



REFORM UK

CHANGING POLITICS FOR GOOD

**Our Contract
with the People
Scottish Parliament
2021**



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“Reform support personal freedom, a small state, and medical and personal responsibility”



FORWARD

In Scotland we have the best of both worlds, the freedom through devolution to make decisions that work for us and the strength of shared risk and opportunity as part of the United Kingdom. If you have ever doubted the benefits of British solidarity then the Covid Pandemic has shown how the pooling of resources can benefit everyone in times of crisis.

I don't need to tell you how hard the last year has been and the inordinate damage that has been inflicted on jobs, health and education. We can debate the merits of the decisions that were made and indeed continue to be made but one thing is clear, we need to challenge our politicians in a way we never have before.

The country's debt burden has increased massively, and we face a long road to recovery. Scotland had already been in decline with sluggish growth, falling education standards and a health service that was failing to deliver at point of need. Now our task is even harder. Voters are enticed by offers of free services from school meals to free dental treatment. But rarely does politics step back and look at the billions of pounds that is being spent to deliver ever more struggling services and ask surely we can do this better?

We believe that reform is necessary.

We believe in a small state that does not try to dictate and control every facet of your life. We are willing to say and champion the things that many are thinking but have been made to feel they cannot say out loud. We are a voice of common values, common sense and balance. In



our *Contract with the People* we have laid out the positions we will take if elected to Holyrood so that you know what to expect from us as your representatives. If you agree with our thoughts, I hope you will take the first step towards changing politics for good by voting for us with your list vote on 6th May 2021.

Michelle Ballantyne
Leader Reform UK Scotland

“Reform support personal freedom, a small state, and medical and personal responsibility”



PHILOSOPHY & PRINCIPLES

“Reform UK believes in common sense, returning all freedoms back to the people and reforming the way we are governed.”

Our Philosophy

Reform UK Scotland is a party of economic liberalism, political reform, and internationalism. We stand for individual freedom and personal responsibility in preference to state control. We believe that only by empowering individuals and their families to take more control of their lives can we promote a spirit of mutual responsibility and respect in society.

Our Principles

Reform UK Scotland believes in:

- ⇒ A society and form of government where laws and taxes are minimal, simple, and fair.
 - ⇒ A high growth, low tax, smartly regulated economy.
 - ⇒ Supporting the pursuit of education, the liberal arts, scientific and technological progress.
 - ⇒ Restoring integrity and moral purpose to politics and public life.
 - ⇒ Encouraging a culture of personal responsibility, entrepreneurship, and individual freedom.
 - ⇒ Advancing human rights, liberal democracy, and free trade internationally.
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SUMMARY

Return Our Freedoms

There can be no going back to lockdowns and there is no case for domestic vaccine passports. We must open up our economy and take personal responsibility for our safety.

We have voted against Covid restrictions that were not supported by clear scientific evidence.

We believe in a proportionate response and have laid out the future principles that should be followed in our Contract with the People.

We voted against the Hate Crime Bill and will seek to repeal it in the next Parliament.

Restart the Economy

With lower, simplified taxes and higher growth.

We have a fully costed plan that will attract entrepreneurs and stimulate job creation. Our plan could put £1,500 back in your pocket.

We will drive a wealth creating private sector to enable high quality public services. We will seize all the opportunities that leaving the EU presents.

Free up 1.2 million SME's UK-wide from paying Corporation Tax (over 80% of companies) by lifting minimum threshold to £100,000.

Abolish Scottish land and Building's Transaction Tax.

Restore Education Standards

We will scrap Curriculum for Excellence and restore the control of classrooms and learning to our teachers.

We will champion a play based early years curriculum that gives children the foundation for formal learning, ensures good social skills and builds the confidence that leads to good mental health.

We will support a rich curriculum with equal weight given to academic and vocational learning to prepare young people for Adult life.

Rebuild the NHS

Acknowledging the challenges and building a sustainable service for the future



SUMMARY

Rethink Social Care

Working with families and the Third Sector to build community responsive services

Reform Holyrood

Our Parliament has been misappropriated.

The boundaries between politicians, civil servants and the judiciary have been eroded.

After 20 years there is an urgent need for a full audited review of the Parliament and Scottish Government.

We will put the people first by focusing on improving services, devolving power to Local Government and ensuring scrutiny and oversight of Government decisions.

Reinvigorate Emergency Services

Scrap Police Scotland and return to Regional Police Forces

Increase Special Constables and Retained Firemen and Women

Revive Fishing & Farming

Welcoming the benefits of Brexit and the possibilities for the future

Review Energy & Transport

Balanced energy provision free from ideology

Investment in rail and road infrastructure

Remove restrictive planning laws

Respect our Environment

Clean air, land and water and harnessing the benefits of rural skills



RETURN OUR FREEDOMS

Reform believes in **personal freedom and responsibility**. This last year has seen a continuous assault on our freedoms and we must ensure that these are returned.

The default position of many countries in response to rising numbers of coronavirus cases has been to lockdown the entire nation. Back in March 2020, when the first UK lockdown began, choosing this path had some logic. The virus was spreading at a time when we had little information about who was at risk, and countries went into lockdown one after another. It was the safe option for politicians to follow the herd rather than to try something different.

