

STRONGER FOR SCOTLAND

SPRING CONFERENCE 2017



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The National St Andrew's Dinner 2017

Starring... Nicola Sturgeon MSP
FIRST MINISTER



Derek Mackay MSP
FINANCE SECRETARY



- Plus...** A fantastic musical line-up and hosted by Radio Scotland's **Iain Anderson**
- What...** Bubbly on arrival, four courses and a night of celebration and friendship, music, competitions and much, much more.
- Where...** **Doubletree by Hilton Hotel**, Cambridge Street, Glasgow
- When...** **Friday 17 November 2017**

£59.50 for Independence Magazine subscribers
(First two tickets). £69.50 non-subscribers

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The report of the Standing Orders and Agenda Committee (Session 1); the Office Bearer Reports (Session 3); and the Standing Orders for National Conference, are all available for viewing and download via the Conference App <https://conf.snp.org>

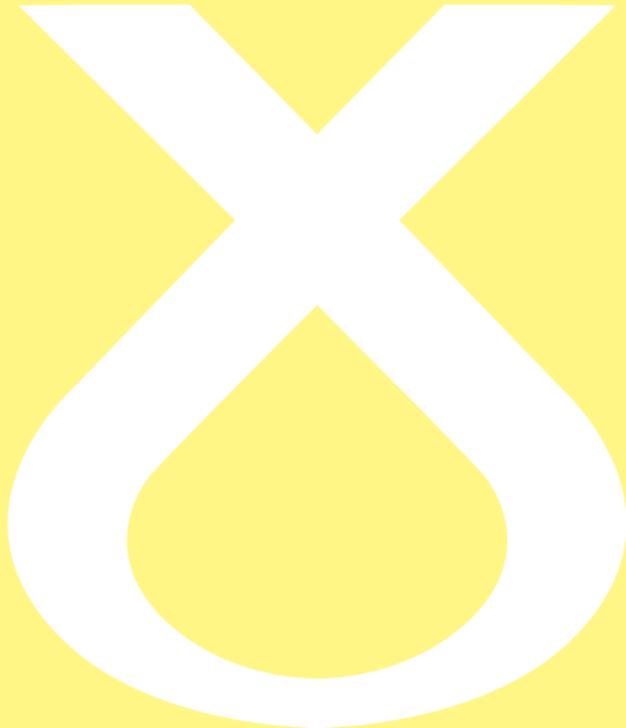


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Welcome to
Conference





This weekend we embark on our latest campaign.

These elections are our opportunity to build on the success already achieved, and ensure Scotland keeps moving forward.

We have a record number of candidates, each ready to work to deliver key SNP priorities such as expanding childcare and closing the attainment gap.

All our candidates are dedicated local campaigners and believe passionately in protecting local services and empowering communities.

Our task now is to support the election of SNP councillors and SNP councils the length and breadth of our nation.

The SNP government is working harder than ever to protect the most vulnerable in our society and deliver the best public services anywhere in the UK.

From our first day in office, we've demonstrated our commitment to supporting families and protecting the public services we all rely on.

In these tough economic times, Scotland's councils too have a key role in driving the economy, building and protecting communities, and providing services that put people first.

Together, at the national and local level, we need to be working hard to create jobs, protect family budgets and to make Scotland fairer and our communities safer.

A vote for the SNP on May 4 is a vote to protect the vital services we all depend on.



MARVEL ON THE FORTH

The £1.35 billion Queensferry Crossing nears completion.

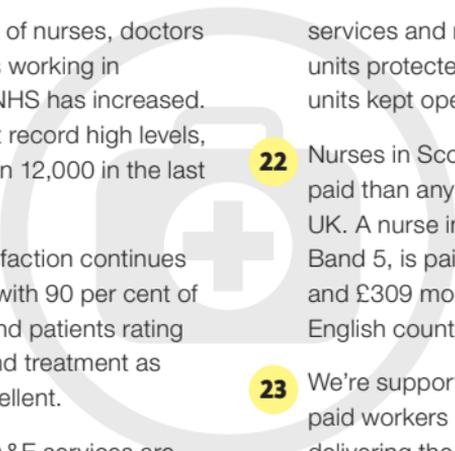
**PROUD OF
WHAT WE'VE
ACHIEVED**

The list of SNP government achievements is long and wide-ranging. And all this despite a decade of Westminster public spending cuts. The SNP government continues to work hard to protect the most vulnerable in our society and deliver the best public services anywhere in the UK.

- 1 Record health funding** – over £13 billion in 2017, £3.6 billion more than when we took office.
- 2 Higher exam passes up by a third** since 2007, and we're **investing record amounts** in schools to close the attainment gap. £120 million will go direct to schools this year alone.
- 3 Free tuition protected**, saving students in Scotland up to £27,000 compared to the cost of studying in England.
- 4 Free, high quality childcare** has been increased to 16 hours a week for all 3 and 4 year olds – up from 12.5 hours in 2007 – and extended to 2 year olds from low income households, saving families up to £2,500 per child per year in total.
- We exceeded our **world-leading target to reduce emissions** by 42 per cent by 2020 – six years early.
- 6 More people in employment** in Scotland than the pre-recession high point, outperforming the UK on female employment and inactivity rates.
- 7 We've kept Council Tax down.** Bills are lower in Scotland than in England – by between £300 and £400.

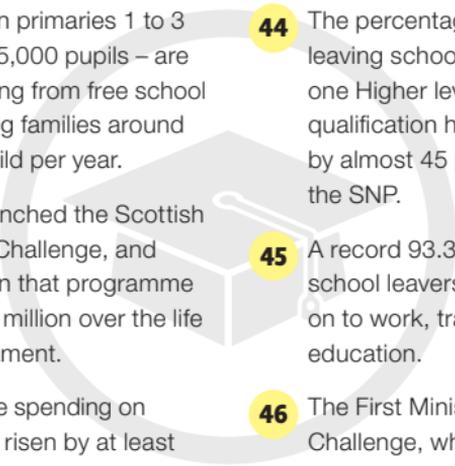
- 8 Prescription charges abolished.** In England, patients are forced to pay £8.40 per item.
- 9 We're leading the way on fair pay.** Scotland has the highest proportion of employees in the UK paid at least the Living Wage.
- 10 Over 60,000 affordable homes** completed, with a further 22,000 households supported into homeownership.
- 11 16 and 17 year olds now have the right to vote** in Scottish Parliament and local government elections.
- 12** To help **protect jobs and businesses** through the recession, we've slashed or abolished business rates for 100,000 premises – saving small businesses £1.2 billion to date.
- 13 Recorded crime in Scotland has reached its lowest level in 42 years.**
- 14** Scotland, with one of the most progressive equal marriage laws in the world, has been **rated the best country in Europe for LGBTI equality and human rights** for the second year running.
- 15 We're standing up for Scottish industry.** We have secured a future for Scottish steel, the last remaining aluminium smelter at Lochaber, and Ferguson shipyard too.

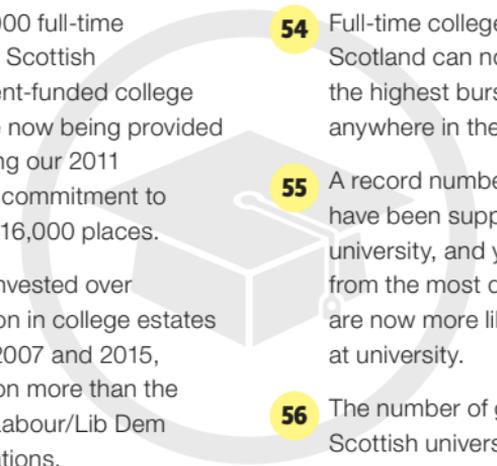
A HEALTHIER SCOTLAND

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- 16** The number of nurses, doctors and dentists working in Scotland's NHS has increased. Staffing is at record high levels, up more than 12,000 in the last ten years.
- 17** Patient satisfaction continues to increase with 90 per cent of NHS Scotland patients rating their care and treatment as good or excellent.
- 18** Scotland's A&E services are the best performing in the UK.
- 19** We have brought forward plans for a £5 million expansion of the Golden Jubilee Hospital – the first part of our plan to invest £200 million in a network of elective and diagnostic treatment centres to help meet the needs of an ageing population.
- 20** Over £5 billion has been invested in Scotland's health infrastructure since 2007, including the South Glasgow Hospitals and Emergency Care Centre in Aberdeen.
- 21** We've kept healthcare local. That means A&E units have been saved, children's cancer services and neurosurgery units protected, and maternity units kept open.
- 22** Nurses in Scotland are better paid than anywhere else in the UK. A nurse in Scotland, at Band 5, is paid between £225 and £309 more than their English counterparts.
- 23** We're supporting the lowest paid workers in our NHS by delivering the real Living Wage. Entry level pay for NHS support staff, Band 1, in Scotland is £881 higher than England, and over £1,300 higher than Northern Ireland.
- 24** We're recruiting more GPs by increasing the number of training places from 300 to 400 each year.
- 25** We're training more paramedics, with a commitment to train 1,000 more by the end of this Scottish Parliament term.
- 26** IVF is being expanded to more families – making access in Scotland the fairest and most generous in the UK.

