of small companies cite the 'regulatory burden' as a significant factor when closing or downsizing.

- UKIP will repeal EU regulation and directives that stifle business growth. Only by leaving the EU will the Scottish and UK parliaments have the power to repeal laws introduced by the EU.

UKIP is the only Party in Scotland which is campaigning to leave the European Union. Only UKIP can ensure that Scotland votes to leave the EU along with the rest of the UK.

LET'S KEEP POLITICS OUT OF IT

We understand that the Scottish economy is not comprised of politicians or committees but of businesses, entrepreneurs and hardworking people. The world of business is underpinned by contract law which allows individuals or parties to conduct trade while being protected.

We believe that the economy performs at its best when businesses are left to conduct trade free from government interference. Therefore, we will oppose any legislation or committees that seek to define economic value, set price or force the sale of free holdings as long as market forces allow for the elasticity of demand and supply.

ENCOURAGING LOCAL TRADE

Businesses in our city and town centres have suffered as a result of the dramatic increase in out-of-town trading estates and supermarkets. UKIP believes our cities and town centres should be vibrant and profitable. That means encouraging locals, visitors and tourists into our towns by removing barriers that act as a disincentive, such as expensive or restricted parking.

- We will push every local authority in Scotland to offer at least 30 minutes free parking in city and town centres, high streets and shopping parades, to encourage shoppers into our centres and boost local business.

PUBLIC SECTOR CONTRACTS

UKIP will make it easier for small and medium-sized businesses with 250 employees or less to tender for public sector contracts by removing the necessity to demonstrate compliance in areas irrelevant to the job being tendered for. This will benefit smaller companies and cut costs to the taxpayer.

SAVING THE SCOTTISH PUB

The local pub has been a long standing tradition in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK. However changes in the law have pushed people away from their local and into the supermarkets to buy cheap alcohol. UKIP believes that the local pub is a cultural tradition which moderates drinking in a social environment. UKIP will make changes to the law to allow people to head down to their local for a pint.

- The drink driving limit should go back to 80mg per 100ml of blood – the same as the rest of the UK. Having a varied limit makes no sense and 80mg is low enough to deter reckless behaviour.
- The smoking ban has had a disastrous effect on sections of the Scottish economy and society. It has led to an increase in smoking at home in front of children and a reduction in people meeting face to face adversely affecting society in a negative manner. UKIP understands the concerns surrounding smoking in public places but several systems are used abroad which do away with the negative impact on non-smokers, while at the same time

allowing smokers to enjoy their pint. UKIP proposes to allow pubs and clubs the choice to open smoking rooms if they so wish. These rooms must be physically separate from non-smoking rooms and must be properly ventilated. Workers must not be required to enter a smoking room except for cleaning and other essential purposes and only when the room is not in use.

COMMUNICATIONS

It is vital in the modern world to have access to modern communications. UKIP would work with providers to ensure good mobile phone coverage throughout Scotland. Internet speeds in rural locations are not good enough. In urban areas the speeds are often reduced due to overloading and high usage. UKIP would address these issues. We want to see a connected Scotland where communication is possible across the country.



CONSTITUTION & DEVOLVED POWERS

UKIP remains a Unionist party which understands the benefits of local decision making. UKIP is a strong supporter of local referenda and decisions at grassroots. We also know the idea of a Scottish Parliament has a majority of support. Therefore we are in favour of making the Scottish Parliament work.

UKIP believe in Evolution not Devolution for the Scottish Parliament. We see the future as one of repatriating powers directly from Brussels to Holyrood so that the Scottish Parliament is no longer the puppet of the EU. Currently 75% of all Scottish Parliament business is taken with rubber stamping EU rules and diktats rather than dealing with real Scottish concerns. Under UKIP the Scottish Parliament would no longer be a Puppet Parliament of the EU but work in partnership with Westminster for the benefit of all.

UKIP are wary of 'Independence by Accident' and will draw a Red Line at the transfer of further powers from Westminster. UKIP have reservations about the outcome of The Smith Commission believing it was the wrong answer to the wrong question. However UKIP will work to use the powers in the best interests of Scotland.

UKIP would like to instigate a 'Scottish and U.K. first' policy of procurement for all Scottish Government spending. This will only be possible should the U.K. leave the European Union as currently such a policy falls foul of E.U. rules.