A year on, and with so much more data, Reform UK would **put an end to the on-off lockdown culture**. We support the Great Barrington Declaration and believe that we should protect the vulnerable but allow the rest of our social and economic society to operate unfettered by restrictions. We will assess risk based on the data and give equal weight to both health and economic harm. Governments around the world have failed to produce cost-benefit analysis on lockdowns, which has led to the cure being worse than the illness.



Reform believe that you should be able to love whom you choose without prejudice.

You must have the freedom to practice your religion free from persecution.

We believe in equality of rights for all our citizens but recognise that with those rights come responsibilities the first of which is to always respect the rights of others as you expect them to respect yours.

We do not support negative or positive discrimination and will not support legislation that uses the law to exercise advantage for part of our community over another.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Never support the imposition of another full-scale lockdown on the people of Scotland. We will advocate an approach where data drives decision-making and those most at risk are offered protection to both save lives and save livelihoods.
 - ⇒ Support the establishment of an expert advisory group that considers not only the health effects of Covid-19, but the wider effects of policy on the health system, education and the economy.
 - ⇒ Always fight to keep schools open. The damage inflicted on young people's development and mental health by not being in education is absolutely unjustifiable and far outweighs the benefits of having schools closed.
 - ⇒ Make sure that leisure and fitness facilities such as swimming pools and gyms are kept open. Keeping people healthy and fit is vital for physical and mental wellbeing.
 - ⇒ Never support the introduction of vaccine passports and will remove the mandate for wearing masks in classrooms.
 - ⇒ Support the implementation of a plan that must be followed in the event of another pandemic. This is to ensure trust between Government and the people is never compromised and that all decisions are based on clear, transparent and accurate evidence.
 - ⇒ Push to see the controversial Hate Crime Bill, which was brought forward and passed into law during the last parliament, repealed. Reform UK voted against this bill at the time as it breached the right to privacy and freedom of speech in your own home.
 - ⇒ Always stand up for our core belief in protecting and defending the freedoms of speech, belief, expression, and conscience.
 - ⇒ Support the position that all people should be free to live their life however they choose, so long as their choices don't harm others or restrict the freedom of others to do the same. Basically, live and let live.
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RESTART OUR ECONOMY

Scotland's record in entrepreneurship, business and creativity was literally world leading. Global leadership has given way to confusion, decline and short term fixes that compound the problem. While there remains centres of excellence they are too few and far between. **Scotland has been slowly strangled by a centralised and highly bureaucratic state whose only response seems to be tax and spend more. It ceases to trust the people.**

Today we are taxed more highly than any other part of the United Kingdom and at a higher level proportionately than at any point since the 1960's. **Reform UK. Scotland promises to end the discrimination Scottish tax payers' face. We guarantee taxes in Scotland will be no higher than the rest of the UK.**

The irony is **despite much higher public spending and taxation outcomes are getting worse**, be it in terms of education, crime or business opportunity. **The Scottish government wastes its enormous resources with a cycle of centralise, control and tax. Reform UK. Scotland will reverse this cycle of decline.**

Since the SNP came to power Scotland has failed in so many ways but perhaps most starkly is its economic failure with **Scottish GDP growth of barely half the UK average**. This failure to match the UK average rate of growth really matters and **has cost the Scottish people some £11bn per annum and with it £3.9bn lost tax receipts**- enough to fund a housing budget twice the current level.

There a number of reasons for Scotland's abject economic record in recent years but a key one has been Scotland has tested the tax and spend thesis to its limit. The response is always to increase spending, regardless of how effective that may be. Even before the pandemic Scotland has a far larger public sector, relative to the size of the economy than England, at just over 50%. **Today, in lockdown Scotland, Government spending has risen to over 60% of the entire economy. The wealth creating private sector has been crushed.** This is clearly both unsustainable and incompatible with a free society.

Britain may have the longest tax code in the world but the Scottish version is even more complex notably with higher income tax and an absurdly onerous and expensive Land and Buildings Tax. These anti-growth policies have stifled the very productive private sector that ultimately pays for the NHS and good education.

The SNP have been the architects of this policy. It simply drives wealth and talent away further reducing the cake, making it all the harder to regenerate and pay for the services we would wish.

Reform UK will break this cycle of decline and despair. We will lower taxes and simplify the tax code to raise growth. All tax payers earning over £20000 per year will be at least £30 a week better off. This will stimulate the economy, grow the private sector, and be self-funding through higher wages, more jobs and a stronger economy. It's a win win scenario.

Our proposals are UK wide and result in a £48bn stimulus through tax cuts where all will benefit but with the modestly off benefiting proportionately the most. In a Scottish context the **tax cuts are worth some £4.2bn of 2.4% GDP.**

£4.2bn is twelve weeks coronavirus spending and this stimulus will raise growth from highly pedestrian medium term levels building future tax revenues. This is not only affordable but it is essential to re build the private sector that creates the wealth for the NHS, education and roads.