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- 27** Our hospitals are cleaner and safer. In over 65s cases of C.Diff are down 86 per cent, and cases of MRSA are down 93 per cent.
- 28** Almost £40 million has been invested to raise public awareness of cancer, and catch it sooner, driving earlier diagnosis in a range of cancers.
- 29** The risk from cervical cancer for the next generation of young women has been cut by providing the HPV vaccine for girls in second year of secondary school.
- 30** Scrapping parking charges at all NHS-run hospital car parks has saved patients and staff around £27 million.
- 31** Scotland has the highest number of GPs per head of population in the UK, and we've made sure more practices are now open in the evenings and at weekends.
- 32** Scotland was the first country in the UK to have a mental health waiting times target, and spending on mental health services in Scotland will exceed £1 billion for the first time in 2017-18.
- 33** A record nine in ten people are now registered with an NHS dentist – up from just 52 per cent when we took office.
- 34** More funding than ever before is being provided to support carers and young carers, with investment of over £122 million in a range of programmes since 2007.
- 35** Irresponsible alcohol discounts in supermarkets and off-licences are now banned, and we've raised the legal age for buying tobacco to 18.
- 36** We've banned smoking in any vehicle carrying anyone under 18.
- 37** Everyone who uses social care services can now control their individual care budget through the Self-directed Support Act.
- 38** We've provided extra funding for Scotland's veteran charities, and ensured our ex-service men and women receive priority treatment in the NHS and other services.

A Smarter Scotland

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- 39** All children in primaries 1 to 3 – around 135,000 pupils – are now benefiting from free school meals, saving families around £380 per child per year.
- 40** We have launched the Scottish Attainment Challenge, and investment in that programme will be £750 million over the life of this Parliament.
- 41** Total revenue spending on schools has risen by at least £220 million since 2006-07, and spending per pupil is higher in Scotland than England.
- 42** More school pupils are now in well-designed, accessible and inclusive learning environments. Between 2007 and 2015, 607 schools were built or refurbished – twice as many as the previous Labour/ LibDem administrations.
- 43** Since the introduction of the Gaelic Schools Capital Fund in 2008, the number of young people in Gaelic Medium Education has increased nationally by 32 per cent.
- 44** The percentage of pupils leaving school with at least one Higher level or equivalent qualification has increased by almost 45 per cent under the SNP.
- 45** A record 93.3 per cent of school leavers are now going on to work, training or education.
- 46** The First Minister's Reading Challenge, which aims to encourage children to read for pleasure, has been opened to all primary school pupils after the success of the initial scheme for primaries 4 to 7.
- 47** The Disabled Students Allowance has been protected and bursaries for students have been maintained in Scotland, while the Tories have abolished both elsewhere in the UK.
- 48** We've expanded the Education Maintenance Allowance in Scotland – now scrapped south of the border – to support even more school pupils and college students from low income families.

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- 49** Over 117,000 full-time equivalent Scottish Government-funded college places are now being provided – exceeding our 2011 manifesto commitment to maintain 116,000 places.
- 50** We have invested over £550 million in college estates between 2007 and 2015, £250 million more than the previous Labour/Lib Dem administrations.
- 51** We're supporting a further £300 million of investment to deliver new campuses at City of Glasgow, Inverness and Ayrshire Colleges. And Forth Valley and Fife Colleges will share £140 million for new campuses too.
- 52** We're providing our further education students with record levels of support of £106 million – up 34 per cent under the SNP.
- 53** The number of full-time college students completing recognised higher education qualifications is at an all time high.
- 54** Full-time college students in Scotland can now benefit from the highest bursary of anywhere in the UK.
- 55** A record number of Scots have been supported into university, and young people from the most deprived areas are now more likely to study at university.
- 56** The number of graduates from Scottish universities going into work or further study is among the highest in the UK.
- 57** Graduates from Scottish universities are earning more than their counterparts in other UK nations.
- 58** The poorest university students who are living at home are benefiting from a minimum income guarantee of £7,625 per year – the highest in the UK.
- 59** Since 2007, the number of female entrants in STEM subjects at Scottish universities has increased by 26 per cent in first degree courses and 47 per cent in postgraduate courses.

A WEALTHIER SCOTLAND

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- 60** Youth unemployment has hit its lowest rate since records began, and is the second lowest in the EU.
- 61** Scotland is the top destination, outside of London, for foreign direct investment.
- 62** Today Scotland has the highest pay anywhere in the UK outside of London and the South East.
- 63** Productivity growth in Scotland is four times as fast as the UK – as measured by output per hour worked. Since the SNP came to office, productivity has increased by 9.4 per cent, while stagnating for the UK as a whole.
- 64** Around 200,000 young people have had the opportunity to undertake a Modern Apprenticeship since 2007. And by 2020, a further 30,000 opportunities will be available every year.
- 65** Scotland has the highest house-building rate in the UK. Since 2007, we have built 41,000 more homes than if we'd matched the lower rate in England – that's the equivalent of a new town the size of Paisley.
- 66** Councils have been enabled to build new homes for the first time in years – with 7,169 new council homes delivered.
- 67** 15,500 social houses for rent have been safeguarded by ending Right to Buy.
- 68** We're taking action to stimulate Scotland's economy following the result of the EU referendum. This includes bringing forward £100 million of government spending on infrastructure, and a £500 million Scottish Growth Scheme to support businesses – particularly start-up companies – with the potential to grow and export more.
- 69** £500 million has been committed to stimulate and support economic growth in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

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- 70** £125 million has been allocated through the Aberdeen City Region Deal to stimulate and support economic growth in the city, alongside an additional £254 million for infrastructure projects in the North-east.
- 71** We are investing £135 million in the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal – two and a half times the UK Government investment.
- 72** By the end of 2021 we will have committed £1 billion to tackling fuel poverty, and over one million energy efficiency measures have already been installed in almost one million households across Scotland.
- 73** We've helped people into homeownership through the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax, which has lifted 15,000 households out of tax compared to Stamp Duty in the rest of the UK.
- 74** Public sector procurement has been simplified, with more small and medium-sized enterprises now competing for and winning public sector contracts.
- 75** The number of registered businesses in Scotland has reached 173,995, the highest number on record.
- 76** Scotland's international exports – valued at £28.7 billion in 2015 – are up 41 per cent under the SNP.
- 77** Scotland's tourism industry is going from strength to strength – with 14 million tourists visiting Scotland in 2015.
- 78** Enterprise and development spending per head in Scotland is almost double that of the UK.
- 79** We won new powers over tax and social security, and protected Scotland's budget from a £7 billion cut by the Treasury over the financial arrangements enabling new powers.

A FAIRER SCOTLAND

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- 80** From summer 2017, all babies in Scotland are to be provided with a Nordic-style 'baby box' in a bid to reduce infant mortality and help families at the start of a child's life.
- 81** In 2011, we became the first government in the UK to pay the Living Wage to our staff.
- 82** We have already ensured that nobody in Scotland has to pay the Bedroom Tax. And we will use new powers to effectively abolish it once and for all, protecting over 70,000 households.
- 83** Over 230,000 low income households in crisis have been helped to buy essentials such as nappies, food and cookers through our Scottish Welfare Fund since it was established in 2013.
- 84** 1.3 million older and disabled people have benefited from free public transport through the National Concessionary Bus Travel Scheme.
- 85** Around 77,000 older people in Scotland benefit from access to a wide range of personal care tasks without being charged.
- 86** Over half a million vulnerable households in Scotland – including around 190,000 pensioners and over 80,000 single parents – have been protected from UK Government cuts to Council Tax benefit.
- 87** We have introduced a Child Poverty Bill which will set targets to end child poverty by 2030, and established a new £29 million fund to tackle poverty at a grassroots level.
- 88** We have already safeguarded the rights of 2,800 of the most severely disabled people by establishing the Scottish Independent Living Fund.
- 89** We've kept Scottish Water in public hands. Customers are now paying less for a better service – charges for the average household bill in Scotland are £38 lower than in England and Wales.
- 90** Our new employment support programmes will be on a voluntary basis and will not interact with the UK government's punitive benefit sanctions system.

91 Over 300 companies have signed the Scottish Business Pledge – a voluntary code for companies to commit to policies that boost productivity, recognise fairness and increase diversity.

92 We are piloting a Returners programme to help women who have had career breaks back into the workplace.

93 We are leading a 50:50 campaign to encourage public, third and private sector companies to commit to boardroom gender equality by 2020.

94 We now have Scotland's first cabinet with an equal number of women and men.

95 We have launched a £300,000 Sports Equality Fund with the aim of increasing women's engagement in sport.

A SAFER SCOTLAND

96 Since we took office, violent crime is down by 52 per cent, homicides are down by 52 per cent and handling offensive weapons is down by 69 per cent.

97 The new Scottish Crime Campus provides a focal point for excellence in intelligence-sharing, evidence gathering and forensic science to tackle serious organised crime.

98 Automatic early release has been ended, meaning that long-term prisoners who pose an unacceptable risk to public safety will serve their sentence in full.

99 The reconviction rate has been reduced to its lowest level in 17 years, thanks to tough community sentences.

100 £75 million has been seized from criminals and has been reinvested in community projects for young people across Scotland.

101 HMP Low Moss opened in March 2012 and HMP Grampian opened in March 2014, two major parts of our prison building programme.

102 Access to air weapons has been tightened to improve public safety.

103 Tackling sectarianism has been backed up with record investment.

104 The new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has been created.

105 Scotland has the UK's first national action plan on human rights, showing our ambition to be an example of how to realise human rights and tackle injustice at home and abroad.

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

106 We're investing £1 billion annually in public and sustainable transport to encourage people out of cars.

107 We are delivering the £1.35 billion Queensferry Crossing.

108 Commuters have saved around £2,000 since bridge tolls on the Forth Road Bridge and Tay Bridge were scrapped by the SNP.

109 We have invested twice as much per head in the rail network in Scotland than the UK Government – £7 billion in rail since 2007.