IMMIGRATION

UKIP know that immigration is a key issue to many Scots. Like you we worry about the impact on public services, jobs, housing, schools, GPs, and hospitals. We know that Scotland hasn't the resources to cope with an endless influx of people. As Scots, we are generous and we should always welcome those in dire need of refuge in to our country. However those that come here simply to milk our system and abuse our welcome cannot be tolerated. By leaving the EU we would regain control of our borders. We can then implement an Australian points based system to determine migration on a UK level. The current situation of unlimited EU open door migration affects the most vulnerable in society the hardest by placing extra strain on the things they rely on the most. We want a fair system that allows in only those who have a genuine need or who we really want to work in our economy.

HEALTH & THE NHS

UKIP is committed to keeping the NHS free at the point of delivery for UK citizens. Our aging population combined with the dramatic increase in the number of people suffering chronic long term conditions as well as uncontrolled immigration has been ignored by the Tories and SNP. Any one of these pressures might have been enough to bring the NHS close to breaking point. Combine these with EU directives that have prevented essential training and endless political interference and it is not difficult to understand why the NHS is in serious trouble.

UKIP will provide the common sense, staff and the vital improvements that the NHS needs.

- We will bring back the State Enrolled Nurse and fund return to practice training for those who have taken a career break. UKIP will plug the gap between nursing numbers and demand and will have put in place long term planning and training projects for doctors and nurses by 2018.

MENTAL HEALTH

Patients with mental health issues frequently feel ignored and let down by the system. UKIP takes a 'whole person' approach to health and that means giving mental health parity with physical health.

- UKIP recognise there is often a link between addiction and mental health issues and would offer the appropriate treatment.
- We also recognise that pregnant women and women with children under 12 months of age can suffer mental health issues and would offer direct access to specialist treatment.
- Any patient displaying possible mental health issues upon admission to hospital should have both their physical and mental wellbeing assessed.
- UKIP will increase Mental Health resources in the Justice system.
- UKIP will fight the stigma around mental illness and support those seeking to stabilise and normalise their lives.

ENDING THE PFI SCANDAL

UKIP will end the over reliance of the Scottish Government on costly PFI and similar financing. Currently, there are over £1bn worth of contracts in the Scottish health area between Government and Private Companies. It would be far cheaper to borrow the money at Government rates than at commercial rates. Where possible, UKIP will negotiate an early end to these private sector cash cows and return the financing of the health sector to Government where it belongs.

THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)

TTIP is a proposed EU/USA free trade agreement that is being negotiated in secret by the EU trade Commission and other EU bureaucrats.

There is growing concern that TTIP may compel us to put many of our public services up for sale to US corporations thereby privatising significant parts of our NHS.

- UKIP is committed to securing the exclusion of the NHS, by name, from TTIP

The level of public concern around TTIP makes it a good example of what can potentially go wrong while we remain in the EU and allow EU Commissioners to negotiate every single trade agreement on behalf of twenty-eight member states, including the UK en bloc.

Fears of what TTIP might contain precisely illustrate why UKIP believes the UK should leave the EU and negotiate our own free trade agreements again.

STRIPPING OUT UNNECESSARY EU REGULATION

Numerous EU directives prevent medical institutions from operating in the best interests of patients. We will scrap at least two of them: the EU Clinical Trial Directive which has led to a substantial drop in clinical research and threatened Scotland's position as a world-class leader in this field. The second is the Working Time Directive which by limiting working and training time to 48 hours in any week, prevents medics learning essential new skills, putting patient care at risk.

EDUCATION

UKIP believes that every Scottish child should receive the best possible education and training tailored to their skills and providing them with the qualifications and abilities they will need in the marketplace.

Under the SNP 180,000 working class college places have been lost in a blind attempt to reach a 50 per cent Degree target. UKIP believes that not all jobs require a Degree and that many jobs actually require more hands on technical learning. Many vocations such as Nursing have been forced down the Degree route to the detriment of the Nurses as well as to the Patients.

- UKIP wants a proper balance of educational institutions with high quality Universities alongside high quality Further Education colleges, Apprenticeships, Technical Schools, Grammar Schools and Vocational Training.

Too many teachers are working excessive hours and struggling to find an acceptable work-life balance. We do not want stressed, overworked teachers in our classrooms.

