

A STRONGER SOCIETY

This election is an opportunity for Scotland to have real influence to deliver important gains and protections.

On a wide range of issues, Scottish values and priorities can carry real weight at Westminster.

Working in partnership

We will press the UK government to work with the business community on mechanisms to formalise the relationship between government, employer associations and employee associations with a particular focus on encouraging wider trade union participation and recognising the positive role that can be played by collective bargaining in improving labour market conditions.

Evidence from the OECD shows that stronger trade unions tend to reduce inequality in labour income and ensure a more equal distribution of earnings. We support increased employee representation on company boards, believing that this can help bolster long-term decision-making and improve industrial relations. We will urge the UK government to consult on how best to deliver such an increase.

We will seek to reverse recent changes, which reduced key aspects of workers' rights. For example, we will press for the restoration of a 90 days consultation period for redundancies affecting 100 or more employees.

In addition, we will also oppose Tory plans to further restrict the right to strike and support trade unions with their proposals to modernise the way strike ballots are undertaken, with safe and secure online voting to maximise participation.

Caring about climate change, our environment and the natural world

CARBON REDUCTION

We will use our influence at Westminster to ensure the UK matches, and supports, Scotland's ambitious commitments to carbon reduction and that both Scotland and the UK are able to play a constructive role at this year's UN Climate Change Conference. And, we will call on the UK government to match the approach of the Scottish Government with a dedicated Climate Justice Fund.

RENEWABLE & COMMUNITY ENERGY

We will seek to maximise support for offshore wind, including by seeking alterations to the current Contracts for Differences (CFD) regime to ensure that support is given to the offshore wind sector to not only generate renewable energy but also to boost manufacturing opportunities and ensure Scotland sees maximum investment. Allocations from the next round of CFD should be made early and projects in Scotland should be prioritised and receive their fair share of funding. We want to see a long-term commitment to the development of this industry.

We will continue to argue for changes to ensure that Scottish renewables, and Scotland's islands, are not penalised because of their distance from markets in the south of England. We believe that transmission arrangements should work to support, rather than undermine, production of renewable energy in the most favourable locations.

And we will press for onshore wind to continue to receive support through the lifetime of the next Parliament.