110 The Borders Railway, the longest new domestic railway to be built in Britain in over 100 years, has reopened and welcomed over 1 million passengers in its first year.

111 A £5 billion investment programme in Scotland's railways up to 2019 will deliver longer, greener trains, new stations, new track upgrades, more seats, and more services.

112 £3 billion to dual 80 miles of carriageway on the A9 Perth-Inverness, £745 million for the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, plus M8, M73 and M74 motorway improvements.

113 Contracts worth £97 million will protect the 150-strong workforce and create 100 new jobs at the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde.

114 We've exceeded the 2016 target to provide broadband access to 85 per cent of premises, and we'll reach 100 per cent by 2021.

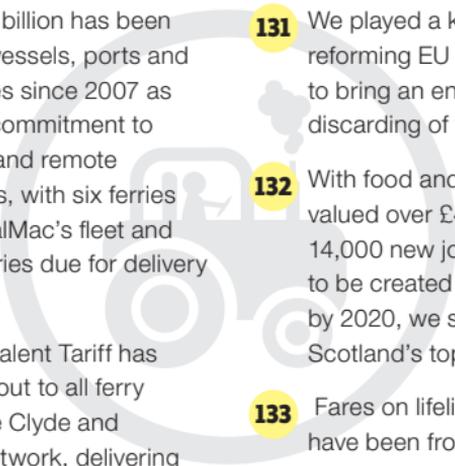
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

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- 115** Scotland's independence referendum was the biggest democratic exercise in Scotland's history.
- 116** We've launched a £200,000 Access to Politics Fund to help disabled people stand for the 2017 local government elections. And we will continue the fund for the Scottish Parliament elections in 2021.
- 117** Local communities have been given a voice in the planning and delivery of local services – backed up by £20 million of funding – through the Community Empowerment Act.
- 118** The Scottish Land Fund has already helped 52 communities across the country to purchase land, with over 500,000 acres now in community ownership. And the Fund has been increased to £10 million per year.
- 119** The radical and ambitious Land Reform Act has been passed to transform rules around the ownership, accessibility and benefits of land in Scotland.

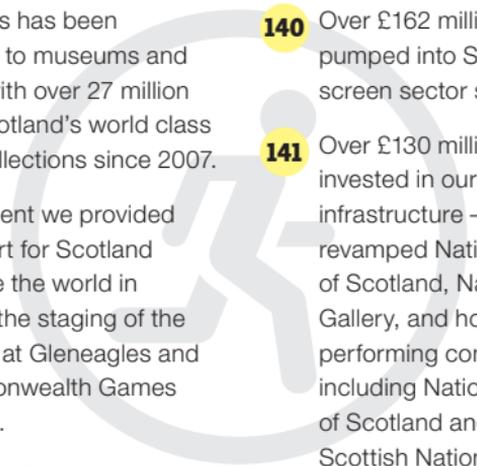
A GREENER SCOTLAND

- 120** Scotland has exceeded its target to produce 50 per cent of its electricity from renewables by 2015 – with almost 60 per cent of Scotland’s electricity needs met from renewable sources.
- 121** Scotland is outperforming the UK and all but one of the EU-15 countries in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 122** With the support of the SNP Scottish Government, low carbon industries in Scotland and their supply chains generated almost £11 billion for the economy in 2014.
- 123** We have blocked underground coal gasification and a moratorium means fracking cannot take place in Scotland.
- 124** Scotland’s household recycling rate was 44.2 per cent in 2015 – up from around 32 per cent for municipal waste in 2007.
- 125** Carrier bag use has been reduced by 80 per cent – the equivalent of 650 million bags – in the first year of the carrier bag charge.
- 126** We’ve helped make our communities safer from flooding with investment in flood defences and new measures in the Flooding Act. And we’ve agreed a new 10 year funding strategy for flood protection, consisting of £42 million a year, aiming to protect 10,000 families across Scotland.

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

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- 127** A record £1 billion has been invested in vessels, ports and ferry services since 2007 as part of our commitment to our islands and remote communities, with six ferries added to CalMac's fleet and two new ferries due for delivery in 2018.
- 128** Road Equivalent Tariff has been rolled out to all ferry routes in the Clyde and Hebrides network, delivering significantly reduced ferry fares and the highest passenger numbers since 1997.
- 129** Residents of Caithness and north-west Sutherland, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles are eligible for a 50 per cent discount on air fares.
- 130** With produce output worth around £2.3 billion a year and around 65,000 people directly employed, we work tirelessly to get the best deal for Scotland's farmers, crofters and growers.
- 131** We played a key role in reforming EU fisheries policy to bring an end to the wasteful discarding of fish at sea.
- 132** With food and drink exports valued over £4.5 billion and 14,000 new jobs estimated to be created in the sector by 2020, we strive to promote Scotland's top quality produce.
- 133** Fares on lifeline ferry services have been frozen for 2017 for passengers, cars and commercial vehicles.
- 134** The clean, green status of our valuable food and drink sector has been protected by opting out of the cultivation of genetically modified crops in Scotland.
- 135** Scotland's first National Marine Plan aims to achieve the sustainable development of our seas.

ENABLING CREATIVITY AND SPORT

- 
- 136** Free access has been maintained to museums and galleries, with over 27 million visits to Scotland's world class national collections since 2007.
- 137** In government we provided vital support for Scotland to welcome the world in 2014, with the staging of the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.
- 138** Since the SNP government backed the 'Daily Mile' challenge 180,000 children in over 1,000 of Scotland's primary schools now walk or run a mile each day.
- 139** 98 per cent of primary and secondary schools across Scotland are now providing two hours of physical education a week – up from 10 per cent in 2005.
- 140** Over £162 million has been pumped into Scotland's screen sector since 2007.
- 141** Over £130 million has been invested in our cultural infrastructure – including the revamped National Museum of Scotland, National Portrait Gallery, and homes for our performing companies including National Theatre of Scotland and The Royal Scottish National Orchestra.
- 142** More than £19 million of direct investment in Edinburgh's major festivals since 2008.
- 143** £25 million for the Victoria and Albert Museum of Design in Dundee.
- 144** 1.5 million opportunities have been created for young people to take part in music and youth arts in 2015.

...but there's still much more we want to do. Together, we will continue to shape a fairer, more successful Scotland.

Check out our full list of achievements, visit:

www.snp.org/record

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**Business
for Scotland**

Agenda



Agenda

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 MORNING

Session 1

- 10h30 Welcome Address – Angus Robertson MP, Depute Leader
- 10h45 Report of the Standing Orders and Agenda Committee
- 10h50 Resolutions
- 11h30 Address by Derek Mackay MSP, Cabinet Secretary, Finance
- 11h45 Resolutions
- 12h15 Moving Equalities Forward – Women's Academy
- 12h45 Close

01 10 YEARS OF SNP GOVERNMENT

Conference marks 10 years of the SNP building a better, fairer country as the government of Scotland; notes our record in creating opportunities in education by scrapping tuition fees; recognises our success on healthcare with record funding for the NHS in Scotland, alongside free prescriptions; reaffirms our commitment to safer communities with levels of crime at a 42 year low; welcomes the support we have given to support businesses and bolster our economy; reflects on the progress and achievements of the Scottish Parliament and the vital role the SNP has played in securing more powers and engaging people across Scotland in our democracy over the past 10 years; believes that now, more than ever, our Scottish Government has a crucial role in ensuring that Scotland's interests are protected; and recommits our party in government to serving all of Scotland with clear purpose, ambition and a determination to ensure everyone who lives here gets the chance to fulfil their potential.

ANGUS ROBERTSON MP

JOHN SWINNEY MSP

02 ACTION ON NORTH SEA JOBS

Conference condemns that the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has refused to commit further support to the North Sea oil and gas industry; recognises the considerable infrastructure investment in the North East of Scotland by the SNP Government in terms of their contribution to the City Region Deal, the Transition Training Fund, the construction of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, and rail improvements on the Aberdeen to Inverness route; regrets the UK Government's abandonment of the North Sea industry in its time of need and calls on the UK Government to give long overdue, meaningful support for the sector and incentivise exploration and development – or else be guilty of perpetrating one of the most shameful betrayals in the history of Scottish industry.

ELLON & DISTRICT BRANCH
GILLIAN MARTIN MSP

Agenda

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 MORNING

03 VOTING FRANCHISE

Conference notes that the existing franchise prevents new Scots originating from outwith the EU or Commonwealth of Nations from voting in national and local elections.

Conference also notes that EU citizens are on course to lose their voting rights in Scotland, because of the UK's planned departure from the European Union.

Conference believes extending voting rights to all those who make their home in Scotland would send an important message that we are an inclusive nation that believes in equal rights.

Conference resolves that the voting rights of EU citizens already resident in Scotland should be protected when the UK leaves the EU, and that extending voting rights to non-EU, non-Commonwealth citizens who have been resident in Scotland for five years is the fair and democratic course of action.

ABERDEEN SOUTH & NORTH KINCARDINE BRANCH

04 ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Conference welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 passed in December 2016 that condemns Israeli settlements as “a flagrant violation of international law” and calls for an immediate and total freeze in settlement building. Conference supports this call as a vital step in working towards a two-state solution.

Conference condemns the Israeli Government’s current move to pass into law measures aimed at legalising illegal settlements already in occupied Palestinian territories and continues to condemn all other past and continuing measures to protect, maintain, and promote such settlements.

Conference urges the UK Government to continue to pressure Israel to cease building settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and to work with the international community to oblige Israel to meet its legal obligations; recognises that a two-state solution is under threat, in part due to the settlement building programme, and calls on both Israeli and Palestinian leaders to enter into peace talks.

