

Catriona Bhatia



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**Number 1
for the
South of Scotland**

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Dear Fellow Members

As Liberal Democrats we care passionately about our core values of fairness, equality, justice and internationalism. We know that many people across the South of Scotland share those values, and I am committed to taking our **positive Liberal messages** to all of our communities.

The South of Scotland is often overlooked by the centralist Scottish Government. My role will be to tackle the important challenges that face our vast, mainly rural area, but also highlight our important strengths.

Our Environment, Our Economy

With the triple whammy of Covid 19, Brexit and the distracting Independence debate, we need to re-build our local economy, from fishing to farming, tourism to textiles. Our built and natural environment is a strength we must use to support growth, whilst being mindful of our **climate change** obligations.

Close the Gap

For too long social, educational, health and economic **inequalities** have been allowed to become entrenched across Scotland. We must seek innovative, and where necessary interventionist, measures to give young and old alike every opportunity to reach their full potential in life.

Get Connected

Our region needs to improve its connectivity and we must lever in investment to do that. Faster Broadband, improved rail and roads, safe cycle-ways are all vital. We also need to improve connections between Government and our communities, and public, private and voluntary organisations. If we can **get the South of Scotland connected**, then growing our economy and reducing inequalities will be within our grasp.

About Me

I have experience as a European, Westminster and Holyrood candidate, and was elected 3 times a Senior Councillor in the Scottish Borders, so am confident that I can run an energetic, competent campaign and present Liberal Democrat policies in written, visual and social media. Due to running my own small business I would be able to re-schedule my work to enable me to campaign **full time** between now and polling day. I have made a conscious decision not to stand as a candidate in a constituency so that my focus is solely on getting a **Scottish Liberal Democrat MSP** elected for the South of Scotland.

I hope to speak with as many of you as possible over the coming weeks to hear your views on the issues that are important, and I am asking you to please make me your **Number 1** choice for the South of Scotland.

Best wishes,

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