



Scottish
Pensioners'
Forum

GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO 2015

CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER DEAL FOR OLDER PEOPLE

What we at The Scottish Pensioners' Forum hope to secure is a fairer society, based on social justice and equality for all.

We believe that older people should not have to suffer by bearing the brunt of the current economic crisis.

This general election must be used to campaign for and to demand the following:-

PENSIONS

- An immediate increase to the Basic State Pension to at least £178 per week.
- To ensure that no existing pensioners are penalised under the new pensions system due to be introduced in 2016.
- The abolition of means testing and the provision to ALL pensioners of a living pension above the UK's own official poverty level.
- Better provision for women pensioners.
- The guarantee of a triple lock system with the reintroduction of the Retail Price Index to work alongside the Consumer Price Index and earnings, as the measure on which pensions increases are based.
- The prevention of further closures of defined benefit schemes
- The protection of public sector pension schemes
- An end to fuel poverty with the increase of the winter fuel allowance.
- Free TV licences for pensioners over 75

TRAVEL

- A properly designed and adequately funded public transport system.
- The Concessionary Travel Scheme to be extended, and made valid, throughout Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland and to include rail and ferry travel.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

- Additional funding designed to improve accessibility to transport for older and disabled people and their carers.
- An end to the undermining of communities with the introduction of more community empowerment initiatives.
- Encouraging the proper recycling of waste, bearing in mind the problems often associated with older people.
- The provision of affordable energy schemes, via social tariffs, from all energy suppliers.
- The safeguarding of essential public services which many older people rely heavily upon.

PARTICIPATION

- In line with our previously published manifestos, we demand that older people have the right to participate in bodies, which deal with their concerns, and to have their views taken into account.

SCOTLAND'S BLOCK GRANT FROM WESTMINSTER

- To maintain the current agreement under the Barnett formula.
- Defend the NHS.
- Prevent public service cuts.
- Provide more help for carers
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