GLASGOW ANNIESLAND BRANCH

GREATER POLLOK AND CRAIGTON BRANCH

LEITH BRANCH

ISLAY BRANCH

CRAIGENTINNY – DUDDINGSTON BRANCH

SNP YOUTH

GLASGOW PROVAN BRANCH

TOMMY SHEPPARD MP

IVAN MCKEE MSP

Agenda

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

Session 2

- 14h00 Moving Equalities Forward – Disabled Members Group
- 14h30 Topical and Emergency Resolutions
- 14h45 Resolutions
- 15h30 Address by John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary, Education
- 15h50 Resolutions
- 17h00 Close

05 GIVING EVERY CHILD THE BEST START IN LIFE

Conference resolves that the transformation of early learning and childcare provision in Scotland will be achieved by ensuring a high quality, accessible experience for all children, driven and delivered by a dedicated, skilled and diverse workforce and sector.

Conference welcomes the approach of the Scottish Government to trial new and innovative approaches to delivery of early learning and childcare, and calls on the Scottish Government to develop the potential of childminders, third sector, social enterprise and community led provision to contribute to the expansion of entitlement to 1140 hours by 2020.

Conference agrees that children in early learning and childcare should continue to benefit from access to graduate level leadership in provision and believes that all staff working in early learning settings should be appropriately qualified and trained in child protection and development.

Conference is disappointed to note that the Scottish Government's financial review estimated that around 80% of practitioners and 50% of supervisors in partner provider settings are paid less than the Living Wage.

Conference therefore considers that the promotion of fair work practices across all sectors providing early learning and childcare with all workers being paid at least the Living Wage is key to creating a sustainable and motivated workforce, which can provide the high quality experience our children deserve and need to get the best possible start in life.

ABERDEEN DONSIDE BRANCH
MARK MCDONALD MSP

06 BENEFIT SANCTIONS

Conference rejects the punitive Tory benefit sanction regime; commends the creators of *I, Daniel Blake* for bringing the public's attention to the cruel and callous reality facing tens of thousands of disadvantaged people across the UK; further notes with concern the shocking findings of the National Audit Office of the scale and ineffectiveness of the sanctions regime; is concerned that the most vulnerable including those at risk of homelessness, those with caring responsibilities and those with mental ill health are the most likely to be punished by the draconian regime and calls for the UK government to move urgently to scrap the unfair sanctions regime.

PAISLEY TANNAHILL BRANCH

AMENDMENT

After "draconian regime" add:

“, welcomes the decision of the Scottish Government to make sure that the new Employment Programme, effective from April 2017, does not facilitate the UK Government's sanctions system,”

CUMBERNAULD BRANCH
JAMIE HEPBURN MSP

Agenda

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

07 DEVOLUTION OF NETWORK RAIL REGULATION

Conference recognises the essential role provided by our Rail Networks in Scotland's economy and modern society. Conference commends the actions taken by the Scottish Government in improving the service provided. Conference recognises that in order for the best service to be delivered to the people of Scotland, the regulation of Scottish railways must be decided on by a Scottish public body. Conference therefore calls for the devolution of Network Rail in a Scottish capacity.

MILNGAVIE BRANCH

08 CREATION OF A NATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK OF SCOTLAND

Conference notes the continuing failure of the private banking sector to provide the investment and financial support, particularly in the long term, for our manufacturing and SME sectors. Of further concern is the real absence within our banking sector of an investment policy and strategy which has at its centre both the social and environmental needs of Scotland.

Conference believes that leaving the future growth of our economy, employment, business development, infrastructure and environmental development solely in the hands of our private banking and financial sector will be detrimental to present and future living standards of our citizens.

Conference resolves to address the continued failure of our private financial sector to provide appropriate finance and investment by examining the feasibility and the creation of a Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB).

KIRRIEMUIR AND DEAN BRANCH

09 A SCOTTISH MODEL OF LEGISLATION ON PROSTITUTION

Conference agrees with the Scottish Government's NHS guidelines on *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* which outlines the harmful effects on prostituted women: that a majority suffer high levels of physical violence, rape and post traumatic stress; that there is a significant effect on mental health; and that there is a significant link with drug abuse. Conference further acknowledges that in countries where prostitution is legalised there is an associated increase in human trafficking, child prostitution and other forms of criminality.

Conference recognises the successful legislative approach to prostitution pioneered in Sweden over the last sixteen years, also now adopted in Norway, Finland, Iceland and more recently in Canada, Northern Ireland and France, which focuses on reducing demand for commercial sexual exploitation.

Conference therefore supports the development of a Scottish model of legislation that (1) decriminalises the sale of sex, (2) criminalises the purchase of sex and (3) offers appropriate support for those wishing to exit commercial sexual exploitation.

Conference further agrees that such actions are in accordance with the Scottish Government's *Equally Safe* strategy regarding violence against women and in particular that commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution and human trafficking, is a form of violence against women.

HADDINGTON BRANCH

GLASGOW SHETTLESTON BRANCH

ASH DENHAM MSP

JOHN MASON MSP

KATE FORBES MSP

GEORGE KEREVAN MP

PHILIPPA WHITFORD MP

JOAN MCALPINE MSP

Agenda

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

10 SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S SKILLS AND ENTERPRISE REVIEW

Conference recognises the vital role that our enterprise and skills agencies play in creating sustainable economic growth and delivering a fair and prosperous Scotland.

Conference further notes that the uncertainty caused by the UK government's intention to pull Scotland out of the European Union against our will makes the work of our enterprise and skills agencies more vital than ever.

Conference believes the Scottish Government's review of these agencies is therefore vitally important and timely and welcomes the intention, stated in the first phase of the review, to create a new bespoke enterprise and skills approach for the South of Scotland.

Conference understands that the south is a vast, rural region that faces unique challenges and believes a bespoke solution will properly address these challenges; further notes that the bespoke approach stems from close engagement with stakeholders across the region; and urges the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work to deliver this new enterprise and skills vehicle for the South of Scotland as soon as possible.

TWEEDDALE BRANCH

Session 3 – INTERNAL

17h00 Office Bearer Reports

17h30 Close



Scotland's largest
and most effective
education trade union

eis

EIS Fringe Meeting

Standing Up for Scottish Education

With the forthcoming
Scottish elections in
view what are the issues
which will dominate
Scottish Education in
the months to come?

Date: Saturday 18 March 2017 (lunchtime)

Place: AECC (Room 10)

Speakers: Larry Flanagan (EIS General Secretary)
John Swinney (Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills)

Chairperson: Margaret Smith (EIS President)

Please Join Us / Lunch and Refreshments Provided

www.eis.org.uk

Agenda

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 MORNING

Session 4

- 10h00 Moving Equalities Forward – Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Members
- 10h30 Address by Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary, Health
- 10h45 Resolutions
- 12h15 Address by Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary, Infrastructure
- 12h30 Close

11 TIME FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION (TIE)

Conference notes that our party is committed to advancing LGBTI rights in Scotland to ensure that everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, can live in a country where they are empowered to be themselves without fear.

Conference condemns the statistics that 90% of LGBTI people experience homophobia, biphobia and transphobia at school and that over a quarter have attempted suicide as a result of bullying.

As such, Conference reaffirms its support for the Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) campaign; supports the TIE pledge which calls on there to be legislation and teacher training to ensure curricular inclusion, recording of bullying, and monitoring of steps taken to tackle LGBTI discrimination in all of Scotland's schools; and calls upon the Scottish Government to work with TIE in order to take the necessary further steps.

SNP YOUTH

AMENDMENT

In paragraph 3, delete after 'pledge' to end and replace with the following:
"and calls upon the Scottish Government to establish a group to work with TIE and others in order to take the necessary further steps to make the pledge a reality."

JENNY GILRUTH MSP

CHRISTINA MCKELVIE MSP

12 ACHIEVING AMBITIOUS LAND REFORM IN SCOTLAND

Conference congratulates the Scottish Government on the establishment of the Scottish Land Commission, to promote transparency and diversity in land ownership, improve land stewardship and encourage community engagement in land use in order to deliver a fairer society.

Conference welcomes these steps towards radical land reform based on sustainable land use for the common good, reinforced by the publication of the Statement for Land Rights and Responsibilities to set new goals for Scotland's land reform agenda.

However, whilst it is good to be halfway towards meeting the Scottish Government's target of 1 million acres of land in community ownership by 2020, we know that the hardest work is still to come.

We urge the Scottish Government to use every possible policy means available to engage communities with the land reform agenda and provide sound advice on potential, sustainable land use options, be they food or energy production, conservation, leisure or affordable housing.

This must include exploring all fiscal options to ensure that our land is fairly and sustainably valued and managed and that farmers and communities

Agenda

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 MORNING

are supported to localise food production, processing and distribution and thereby sustain our rural economy in uncertain times.

TWEEDDALE BRANCH

ISLE OF ARRAN BRANCH

AMENDMENT

Paragraph 5 line 1, between “all fiscal options” and “to ensure” insert: “including ways of taxing the value of undeveloped land”.

GLASGOW PROVAN BRANCH

13 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Conference welcomes the Scottish Government’s commitment to build 50,000 new homes, 70% of which will be social housing; recognises the urgent need for affordable and social housing; notes that the term ‘affordable housing’ in Scottish Planning Policy is broadly defined; asks that the Scottish Government undertake a review and explore legislation which would better define the term ‘affordable housing’ and ensure that the allocation of affordable housing from new developments provided by the private sector better meets the needs of communities.

