

Freedom

The manifesto of the British National Party

Produced by

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Introduction

Why you deserve the BNP and why we should get your vote.



The public face of political life is beset with scandal, corruption and wholesale contempt for the Scottish electorate. These unwelcome features of Scottish politics have arisen from those that have been elected to work on our behalf within the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood.

The much lauded creation of a separate Scottish Parliament which would eradicate such adverse aspects of political life has become tainted with the same sleaze, the misuse of public money and the same abysmal failures in policy decision that have blighted Westminster for decades, just as the BNP predicted. The result is the same; communities throughout Scotland blighted by poverty, the scourge of drugs, crime and decay; an economy which has no substantial manufacturing base and a haemorrhage of jobs overseas; rural communities facing neglect as a direct consequence of political misrule.

The political leaders need to be brought to account to explain this appalling state of affairs. Can anyone trust those that have overseen the collapse of our society to have the real answers to these issues? One cannot expect them to radically tackle these and other issues without them having to dismantle both the tangible institutions and the intangible mindset they created and admit the fundamental failures inherent in their ideologies. So who will tackle Scotland's economic, social and political problems?

Emerging from the hitherto passive and silent majority is a voice that is getting louder each day. The voice of ordinary people who are frustrated and angry about the present and fearful of their future. They are witnessing the decline of a once proud nation which as part of Great Britain played its role in some of the most important developments in mankind's history; from advances in engineering and medicine to outpourings of music, art and literary culture. Its bravest forebears witnessed victory in battle on every continent on this planet; its brightest minds have constructed magnificent cathedrals, civic buildings, bridges and canals.

Now the people are at last prepared to speak. Their voice is one of common sense, reflecting the views that the overwhelming majority of Scots think but yet are often afraid to utter. The voice that must address the pressing issues that blight our nation and our children's future. The voice of British National Party Scotland.

A real alternative

BNP Scotland is the solution, not part of the problem.

Public Accountability

A new contract with the electorate.



BNP Scotland is very different to the old style political parties. It doesn't have as its foundation an outdated ideology based on class, nor does it embrace the fundamentally flawed concept of "political correctness" which makes a mockery of tried and tested common sense, which hinders and stifles debate about key political issues.

The BNP has been called all sorts of unpleasant names by the politicians of the Old-Gang established parties. The simple reason for this outpouring of ridicule and hatred is that the established parties know their time is up...they have been caught out lying and deceiving to the each and every voter who makes up the "electorate". It takes a party with the moral stamina, the infrastructure, the leadership and the electoral credibility that the BNP has achieved in recent years to make progress and offer a direct challenge to the other parties which have passed their "sell-by" dates.

Politicians must keep foremost in their minds that they are public servants. They must be accountable to the very people they claim to represent. They should not decide on important issues without consulting the electorate and they should not serve as pawns in a greater game to serve their own political careers by towing their party lines where the electorate has a different opinion.

Politicians should work by the same rules as every other branch of industry and commerce. The employers of Holyrood's elected MSP's are not the established parties but the electorate.

Our pledge is this: **"Back us or sack us!"** A legally binding contract will exist between the BNP and the electorate whereby we agree that after a period of grace of 12 months in office, this to allow our elected representatives to get to grips with the mechanisms and procedures in place at Holyrood, then if the electorate is dissatisfied with the performance of the public servant's elected on a BNP Scotland platform then gather 66% of the electorate's signatures and sack us.

We trust that such a contract will help break the apathy and disillusionment with the whole political process which is prevalent in our nation today.

Ask yourself this question... "Would the current MSPs earning £49,000 a year make such a pledge?"

All elected BNP representatives are pledged to donating a significant proportion of their income to the BNP to assist in party growth throughout Scotland.

Education

Educational excellence for a better society.



BNP Scotland will work towards an educational system that is second to none. Throwing money at any public service in itself does not work. The investment of money must be coupled to coherent changes in thoughts, ideas and working practices. Equally we acknowledge that life inside schools is only just one of many related pieces of the jigsaw needed to tackle national and community problems.

We shall change the Ethos of Education in Scotland (as part of the same strategy nationally in Britain as a whole) from one of 'surrogate social worker' to one of 'educational excellence' by freeing schools and teachers to actually teach rather than having the responsibilities of schools and teachers constantly broadened to cater for more and more 'social' elements which the family unit should be providing.

Labour's 1997 election pledge to reduce class sizes for 5, 6 & 7 year olds to 30 pupils or under per class has not been achieved. Smaller class sizes will be achieved by spending money better and not just throwing money at the issue. All that is required to lower class sizes is that the required funding be properly directed to facilitate this and the political will to implement it.