Simply put **we will reverse the stifling increase in tax giving families and business a major boost.** This will **raise growth, stimulate the private sector and ultimately increase the tax take** to provide a sustainable improvement to the public sector. We will break the cycle of decline but increasing the cake.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

Share our fully costed Economic Plan and argue for a shared approach to boost the economy across the UK as it requires both reserved and devolved powers to trigger the bold vision that we believe will make a measurable difference

Our plan which is available separately on our website pledges to;

- ⇒ Free up 6 million people UK wide from income tax, by lifting minimum threshold to £20,000, from £12,500 pa. This is 1 in 5 tax payers.
- ⇒ That Everyone earning over £12000 pa will benefit but the less well-off will benefit proportionately the most. A employee earning a £20,000 salary will be £1500 a year better off equating to £30 per week
- ⇒ lift higher rate tax threshold to £70,000 from £50,000 today with a flat 40% tax rate above £70,000
- ⇒ Abolish VAT on domestic fuel
- ⇒ Abolish Air Passenger Duty, to help devastated travel sector
- ⇒ Abolish Scottish land and Building's Transaction Tax. Replace with residential stamp duty: 0% below £750k, 2% on £750k - £1.5m, & 4% above, will stimulate economic activity & construction
- ⇒ Lift Capital Gains Tax threshold to £20,000 from £12,300, with single 20% flat rate above
- ⇒ Free up 1.2 million SME's from paying Corporation Tax (over 80% of companies) by lifting minimum threshold to £100,000. Raise rate thereafter from 19% to 20% (lower than the UK Governments proposal of 25%)
- ⇒ Abolish stamp duty on share trading, will enable City to compete globally
- ⇒ Abolish business rates for small & medium firms, offset with online Delivery Tax at 3%, will create fairer playing field for High Street and physical versus online businesses
- ⇒ Abolish inheritance tax for all estates under £2m (98% of all estates). 20% tax above £2m – executors can choose to give this to registered charities or HMRC
- ⇒ Provide 100% Capital allowances on corporate investment in year 1



RESTORE EDUCATION STANDARDS

Before the SNP came to power the Scottish Education system was admired throughout the world as a positive example of an enlightened system. Sadly for the last 14 years that has changed. Curriculum for Excellence has failed both our teachers and students. It lacks clear outcomes and standards that in turn would provide equity of opportunity for pupils, and clear guidance and class planning for teachers.

Children are natural learners but many children struggle to engage effectively with school.

We believe that parents must have the right to choose what is best for their children and our policies and support will always be in the interests of children and parents.

A good education is the backbone to helping our children prosper and give them the best chance in life. Our teachers choose the profession because they want to make a difference. Education is there to equip our children to take the step forward from childhood to adult life.

Reform does not believe that tinkering with the current system is the way forward. Too many children are already being failed and the system needs to be reset. Local Government has seen its resources cut and with education as its largest budget the axe has naturally fallen on our classrooms. The Covid Pandemic has highlighted the weaknesses in the system and many parents have discovered that their children are struggling. We can and must do better.

Teachers across Scotland are suffering with low morale and frustration as they try to do their best for our children. They lack classroom support and resources. Many of them do not have secure positions and many newly qualified teachers face uncertainty at the end of their guaranteed NQT year. The once much coveted role of Headteacher now brings worries and stresses that have little to do with education.

Reform will advocate and support approaches and ideas that will champion the talents of our teachers and equip them and our children to prepare the adults of the future who will drive our social and economic success as a country.

Philosophy's such as the presumption of mainstreaming should not be used to exclude children from accessing specialist support. Children with Additional Needs

We want to see Scotland back at the top of International Education tables. We will be ambitious for our children and young people by encouraging competition, celebrating success and providing the opportunities for every child to discover not only what they are good at but what they enjoy and feel inspired by.

Success comes from having a vision and being brave enough to take a chance.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Reform term dates and scrap a six-week holiday in July/August to spread this out across the year.
- ⇒ Abolish Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and replace it with a National Standards and Outcomes Framework to ensure that there is consistency across all schools and all children reach minimum standards of numeracy and literacy as well as a wide range of subject learning.
- ⇒ Break Up Education Scotland into a Scottish Education Inspection Unit and a Curriculum and Planning Support Unit to ensure the focus is on raising standards.
- ⇒ Give Headteachers autonomy to run their schools and manage their budgets with the ability to carry forward underspends to encourage planning and efficiency.
- ⇒ Ensure that there is Manpower planning so that we train the right number of teachers for the number of children we know are going to be in our schools thus ensuring teachers will have stable job opportunities.
- ⇒ Fund Home School Link Workers to support the relationship between parents, child and school when things are problematic.
- ⇒ Champion play based early learning to ensure the development of self confidence and social skills as well as fine motor skills in preparation for formal learning.
- ⇒ Introduce a voucher-based system for 2 to 4 year old's under the 1140 hours entitlement brought in by the previous Government. The voucher could be used in part or full payment of nursery fees thereby allowing nurseries to charge according to their business model and enable parents to have choice and flexibility. The voucher would be redeemable with any Care Inspectorate Registered provision. These worked before and can work again.
- ⇒ Assess every child for barriers to learning before entering formal education. By identifying challenges such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, sight or hearing issues, Autistic characteristics or low self esteem will enable solutions/support to be put in place before a child falls behind or disengages from learning.
- ⇒ Support the provision of Classroom Assistants, trained to provide learning and social support to those children that need extra help, as well as providing administration support to the class teacher.
- ⇒ Support a broad subject choice and want to see the music tuition and Outdoor Residential Education available to all children.
- ⇒ Restructure Social Education lessons to ensure that all young people are prepared for adult life. The curriculum should include areas such as – opening a bank account, interest rates, pensions, mortgages, household budgeting, understanding healthcare as well as relationships
- ⇒ Support the expansion of vocational learning so that practical courses receive as much encouragement and support as academic courses.
- ⇒ Ensure that equal value is placed on young peoples choice of route for learning and training. University should be seen as the choice for those who require a degree for their chosen career not as the only/best choice for the majority.
- ⇒ Review the current system of free University tuition to find a better more equitable approach that benefits our young people, our universities and our country.
- ⇒ Promote the relationship between business and academic research to ensure that Scotland captures the benefits of Research and Development and helps grow our young entrepreneurs and in turn our economy.



