

Scottish Libertarians



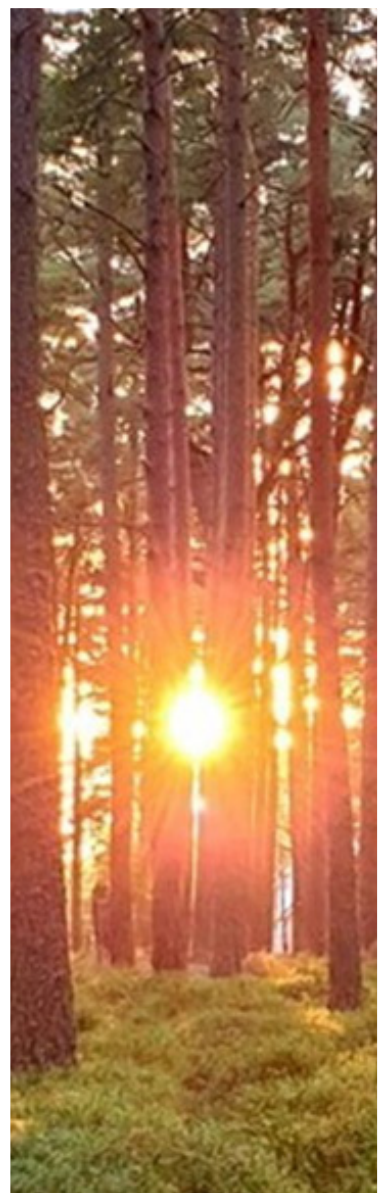
Holyrood 2021 Manifesto

info@scottishlibertarians.com

 @ScottishLibertarians

 @ScoLibertarian





Contents

Foreword	p. 5
1. Lockdown and the Economy	p. 6
1.1. Taxation	p. 7
1.2. Regulation	p. 8
1.3. Education	p. 9
2. Civil Liberties	p. 10
2.1. Freedom of Speech	p. 11
2.2. Law and Order	p. 12
2.3. Health	p. 13
3. Unity	p. 14
3.1. Upholding Democracy	p. 15
3.2. Local Government	p. 16
3.3. Environment	p. 17
How can I get involved?	p. 18
What are Libertarian Principles?	p. 19
5 Reasons to Vote Libertarian	p. 20





Foreword by Tam Laird

Leader, Scottish Libertarian Party

**Home for the disillusioned and non voters,
the unifying and wide ranging message is libertarianism.**

You cannot leave, you cannot protest, you cannot even rant at the dinner table. Your only option now, is to vote.

On May 6th, your vote in Scotland will be one of the most important of all our lives. We will be presented with a choice between further authoritarian rule or attempting to regain the free spirit of our nation.

The Libertarian message is simple:

End the Lockdowns and all associated, mandatory practices;

Rescue the right to free expression and protect it from political radicals sitting in power;

Allow people to be free at the individual level and reject attempts at 'legislated freedom'.

Scottish Libertarians are here to give you an option; an alternative to big-government parties of both left and right.

Our message is all-encompassing. We value freedom over 'free' stuff. We seek support from both ardent nationalists and life-long conservatives, civil-libertarians and anti-war activists alike. From the disillusioned voter tired of politics as usual. From people who

find no hope in any of the big parties, who have as much in common with one another as they have to set them apart from us!

We are ordinary people who want to stand up for ordinary people.

Let us, together, send a clear signal to the establishment that we will not be trodden on; that we are not a cash cow for their next political project. Help us to protect the people of Scotland against the worst kinds of Nationalism, Socialism and Conservatism - those which rely on force, rather than cooperation and voluntary action.



FREE MARKETS



1. Lockdown and the Economy

The cure is worse than the disease and our future looks bleak. We have allowed Government to set a dangerous precedent by encouraging the use of draconian lockdowns. Our pockets are empty, opportunities have died and joy seems to have vanished.