CRAIGENTINNY-DUDDINGSTON BRANCH

14 SUPPORT FOR ADULTS IN OBTAINING DYSLEXIA ASSESSMENTS

Conference notes that 1 in 10 people have dyslexia (with 1 in 4 suffering severe symptoms). Over half a million people in Scotland are thought to be dyslexic.

Every dyslexic person has a unique set of difficulties, but also a unique set of abilities. Dyslexia Scotland has indicated that 46% of the calls to their helpline are from people seeking advice on getting an assessment.

Many adults, who have not been identified as having dyslexia, face challenges with employment as well as in their day-to-day lives, because of the nature of the condition and the difficulties they have in processing information.

Conference calls on the SNP Government to investigate the scope for providing easier and more affordable access to dyslexia assessments for our adult population. Wider access to assessment and small adaptations within a workplace could help dyslexic adults deal with their challenges and make a significant difference for dyslexic employees, allowing them to fully develop their potential.

BISHOPBRIGGS & TORRANCE BRANCH

Agenda

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

Session 5

- 14h00 Moving Equalities Forward – LGBTI Members
- 14h30 Resolutions
- 15h00 Council Elections Campaign – Kevin Stewart & Susan Aitken, campaign co-directors
- 15h30 Topical and Emergency Resolutions
- 15h45 Address by Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Leader and First Minister
- 16h30 Close

15 EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Conference believes that public services perform best when they are responsive to the needs of the communities they serve; commits SNP councillors to ensuring that 1 per cent of their local authority's budgets are subject to Community Choices budgeting to support participatory budgeting; supports the ambitions of the Community Empowerment Act to empower local communities through the ownership of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them; and believes that SNP councillors elected in May should work to advance community ownership, the use of participatory budgeting and the decentralisation of powers to local communities.

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL SNP GROUP

16 GREEN DEAL – LACK OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Conference notes that the UK Government's Green Deal scheme was intended to help households reduce their energy bills; notes that the public engaged in this initiative, confident that using contractors from the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change's approved list of installers would offer guarantees; acknowledges that much of the work was substandard and of no economic or environmental benefit to consumers; believes that the OFGEM approved industry backed guarantee has proved to be worth very little and calls on the UK Government to consider how it can compensate householders and strengthen its consumer protection processes.

GLASGOW PROVAN BRANCH

ANNE MCLAUGHLIN MP

IVAN MCKEE MSP

SNP Youth & THE NATIONAL
THE NEWSPAPER THAT SUPPORTS AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND

CONFERENCE KARAOKE

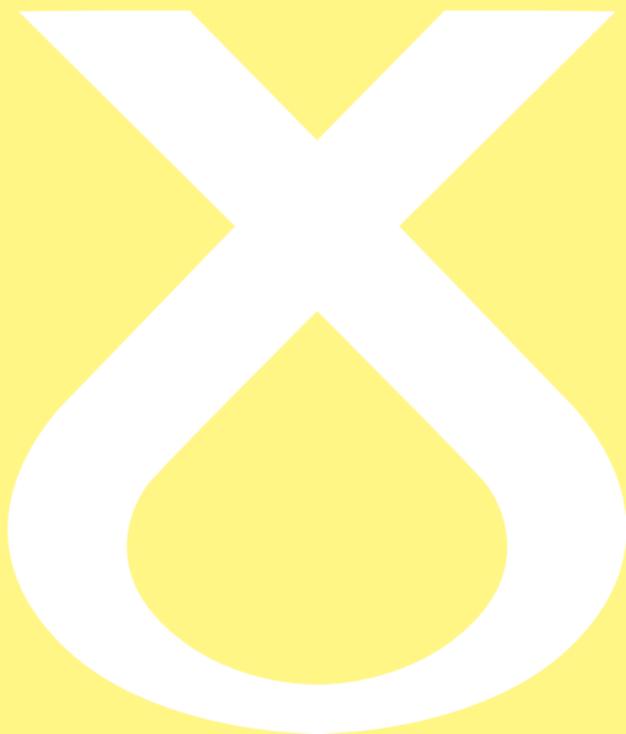
with

Nancy Clench

Friday,
17th March
Doubletree
by Hilton,
Treetops
7pm - late
£10



Exhibitors



Exhibitors

FRIDAY 17 MARCH – SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017

Crombie Suite

Stand 1

SNP Store

Stand 2

Independence Magazine

Stand 3

Marie Curie

Stand 4

SNPCND

Stand 5

YouthLink Scotland

Stand 6

WWF Scotland

Stand 7

The National

Stand 8

Breast Cancer Care

Stand 9

Community Windpower

Stand 10

Moray SNP – Whisky Stall

Stand 11

SCOTPEP

Stand 12

Scottish Police Federation

Stand 13

League Against Cruel Sports
Scotland

Stand 14

NASUWT

Stand 15

Scottish Federation of Housing
Associations (SFHA)

Stand 16

RNIB Scotland

Stand 17

Inclusion Scotland

Stand 18

Cancer Research UK

Stand 19

John Muir Trust

Stand 20

Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse
Centre

Gordon Suite

Stand 21

News Scotland

Stand 22

Aberlour Child Care Trust

Stand 23

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland

Stand 24

Universities Scotland

Stand 25

Community Pharmacy Scotland

Stand 26

The Educational Institute of Scotland
(EIS)

Stand 27

Action for Children / Barnardo's
Scotland / NSPCC Scotland

Stand 28

Fire Brigades Union

Stand 29

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Stand 30

Scots Independent (Newspapers) Ltd

Stand A

SNP Youth

Stand B

SNP Socialists

Stand C

SNP Friends of Palestine

Stand D

SNP Students

Stand E

SNP Friends for Peace
in the Middle East

Stand F

SNP Trade Union Group

Stand G

Aberdeen Host Committee

Stand H

SNP Women's and Equalities Groups

The Future of Inclusive Education

This fringe will explore the raising attainment agenda and how Scotland's children and young people with ASN can be better supported in future.



Date:
Saturday 18 March

Time:
12.30pm to 1.30pm

Venue:
Room 3/4 AECC

Speakers:
Jane Peckham
National Official, NASUWT

SNP speaker
Jenny Gilruth MSP

Chaired by:
Mike Corbett
NASUWT National Executive Member

Lunch and refreshments provided

England Beyond Brexit



Friday 17th March 2017
12:45 – 13:45

Boardroom in the AECC

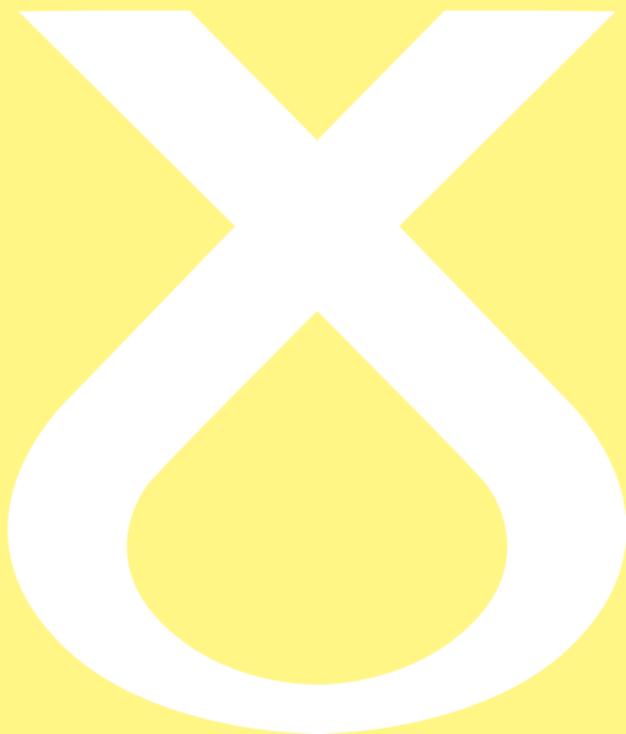
Following the rise of English national identity, the emergence and growth of UKIP and the vote to leave the EU, where now for the politics of England?

Join a panel of experts for a discussion of the findings of the Future of England Survey, the political trajectory of our neighbours to the south and its implications for Scotland and independence.



See page 46 for full details

Fringe
Meetings



Fringe Meetings

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

ORGANISERS' SURGERIES

Room 2, First Floor, AECC

Friday	12.15 – 12.45	14.00 – 14.30
Saturday	10.00 – 10.30	14.00 – 14.30

The Organisation Convener, Fiona McLeod, will be holding short surgeries throughout conference to answer any local queries for branch & constituency organisers.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the HQ desk but you may also just drop-in.

KEY FOR FRINGE PROGRAMME



Refreshments provided



Food provided

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

ABERLOUR CHILD CARE TRUST AND SCOTTISH REFUGEE COUNCIL



Friday 17 March
Room 1, First Floor, AECC
12:45 – 13:45

Scottish Guardianship Service: Supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Aberlour and the Scottish Refugee Council jointly host this fringe event to highlight the work of the Scottish Guardianship Service. This service supports unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people who find themselves in Scotland as the result of fleeing war, terror or persecution in their home country, or having been trafficked illegally for child or sexual exploitation. The panel will explore the impact of the international refugee crisis, and discuss what more can be done to provide the necessary care and support to those children and young people who arrive in Scotland.

Panel:

SallyAnn Kelly (Chair) – Chief Executive, Aberlour

Catriona MacSween – Service Manager, Scottish Guardianship Service

Gary Christie – Head of Policy and Communications, Scottish Refugee Council

Mark McDonald MSP – Minister of Childcare and Early Years

Fringe Meetings

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Friday 17 March

Boardroom, First Floor, AECC

12:45 – 13:45

England Beyond Brexit

Following the rise of English national identity, the emergence and growth of UKIP and the vote to leave the EU, where now for the politics of England?