REBUILD THE NHS

Our NHS has been with us for over 70 years. When it was first created penicillin was not in public use. Now the service delivers support and treatment for a myriad of diseases and conditions as well as life saving emergency medicine that could only be dreamed about when the NHS was conceived. Reform recognises and supports the concept of the NHS and its core principle of 'free at point of need'. But we also recognise that no matter how much money successive Governments spend the need will always be greater as technology and treatments develop.

If we are not able and willing as a society to rationally debate how the NHS can work going forward then we are in danger of terminally damaging the service that we all value.

Prior to the Covid pandemic we were witnessing increasing strains on the system. Waiting Times were rising, staff were stressed and we had a growing shortage of GP's and Hospital Consultants, treatments were compromised to save time and money leading to scandals such as Vaginal Mesh, lack of access to life improving drugs and services such as Continuous Glucose Monitoring for Type 1 Diabetics or Thrombectomy Services to treat strokes. We had a growing use of anti depressants despite significant evidence of harm and a lack of mental health services and we had the biggest drug death crisis in Europe.

In prioritising Covid-19 over everything else, the Scottish Government has created an enormous pressure on waiting times which will take several years to clear. The pandemic has led to a fall in referrals from primary care services, which will inevitably lead to a further surge of patients requiring treatment as people seek medical help. The cost of returning waiting lists to pre-Covid levels is astronomical and will take years. We believe every life matters and will work to fix the damage done. Investment is just one part of this, as without the staff to do the work we will never tackle the crisis we now face. We need to keep and recruit staff as money alone will not fix the problem. Mental health while not always visible, has a significant impact on lives and families. The number of people suffering a severe mental health problem has substantially increased over the pandemic. We believe the NHS must now treat mental health on an equal footing with physical health.

Manpower planning has failed to recognise that as we train and recruit an increasing number of women doctors we must also allow for the fact that many will take maternity leave and return to work part time.

To attract and retain GPs the role needs to be satisfying which means using their time effectively but not making it a conveyor belt of short appointments. To be truly effective GPs need to have the time and continuity to get to know their patients. This would improve outcomes for GPs and Patients alike.

Nursing also needs to be revisited. Making University the only route to becoming a Registered Nurse has restricted those that can choose this caring vocation as well as adding strain and cost to the system. Reform advocate a review of Nurse Training to make it a more accessible career and to facilitate a focus on vocational training.

To ensure that the NHS is never overwhelmed we need to develop a Reserve Force that can be called when needed to support times of crisis or high demand just as the Armed Forces do in response to need.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Invest all Barnett Health Consequential to clear the backlog of NHS waiting times over the next three years.
- ⇒ Invest in community mental health services to ensure that alternatives to pharmacological treatments are available at point of need to reduce the use of anti-depressants and risk of self harm and suicide.
- ⇒ Develop a medical model that focuses on prevention, recovery and co-production as well as cure.
- ⇒ Develop a workforce policy that ensures adequate numbers of high quality and motivated staff are trained, recruited and retained. The focus will include job roles that ensure job satisfaction which in turn will improve patient experience.
- ⇒ Review Nurse training to widen access to a fantastic caring career with initial training returning to a hospital training school model supported by follow on funded University Places as a route to specialisation and practitioner status for those who wish to develop their careers.
- ⇒ Recognise that many services are already commissioned by the NHS from the private sector and develop the model to ensure that patients receive effective and timely services where appropriate. This should include alternative therapies and the prescribing of non pharmacological interventions where appropriate.
- ⇒ Ensure that Medical Training places are available for Scottish Students that are much more likely to stay and work in Scotland particularly in rural areas.
- ⇒ Tackle the Drug Crisis by recognising and addressing the drivers rather than focussing on the symptoms which manifest themselves as drug abuse. Reform will support the increase of Residential Rehabilitation to make life changes and a re-housing programme to facilitate a fresh start with job opportunities. This will be supported by a focus away from NHS treatment to Third Sector motivational life changing interventions.
- ⇒ Develop a national prevention programme using the Social Norming Model to change attitudes to drug and alcohol use
- ⇒ Champion the creation of an NHS Reserve Force to respond in times of high demand and crisis. This will operate on a similar basis to the Army reserve with monthly training and specialist roles for retired NHS staff, those who are taking time out (who can maintain their practice requirements via this model) and individuals who work in other professions but want to give time and energy to support healthcare.
- ⇒ Ensure that NHS Infrastructure projects are driven and overseen by experienced, qualified project managers to prevent the repeat of failures such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow and the Edinburgh Sick Kids



RETHINK SOCIAL CARE

Scotland faces a social care crisis with an aging population and a large welfare dependency which both socially and economically will place us under considerable strain.

