







REFORM SCOTLAND 2016 MANIFESTO CRITIQUE

					
<p>Fully devolve council tax and business rates to local authorities</p>	<p>Will review NDR system; Will reform and cap council tax increases at 3%; Will consult on devolving a portion of income tax to councils.</p>	<p>Would replace council tax and review NDR. Want to give councils power over a Tourist Tax; a Land Value Tax on vacant land and revenues from the Crown Estate.</p>	<p>Comment that there has been a worrying creep of centralisation. However, proposed a centrally imposed business rates freeze and would not devolve local taxes to local authorities.</p>	<p>Want councils to have the power to set local domestic and business taxes, though want to see the council tax replaced and a review of business rates.</p>	<p>The Greens propose replacing council tax with a new property tax; and replacing NDR with a land value tax. However, while the rates can be varied locally, the taxes are still centrally controlled.</p> <p>They mentioned allowing councils to implement a basket of taxes such as a bed tax or local sales tax.</p>
<p>Pilot schemes to devolve health to local authority control.</p>	<p>The number and structure of health boards, as well as their relationship with local authorities, is to be reviewed.</p>	<p>Support integration of health and social care, though no mention of passing health powers to local authorities.</p>	<p>Support integration of health and social care, though no mention of passing health powers to local authorities.</p>	<p>Support integration of health and social care, though no mention of passing health powers to local authorities.</p>	<p>Support integration of health and social care, though no mention of passing health powers to local authorities.</p>
<p>Give people greater choice over their GP surgery.</p>	<p>Increase the number of GP training places and further extend the extended GP opening hours' programme.</p>	<p>No mention of choice, but supports guarantee of GP appointment within 48 hours and supports GP clusters.</p>	<p>Support moves to GP clusters and additional freedoms for GPs, but no comment about patients having choice over GP practice.</p>	<p>Want to train, recruit and retain more GPs.</p>	<p>The Greens point out that GP services are not equally available to all who need them. Believe giving patients greater choice over their GP practice could help</p>
<p>Give local authorities a proper role in policing by re-instating the split in funding between central & local government and giving each council a seat</p>	<p>Will work with the SPA and Police Scotland to strengthen local community focus of policing.</p>	<p>Will implement Pearson Review with creation of local police committees and build links between communities and the SPA.</p>	<p>Believe there should be a review of policing arrangements to look at ways local accountability could be restored.</p>	<p>Want to make sure local policing plans have to be approved by locally elected people; and removing the sole right of ministers to appoint the</p>	<p>Believe that a significant devolution of power and resources is required, suggesting this could be overseen by locally elected police committees.</p>

on the SPA.				Scottish Police Authority.	
Make police deployment an operational, as opposed to political, decision by removing the 1,000 extra officers pledge.	Mentions the 1,000 extra officers but no repeat of pledge. Instead, will ensure there is the right mix and numbers of staff for the future.	Supports a balanced police workforce.	Conservatives “pushed” the SNP into hiring more police officers, and argue they should be allowed to get on with the job instead of filling back offices.	Want to see an end to the backfilling of civilian roles by police officers and restore power to the Chief Constable & SPA to determine the exact mix of staff.	Not mentioned
Transfer all quango functions either to government departments, independent bodies or councils.	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
Have one Scottish department responsible for both tax and welfare powers due to be devolved to Scotland.	Will establish a new Social Security Agency for benefits.	Will establish a new Social Security Agency for benefits.	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
Ensure every school and GP surgery has a website.	Talk about expanding broadband, but no mention of accessing public services online.	Talk about expanding broadband, but no mention of accessing public services online.	Talk about expanding broadband, but no mention of accessing public services online.	Talk about expanding broadband, but no mention of accessing public services online.	Talk about expanding broadband, but no mention of accessing public services online.
Reform the administration of Carer’s Allowance.	Propose aligning it with Jobseeker’s Allowance.	Propose aligning it with Jobseeker’s Allowance.	Propose aligning it with Jobseeker’s Allowance.	Propose aligning it with Jobseeker’s Allowance.	Call for this benefit to be redesigned and increased.
Do not vary the Scottish Rate of Income Tax from the UK level.	Freeze Basic Rate of Income Tax; create new zero-rate band to ensure personal allowance increased to £12,750 by 21/22; freeze Higher Rate threshold in 17/18 then increase by inflation; Ask Council of Economic Advisers to consider how risks can be mitigated and consider raising Additional Rate to 50p from 18/19.	Would increase income tax by 1p in the basic and higher rates and set the additional rate at 50p; would not increase higher rate threshold.	The Tories argues that Scotland should retain rates of income tax which are no higher than in the rest of the UK.	Would increase income tax by 1p across all bands and not increase higher rate threshold.	Replace the Basic Rate with a 18% and 22% rate; income over £43,000 taxed at 43% and income over £150,000 at 60%.
Scrap Air Passenger Duty.	Will cut APD by 50% initially and aim to	Opposes cuts to APD	Opposes cuts to APD	Opposes cuts to APD	Opposes cuts to APD

	abolish it entirely.				
Introduce a virtual voucher to ensure parents are able to access their child's nursery entitlement in any pre-school environment that meets required standards.	Will pilot a range of different childcare approaches to improve high quality and flexibility.	Want to move towards more flexible childcare.	Want to allow parents to use their entitlement whenever they need it at approved childcare providers.	Want more flexibility in childcare and findings of the Commission for Childcare Reform incorporated.	The Greens want provision that is "child-centred and flexible enough to be useful for parents who work or study part-time".
Give every child the same basic entitlement to nursery education, regardless of when their birthday falls.	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Want to see an end to birthday discrimination.	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
Give schools greater autonomy to ensure they are able to make decisions necessary to meet local priorities and circumstances.	Will extend to individual schools powers which currently are held by councils and allocate more resources directly to headteachers. Will encourage school clusters and create new educational regions to decentralise management and support.	Will set up a Fair Start Fund which will give money directly to headteachers to ensure children from disadvantaged backgrounds don't fall behind.	Want to give schools more autonomy and want schools which want greater autonomy over budgets and recruitment to be given it.	No comment on school autonomy, focus on pupil premium.	No comment on autonomy, but will work with others to close gap with funding that targets pupils in need who do not qualify for the Attainment Scotland Fund.
Ensure colleges and universities have a level playing field.	Will maintain number of FTE college places that lead to employment.	Will put colleges back at the centre of opportunity for young people.	Want to redress the balance between higher and further education and give equal weight to vocational education.	Would build back up the role of colleges.	The Greens want funding parity for college and university students.
Introduce a deferred tuition fee so that once graduates earn above average salaries they contribute towards the cost of their higher education.	Oppose tuition fees or graduate contribution.	Oppose tuition fees or graduate contribution.	Would introduce a graduate contribution of £1,500 per year.	Oppose tuition fees or graduate contribution.	Oppose tuition fees or graduate contribution.