Releasing all individuals, businesses and organisations from the mandatory restrictions placed upon them in the name of Covid-19 is the Scottish Libertarian Party's Number 1 priority. Scottish Libertarians hold that it is up to the private business to decide how they wish to interact with customers and what restrictions they wish to place upon them; and it is up to the individual when and where they choose to shop or work. **We will oppose and reject the new habits of governmental structures to impose 'lockdowns' and related restrictions upon the sovereign people of our nation.**

We will outline the Scottish Libertarian vision for a recovery worth opening the good whisky for.

We want to make Scotland a country of fair-play, social cohesion and individual responsibility once again. Our vision will spare us the road to nowhere and replace it with the path to freedom.



FREE MARKETS

1.1 Taxation

Scottish Libertarians hold the view that taxation is equivalent to theft. Accordingly, we also believe that taxation should only be used until free market replacements are established.

The devolved administration in Scotland now has responsibility over many areas of taxation. All political parties, with the exception of the Scottish Libertarians, are looking to increase the burden on taxpayers; yet taxpayers are left increasingly dubious at the deal they are getting - and rightfully so.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

A full and swift review of the taxation system. This would be with a view to reducing the tax burden on individuals and halting the near-infinite debts being placed on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren.

The reduction of tax burdens on SME and the abolition of hidden taxes such as Spaces for People and Business Improvement Districts (B.I.D.). These levies are helping to drive our high streets to extinction, small businesses into the ground and prices upwards.

The devolution of taxation to local government level with clearer guidelines between local and national spending.

Abolition and mitigation of 'sin taxes' which hurt the poorest most.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Further taxation, levies and penalties.

No fines for what you say, where you drink or for owning a television; no tax hikes at local or national level; no increased levies on local businesses and no corporate welfare.

Further burdens on licensed industry businesses and employees.

No compulsory training that staff and businesses have to pay for in low-paid positions; oppose costly bureaucracy and compliance - time and paperwork.

Case-in-Point

Sin-taxes are often used to dissuade people from doing something that the government disapproves of. Does that mean they also disapprove of individuals earning from work when they apply tax to that too?



FREE MARKETS

1.2 Regulation

Scottish Libertarians hold that *societies built on conscience, as opposed to compliance*, will be far more cohesive, harmonious, peaceful and high quality. Incessant interference by government bodies changes the way we think about right and wrong: it makes us ask ‘What does the process dictate?’ rather than ‘What should I do to act correctly?’. We also hold that mass-licensing programs actually produce poorer quality results as it dampens competition and interferes with pricing.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

Reducing the legislative weight of government quangos. We advocate an immediate loosening of rules on those worse affected by lockdown - gyms, shops, hospitality, the licensed industries and many more.

Reduction in powers of governments aimed at telling you how to use your private property. The Scottish Libertarian Party will fight to allow small, independent house builders to do what they do best. We will end the monopolisation of building by government officials and by consequence end the inflationary effects of planning permission on housing for buyers everywhere - as well as the ‘housing crisis’.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Habitual impositions of regulation relating to the ‘control’ of Covid-19. We need freedom-loving voices in Holyrood who say no to the ‘new normal’.

The interference and backdoor monopolisation of the care industry.

We oppose the costly administrative burdens on care homes and seek to lessen the intrusion by the Care Commission and Social Workers on private family affairs.

Additional regulation being imposed on low-skilled jobs which are affecting the self-employed and small businesses most.

Case-in-Point

In response to a FOI (Freedom of Information) request made to the Scottish Government on November 30th 2020 requesting evidence of why they had restricted restaurants and pubs in service and opening times, they said:

‘It **is not possible** to publish scientific evidence specifically on drinking and pubs specifically as in general neither **the Scottish Government, the Chief Medical Officer’s Advisory group nor SAGE have produced evidence papers** on a sectoral basis. Instead, we have used scientific **evidence on transmission coupled with social and economic benefits of these facilities** which the Scottish Ministers have used to make decisions.’



