



Labour Home

Comparison of the Scottish Labour and SNP manifestos

We are told that voting SNP will keep a Labour government “in check”, will “push Labour left”, and will ensure that outcomes are delivered “for Scotland”.

We look at the impact SNP votes might have on the policy of a Labour government.

LAB COMMITMENT	SNP COMMITMENT	IMPACT SNP ON LABOUR	
Cut deficit every year, reach current account surplus by end parliament	Additional borrowing every year, retain deficit past end parliament	More money spent on debt interest rather than public services	
Increase taxes on wealth in 1st year, immediate increase in public spending	Stick to Tory spending plans for first year	Bigger cuts in public services	
Protect spending on health, with additional spending from Mansion Tax	Protect spending, but promises of additional spending are uncostered	Risk to increased NHS funding	
Protect spending on education and international development	No commitment to protect these spending areas	Risk of cuts in education and overseas aid	
50p tax rate for highest earners	Same	None	
Ban exploitative zero-hours contracts	Consult on zero-hours contracts	No definite action against exploiting workers	
Illegal to undercut wages by exploiting migrant workers	No equivalent	Risk of continued exploitation of migrant workers	
End blacklisting and back enquiry into it	No mention	Blacklisting unpunished, will happen again	
Abolish loophole allowing firms to undercut perm staff using lower paid agency workers	No mention	More job insecurity, wages driven lower	

LAB COMMITMENT	SNP COMMITMENT	IMPACT SNP ON LABOUR	
Mansion tax to redistribute wealth across the UK from richest to poorest	Opposed – mansion tax to only apply within Scotland, raising less money	More inequality, less money to spend on essential public services for those who most need	
Stop winter fuel payments to richest 5% of pensioners.	Opposed	Less money to spend on public services for the poorest	
New 10p starting rate of tax	Same	None	
End Marriage Tax Allowance	Same	None	
No increase on basic/high income tax, NI or VAT	No equivalent	Risk of VAT rises or other stealth taxes	
Cut tax evasion & unfair avoidance; end non-dom status	Broadly equivalent	None	
Long-term National Infrastructure Commission	No cross-UK investment plans	Fewer opportunities for vital investment Scotland and rest of UK needs	
Improved access to finance for co-ops & mutuals from British Investment Bank	No equivalent	Lack of support for co-ops and mutuals to improve inclusion and best value	
Tax rebates to Living Wage employers	No equivalent	Fewer workers benefit from Living Wage	
Minimum Wage to reach at least £8 ph	Minimum wage to reach £8.70 ph	Higher wages for the lowest paid	
End fees for employment tribunals	Fees to remain	Access to justice denied to unfairly treated workers	
Guarantee the Barnett Formula	End the Barnett Formula	Black hole in Scotland's finances around £30-£40bn across parliament	
Protect pensions across the UK	Protect pensions in Scotland	Almost impossible to see how this is compatible with Full Fiscal Autonomy without massive cuts elsewhere	
Energy price freeze and reform energy market	No equivalent	Risk of higher energy prices and continued failing market	

LAB COMMITMENT	SNP COMMITMENT	IMPACT SNP ON LABOUR	
Implement Smith Agreement in full	Attempt to hijack Smith to shoehorn additional demands	Risk that the further devolution agreed by all parties is derailed	
Continue to pool and share resources across the UK	Full fiscal autonomy	Less redistribution. Less to spend on public services in Scotland. More for Eng & Wales.	
Constitutional convention for the whole UK	No equivalent	Lack of opportunity for people to participate in constitutional reform	
Abolish House of Lords and replace with Senate of Nations & Regions	Abolish House of Lords, no replacement	Further erosion of the unity of the UK	
Remain in the EU	Same	None	
Enable public/non-profit ownership of railways	No equivalent	Railways continue to siphon public money to private shareholders	
Ambitious low carbon target for whole of UK	Roughly equivalent, though only for Scotland	None	
Triple lock against fracking	Broadly equivalent opposition to fracking	Little difference, though local communities denied final say	
Votes for 16 and 17 year olds	Same	None	
No tuition fees for university students in Scotland	Same	None	
£1,600 Future Fund for 18 & 19 year olds not in college, uni or apprenticeship	No equivalent	Fewer life chances for those who need them most	
Retain BBC as public funded broadcaster for whole UK	Break up the BBC to create separate Scottish version	Duplication of spending, less quality TV.	
Reverse 2012 Health and Social Care Act	Same	None	
Build 200,000 homes a year across the UK	Build 100,000 homes a year across the UK	Lack of affordable housing	
LGBT Rights Envoy	Similar	None	

LAB COMMITMENT	SNP COMMITMENT	IMPACT SNP ON LABOUR	
Respect Scotland's democratic decision to remain part of UK	"We will always support independence"	Constant grudge and grievance to push for independence	
Free bus travel for all apprentices	No equivalent	Fewer opportunities for young people into work	
New £200m Mental Health Fund, new £200m Cancer Fund	No clear equivalent	Risk that priority areas do not receive appropriate additional resources	
Reverse cuts to HE bursaries & restore highest level for poorest students	Opposed	Less access to further and higher education for the least advantaged	
Scottish Anti-Poverty Fund to make food banks history	No equivalent	Less help for those most in need	
Double paternity leave & increase maternity pay	No equivalent	Tougher for parents of newborns	
Scottish Jobs Guarantee paid by bankers bonus tax	No equivalent	Less opportunity for work	
Restore local accountability to Scotland's policing	Continue the centralisation agenda	Police Scotland continues to lose public support	
Strategic Defence Review in 1st year to include Trident	No renewal of Trident	Given large Commons majority for Trident renewal, SNP anti-Trident policy unlikely to have any effect	

The argument that a strong group of SNP MPs will help Scotland is blown out of the water. The more votes for the SNP the less likely a Labour government anyway, but as can be seen from this analysis, were a Labour government to be in power reliant on SNP support, it would be disastrous for Scotland.

Scotland needs a Labour majority government in the UK.

A vote for the SNP is a vote against Scotland's interests.

Original article: www.labourhome.com/one-two-three-what-are-we-fighting-for/