Join a panel of experts for a discussion of the findings of the Future of England Survey, the political trajectory of our neighbours to the south and its implications for Scotland and independence.

Panel:

Prof Ailsa Henderson, Professor of Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Prof Richard Wyn Jones, Professor of Welsh Politics, University of Cardiff

Rt Hon George Reid, former Presiding Officer, Scottish Parliament

Stewart MacDonald MP, SNP, Glasgow South

Chair:

Peter MacMahon, Political Editor, ITV Border (tbc)

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

POVERTY ALLIANCE AND CPAG SCOTLAND



Friday 17 March

Room 3/4, First Floor, AECC

12:45 – 13:45

Using Scotland's New Powers to Tackle Poverty

This fringe meeting will look at how new powers being devolved to Scotland can be used to tackle poverty. The meeting will look at the realities of living in poverty in Scotland in 2017, and how powers to top-up benefits can be used to lift children and families out of poverty. Consideration will also be given as to how new social security and taxation powers can be used to help people on low incomes.



Fringe Meetings

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ALLIANCE SCOTLAND (THE ALLIANCE) AND LEUCHIE HOUSE



Friday 17 March
Room 9, Third Floor, AECC
12:45 – 13:45

Social Care in Crisis? What needs to change

Following the publication of the Scottish Government's Health and Social Care delivery plan, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) and Leuchie House's fringe event will explore the social care landscape in Scotland.

This will include highlighting the learning from a recent research project examining the implementation of Self-directed Support, which saw the ALLIANCE speak to over 100 people about their experiences of accessing SDS, and its role in enabling people to have choice and control over their own care and support.

Mairi O'Keefe, Chief Executive, Leuchie House

Colin Young, Senior Policy and Outcomes Officer, Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)



FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

RSPB SCOTLAND



Friday 17 March

Room 10, Third floor, AECC

12:45 – 13:45

The Future of Rural Support – Delivering for Farmers and Wildlife

While we are in a time of uncertainty for Scotland's farmers and rural communities, new opportunities have also been created to tackle some of its problems. RSPB Scotland is hosting an open discussion, chaired by Angus MacDonald MSP, on how we can retain and reshape rural funding to focus on improving rural livelihoods and restoring the environment. Perspectives on innovative ways of supporting rural areas will be offered by farmers representing the arable, dairy and mixed sectors and by speakers from National Farmers' Union of Scotland (NFUS) and RSPB Scotland.

Vicki Swales – Head of Land Use Policy, RSPB Scotland

Bruce Mackie – Farmer, Middleton of Rora, Longside, Aberdeenshire

Sam Parsons – Estate manager, Balcaskie, Fife

TBC – NFUS

Fringe Meetings

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

COMMON WEAL AND FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SCOTLAND



Friday 17 March
Forbes Suite, Third Floor, AECC
12:45 – 13:45

A National Investment Bank and Local Divestment: Making Scotland Flourish

Scotland needs a National Investment Bank to drive a new era of green investment. Scottish councils pensions invest billions in fossil fuels whilst failing to put money behind much-needed social housing and renewable energy.

Robin McAlpine (Common Weal), Sakina Sheikh (Platform) and Ric Lander (Friends of the Earth Scotland) will present two no-nonsense proposals for generating investment that can make Scotland flourish, including a brand new report for the 2017 council elections.

We hope you'll join us for a stimulating discussion about building a thriving, sustainable future.

Visit www.ReInvest.scot and www.allofusfirst.org for more.

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

WOMEN'S OFFICERS MEETING

Friday 17 March

Fleming Auditorium, Ground Floor, AECC

12:45 – 13:45

This will present an ideal opportunity for Women's Officers to share and discuss the work, challenges and achievements of women in the party over the last year.

Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh MP, our National Women's and Equalities Convenor, will be discussing the Women's Academy and plans for the future.

Although the meeting is primarily geared towards hearing from our excellent women's officers, all women are of course welcome to attend.

Fringe Meetings

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

SNP WESTMINSTER DEFENCE TEAM

Friday 17 March

Gordon Suite, AECC

12:45 – 13:45

Have you ever wondered, what will the defence priorities for an independent Scotland be? Who will be our key allies and what kind of relationship do we currently have with them? Or, what will a post-independence Scottish Defence force look like?

Your SNP Defence Team, Brendan O'Hara MP, Douglas Chapman MP, Kirsten Oswald MP, Martin Docherty-Hughes MP, Steven Paterson MP and Stuart Donaldson MP will give a presentation ahead of a Q&A on what they've been doing for the past two years including, writing a defence policy for a post-independent nation, engaging with ambassadors and military attaches from around the world and well as holding the UK government to account for their dismal failures.

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 EVENING

NETWORKING EVENT FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION OFFICERS

Friday 17 March

Fleming Auditorium, Ground Floor, AECC

17:30 – 18:30

Led by Julie Hepburn, Political Education Convener

An opportunity to meet fellow PEOs, and the newly appointed Assistant Political Education Convener, Graeme Sneddon. A discussion of political education priorities for the local elections and beyond.

CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUES

Friday 17 March

Room 1, First Floor, AECC

17:30 – 18:30

The Organisation Convener, Fiona McLeod, will be holding a training session on her popular presentation the Science of Campaigning.

This is strictly limited to 38 participants. There is a sign-up sheet at the HQ desk.

Fringe Meetings

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 EVENING

ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY



Friday 17 March

Room 3/4, First Floor, AECC

17:30 – 18:30

'Act as if we own the place' Running our own communities

If Scots can run their own country surely they can run their own towns and communities. Hear about the 'Act as if we own the place Campaign', what's happening in Spain and the coming 'de-centralisation bill'.

Speakers:

SNP Minister/ Speaker tbc

Willie Sullivan, Director ERS Scotland (Chair)

Speaker from the Spanish Municipalism Movement

Julie Bell, Branch Convener, Kirriemuir and Deans SNP

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 EVENING

CHRISTIANS FOR INDEPENDENCE



Friday 17 March
Room 9, Third Floor, AECC
17:30 – 18:30

The Christian Church role in International Development

Scotland's desire to play her part as a good global citizen is currently centred around supporting the Sustainable Development Goals in Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Pakistan.

Kate Forbes MSP will be speaking on the Scottish Government strategy and how the Christian Church impacts upon the developing world and our support for them.

Hosted by Canon Kenneth Gordon, 'Minister For Yes', Chairman of Scottish Association of Retired Anglican Clergy



Fringe Meetings

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 EVENING

NOURISH SCOTLAND



Friday 17 March

Room 10, Third Floor, AECC

17:30 – 18:30

Scottish food and farming policy after the referendum

Scottish farming underpins our biggest industry – food and drink – and plays a key role in much of our rural economy. Within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy, Scottish Government has had devolved powers to support farming, forestry and farm environment schemes. Westminster is now looking at a UK Agricultural Policy, with possibly less power for Scotland over farming (and fishing) than now. Scotland needs those powers to be fully devolved – but we also need a new direction for a Scottish Agricultural Policy, which uses public money to deliver public goods rather than simply paying people to own land.

In this workshop Pete Ritchie from Nourish Scotland and other farmers will discuss the threats to Scottish farming from Brexit, and the opportunities to reshape the subsidy system to support a thriving farming sector within a greener environment, a vibrant rural economy and a healthy food system.

Chaired by Gail Ross MSP

Speakers:

Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland

A panel of farmers

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 EVENING

DISABLED MEMBERS GROUP MEETING



Friday 17 March

Boardroom, First Floor, AECC

18.30 – 20.00

Join us at a meeting of the Disabled Members Group where we will discuss our plans for the year ahead. This is a great networking opportunity that will include policy discussions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE RECEPTION

Kindly sponsored by

Heathrow
The right choice

Friday 17 March 18:00 to 19:00

INVITATION ONLY

Fringe Meetings

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017 EVENING

Spring Conference Karaoke with Nancy Clench

Organised by SNP Youth and The National

Double Tree by Hilton Aberdeen Treetops
161 Springfield Road, Aberdeen AB15 7AQ

Starting at 19:00 – Late
£10 Entry

Visit the SNP Youth Stand in the Gordon Suite for further information.



Scots Independent Bookfest

Featuring:

- Tackling Timorous Economics: How Scotland's economy could work better for us all by George Kerevan; and
- McSmorgasbord: What post-Brexit Scotland can learn from the Nordics by Lesley Riddoch

Gordon Suite, AECC

17:30 until 19:00
Free entry

SNP Conference Folk Fundraiser

Come along for Foot-stomping music, a dram and a blether in the centre of Aberdeen.

Organised by Aberdeen Central
SNP Constituency Branch

Carmelite Hotel, Stirling Street, Aberdeen AB11 6JU

Starting at 19:00

SNP Conference Quiz Night

Come along for the Conference Quiz Night. Test your knowledge against your fellow party members and you could walk away with a fantastic prize. All funds raised will go towards supporting the campaign to win the Council Elections in May.

Quiz Master: Mark McDonald MSP

Oldmacher Legion, 23 Balgownie Road, Aberdeen AB23 8JN
(Just a 15 minute walk from the AECC)

Starting at 19:00
£5 per person

Visit the Aberdeen Host Committee Stand in the Gordon Suite for further information.

Fringe Meetings

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 MORNING

MY SNP MEMBERS HUB TRAINING



Saturday 18 March
Room 10, Third Floor, AECC
09:00 – 10:00

The new MySNP members' hub is here to help you to manage your membership, get campaigning and, if you're an office bearer, communicate with members.