- UKIP believe in reducing the workload on teachers and will do so by streamlining paper work, reducing bureaucracy and cutting

centralised targets. We want teachers to be able to teach rather than have to jump through hoops.

- UKIP would reduce average class sizes in the key Primary 1, 2 and 3 years to 20 children per class and would ensure that the cap on the biggest class size allowable of 25 is met.

UKIP believes that the University fee structure is inequitable, no longer workable and has led to the increasing exclusion of Scottish students at Scottish Universities. Students from other EU countries must pay their own way and not rely on the Scottish tax payer to provide them with free education.

Education is about more than just the years spent at school. It is about setting a person up for the rest of their lives with the skills and confidence they need. Employers have been stating for some time that this is not what is happening in our education system.

- UKIP would review the curriculum to ensure that it is producing the future workforce Scotland needs. We would end political correctness in schools and introduce a specific Act aimed at banning damaging political propaganda being passed off as fact. Indoctrination of young minds is wrong. What we must give them is the desire and capacity to think freely for themselves.

AGRICULTURE & THE COUNTRYSIDE

UKIP believes in a genuine rural economy that is both sustainable and viable. In order to achieve this we want to bring powers back from Brussels to Holyrood, making Agriculture & Forestry the preserve of the Scottish Parliament.

Once free from the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy UKIP will introduce a modified Single Farm Payment that gives farmers the power to farm the land free from bureaucracy. A UKIP administration would:

- Give farms the freedom to choose their own crops and remove any requirement regarding crop rotation or crops planted.
- Simplify the qualification and evaluation criteria for SFP to meet the specific objectives of Agriculture first and foremost. UKIP believes that 'greening' rules have been unnecessarily gold-plated. We will review this with the expectation of relaxing legislation.
- Introduce an outcomes-based approach to SFP whereby farmers are supported by government rather than threatened with penalties.
- Instigate a detailed audit to reveal the full extent of financial waste in the administration of SFP.

UKIP will also remove unnecessary EU restrictions that make small local and mobile abattoirs unviable. We believe that a series of smaller high welfare abattoirs run by farmer-owned cooperatives would benefit animal welfare, meat quality and shorten the supply chain. We would hope this initiative would be self-financing due to the increased profitability of a high quality grass-to-meat industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & BIODIVERSITY

We will abolish excessive and unnecessary EU regulation and directives, keeping only those necessary to protect our environment by replacing them with more appropriate controls administered at a national or local government level. We will take as our guide in this and all other farming matters relevant scientific and research led advice.

Scotland has a huge range of different habitats and extensive biodiversity which makes it hard for government to create legislation that fits all. Therefore, we would replace the current system of top down management with a system of individual stewardship that allows those who manage the land to decide what counts as best practices for maintaining the environment and biodiversity. A regional Scottish Natural Heritage would be responsible for liaising with land managers to provide them with the tools and knowledge as well as financial compensation. Those who sign up to habitat and wildlife management schemes run by

private institutions that are recognised by the Scottish Government will automatically be eligible for financial compensation without SNH supervision.

UKIP also realises that targets set by government are arbitrary and can have contrary effects on the environment and biodiversity. For this reason we will scrap targets regarding forestry and re-wilding, opting for local management of such matters.

The lack of dredging by Scottish Environmental Protection Agency has led to catastrophic flooding. This is driven by the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and must be ended. SEPA is not fit for purpose and should be replaced by a new organisation the aim of which is to work with locals and landowners rather than against them and their interests.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

UKIP supports research into GM foods, including research on the benefits and risks involved to the public. We will allow a free vote in Parliament on commercial cultivation.

COUNTRY SPORTS

Country sports are hugely important to the Scottish economy. 20% of land not commercially viable for farming in Scotland could be set aside for country sports. Although the industry is worth over £350m annually to the Scottish economy, as a commercial enterprise it rarely generates a profit and is often subsidised by the owner. Nevertheless, the industry supports over 13,000 jobs in Scotland and is often at the heart of the rural economy. Therefore, it is important that we do everything possible to protect and expand the sector.

- UKIP will oppose the introduction of business rates on sporting estates. The introduction of a large fix cost will result in many estates abandoning country sports at a loss to the local economy.
- Country sports are an important but unrecognised aspect of the Scottish tourist industry and provide a source of income to hotels and restaurants during times of the year when visitors are few in numbers. To promote Scottish country sports to people abroad we would create a spin off organisation from VisitScotland called SportingScotland.