There is an increasing view that the state is ultimately responsible for the welfare of both young and old alike. As such the Government has sought to provide increasing amounts of legislation relating to the management of peoples lives. There is increasingly little benefit for many people to manage their finances to provide for care when they get older or indeed for families to make provision as those who don't are provided with the same facilities.

Reform want to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect and believe that those who need support and care should get the best possible service to ensure that they can live their lives to the best of their ability. We recognise that there is no easy or quick fixes to such a challenging social issue. However we believe that we must not make social care a wholly state provided service. In doing so it will be in danger of becoming expensive and bureaucratic.

Reform believe that our current models of care and the Integrated Joint Boards are sub optimal and we are concerned about the proposal to create a National Social Care Service to mirror the NHS. As a demand led service the potential cost could be prohibitive and may lead to services designed to meet Government needs rather than the needs of the individual and the community.

Reform believes that a more flexible partnership needs to be built with families and communities to ensure that Social Care meets our needs but is sustainable for the future.

The Third Sector is ideally placed to participate in social care services alongside the private sector so that we can deliver responsive, flexible support through the combined use of salaried staff and volunteers. The growth in Social Enterprises could be harnessed to look at Social Care, and work with families to devise locally based services that suit local needs.

Reform Uk would support looking at Community models of care such as those operating in the Netherlands.

Staff who work in Social Care should complete appropriate training and skills updates to maintain the highest standards of care

Social Workers must spend the majority of their time in face to face contact with their clients and be able to use their professional judgement.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Explore social care models globally to identify successful models that might work in Scotland
- ⇒ Ensure that Social Care is supported by adequate training and continuous professional development.
- ⇒ Use the Third Sector as the vehicle for providing locally focussed solutions to Social Care delivered in partnership with clients and their families.
- ⇒ Recognise the importance of intergenerational and community involvement in social care by encouraging partnerships between care homes with nursery schools
- ⇒ Support befriending as a means of addressing isolation and improving mental health for those who struggle to engage socially.
- ⇒ Support the autonomy of individuals to have an active say in the care package they receive and how that is managed.
- ⇒ Ensure that next of kin are involved in decision making when the client themselves are unable to give informed consent to their care.
- ⇒ Recognise the benefits of music and art therapy to clients and encourage their use in social care.
- ⇒ Help elderly residents to stay in their homes by developing a community care network that provides volunteers to shop for and check in on individuals who do not have family locally. Senior high school students might undertake this as part of a school community service programme.
- ⇒ Support the provision of day care centres where there is demand to enable families to maintain their loved one at home and individuals who live independently to have company, a hot meal and entertainment in turn preventing mental and physical decline.
- ⇒ Reduce the paperwork and bureaucracy from the role of social workers so that the vast majority of their time is spent in face to face contact with their clients.
- ⇒ Ensure that Social Workers and Social Care providers receive monthly personal supervision sessions so that any concerns they may have can be dealt with to prevent stress and improve decision making.
- ⇒ Support and encourage the development of community focussed projects such as Mens Sheds, Veterans Support Groups, Mental Health Networks and Disability Projects that enable clients to participate on their own terms but provide significant social and health benefits.



REFORM HOLYROOD

Democratic accountability and bringing democracy closer to the people are a cornerstone for Reform UK.

Devolution has been hijacked as a means to attack other institutions in the UK to the point of wishing to erect borders where none exist and do things differently simply for the sake of it. We must learn from and share learning with all parts of the UK to improve services and benefit our citizens. Pooling resources where appropriate and acknowledging the shared benefit must be a feature of decision making.

We believe in keeping decisions as close as possible to the people that need to implement and live with those decisions. Many people all over Scotland feel a disconnect with the Scottish Government and Holyrood. Public frustration has built up over the years leading to some people contemplate reversing Devolution altogether. Recent events in Holyrood have highlighted the fundamental flaws in the system that has been created. Accountability is blurred and hidden behind layers of committees and decision making.

We wish to reform the Parliament and those working within it. Every industry strives to innovate and improve the way it operates and does business. Government should be no different.

Reform UK believes a strong voice for Scotland strengthens the United Kingdom – Devolution provides Scotland with an opportunity to govern for the 21st Century in strong partnership with the other communities of the UK.

