



# **SNP'S WASTED YEARS**



The third year of this SNP government has come to a close and our parliament has spent much of the last year discussing fringe concerns and dealing with the lightest legislative agenda since Labour created the Scottish Parliament.

Part of good government is good legislation. Sound laws and sensible regulations build a framework for a fairer country. I am proud of Labour's record of legislation in Holyrood over our eight years in government.

Between 1999 and 2007 we banned smoking in public spaces, established free personal care for the elderly, scrapped the homophobic laws of the Thatcher government, reformed charity law, created national parks, opened up government through freedom of information laws and changed the very laws of ownership for the land of our country.

Since 2007 that progress has been halted. Not all government is about making laws, if the SNP were running our public services well, investing our taxes sensibly and articulating the concerns of ordinary Scots, we could perhaps excuse them a lack of ideas. Unfortunately they are cutting nurses and teachers despite having the biggest budget in Scottish history, have squandered £1.5 billion of savings Labour left them in the bank for the hard times ahead and they continue to ignore the views of the hard-working, law-abiding majority as they let criminals escape jail and refuse to punish knife crime.

In this booklet First Minister Alex Salmond will find a legislative agenda for the next year. It is made up of bills brought forward by Labour from opposition. If introduced these measures would give greater protection to the victims of crime, help women to escape the scourge of domestic abuse, make our tenements better places to live, improve safety and rights in the workplace, improve our public transport and give our young people the right to an apprenticeship.

I believe in a better Scotland. And Scotland deserves a better government.

**Iain Gray, Scottish Labour Leader**

# LABOUR IN OPPOSITION

The following Bills were proposed by Labour MSPs in opposition. They are drafted and ready to be put into action. They cover a wide range of topics and together they could form a stopgap legislative programme for 2010/11 that would begin to make Scotland a better country.

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Apprenticeships Rights (Scotland) Bill -**

John Park Labour MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife.

Labour believe that harnessing the skills of our young people is key to Scotland's future economic success. John Park's bill will ensure that young people aged between 16 and 18 are given a right to undertake an apprenticeship.



### **Protection of Workers (Scotland) Bill -**

Hugh Henry Labour MSP for Paisley South.

People who work with members of the public, such as bus and train drivers and post workers, should be given greater protection against violent attacks. This bill would introduce an aggravated offence meaning that perpetrators would receive tougher sentences.



## HOUSING

### **Property Factors (Scotland) Bill -**

Patricia Ferguson Labour MSP for Glasgow Maryhill.

Too often people have been let down by rogue factors and Labour's Patricia Ferguson wants to ensure that residents get better standards on work, greater transparency on fees as well as accessible mediation in disputes.



## TRANSPORT

### **Proposed Regulation of Bus Services Bill -**

Charlie Gordon Labour MSP for Glasgow Cathcart.

At present commercial bus operators mainly focus on lucrative peak-time commuter routes, whilst many rural areas have no commercial bus services at all. This bill would help deliver a more even spread of services and would widen the National Bus Travel Concession Scheme to meet travellers' needs.



## JUSTICE

### **Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill-**

David Stewart Labour MSP for Highlands and Islands.

For too long victims of crime have been the forgotten people within the Scottish Criminal Justice System. Labour wants to set up a Victims' Commissioner who will provide a much stronger link between victims, support agencies and MSPs.



### **Damages (Scotland) Bill -**

Bill Butler Labour MSP for Glasgow Anniesland.

Labour believes current legislation in relation to victims of personal injuries and wrongful death should be improved. There must be a fair level of compensation in cases of wrongful death without the need for unnecessarily long and distressing court cases.



### **Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill -**

Rhoda Grant Labour MSP for Highlands and Islands.

Women, children and others who suffer abuse should be able to sleep safely in their beds without the fear of attack or intimidation, but there is still a long way to go. The bill will make it a criminal offence to breach an interdict giving victims greater protection from the law and there would be better access to legal aid for victims.



## HEALTH

### **Proposed Limit on Trans Fat (Scotland) Bill -**

Dr Richard Simpson Labour MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife.

Dangerous fats known as trans fats are found in a variety of foods on the supermarket shelves. This bill would have limited their use in Scotland helping to reduce the number of Scots who die early from heart disease.



### **Proposed NHS Parking (Scotland) Bill -**

Paul Martin Labour MSP for Glasgow Springburn.

This bill would prohibit NHS boards from charging patients, visitors and NHS staff for parking at hospitals such as Ninewells in Dundee and Glasgow and Edinburgh Royal Infirmarys, which continue to levy charges. The proposals are backed by health unions.



## LABOUR LEGISLATION IN ACTION

The following Labour Bills have already been adopted by the Scottish Government and are starting to make a difference for the people of Scotland.

### **Energy Efficiency and Micro-Generation (Scotland) Bill -**

Sarah Boyack Labour MSP for Edinburgh Central.

Householders and businesses will benefit from Labour's measures to increase the use of small scale renewables like mini wind turbines and heat pumps. Council tax reductions are also awarded to those who make their homes more energy efficient.



### **Abolition of Forth and Tay Bridge Tolls Bill -**

Helen Eadie Labour MSP for Dunfermline East.

This proposal was driven forward by Labour and as a result motorists crossing these two major bridges no longer have to pay a toll.



### **Sunbed Licensing (Scotland) Bill -**

Ken Macintosh Labour MSP for Eastwood.

Concerns over the rise in skin cancer linked to use of sunbeds prompted Labour to put forward legislation to ban unstaffed premises and prevent children from using the equipment.

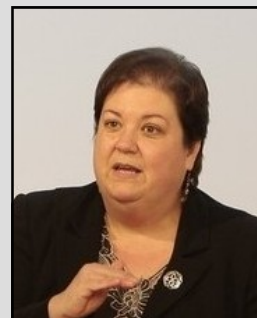


## **ENACTED BILL**

### **Disabled Persons' Parking (Scotland) Bill -**

Jackie Baillie Labour MSP for Dumbarton.

Motorists without a blue badge will be fined for abusing disabled parking bays. This Act will bring all existing disabled parking bays under the control of local authorities and they will become legally enforceable.





# SNP 'OUT OF STEAM'

**FEWER NURSES  
FEWER TEACHERS  
NOT ONE SCHOOL BUILT  
FEWER CRIMINALS SENT TO JAIL  
NOT ONE HOSPITAL COMPLETED  
UNEMPLOYMENT HIGHER THAN UK  
CLIMATE CHANGE TARGETS THROWN OUT  
FAILED ON CLASS SIZES AND SCHOOL MEALS  
PLEDGE TO DUMP STUDENT DEBT DITCHED  
FIRST TIME BUYERS' GRANT SCRAPPED  
NO GLASGOW AIRPORT RAIL LINK  
INDEPENDENCE BILL DELAYED  
LOCAL INCOME TAX DUMPED  
ALCOHOL POLICY REJECTED**