FREE MARKETS

1.3 Education

Scottish Libertarians hold that *stewardship and responsibility over our children's education belongs to the parents* and, as much as possible, the individual child. Scottish Libertarians also hold that *education should be sourced from communities upward*, instead of being imposed downwards from an intellectual elite.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

The abolition of all *mandatory* restrictions placed on public nurseries, schools and university/colleges

including mandatory mask-wearing, the practice of 'social distancing' and forced testing. We will support the reopening of all educational establishments as well as extra-curricular and social activities. We support voluntary and locally-driven solutions such as 'Focused Care'.

The reformation of the widely-criticised Curriculum for Excellence and a reduction in powers by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Instead we want to focus the curriculum on basic skills while allowing employers to create apprenticeships and skill-enhancing, experience-building jobs. Ending the educational monopoly held by the SQA and keeping politicians out of the classroom.

A reduction of the governments role in education, giving teachers and parents direct responsibility for their child's education.

Opening up communication channels between teacher and parent; making it easier to transfer schools and pursue alternative and innovative forms of education; easing the administrative and professional costs to teachers; devolving powers back to the local school level; supporting the right of parents to remove their children from the state education system.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Mandatory masks in the classrooms

as well as the continued restrictions placed on extra-curricular activities and the practice of 'social distancing'; participation in mask-wearing should remain voluntary.

Future attempts at 'Named

Person Schemes'. We want to keep government away from children as much as possible; we oppose the idea that children belong to the state.

"I pledge my entire MSP salary of £64k back into the Glasgow community if elected."

Alan Findlay,
Candidate for Glasgow Pollok



FREE SPEECH



2. Civil Liberties

Our most basic rights are being gradually dampened and eroded right before our eyes. Unlike markets, civil liberties are hard to come by and often once given away, they are not returned easily. The Scottish Libertarian Party is increasingly concerned with the personal and economic liberty of the people of Scotland. We are for free speech and against the surveillance state, detention without trial, any form of mandatory identification, regulations on personal habits or the prohibition of gay marriage.

Defending the right to free speech in Scotland has become of immediate urgency and we will seek to scrap the Hate Crime Bill. Scottish Libertarians hold that it is no place of any government to attempt to control or regulate the speech of any individual - in fact, it is what government is charged with upholding. **Legislation like this has no place in a liberal and free society and can be used only as a tool for silencing opposition.**

The Scottish Libertarian party is the only Scottish party committed to defending individuals against the insidious orthodoxies being forced upon them - in media, at work and soon, even in your own home.

Let us put voices into Holyrood that support the cause of freedom, not cower in the face of controversy.

The path to freedom starts with free speech - don't let politicians take it away!



FREE SPEECH

2.1 Freedom of Speech

Scottish Libertarians hold that *one of the few legitimate duties of government is to defend freedom of speech*. We reject the idea that 'speech is violence' and that you must follow any government guidelines or restrictions on speech. While we recognise the difference between socially acceptable and unacceptable forms of speech, we do not advocate restricting anyone in this manner. Scottish Libertarians hold that you must allow people to speak freely if you are to identify and tackle radical or extremist lines of thought.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

The destruction of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill. We must repeal this piece of pernicious legislation, hated by all those who have stayed away from the radical ends of politics. The Scottish people do not need or want this bill.

The abolition of Equality and Diversity quangos. These positions are often highly paid and a waste of taxpayers money. We promote freedom of opportunity; if you can you may. We reject any attempts at achieving equality of outcome with the imposition of quotas and special privileges for any group based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or class. There are no groups. There are only people and people come individually.

Returning the rights of peaceful protest and political organisation. We reject any attempt by government to contain (potential) opposition and silence members of communities who wish to protest and/or demonstrate in a peaceful manner.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

All versions of the Hate Crime Bill put before us. The current 'middle-ground' being sought is not good enough - the Scottish people do not need, or want this Bill; there is already robust provision within existing law.

The suppression of the free press and 'national conversations'. We will also oppose legislation and practices that dampen the ability of whistleblowers to be heard and oppose censorship in all it's forms, especially in the medical profession.