Come along and find out more – at this session we'll run through the most common activities, answer any questions and help you to get the most out of the new system.

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 MORNING

THE WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND AND CONFOR



Saturday 18 March

Room 3/4, First floor, AECC

09:00 – 10:00

Scotland's Woodlands: Planting the Future

Scotland's forests and woodlands are an asset for the nation, providing beautiful places for recreation, delivering £1 billion in annual economic value, supporting 25,000 jobs and reducing the impact of climate change. The Scottish Government recognises this and has recently published ambitious plans that will see tree planting targets increase by 50% (from 10,000 hectares per year to 15,000 per year) by 2025.

Speakers from Scottish Government, leading conservation charity Woodland Trust Scotland and forestry industry body Confor will debate how these plans will secure Scotland's low carbon green future.

Speakers:

Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (Main speaker)

Gail Ross MSP, Deputy Convener, Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee (Chair)

Charles Dundas, Woodland Trust Scotland

Stuart Goodall, Confor



Fringe Meetings

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 MORNING

PLANNING YOUR CAMPAIGN – AN ACTIVIST'S GUIDE TO STV

Saturday 18 March

Fleming Auditorium, Ground Floor, AECC

09:00 – 10:00

Assistant Political Education Convener Graeme Sneddon will guide you through the Single Transferable Vote and how it will work in the council elections.

All SNP members welcome.

SCOT-PEP

Saturday 18 March

Boardroom, First Floor, AECC

09:00 – 10:00

Breakfast discussion on sex worker rights, human rights, and the New Zealand model

Join us for coffee to hear from sex workers, sex worker rights activists and human rights activists discuss sex worker safety.

SCOT-PEP is Scotland's longest-running sex worker-led charity, and this event is an opportunity for you to hear from people who are too often spoken for not spoken with.



SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 MORNING

HAMMOND'S BREXIT BUDGET

Saturday 18 March

Room 9, Third Floor, AECC

09:00 – 10:00

An assessment of the 2017 UK Budget and what it means for Scotland with Stewart Hosie MP, SNP Treasury Spokesman.

ORGANISERS' SURGERY

Saturday 18 March

Room 2, First Floor, AECC

10:00 – 10:30

The Organisation Convener, Fiona McLeod, will be holding a short surgery to answer any local queries for branch & constituency organisers.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the HQ desk but you may also just drop-in.

Fringe Meetings

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

ACTION ON HEARING LOSS



Saturday 18 March
Boardroom, First Floor, AECC
12:30 – 13:30

Improving our hearing health by supporting our communities

Join our discussion about the increasing need for community-based third sector hearing services supporting older people to self-manage hearing loss.

Speakers:

Maureen Watt MSP

Delia Henry (Director of Action on Hearing Loss Scotland)

A Hear to Help volunteer



SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

RNIB SCOTLAND

RNIB
Scotland

Supporting people
with sight loss

Saturday 18 March
Room 2, First Floor, AECC
12:30 – 13:30

Looking Local

Join RNIB Scotland discussing our manifesto for the local government elections and what SNP councillors can do to ensure blind and partially sighted people are supported to live independent lifestyles in their communities.

Speakers:

Campbell Chalmers – Director, RNIB Scotland

Councillor Sheila Hands – Angus Council (TBC)

Stuart McMillan MSP – Chair of the Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment

Sandra Wilson – Chair, RNIB Scotland



Fringe Meetings

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

NASUWT



Saturday 18 March

Room 3/4, First Floor, AECC

12:30 – 13:30

The Future of Inclusive Education

This fringe will explore the raising attainment agenda and how Scotland's children and young people with ASN can be better supported in future.

The Fringe will be chaired by Mike Corbett, NASUWT

Speakers:

Jane Peckham NASUWT

Jenny Gilruth MSP



SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

INCLUSION SCOTLAND



Our voices ■ Our choices

Saturday 18 March
Room 9, Third Floor, AECC
12:30 – 13:30

Achieving Greater Democratic Representation for Disabled People

Find out about our Access to Elected Office Fund; how it is supporting disabled people and how it may support you or someone you know. The workshop will be both informative and interactive as we discuss the impairment related barriers that disabled people face and forward plan for change.

Speaker:

Ethan Young, Civic Participation Officer



Fringe Meetings

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND (EIS)

eis

The Educational
Institute of Scotland

Saturday 18 March

Room 10, Third Floor, AECC

12:30 – 13:30

Stand up for Scottish Education

With the forthcoming Scottish local elections, what are the current and future issues which will dominate Scottish Education in the months to come?

Speakers from the EIS and the SNP will provide their perspectives.



SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

**HOLYROOD MAGAZINE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH COCA COLA**



in association with



Saturday 18 March
Gordon Suite, AECC
12:30 – 13:30

Is a Deposit Returns System a game-changer in efforts to recycle?

The SNP Scottish Government has a vision for a zero-waste society where all waste is seen as a resource. A Deposit Returns Scheme (DRS) could be a major element of that aim & this timely event chaired by Holyrood magazine editor, Mandy Rhodes, will explore the practicalities of that vision.

Chaired by Mandy Rhodes, editor Holyrood magazine, speakers include:

- Angus MacDonald MSP and member of the Environment Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee,
- Jim Fox, Public Affairs Director, Coca Cola
- Kate Forbes, MSP, member of ECCLR committee

Fringe Meetings

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

NETWORKING EVENT FOR CONVENERS AND SECRETARIES

Saturday 18 March

Forbes Suite, Third Floor, AECC

12:30 – 13:30

Led by Angus MacLeod, National Secretary and Julie Hepburn, Political Education Convener

An opportunity to meet with fellow local office bearers and discuss what support and training is required to fulfil these roles most effectively.

COUNCIL ELECTION AGENT AND BRANCH ORGANISERS INFORMATION SESSION

Saturday 18 March

Fleming Auditorium, Ground Floor, AECC

12:30 – 13:30

Led by Fiona McLeod, Organisation Convener, with Scott Martin, Kirsty MacAlpine and Lorraine Reid.

An opportunity to be updated on:

- campaign strategy for the 2017 council elections
- guidance and resources from Headquarters
- key electoral law for candidates and agents

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017 AFTERNOON

BRANCH TREASURERS TRAINING

Saturday 18 March

Room 1, First Floor, AECC

12:30 – 13:30

Led by Jim Henderson from SNP HQ

An opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the role and to meet with fellow branch treasurers.

ORGANISERS' SURGERY

Saturday 18 March

Room 2, First Floor, AECC

14:00 – 14:30

The Organisation Convener, Fiona McLeod, will be holding a short surgery to answer any local queries for branch & constituency organisers.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the HQ desk but you may also just drop-in.