REPEALING AIRGUN LICENSING

Airguns are an important tool for pest control and also provide an affordable sport for people wishing to take up target shooting. We believe that licensing airguns will take a necessary tool and a pastime away from people by creating a barrier of bureaucracy. The level of crime involving airguns is low compared to other forms of crime and does not justify a licensing system. A licensing system also puts more pressure on the police services implementing it and takes them away from more important policing matters.

- UKIP will repeal the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill 2015 and replace it with less draconian legislation.

LAND REFORM

UKIP would abolish the current Scottish Land Reform Bill and replace it with a new Act based on historic freedoms and individual liberties. In a time of austerity, the cost of implementing the reforms in the current bill is too great and money would be better spent on public service and infrastructure projects. Written as it is the current bill is little more than a thinly disguised land grab purporting to act in the interests of the people but in reality acting for the state against its citizens. Land reform done correctly can ensure regeneration and protection of the unique Scottish countryside. We will introduce measures to ensure that long term viability is at the heart of our new Act.



FISHING

Britain's seas should be the jewel in her crown, but we surrendered these priceless family treasures when we joined the then EEC in 1973 and our territorial waters were merged into one European fishery.

The UK has almost 70 per cent of Europe's fishing grounds but only 13 per cent of its fishing quota. We must import fish species such as cod, haddock and Huss that our own fishermen are forced to throw overboard – usually dead – due to EU rules. The EU estimates 40 per cent of all fish caught are discarded, so as much as two million tons of perfectly edible fish are wasted every year. The EU's proposed discard ban will not fix this problem, just move it onshore. EU imports 60% of its fish from outside EU waters such is the disaster of the Common Fisheries Policies.

Worse, while preaching 'conservation', the EU allows industrial fishing techniques such as electric pulse trawling which destroys marine life and disturbs the ecological balance of our seas.

We can only replenish Scottish waters and restore our fishing industry if we leave the EU and withdraw from the Common Fisheries Policy. Then we can:

- Establish a 12-mile zone around our coastline for the rest of UK and Scottish fishermen and a 200-mile exclusive economic zone

under UK and Scotland's control as is our right in international law.

- Reverse the rapid decline in our fishing industry and return £2.5 billion a year in fish sales to the UK and Scottish economy.
- Work with our Fishermen to solve discard and landing issues.

The EU is not interested in sustainable fishing. If we want to eat fish in the future, we must preserve our fishing industry and our marine ecology. We can only do this if we escape from the CFP and introduce our own sustainable fishing practices.

SEA ANGLING

Over 750,000 people enjoy sea angling in the UK. The EU is planning to restrict anglers to catching just three sea bass a day. We suspect this will eventually lead to EU controls on all angling and we will vociferously oppose this threat.

REGULATING SALMON FARMS

When Salmon farming was first introduced it was publicised as sustainable and environmentally friendly. It might be true that it has provided a cheap source of fish on supermarket shelves but since the early days of Salmon farming, research has shown that it is far from environmentally friendly. It has been found that Salmon farms are a breeding ground for infectious diseases and parasites which are released into the ocean environment and contaminate wild fish. We would not allow such an act of pollution to occur on land and we should not allow it to happen in our coastal waters or seas. UKIP would bring into force tougher, science lead, regulation of Salmon farming.



HOUSING

UKIP knows there is a very important distinction between Social Housing and Affordable Housing. Both are needed in the Scottish housing mix and both are in short supply.

UKIP would set a target of 50,000 Social and Affordable houses to be built during the course of the next Parliament. Affordability would be revised so that the rates have a direct relation to the average income of an area. This will be achieved through a number of policies designed to get our construction sector more active. We will:

- Operate a Brown Field First policy. One of the first acts of a UKIP Housing Minister would be to order a nationwide identification scheme for all the usable Brown Field sites in Scotland. These would then attract development support such as a £10,000 per unit grant to carry out remedial work to the ground to bring it up to standard and also cutting Stamp Duty to zero for registered Brown Field developments. We will also remove unnecessary barriers for building on brown field sites and accelerate the planning process.
- Relax planning regulations for the conversion of off-high road commercial and office space and other existing builds to affordable residential use.
- Identify long-term dormant land held by central and local government so it can be released for affordable developments.