Case-in-Point

Most ordinary people would give their left arm for job like 'Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer', NHS, £75,914 - £87,754 or perhaps something a little more specific like 'Equality, Diversity and inclusion in Scottish Heritage' at university of Strathclyde



FREE SPEECH

2.2 Law and Order

Scottish Libertarians believe in law and order, for that allows them to be libertarian. This line of thinking is usually referred to as min-archist or min-archism. This means that laws should be kept at a bare minimum to maintain social cohesion and repress tribalism. We advocate the use of local police forces who are a part of and directly in touch with the communities they protect.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

Decentralisation of police forces back to the local level. We will support local police forces and stop Government attempts at creating a controlled force.

Focus police time and resources on protecting the core rights of individuals. Crimes of physical violence, theft, rape, murder and fraud would take precedence over immature tweets or visiting your family. This is in line with our views on regulation; stop over-regulating and police will have more time to do the things people need and want them to do.

Devolution of further drug laws to the Scottish Parliament with a view to ending the wasteful war on drugs and cleaning up the mess that current drug intervention has created.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Crimes against life, liberty and property whether that be by organised groups or on an individual level. We will not allow radical groups of any kind to destroy communities and harass the public and we will support the police in this role.

Burdening police with more bureaucracy and making up new crimes. Police belong on our streets not at a desk; nor do they owe allegiance to radical 'social justice' causes.

"If elected, I will do everything I can... to leave you alone. As libertarians we believe in the principles of individual freedoms, personal and economic. We stand for choice in every aspect of life, from education to healthcare."

Daniel Fraser,
Candidate for Edinburgh Western



FREE SPEECH

2.3 Health

Scottish libertarians hold that *the free market is best placed to provide quality, surplus and low cost* healthcare. Under a socialised healthcare system, we now have a situation where only the rich can afford healthcare - with the underprivileged waiting the longest (now more than 6 months) for basic operations or even to be seen by a consultant. The pandemic has shown the National Health Service to be inadequate yet politicians tell us to protect it with our lives.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

Trusting hospital staff with responsibility for training and delegation of tasks. with a view to freeing up fully-fledged professionals to focus their time and attention on what they alone can do while supporting emergent new specialists to deal with minor ailments. Lower-skilled and lower-cost staff will gain critical skills and experience that will contribute to their continued professional education. We would also seek to remove all restrictions on the opening of medical schools and private hospitals.

Cutting middle-management and waste in the NHS. This would include diversity hires and marketing/advertising staff as well as getting a better deal on supplies and contracts.

The repeal of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) 2019 Act. We will never allow the Government to assume ownership of your body.

The Right to Try. We will support any individual's right to try whichever medical method they choose regardless of their medical situation. Subsequently, we would support the loosening of restrictions on what medicines you can freely buy.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Forced medical intervention by government forces including forced vaccination, testing or mask-wearing. We reject the idea that the state has the right to make decisions on your health.

Repression and censorship of medical data and/or information. We reject the current censoring of medical information in the name of Covid-19.

Case-in-Point

5.2 million citizens a year visit their GPs with blocked noses and tens of thousands more suffering from other ailments like dandruff or travel sickness. These appointments put pressure on capacities, leading more people to turn up to A&E because they can't see their family doctor. As a consequence 3.7m A&E visits a year are for similar concerns including sprains, flus, colics and insect bites. Altogether these appointments cost the NHS £2bn a year!!



FREE PEOPLE



3. Unity

Libertarianism is a far reaching and unifying ideology. Unlike other political groupings, we have no preference with regards to what you believe - as long as you do not want to force others to believe the same. That is why we are the home of disillusioned voters from all parts of the political spectrum, from conservative unionists to staunch nationalists.

The Scottish Libertarian Party is not nationalist but secessionist by virtue of being libertarian. While the right to self determination is a pillar of our ethos, we do not share the unbridled enthusiasm for another referendum as it seems more about a desire to re-join the EU than any genuine attempt at independence. **We maintain there are far more important, fundamental issues that need to be addressed right now.**

While we recognise many of the passionate feelings circulating in Scottish politics regarding political union with England, we stand with those in the disillusioned middle-ground who are fed up of this constant argument.