The Scottish Executive allocates huge amounts of money in an attempt to solve the problem of discipline in schools but have so far failed to make inroads on this issue. The issue of problem children is a large one and certainly exclusion has to be a last resort as there are proven links between low education and poverty, crime, drugs, etc. This is one strand of a far larger sociological issue which the government plainly fails to tackle. The central issue with problem children must be parental involvement be it in terms of guidance, support and discipline.

The sensitive issue of public funded denominational and single religion schools will be examined with a view to the social and educational impact of changing over to a multi-denominational system of schooling. Such a measure should not be viewed as religious discrimination. Quite the opposite, those of Catholic and Protestant tradition along with those of other faiths must be allowed to live in a society which values all traditions and yet attaches no vested interest to one over the other. Such privately funded schools will of course be permitted to operate.

A new addition to the Scottish curriculum will be the subject of "cultural identity", allowing our children to become more acquainted with Scotland's vast cultural legacy.

Transport

Keeping Scotland on the move.



Education authorities will be encouraged by a mix of financial and legislative measures to buy British produced food for their respective canteens and source local businesses for provision of services.

A change of ethos is also needed with regard to tertiary education. Universities should be places of academic excellence. Absolute numbers of students leaving university is meaningless if there are no jobs available for the graduates. Individuals and society in general may have benefited more from having those individuals attending another centre of learning, undergoing vocational training or trades' apprenticeships. To this end we would bring about a raising of entry requirements to Scotland's universities for all subjects. All students who qualify for a place should be publicly funded so that parental earnings and domestic circumstances are not a barrier to educational success.

This ethos cannot be undertaken in isolation. Society needs to embrace that a variety of skills are needed for society to function. There is little point in having large numbers of graduates working as cheap labour in retail and fast food outlets, when the Scottish economy needs skilled tradespeople.

Our commitment is to a working and integrated public transportation system. We are totally opposed to the additional fleecing of motorists and would stop all congestion charges in our cities. We would also ensure private companies used to control on-street parking in our cities adhere to tighter guidelines on issuing of tickets with an independent complaints authority.

Rail links to our two largest airports in Scotland at Glasgow and Edinburgh are imperative, as is the reopening of the Edinburgh South Suburban line. We will examine cases for reopening of existing but unused rail-lines using Scottish Executive funds to facilitate the re-opening and encourage their popular use.

Public transport in many areas of Scotland must be seen as a not-for-profit service and the BNP is committed to examine the consequences of bringing transport services back into the public domain rather than allow private companies to make large profits by Government subsidies or where complaints from users of publicly subsidised and private operated reaches level of concern.

A review of the high landing charges in place at the Highlands and Islands airports will be undertaken with a view to bringing charges down to a level which would encourage airlines to provide better services to these more remote airports.

Business Development

Scotland's prosperity is found at home.



The policy of allowing foreign owned companies to set up shop in Scotland only to fleece the tax-payer and depart after a few years is a criminal and disastrous policy for the Scottish economy. The recent debacle of foreign companies such as Chungwa in Lanarkshire, Daewoo in Fife, Motorola in Livingston costing the tax-payer some tens of millions emphasises the financial and social cost of this kind of short-term measure. Scottish Executive funds would be better spent on providing financial assistance for home grown businesses. Our people lack neither the drive nor the imagination to create and develop successful businesses. A financial regime that encourages start-up businesses and provides support for at least the first three years is needed to stimulate the economy, and will be positively encouraged and promoted by BNP Scotland.

Under our “Living Treasures” programme we will ensure the survival of traditional crafts that have been passed down through the centuries. The wisdom inherent in the old crafts of weaving, musical instrument manufacturer, farriers, saddlers, stane dyke building and others must not be allowed to become lost. Under the programme there will be Scottish Executive funding to allow these small enterprises and cottage industries to take on apprentices thereby ensuring those skills are passed on and continue the development of quality products for domestic and export markets.

We will commission a review into the calculation and application of business rates by Scottish local authorities to ensure that Scottish businesses are not disadvantaged compared to those businesses operating in other parts of the UK.

Scotland's land use planning regime needs to be more transparent, accountable and less costly to the local taxpayer. Business success depends on a flexible system that balances business needs with sensitivity towards environmental issues.

BNP Scotland would request the Scottish Executive facilitate the roll out of Broadband digital services beyond the main urban areas. Rural communities should not be disadvantaged and should be assisted in making available this vital business tool.