The principles of Honesty, Transparency and Integrity must be unassailable in Holyrood so that debate, decision making and accountability will be of the highest standards.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Actively campaign to remain within the United Kingdom.
- ⇒ Contribute to a Scottish Parliament that focuses on delivering local public services in the best interests for the people of Scotland – not to the benefit of any one party.
- ⇒ End the dual role of the Lord Advocate as Head of the Judiciary and a member of the Scottish Government.
- ⇒ Support changes in Holyrood to bring greater scrutiny and accountability – such as being able to remove disgraced MSP's through local recall petitions
- ⇒ Empower local Government by reducing centralised decision making and ensuring the role of COSLA (Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities) officers in early stage discussions on issues and or policies that affect Local Government.
- ⇒ Require Scottish Civil Servants to be apolitical in all spheres of their work.
- ⇒ Seek a full Independent Audit of Scottish Government Finances to ensure full transparency and understanding of the monetary position
- ⇒ Seek to reduce the size of Government and associated costs.
- ⇒ Review all the Scottish Government created bodies (QUANGO's) in terms of value and accountability and abolish them where appropriate



REINVIGORATE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Reform UK advocates returning our Police Force to autonomously controlled Regional Forces to better deliver localised responsive policing and management that can enhance the experience of both job satisfaction and public experience of policing. Specialist Services could be retained as National Services supporting the Regional Forces. Regional Forces would then be able to build an identity. Build service partnerships that mirrored local requirements and use their budgets to focus on the right manpower and equipment needs for their area.

Reform does not support the use of Gaelic on emergency vehicles as it was not historically spoken in many parts of Scotland.

Reform recognise and support the work our emergency services provide and we want to see positive relationships with the community and an end to violence against our emergency workers. We believe this has to start with developing relationships from an early age so want to see a return to community style policing with regular contact and familiar faces. We believe that this builds trust in communities and enhances crime prevention and the identification of offenders when members of the public feel confident talking to police officers who are familiar to them.

The provision of special constables and retained firemen and women are important routes to enhancing provision and expanding resources on a needs basis. They should also provide entry routes to a career in the service for those who want to be considered for permanent roles.

Reform values law and order and believes that society should make plain that those who commit crimes should feel the hand of our justice system, particularly those who are repeat offenders.

We support early intervention with young offenders to divert them away from offending and would like to see intensive programmes with a supported follow up to ensure that young people do not become habitual reoffenders.



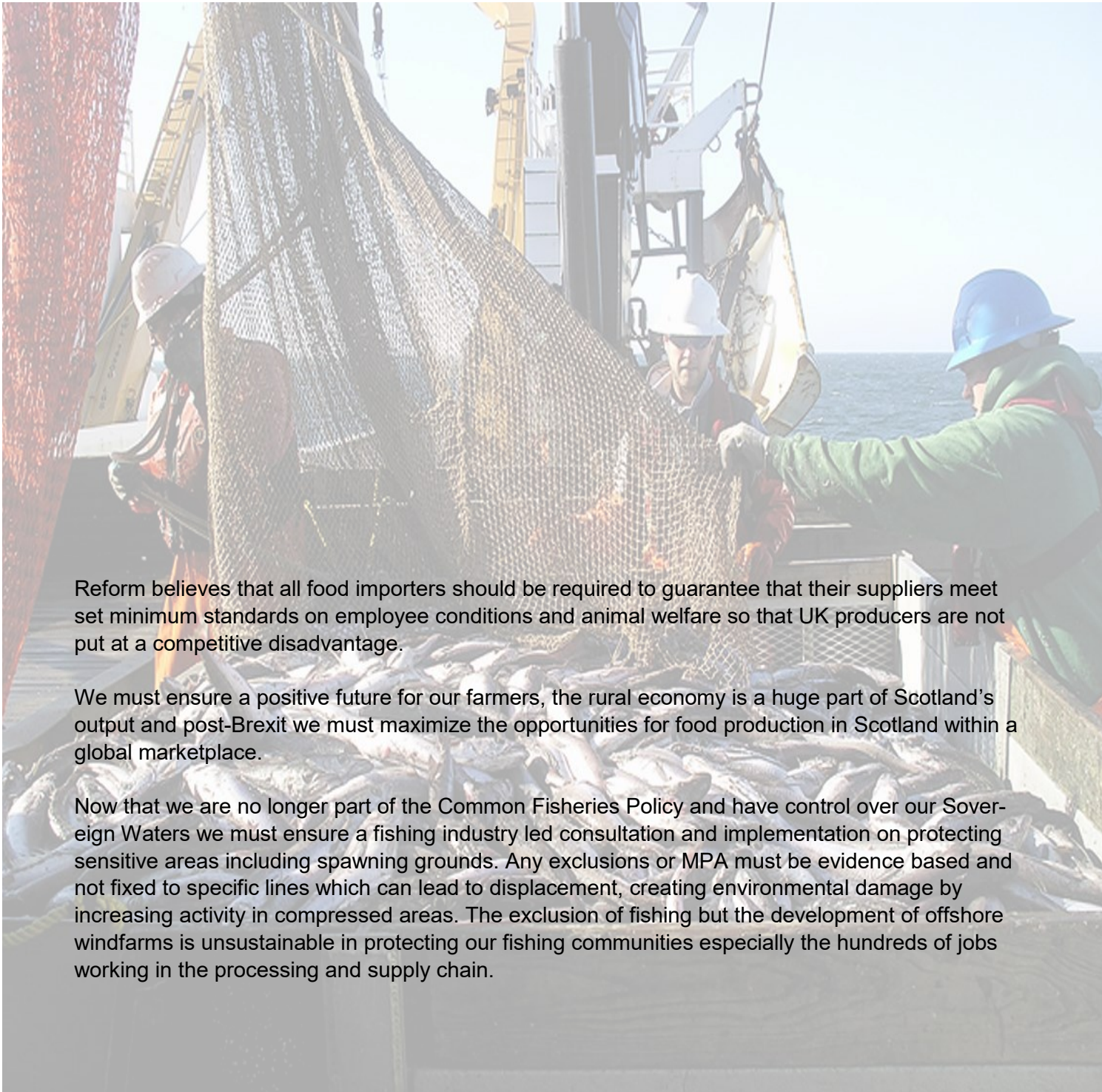
OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Support the the return of Police and Fire services to local control with agreed Shared Services where appropriate.
- ⇒ Scrap the 101 centralized call number and revert to local Police station numbers to provide a more localized informed response.
- ⇒ Promote the return of local points of Police contact to ensure community engagement, appropriate and efficient responses to local issues and policing by consent.
- ⇒ Remove the Gaelic language from emergency vehicles and signage as they are replaced through wear and tear except in areas where Gaelic is spoken by the majority of the community.
- ⇒ Support the running of school engagement projects such as 'Crucial Crew' to develop understanding and positive relationships between young people and emergency services.
- ⇒ Increase and support the number of special constables and retained firemen to provide local services and engagement.
- ⇒ Review the National training facilities for the Fire Service
- ⇒ Argue that enhanced safety regulations and laws such as fire safety in high rise buildings are not reasons to cut fire brigade resources.
- ⇒ Recognise that First Responder Training and cooperation should not expose emergency workers to inappropriate expectations.
- ⇒ Review the fast track approach to Police careers to ensure that Senior Officers have appropriate experience and understanding before undertaking Senior roles.
- ⇒ Review morale within the Police Force to ensure retention of experienced officers.