Currently Councils have the right to charge higher Council Tax on property that for many reasons may be unoccupied. This can act as a deterrent to the construction of new homes and drive investment away from the residential sector. For this purpose we will not allow council tax to be charged at a higher rate than the norm.

UKIP are against Rent Controls due to their failure to address the key issues in the rented sector. Putting Controls in place are shown to lower the supply of rented property and also to reduce the quality of what is available. The only beneficiaries are those who live in expensive rented accommodation such as penthouses and large detached houses who see their rents held down while those in greatest need of good quality affordable rented housing see their supply dry up.

LOCAL HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

UKIP will encourage moves by local authorities to prioritise people with strong local connections when making housing allocations.

We will relieve pressures on social housing waiting lists by preventing foreign nationals from obtaining access to social housing until they have lived here and paid tax for a minimum of five years. This restriction will not apply to foreign nationals with current social housing tenancies.

RIGHT TO BUY

UKIP supports the principle of extending home ownership and giving people the right to own the homes they may have lived in for generations as social housing tenants. We will plough 100 per cent of all revenue from Right to Buy sales after essential costs have been paid back, into new community housing.

BEDROOM TAX

UKIP are opposed to the 'Bedroom Tax'.



DEFENCE

Whilst Defence is a UK matter, we feel very strongly that maintaining Scotland's historic role in the Armed Forces of Her Majesty's Government is very important. We support the renewal of Trident and its home at Faslane Naval Base. Losing such an important element of defence from Scotland would be detrimental to the Scottish economy and to the role Scotland is able to play as a constituent part of the U.K. Scotland has never shied away from bringing the rule of Law to the four corners of the world.

The Armed Forces directly and indirectly support some 40,000 Trade Union jobs in Scotland. This makes it a key industry and UKIP will support and defend them. Most people in Scotland know of someone who is or was a member of the Armed Forces and they are a vital part of our community giving people a career choice that leads to decent employment and good prospects, be that in the Forces or in one of the industries such as shipbuilding.

UKIP want to return RAF Leuchars and Kinloss Stations to fully operational status and retain 45 Commando in Arbroath.

NO TO AN EU ARMY

UKIP wholly opposes the creation of an EU Army. We will not tolerate British troops operating under European command on British soil or elsewhere.

HONOURING OUR VETERANS

Wherever we send our heroes, whatever the danger, they never let us down. We will not let them down.

- We will guarantee the offer of a job in the police service or prison service for any Scot who has served in the Armed Forces for a minimum of 12 years.
- Skills gained in the forces can be useful when running a small business. We will create a 'Boots to Business' Scheme to channel loans, grants and access to free professional's advice and mentors to veterans who wish to set up and run their own businesses after leaving the forces.
- A UKIP administration would ensure all Armed Forces Veterans receive fast track NHS care for both mental and physical needs and prioritise Veterans for social housing.

LAW & LIBERTY

LIBERTY

UKIP is committed to upholding the rights of the individual and protecting them from an ever encroaching state.

One encroachment that we have seen in recent years is the Named Person scheme. The Named Person Scheme intends to put a state guardian in charge of every child in Scotland regardless whether or not the parents want to have one and regardless whether there is need for state intervention or not. This scheme aims to give every child in Scotland the equivalent of a social worker and will treat each child as if they were at risk regardless of the child's actual situation. This will result in government resources becoming stretched and being directed away from children that actually need help. The Named Person Scheme also undermines the roles of the parents/guardians by making the 'Named Person' legally responsible for the wellbeing of a child. Therefore, the scheme assumes that all children need state supervision and gives the 'Named Person' intrusive powers to interfere with family life. UKIP believes that the best people to bring up children are their parents and that the state should only intervene using current laws when a child is at risk of harm.

- UKIP will repeal the Named Persons Act and protect parent's rights and family privacy and focus social services on children that need support.

UKIP also opposes any plans to create a super ID database. Recent plans to give 120 public bodies access to the 'NHS central register' has raised concerns that a national identity scheme could be introduced through the back door. A 'super ID database' would give government a huge amount of power over people and could lead to micromanagement by the state of people's lives.

- As it is uncertain what the information in such a database will be used for in the future, UKIP will oppose the creation of a 'super ID database', whether it is created directly or through the back door.

