



**Scottish
Pensioners'
Forum**

SCOTTISH ELECTION MANIFESTO 2016

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.

This Scottish 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 April 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 Retail Price Index or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is the greatest, to work alongside 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.
- Maintain free TV licences for pensioners over 75

TRAVEL

- Maintain a properly designed and adequately funded public transport system.
- The Concessionary Travel Scheme to be extended, and made valid, throughout Scotland and to include rail and ferry travel.
- Additional funding designed to improve accessibility to transport for older and disabled people and their carers.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

- 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 at all levels of governance, 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
- Oppose TTIP and other similar trade agreements.

This manifesto was launched on 18th March 2016 in City Square, Dundee.