Like many, we are increasingly concerned at the authoritarian practices of the Scottish National Party.

Right now, the constitutional situation of our country pales in comparison to the massive recovery operation after 'lockdown' - if we can manage to escape it.



FREE PEOPLE

3.1 Upholding Democracy

Scottish Libertarians maintain that upholding democratic decisions - *even if we don't like the answer* - is essential to maintaining faith in our country's institutions and our trust in each other. But we also hold that government should be as close to the people as possible.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

The mitigation of all new regulation or taxation being imposed by Westminster. We will use the power of the Scottish Parliament to protect the free choices and private property of individuals across Scotland.

Devolving powers down as much as possible. The responsibilities taken on by Holyrood should be distributed down to the local level as much as possible, including the individual level.

Independence from the bottom, up. Scottish Libertarians support the idea that independence is legitimately created at the individual level only. Independent individuals will create independent families, who will create independent communities, who will then stand together as a truly independent nation.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Centralisation of power. We oppose the centralised organisations of power making wide-reaching rules for wildly differing individuals and communities, whether that be in Holyrood or Westminster.

Being dragged back into the European Union by the backdoor. Scotland, let alone the UK, would not be independent in the presently growing European Union. Scottish Libertarians reject all forms of neo-colonialism.

"I pledge to help as many people as I possibly can, and show that disabilities should not hold anyone back from living as full a life as possible."

Stef Johnstone,
Candidate for Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley



FREE PEOPLE

3.2 Local Government

Scottish Libertarians hold that *government should be as close to the individual level* as possible. We hold local government to the same standards as national government: minimal force and minimal intrusion.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

Giving local residents the opportunity to serve their community. What is a local business but a local individual who sets out with the aim of providing a service to their community. We believe that prosperous and harmonious communities are built and maintained by the individuals who inhabit it.

Making local officials get on with what they are there to do. We would take issues relating to culture, arts, education, business and building (among other things) out of the hands of local bureaucrats and put it back into the hands of local individuals. Make them focus on the things that matter most - such as bins and roads. It is not the business of councillors what you do with your time, money or property.

Putting accountability onto the heads of local councillors. Councils now almost completely depend on Holyrood for money and so they don't depend on their citizens. We would reform council finance so that they are accountable to those who pay their wages - the local tax payer!

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Any measures taken by councils to shut down or hinder businesses and consumers in the name of Covid-19. This would include restrictions on parking, shopping centres and roads.

Council tax increases and more regulation. We will aim to keep government officials out of your life so that you can make the choices best suited to you.



FREE PEOPLE

3.3 Environment

As Libertarians we believe that resources are precious and that includes the planet we live on. As such we would embrace solutions and methods to maintain and improve our symbiotic relationship with the world and the beautiful part of it that we inhabit. We also recognise the power of the free market in supporting the environment through innovation but also giving people the time and resources to care about their surroundings - if you want green people, let them get rich!

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

A lockdown recovery plan to mitigate the increase in poverty and food waste that lockdowns have caused.

We would support free market solutions and innovations that will allow us to produce all kinds of energy and waste options such as recycling, hemp, The Ocean Clean-Up Project and cruelty-free products.

Allowing individuals full choice in their source of energy and opposing authoritarian measures by governments to limit choice in fuel source and allowing the free market to provide quality, surplus and low-cost energy.

Charitable and voluntary organisations and actions which aim to tackle environmental issues at the local level such as litter picking and the development of garden plots.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

The extreme consumption of single use plastics driven mainly by 'lockdown' regulation and overzealous government action.

Arbitrary taxes, regulations and climate quangos that merely provide a virtuous facade for politicians and corporatists to raid the pockets of taxpayers and dictate more of our choices. Regulatory barriers also prevent innovative ideas from competing with big energy who also receive millions in taxpayer pounds!

Manipulation of environment data in order to drive big government. We oppose censorship in all its forms and will support all individuals to put forth their arguments and opinions on the environment and climate.