THE LAW

The Scottish legal system is recognised around the world and is something to be immensely proud, yet recently we have seen attempts made to remove corroboration from Scots Law. Corroboration means that two different independent sources of evidence are required to support a conviction. There are already measures in place to allow a court to accept the testimony of some experts without corroboration. Corroboration is one of the cornerstones of Scots Law and has made the Scottish legal system the envy of the world.

- UKIP will protect the principles and independence of the Scottish legal system.

UKIP will fully uphold the principle of 'innocent until proven guilty'. This tenet of law is fundamental to Scottish Justice and UKIP will reverse the opt-in to EU law and Justice measures which disregards this fundamental principle, including the European Arrest Warrant and European Investigation Orders.

The SNP's radical land reform agenda has brought up the issue of succession. We believe that your Will and Testament are inviolate as your last act on this earth.

- A UKIP administration would not change the Laws of Succession. There will be no forced property sales and the right of inheritance will remain as it is.

The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act unfairly targets football fans it is fundamentally illiberal and unnecessarily restricts freedom of expression. There are already laws in place to ban anti-social behaviour, racial hatred and religious hatred. There is no need for an ill-defined unworkable extra law that is aimed at a very small minority of football fans but treats all fans with a broad brush. Banning singing is the mark of a police state and UKIP are against such draconian action.

- UKIP will repeal the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012.

POLICE

The Police Force must be ethical and accountable. UKIP believe in policing by consent rather than policing by coercion. We would not allow the regular arming of police officers, rather we believe in the practice of armed response units – highly trained and experienced for the sort of situations they are likely to be called into.

The combining of authorities into Police Scotland has not worked out for the benefit of the majority of the population. Rural areas have seen a marked drop in the policing available to them. There are serious problems with command and control that are hampering response times and effectiveness of the police. There is a lack of local accountability that was present in the old system.

UKIP would review Police Scotland as a concept and investigate its possible break up into regional Police Forces. We oppose the integration of British Transport Police.

The Police Service should be independent and UKIP will ensure the de-politicisation of Police Scotland and any of its successors.

The public has been deceived by statistics published by the Scottish Government regarding police numbers. Due to budgetary constraints the police force has been cutting back on the number of civilian support staff performing operational or office duties. As a result, duties that would have been performed in the past by civilian staff are now being performed by Police Officers and as a result taking them away from front-line Police work. We believe that Police should be on the beat not behind a desk and that having police officers performing administrative tasks doesn't provide best value for money. UKIP would investigate how administrative tasks are performed and by whom within the Police Force, in an attempt to establish the best value for money.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The problem of Local Government has been an historic failure of Central Government (be that Westminster or Holyrood) to regulate legislation they should control while over regulating legislation that they should leave well alone.

- UKIP believes that the best form of decision making is made closest to those that are affected by it. UKIP would therefore bring forward proposals to allow binding local referenda on important local issues.
- Senior pay in Local Government is completely out of control. UKIP would bring in a mechanism to regulate pay at the top level while still allowing freedom for individual councils to set their own staff senior salaries within a national framework.
- UKIP does not believe in Cabinet Government and would remove this option from councils. There are other more democratic options available that empower a greater input from a broader range of councillors.

While UKIP are supportive of Scots Gaelic language, we don't believe that Gaelic should be required for the holding of any job or position where it is not an obvious necessity such as the teaching of the Gaelic language. Gaelic signage should also be used only in areas with a preponderance of Gaelic speakers, such as the Western Isles.

ILLEGAL TRAVELLER'S SITES

Under existing civil rules, residents have to wait several days before action is taken to clear illegal traveller sites. The clear up afterwards has to be paid for by the taxpayer.

- UKIP will make the setting up of an unauthorised traveller site a criminal offence. This will swiftly deal with the problem of illegal camps and give Police powers to clear the areas immediately. Rather than civil procedures this will send a strong message that illegal sites will not be tolerated.

TRANSPORT

UKIP aim to make travelling about Scotland more a pleasure than a chore.

We recognise that we need to get Scotland moving. To do so requires investment in new infrastructure and better use of existing capacity.

ROADS

The roads are the arteries of Scotland but lack of investment and extreme weather have left our roads unfit for use. Scotland should be looking to the future when planning infrastructure projects.