REVIVE OUR FISHING & FARMING



Reform believes that all food importers should be required to guarantee that their suppliers meet set minimum standards on employee conditions and animal welfare so that UK producers are not put at a competitive disadvantage.

We must ensure a positive future for our farmers, the rural economy is a huge part of Scotland's output and post-Brexit we must maximize the opportunities for food production in Scotland within a global marketplace.

Now that we are no longer part of the Common Fisheries Policy and have control over our Sovereign Waters we must ensure a fishing industry led consultation and implementation on protecting sensitive areas including spawning grounds. Any exclusions or MPA must be evidence based and not fixed to specific lines which can lead to displacement, creating environmental damage by increasing activity in compressed areas. The exclusion of fishing but the development of offshore windfarms is unsustainable in protecting our fishing communities especially the hundreds of jobs working in the processing and supply chain.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Support evidence-based policies from real-time science versus the no evidence precautionary approach. Much of the data used is years out of date, and should be treated as such
- ⇒ Encourage the rebalancing of quotas that reflects the changes in fish stocks in the North Sea.
- ⇒ Require that all vessels fishing in Scottish waters conform to daily catch recording and monitoring.
- ⇒ Reinforce the economic link of foreign owned vessels fishing in Scottish territorial waters.
- ⇒ Back additional funding to support processing capacity increases, processing technology, product development and marketing.
- ⇒ Advocate stricter regulation on fish farming and support the introduction of environmentally sustainable developments.
- ⇒ Allocation of quota for under 10m inshore fishermen.
- ⇒ Deal with Non industry quota holders. Setting time limits for the quota to be redistributed with a fixed allocation for new start fishermen/woman
- ⇒ Support the introduction of grants to develop sustainable fishing. This will see the development of fishing equipment, technology, and the adaptation to low carbon engines.
- ⇒ Work with UK Government Ministers on favourable trade deals for Scottish Farmers.
- ⇒ Reform and target financial support to the areas of farming where it is most needed to support sustainable food supplies.
- ⇒ Reform the planning system to allow farmers to diversify and build for the next generation.
- ⇒ Provide vocational rural skills training



REVIEW ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Innovation and technology are the key to delivering a net-zero carbon future. We believe that scientists, engineers, and politicians need to work together and that everyone in Scotland needs to do their bit. Government needs to support communities to change how we travel, shop, and heat our homes. We can embrace the opportunities offered by the shift towards more remote working through the pandemic to reduce unnecessary commuting. Not everyone wants to, or has the space to work from home, and we support creating local hubs where people can still socially interact without the need to travel. The shift towards electric cars is a key feature of reducing the impact on the environment, but the demand for electricity will rise significantly to power these vehicles and we need to focus on how we generate this electricity by increasing how much electricity comes from renewable sources. Wind turbines and solar arrays will play a part, but the sun doesn't always shine, and the wind doesn't always blow.

We believe in an integrated approach to how we live our lives along with protecting the environment. The shift to electric cars will only work if we increase the number of charging points on the network and create legislation to ensure all new homes have electric vehicle charging points. Local authorities own many of the car parks in our towns and cities. Putting in the infrastructure at these locations can transform car parks into the fuel stations of the future.