"If elected I pledge to fight the authoritarian practices of political radicals up and down our country and stand up for the hardworking people struggling to look after themselves and their families."

Bryce Hope,
Candidate for North East Scotland



Libertarians believe that **all** rights, of **all** people matter **all** the time.

We are the only political party that respects your rights as a unique and competent individual.

What do we believe in? That you and every person has the

- Right to live your life however you choose and pursue happiness
- Right to privacy
- Right to live where you choose and how you choose
- Right to worship how, when and where you choose
- Right to be treated equally under the law

We want everyone to live, work, play and dream their own way, as long as they don't hurt people and don't take their stuff.

Each individual has the right to control his or her own body, actions, speech and property. And government's only role should be to help individuals defend themselves from force or fraud. We want the government to be slim, effective and to stay within its budget - we don't want our children to inherit our debts!

We want taxes to be low for everybody. We want people to be free to act and not need approval for everything from the state.

We understand that the less bureaucracy and paperwork there is, the wealthier and freer society we get.

We prefer voluntary associations, charity and the free market to politicians and their "solutions".

We want peace, low crime, opportunity, education, healthcare, we want people to be happy and harmonious and tolerant of one another, to associate freely and live their lives how they please.

**The Scottish Libertarian Party was created in 2012 to
bring more freedom to the people of Scotland.**

Come help us!

ScottishLibertarians.com/Join-Us

FREEDOM

Libertarian Principles

Libertarians believe that the central role of government is to protect the rights of every *individual*, and with it, government holds the duty not to violate those rights. These are the three fundamental rights of human beings:

The Right to Life - and, accordingly, the right to protection by the government against the threat or action of violence.

The Right to Freedom of Speech - and, accordingly, the right to articulate opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation and censorship.

The Right to Property - and, accordingly, the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud and misrepresentation, as well as confiscation, nationalisation and compulsory purchase.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle; that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labour on a politician's whim. Even within Scotland, all political parties (other than our own) grant government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize their property without consent.

We oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary relations among individuals. We hold that people should be free to interact with one another as partners, collaborators and traders; or not at all!

We are the only political party committed to both civil liberties and the free market.: we are against bailouts to bankers, handouts to big business and all forms of corporate welfare. We are opposed to foreign adventurism and neo-colonialism in all it's forms.

We don't want to regulate your personal habits. We don't care what you smoke, what gender the person you want to marry is or how you choose to worship. We don't want to snoop on you, force you to take a vaccine you don't want, require 'health passports' or detain you without trial or charge.

What is most important to a libertarian is **Liberty, Personal Freedom** and **Individual Rights**. We hold that each individual is entitled to exclusive control of their choices, actions and body - so long as they do not violate the right of others to do the same.

With the Scottish Libertarian Party, it is YOUR choice that matters. [Join today!](#)



Reasons to Vote Libertarian

- 1 Ending Draconian Lockdowns** - the Scottish Libertarian Party is your best political option for a party committed to ending the habitual, draconian and unnecessary lockdowns.
- 2 Defending Free Speech** - the only Scottish party historically willing to commit to getting rid of the dreaded Hate Crime Bill.
- 3 Accepting of Democracy** - secessionist but democratic: the Libertarian Party accept the Scottish referendum of 2014 and the British referendum of 2016 and vow to use devolution to allow the Scottish people to be independent at an individual level.
- 4 Anti-Corruption, Anti-corporatist** - kick out the quangos: B.I.Ds., Sustrans and Spaces for People to name but a few; end corporate welfare and wasteful nationalisation.
- 5 Ease the Burden of Government** - the SLP are committed to cutting wasteful spending and keeping the government out of your pocket, business and bedroom!

If you are already sold (I know I was), then you can become a member on the website at www.scottishlibertarians.com. You can also support us by registering to vote here and selecting a Scottish Libertarian Candidate on the second (peach) ballot paper on May 6th.

**The Scottish Libertarian Party was created in 2012 to
bring more freedom to the people of Scotland.
Come help us!**

ScottishLibertarians.com/Join-Us