UKIP will speed up the implementation of dual carriageways across Scotland. Sections of road that are currently three lanes (one carriageway in each direction plus an overtaking lane) will be prioritised alongside important trunk routes such as the A9.

Under current Forth road bridge plans, cars and motorcycles will be banned from the old bridge once the new one is opened. The old bridge will be for buses and taxis only. This is short-sighted and will simply move the congestion from one bridge to the other. UKIP will look into the feasibility of opening both bridges to all types of traffic and will immediately overturn the ban on motorcycles on the old bridge.

UKIP are opposed to road tolls and would not introduce them to Scotland either in a direct toll scheme or via so called 'road pricing'.

In response to E.U. regulations every new car from 2018 will carry a 'black box' to monitor everyone's movements. Needless to say, UKIP oppose this infringement of liberty and privacy. UKIP Scotland will press for the scrapping of such insidious surveillance.

SPEED CAMERAS & ROAD SAFETY

Speed cameras have a role to play in reducing road accidents but they are not a substitution for safe road designs. Used inappropriately, speed cameras can lead to an increase in accidents.

- UKIP would restrict speed cameras to known accident black spots. Average speed cameras will only be used on bridges and during roadworks.
- Cameras should be about safety rather than income from fines.
- Roads with a high level of recorded accidents should be redesigned with the intention of reducing the number of incidents.

RAIL

UKIP note the recent welcome increase in rail line capacity; however we also note that not enough rolling stock has been made available. UKIP will work closer with industry partners and in particular ScotRail to ensure any future changes are better run.

Glasgow has pressing rail needs that have been mismanaged and ignored for too long and as soon as funding is in place will bring forward both the rail link to Glasgow International Airport from Glasgow Central Station and the Crossrail Glasgow project. Both of these will improve rail links and communications far wider than the Glasgow area bringing new jobs and increased business to Scotland.

FERRIES

UKIP opposes the politically motivated privatisation of CalMac. This is being driven by a slavish desire of the SNP Government to bow down to the E.U. CalMac is currently very successful and it should be left alone.

- UKIP note that any privatised service will still require heavy subsidy from the Scottish Government with that money going to the pockets of a private company.
- Privatisation would leave Scotland's islanders and their economy at the mercy of a probably uncaring and certainly unseeing conglomerate rather than under the care of the Scottish people.

As part of UKIP's 'Scottish and U.K. First' procurement policy, all new ships for CalMac would have to be built in Scottish yards.

RURAL TRANSPORT

Rural areas have relied on Post Buses for generations. UKIP want to see these brought back and supported to the betterment of remote communities needing transport links.

ENERGY & RESOURCES

A modern economy has specific energy needs. Energy should be plentiful, reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible. UKIP believes in a balanced energy market with many different types of supplier. For this reason we support Nuclear power, clean coal power using the most modern clean and capture technologies, hydro power, and gas power which is relatively clean reliable and inexpensive.

ENERGY & INDUSTRY

Climate change policies have had an adverse effect on Scottish industry. Green taxes and failed energy policies have forced up the price of manufacturing in Scotland to such an extent our traditional industries are dying. This is no environmental victory. These jobs and plants are simply being moved to other parts of the world where regulation is less intense; free to pollute as much as they want. Clearly, there has to be a better way and that way should benefit the environment and workers by reducing some green taxation and lifting burdensome rules so we can bring back these industries. At the same time, we can ensure that they are carried out in a safe and sustainable way so that both jobs and environment are protected.

RENEWABLES ENERGY

UKIP supports and will invest in renewables where electricity can be generated at competitive prices. Currently, the only major renewable technology that meets this test for affordability is Hydro, so UKIP will withdraw taxpayer and consumer subsidies for new wind turbines while respecting existing contractual arrangements.

Wind power is hopelessly inefficient and wind farms rely heavily on reserve back-up from conventional power sources. They have blighted landscapes and put public money into the pockets of wealthy landowners and investors while pushing up bills for the rest of us.

WATER

SNP are privatising Scottish Water by stealth. This is in part because the E.U. demands public monopolies be broken up and sold off. UKIP rejects both the E.U.'s interpretation of what's best for Scotland and the SNP's sly underhanded way of implementing it. Scottish Water is a public sector success story and should remain so.



Lib Dems, New Labour, 'Modern' Tories... just more of the same

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