A home for all

Choice and personal responsibility in housing.



A Scottish Executive department of “social justice” which allows over 80,000 people a year to be classified as “homeless” is clearly failing in its responsibilities. There are about 500 people living rough on the streets of our cities as well as tens of thousands at any one time living in hostels, temporary accommodation and bed & breakfast.

We aim to abolish homelessness; all those that are currently homeless, yearning for a home shall have one. There are over 10,000 homes lying unoccupied throughout Scotland, such accommodation could be filled by families, individuals and those who are currently sleeping rough.

It is not the role of Government to interfere in personal freedom and individual family life but the Government can tackle the issues within society as a whole to help reduce the number of people becoming homeless in the first instance.

This means dealing with unemployment and broader economic issues, drugs misuse, addressing the issue of mental health care and also helping create stronger family and community bonds.

We are committed to bringing about a harmonisation of the current council tax regime whereby all owners of property within a local authority area will be obliged to pay the full council tax regardless of the period of occupancy of that property.

We believe in the right that a council tenant, at some point after a qualifying period, should have the right to buy their home from the local authority.

We would however stop the widespread transfer of local authority housing to housing associations. Where tenants feel that the service from their current housing association is unsatisfactory we would allow an independent housing commission to decide on whether to reverse the transfer and bring accommodation back within the control of local authorities, or conversely where tenants are currently in local authority housing establish a tenants co-operative for that particular locale and group of aggrieved tenants. Ultimately the best decision for the well-being of the tenants will be made by the tenants themselves.

Health

Cutting the wait.

We are fully committed to a free National Health Service for all in keeping with the original founding concepts. We want shorter waiting times for access to all areas of care.

Investment will be used to bring about better preventative methods. Prevention must start as early as possible with schools to be obliged to provide physical education and sports. Nutritional education and personal health advice must be presented in more interesting and subtle means involving aspects of the media to encourage the idea of good health. We care more about our cars than we do our bodies and probably spend more on maintaining our vehicles than we do ourselves. BNP Scotland would introduce the opportunity of a free and thorough annual health check-up for all. Using the latest technologies, diseases and disorders can often be detected at an early stage and dealt with to reduce costly and painful treatment which may come too little, too late. We will build a series of drugs rehabilitation clinics to assist in the war against the scourge of drugs.

With a current NHS that has more managers than hospital beds, we are funding a service that is doomed to failure. It is a situation BNP Scotland will reverse. We would encourage NHS trusts to reintroduce matrons onto the wards where they will play a key role in ensuring the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness. Scotland was once the centre of medical excellence in Europe. BNP policies will ensure a healthier population. We also want to see nursing as a well paid professional career choice and the pay and conditions of carers who work with the elderly and mentally and physically disabled improved.



Paying for Government

Best services and accountability



The aim of BNP Scotland is to ensure good Government by less Government and by spending better, rather than spending more.

We are committed to working within the chamber at Holyrood but question whether the current situation of devolved Assemblies and Parliaments is the best way to govern the UK. We will discuss and research alternatives which lead to better representative of the people and which are less bureaucratic and costly as the current 4 tier system of Government.

We will review the issue of funding of local authorities and widen that to a debate on issue of personal taxation. Current council taxes based on property values are unfair to the poorest sections within society and we would investigate alternative methods such as those based on consumption.

We would demand a public enquiry into the absurd and astronomical cost of the building of the Holyrood Parliament.

PFI – “mortgaging our children’s future”

Schools, hospitals, the criminal justice system by their nature exist to serve the community and the nation; they cannot be bought, sold and operated in a conventional business way for profit. Thus PFI (private funded initiatives) are bad for the long-term social and economic viability of the nation. The concept that a consortium of banks and developers should finance say the construction of a hospital which the local NHS trust then leases for the next 30 years is morally wrong and also is bad for public finances. Ensuring maximum profit for the banks and developers is at odds with providing proper care in that hospital. BNP Scotland will not enter into any more PFI’s and seek to renegotiate the contracts of existing initiatives with a view to lowering the burden of debt.

Money should never be a problem. Theoretically there is an unlimited supply of money which is directly related to the ability of a community or a city to provide the effort to undertake public works. We will investigate ways by which public projects can be funded not just by using conventional currency but other options such as employing the rapidly growing system of local trading initiatives and barter schemes.

A clean and beautiful land

We must all pay for the care of our environment.



Despite a contracting population, property building continues apace due to changes in family makeup and an older population which is living longer. Housing needs must be balanced against the need for environmental protection and we will use our influence to discourage building on green field locations, preferring brown site development.