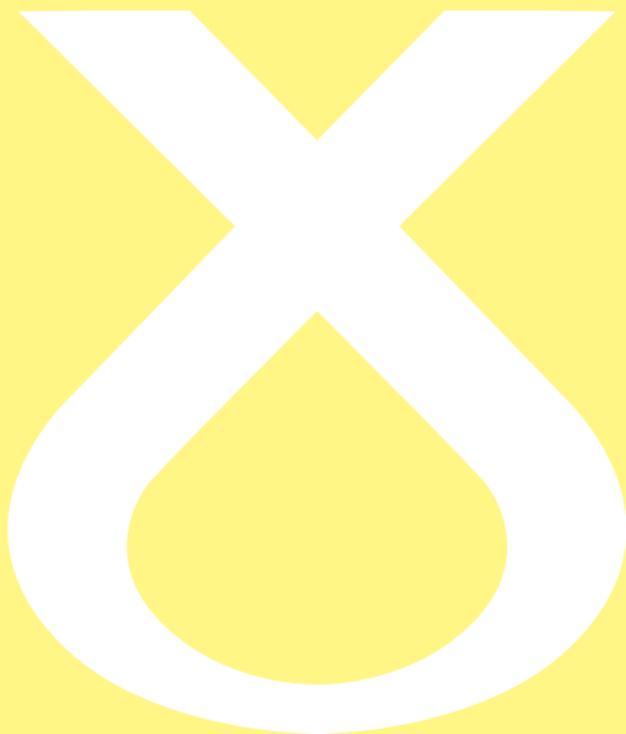
XSNP MORAY

Whisky Raffle

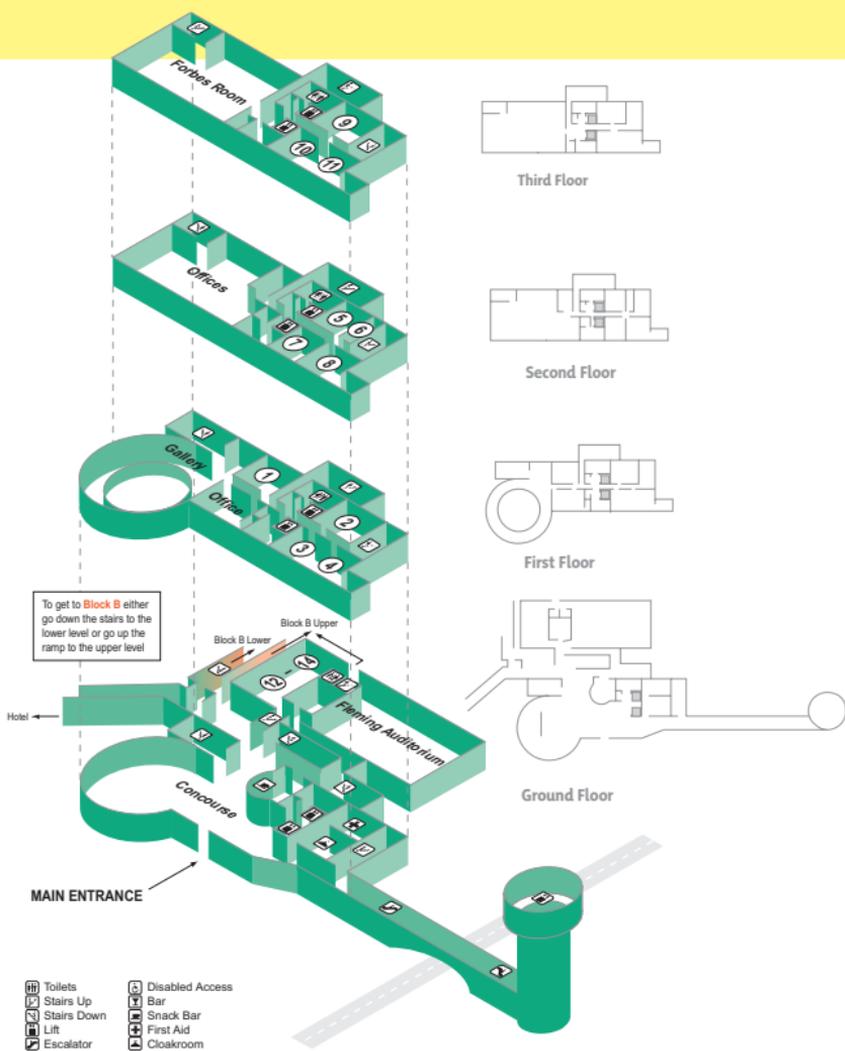
**Speyside Malt Whisky for as little as £1!
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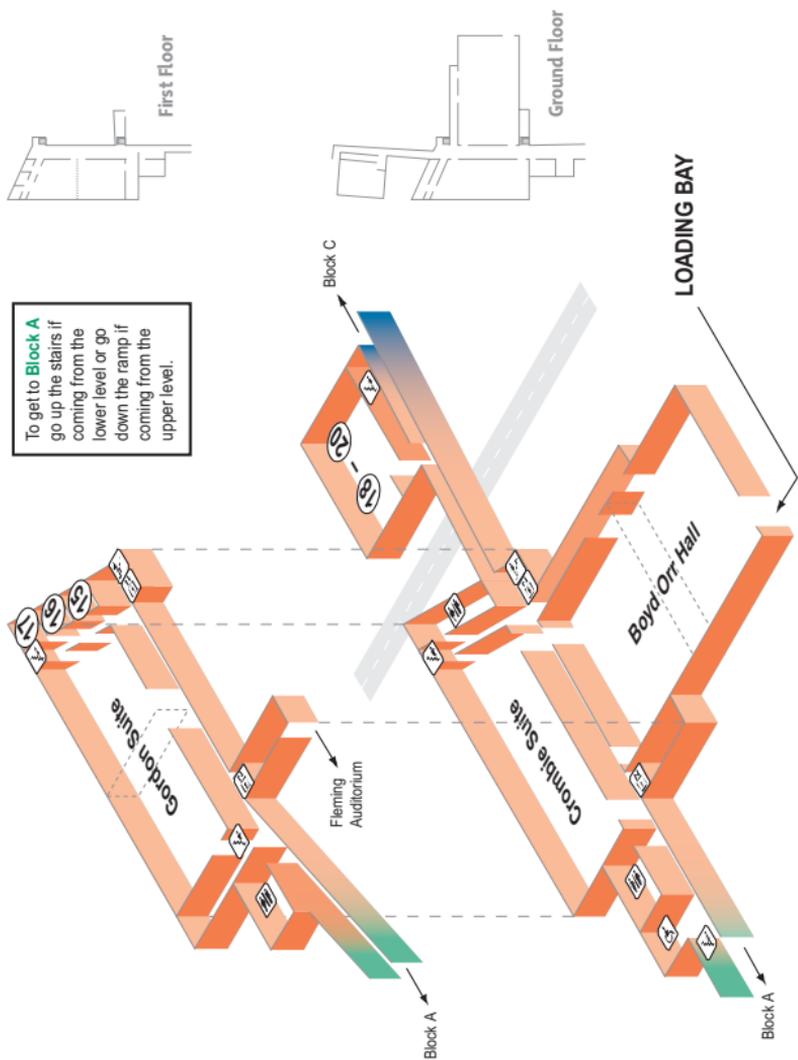
Maps



Block A



Block B





Achieving Greater Democratic Representation for Disabled People

Inclusion Scotland Fringe

When: Saturday, 18th March 2017

Time: 12.30-13.30

Venue: Room 9, AECC

****Lunch provided****

Session will include:

- Overview of the Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland Project
- Case studies of our work
- Accessible selection process
- Accessible meetings/events
- Building the resources available to help you

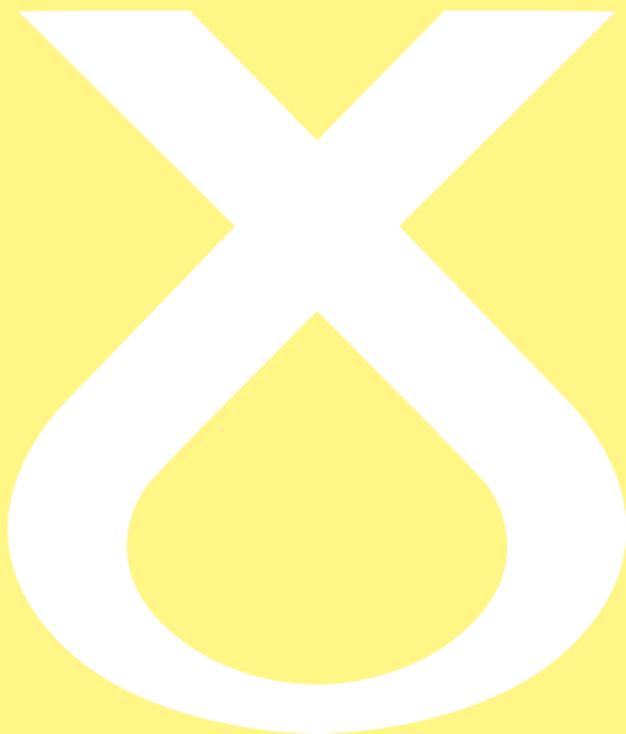
The fringe will be both informative and interactive as we discuss the impairment related barriers that disabled people face and how we move forward for greater democratic representation.



Our voices ■ Our choices



Essential Information



Essential Information

ADMISSION

Please use the main AECC entrance (facing Ellon Road) on arrival at SNP Conference.

CONFERENCE DATES AND TIMES

Spring Conference meets for two days on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 March 2017.

Conference sessions and exhibition opening:

	Conference	Exhibition
Friday	10h30 – 17h30	09h30 – 18h00
Saturday	10h00 – 16h30	09h00 – 17h00

Fringe Meetings will be held each day:

Friday	Lunch	12h45 – 13h45
	Evening	17h30 – 18h30
Saturday	Morning	09h00 – 10h00
	Lunch	12h30 – 13h30

SECURITY

Security staff will be assisting with arrangements and will be checking Conference Passes and membership cards on entry to each Conference location.

Please follow these simple security guidelines:

- Co-operate with our security staff, allowing your credentials to be examined at entry points to each location
- Take all belongings with you and do not leave bags unattended at any time
- Report anything suspicious to the nearest steward or member of staff

Remember that Stewards will also ask delegates to show accreditation and membership cards to gain access to the auditorium. Please have them on display on the lanyard provided to make sure there are no issues.

HEADQUARTERS DESK

The SNP Headquarters desk will be situated in the Foyer for any questions or enquiries regarding the Conference.

Essential Information

SHUTTLE BUSES

Courtesy of Visit **Aberdeenshire** and the **AECC**, buses will run free of charge between the AECC and the city-centre as follows:

Friday 07:00 – 10:30 (Starting from Aberdeen Rail Station)

16:00 – 20:00 (Starting from the AECC)

Saturday 07:00 – 10:00 (Starting from the Aberdeen Rail Station)

16:00 – 19:00 (Starting from the AECC)

Buses will pickup/drop off from Aberdeen Rail Station, the Castlegate and the AECC.

CAR PARKS

All delegates wishing to use the car parks at the AECC will be charged £5.00 per vehicle per day (pay and display) this is for the whole day (including evenings). Overnight parking in Caravans and campers is strictly prohibited.

HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Central Taxis 01224 890089

Rainbow City Taxis 01224 878787

Rail Enquiries 03457 484950

Traveline Scotland 0871 200 2223

STRONG LOCAL ECONOMIES

A photograph of three construction workers on a rooftop. They are wearing white hard hats, blue long-sleeved shirts, and high-visibility yellow safety vests. One worker is on the left, another is in the center foreground, and a third is on the right. They are standing on a concrete structure with a ladder leaning against it. In the background, there are green trees and a large, partially completed building structure under a cloudy sky.

With all eyes now on the future, we need to focus on how we can make Scotland the best place to live, work and do business.

Business and entrepreneurship has a crucial role to play in delivering fairer, more prosperous, more resilient Scottish local economies.

FSB is proud to stand up for Scotland's **340,000+** smaller businesses, who provide close to half of all private sector employment.

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Independence Magazine is a bi-monthly magazine that reflects life in the SNP and the broader national movement. To join call Jim Henderson on 0131 525 8904 or Bill Campbell on 07806 316 422 email: bill@saltiregraphics.com

