

Response from the Scottish Liberal Democrats:

Scottish Liberal Democrats want to make Scotland the best again. We are offering bold and positive change.

We are proposing transformational investment in education, through our Penny for Education, to give everyone in Scotland the best start in life and the chance to reach their potential. We will boost our NHS and transform mental health services. We will decentralise power and enable our public servants, whether teachers, police officers or nurses and doctors, to use their skills without the suffocating blanket of centralised control. After four years of Scotland missing its climate change targets, we will act to protect our environment and meet our obligations as custodians of the planet. We will protect our civil liberties and we will use the new powers coming to Scotland to create a welfare system that is based on an ensuring dignity and respect for individuals. We will make sure work pays by paying the Living Wage for all public services and preventing government grants going to companies that fail to do so, building on our previous work to raise the personal allowance and lift lift millions of people across the UK out of paying income tax altogether.

Liberal Democrats will always stand with the weak against the strong. That is in our DNA. We respect and welcome people with faith and those of no faith. We believe everyone should be able to participate in Scotland's vibrant democracy, free from fear of intimidation or prejudice based on their gender, race, sexuality, faith or ability. We will work toward a prosperous and outward looking Scotland that plays an active role within the United Kingdom and works to tackle international problems, like the refugee crisis, in partnership with others.

In terms of your other areas of interest, Scottish Liberal Democrats have no plans to change the abortion laws in Scotland and are committed to keeping the named person legislation under review to ensure no local authorities exceed the expectation of the legislation. We also propose to introduce a protocol on human rights for Scottish public agencies operating in countries where there is cause for concern and have been at the forefront of the campaign for the UK to accommodate more refugees and in particular 3,000 unaccompanied children from within Europe.

We hope this is helpful in setting out our views on tackling discrimination, ensuring the dignity of every individual, investing in education and delivering a shared prosperity across Scotland.

Of course much more information is available in our manifesto which is available on our website at www.scotlibdems.org.uk/manifesto and you will see many of these themes reflected in it. We hope you will take a moment to look at our ideas.