The anomaly that currently exists in the VAT regimes on housing construction will be removed. Currently building projects on brownfield developments are liable for VAT whereas new builds on greenfield sites carry no VAT, thereby encouraging developers to develop greenfield sites. We propose levying VAT on new developments thereby harmonising the system and discouraging such intrusion onto greenfield sites.

The recent flooding problems have been exasperated by the use of reclaimed wet lands forcing the natural drainage systems to seek alternate areas, causing major economic and social disasters. These reclaimed areas also destroy the habitats of many native plants and animals already under threat. We will halt further use of such wet lands.

The very process of consumption ultimately means we all pollute. Our belief is that “the polluter must pay”. Ultimately we must all pay to ensure we bequeath a green and pleasant land to future generations. We will examine ways to reduce unnecessary consumption, ensure greater provision for recycling of materials and find better ways to deal with “waste”.

Scotland’s vast coastline readily lends itself to the harnessing of the power of the sea. We would encourage the research, development and implementation of power generation in those areas identified as being best suited for such undertakings.

Food from our farms

Local is best



Scotland's farmers and fisherman and the rural communities that depend upon them are under threat. They are also under threat from the agricultural policies of the EU and while Europe continues to hold sway over our food production, Holyrood is effectively powerless to provide the much needed assistance our communities need. Scotland alone cannot withdraw from the EU, but as part of our British platform we will engage a debate to remove all of the UK wholly from the EU. We will continue to work with our neighbours in Europe on issues where we can both assist and mutually benefit. Under the banner "local is best" we will encourage by legislative and financial means all public bodies to buy locally produced food for schools, hospitals, police canteens, prisons and other outlets.

A Government sponsored Organic Foods Advisory body will be set up to accelerate the switch to organic methods of food production.

We are committed to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use of artificial pesticides. To this end we would introduce a pesticide license scheme whereby a potential user of man-made synthetic pesticides would have to persuade the supervisory agency that such use was the best possible solution to deal with the specific local pest issue.

A review into the workings of the Crown Estate and it's role in factory methods of fish farming will be undertaken.

The planting of genetically modified crops in Scotland will not be permitted and we work towards excluding their use in any products we must import.

The plight of Scotland's 25,000 fishermen must be addressed urgently. Holyrood has no jurisdiction over our coastal waters, regrettably this power lies with Europe and we repeat what was said above, withdrawal from the EU is essential to allow us to regain control of this vital economic activity.

Culture

Taking our past to our future

Scotland has a vibrant and rich heritage in terms of its arts, crafts and traditions. While schools have a part to play in allowing our children to become more acquainted with the vast cultural legacy all aspects of public life have their role to play as well.

Accessibility to arts and our cultural legacy is paramount to develop awareness of those treasures and to encourage our young talented artists, musicians and writers. Access can be part undertaken by our national and local museums which should place a greater emphasis on the unique heritage of our nation and the history of their own locales.

Culture of course is not just a historic entity. Our unique culture needs to be kept alive in the face of globalisation and standardisation. We will develop our key crafts and traditions through the “Living Treasures” programme mentioned in the economic policy section.

Regional languages such as Gaelic and Doric as well as Scots would be fostered and encouraged so as to ensure their survival.

BNP Scotland would actively encourage the development of living participation spectacles, historical re-enactment and pageants. Scotland is part of the western European family of nations and public sponsorship of the Arts in general must reflect that family association.



Respect, not tyranny

Commonsense should be applied.

The intrusion of “political correctness” on public and increasingly private life is damaging, divisive and a thoroughly tyrannical attempt to change attitudes in society. The ruling elite fool themselves into believing that society can be changed by playing with words. Language can indeed influence behaviour, but bigotry and hate are not banished, they just manifest themselves in other, sometimes more damaging ways. Differences exist between individuals, between the two genders, between groups of people with a different linguistic, cultural or religious tradition. It is the very difference between people that allows society to function. It is those differences that should be respected. The removal of material from school curricula because that material was written by “White, English speaking males”, the stifling of discussion on certain issues because it may cause offend the sensibilities of a minority and the whole change of language is a oppressive effort to force people to swallow flawed dogma.

Our society will be one that recognises the value of all its subjects. Rude and uncivil behaviour carried out by individuals against people who look and behave differently from the perceived norm, is just that; rude and uncivil. All citizens must be equal before the law. The present regime which grants greater protection for any minority breeds discontent and utterly contradicts the moral fundamental of equality before the law.