However energy is a vital and necessary part of our lives. Sadly, for many of our citizens rising prices also mean that it is becoming increasingly unaffordable. The political messages of reaching Net Zero Carbon and removing all fossil fuels from our economy will potentially make energy a luxury for those that can afford it.

Reform UK understand the challenges of making sure that humans do not destroy nature and the planet we live on, but we also recognize that we have to be realistic about the challenges we face.

The easy part of reaching the carbon reduction targets that have been set have been done by closing coal powered energy plants. To reach net zero will require massive investment in houses and transport beyond the affordability of individuals or the state. If Government make energy efficiency compulsory in misguided attempts to reach their utopian dream of net zero many people will be forced into financial difficulty compounded by the rising costs of electricity. A challenge that is ignored by Parliament.

Reform UK will call for a commonsense approach to the challenges we face. This is not a time for idealism and an undeliverable green agenda that will not support a growth economy.

We will call for a rational and common-sense approach to the creating a sustainable and stable energy policy.

We believe in a mixed energy economy in which nuclear power remains the cleanest, greenest most stable form of energy. To ensure that industry and the population can thrive as well as ensuring that we manage and protect our environment there is no place for extreme views on either side.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Ensure that renewable energy procurement contracts and jobs benefit Scottish workers through procurement contract clauses where Government investment is involved.
- ⇒ Consider every means of energy generation on its merits, and not dismiss any on ideological grounds. Ensure that the true cost and stability of each energy source is understood and balance decisions relating to energy in the context of both the well being of Scotlands citizens and the Global discussion on Climate Change.
- ⇒ Ensure that renewable energy isn't subsidized in a way that feeds through to higher prices for those who can least afford it.
- ⇒ Support the development of a network of good quality public transport links. It is time to open Scotland up to new investment and jobs.
- ⇒ Prioritize investment in the rail network but will not support a nationalized system. If traffic moves from road to rail, we will support the building of new stations and facilities to support this.
- ⇒ Support the upgrading and proper maintenance of roads that link important infrastructure such as ports, and major towns.
- ⇒ Enable Local Government to capitalise road repairs to enable a more effective maintenance /surface replacement programme with the cost spread over the lifetime of the repair
- ⇒ Encourage the use of clean transport such as electric cars and buses to improve air quality.
- ⇒ Support Local Authorities to create an Electric Vehicle charging network model that is fit for purpose.
- ⇒ Recognise that in many parts of Scotland the car is not a luxury but an essential mode of transport and as such not support policies that penalize drivers or make driving unaffordable or impractical by specifying that only newer cars/electric vehicles will be legal.
- ⇒ Encourage/improve young drivers road safety by enhancing the driver test requirements to include winter driving, wet road and skid handling.



RESPECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

There is nothing more depressing than seeing litter thrown onto the streets or into the road verge everywhere you go. Over the last couple of decades litter has become an ever present problem with the growth of fast food outlets and hobbies such as cycling. Even rural country areas are now never free from litter. Our rivers and waterways are also polluted with human generated rubbish all of which affects wildlife and the safety of our environment.

Meanwhile with the introduction of charges and restrictions at Community Recycling Centre's we have seen a growth in fly-tipping which is problematic for landowners and can be expensive and in some cases even dangerous to clear up.

Combined with irresponsible dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets Scotland has a problem that we need to address before we gain a reputation as a dirty country.

New technology means that it is possible now to ensure all packaging materials are biodegradable. Scottish businesses should all be encouraged to change to biodegradable packing and distribution materials.

Reform UK support the reduction in single use plastics and are extremely concerned about the massive rise in plastic usage since the onset of covid particularly in the medical professions. Significant waste is generated by hospitals and consideration needs to be given to how this can be reduced.

Landowners and farmers are also the guardians of our environment. Reform UK respects the centuries of tradition and experience of land management that our rural communities bring to the care of the environment. We want to see modern technology and understanding enhancing these traditional ways of life rather than destroying them – the right balance must be found.

Scotland has some of the best countryside and coastline in the world. Our rural and coastal communities are largely made up of small market towns and villages, but these communities are under threat. Young people struggle to remain in their communities because of the lack of work opportunity and affordable housing. Small farms are disappearing because of often overburdening regulations. Pressure on housing stock in some coastal communities is at a breaking point because of the number of residential properties being lost to holiday letting and second homes. Tourism and hospitality provide vital jobs and Scotland is attracting more and more visitors every year, but we must also protect our communities and young people.



OUR PROMISES

We pledge to:

- ⇒ Champion the use of biodegradable packaging in all businesses
- ⇒ Support increased fines and penalties for fly tipping and littering
- ⇒ Push for a review of countryside access to ensure that the freedom that Access provides is matched with responsibility
- ⇒ Call for the auditing of publicly funded conservation projects to ensure measurable returns for the public purse
- ⇒ Support Rural Workers having a voice in the Parliament through a Cross Party Working Group
- ⇒ Champion the work to investigate and halt the decline of wild Atlantic Salmon in Scottish Rivers
- ⇒ Support rural and coastal communities by developing housing policies that make homes affordable for young people
- ⇒ Encourage the planting of native trees where they can enhance the landscape.
- ⇒ Support the restoration of peatlands