

## Labour – fighting for what matters

**With the Tories in Westminster we need the Scottish Parliament more than ever. And we need that Parliament to fight for what really matters.**

The Tories are running down our economy and attacking public services. A Labour government in the Scottish Parliament would work at creating jobs and defending our education system and NHS. Voting Labour means voting for a party that will fight for what really matters.

Labour will guarantee apprenticeships for qualified youngsters and give people who are unemployed for six months the chance of a real job.

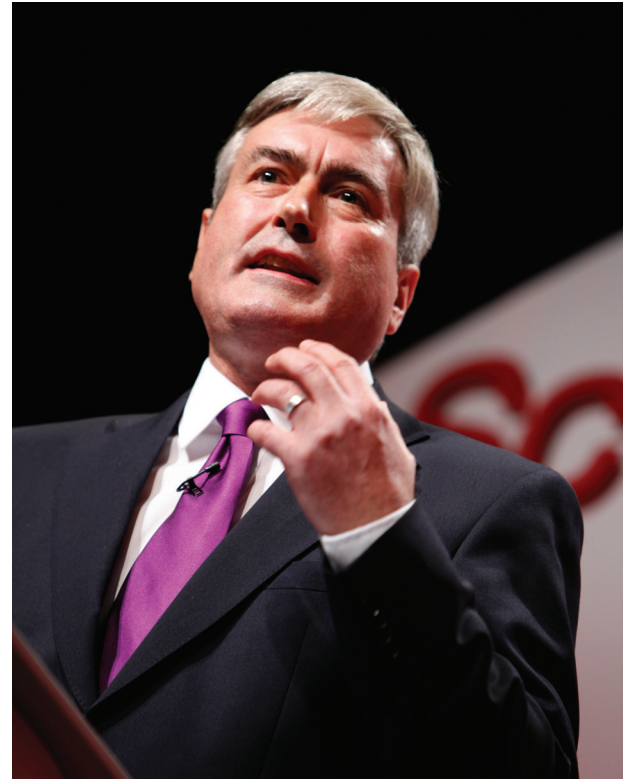
Labour will ensure that criminals who

carry a knife go to jail, and we will put the rights of victims first.

Labour will halve cancer waiting times so you see a specialist and get results within two weeks, and will end the postcode lottery for care of the elderly.

Labour will put literacy teachers in classrooms to focus on the basics for every pupil, and there will be no price tag on university education.

Labour will freeze the council tax for two years, to help your family through tough times.



## Pay matters: A Scottish Living Wage



**It was Labour who introduced the minimum wage and Labour are committed to the introduction of a Scottish Living Wage of at least £7.15 starting with the public sector.**

Labour is serious about attacking low pay and raising peoples living standards. Labour will work to defend jobs, create work and make work pay.

Labour will campaign to extend the living wage to other sectors, but even establishing a living wage will make life more difficult for employers who want to exploit people through low pay.

## Tackling violence in the workplace matters

**Labour will tackle violence at work this by introducing Protection of Workers legislation.**

This would raise criminal penalties against anyone convicted of violence against workers employed in jobs involving face to face contact with the public. Nearly 30,000 people, that we know of, are assaulted at work each year in Scotland. Labour is committed

to tackling this problem.

Labour's Hugh Henry introduced a Protection of Workers Bill in the last session of the Scottish Parliament but it was voted down in a committee by Tory Lib Dem and SNP MSPs.

Any act of violence on a member of staff going about their business of providing vital public services is completely unacceptable.

This legislation matters - only Labour will make sure it happens.

## Jobs matter: Labour will keep Scotland working

**A Labour government in Holyrood will ensure that every qualified school leaver in Scotland is guaranteed an apprenticeship place should they desire it.**

Labour will set up a Scottish Future Jobs Fund that will create real jobs and provide training for 10,000 young people, and others who have been unemployed for 6 months or more.

Labour will also provide upfront and flexible funding for businesses to create those jobs.

A Labour government will keep Scotland working.

# Energy and environment: Green jobs matter

## Labour will deliver a low carbon Scotland and green jobs.

Labour are committed to a Green New Deal, which will create new jobs and opportunities for local businesses with an ambitious environmental scheme to provide low carbon electricity, such as solar panels, for up to 10,000 homes. To maximise the use of energy generated in Scotland, Labour will work to improve grid connections between Scotland and the rest of the UK, and the UK and Europe.

Labour will set up Energy Scotland to drive Scotland forward as a world leader in the low carbon sector.

Labour will integrate existing energy initiatives where possible into Energy Scotland to provide streamlined strategic leadership and funding. This will be a body that will focus on delivery. It will pull together different streams, such as research and development, to improve energy technology and skills in the workforce. It will look at the case for having service centres for offshore renewables and secure the best use of harbour and port facilities.

Energy Scotland will work to

attract £1 billion of investment from the new Green Investment Bank, a bank which should be based in Scotland.

Strategic importance should be attached to early marine projects so that planning consents are processed quickly and the first projects can be deployed, allowing lessons to be learned.

Labour will encourage the construction of a wholly new infrastructure for electric vehicles, with an ambitious target for 10,000 charging points in major towns and cities by 2015.

Labour will improve the Green Bus Fund to help transport providers purchase hybrid buses.



## Iain Gray Scottish Labour Party Leader

**“We created our parliament for the hard times, not the good times. We created it for a time like this. It means we can say, with our hand on our heart, ‘you see what the Tories are doing to the NHS in England? We won’t have that here. You see what the Tories are doing to the universities in England? We won’t have that here. You see what the Tories are doing to council services in England? We won’t have that here.’ This is what our parliament is for.”**

## Connectivity matters: Labour will help keep Scotland connected

### Labour will appoint a digital champion and bring forward a strategy to improve the quality and coverage of broadband.

Labour will pressurise the UK government to deliver its commitment to roll out broadband access to all British homes at speeds of at least two megabits per second by 2015 and to work towards the delivery of even higher speeds.

Labour will work to deliver free Wi-Fi and 3G mobile phone coverage on commercial rail routes as part of ScotRail’s next contract.

## Transport matters: Labour will keep Scotland moving

### Labour will make certain that our communities are better served by buses by improving regulation.

Labour will future-proof Scotland’s rail network to facilitate High Speed Rail and work with the UK Government to ensure that Scotland benefits from the economic advantages of high-speed rail. Labour’s ambition is to see direct services from Scotland to Paris and Brussels.

Labour will take forward the Edinburgh/Glasgow Rail Improvement Project, including Crossrail and more commuting opportunities from Ayrshire and Renfrewshire; and from rural Lanarkshire to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Labour will provide a direct rail link to Glasgow Airport and contribute to the modernisation of Glasgow’s subway.

Labour will replace the forth Road crossing. Labour will make the road equivalent tariff to the Western Isles permanent.



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