

# GREEN NEWS Highland

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## Rural housing

**Many parts of the Highlands and Islands are in the midst of a rural housing crisis. People are being priced out of, and excluded from, their own area.**

We need affordable local homes to make strong, vibrant and resilient communities. It is wrong that we all know people with housing problems or suffering homelessness.

We recognise that tourism is an important part of our economy. However this needs to be balanced with the rights of residents.

“The Scottish Green Party supports regulating second homes and the holiday lets market, using existing powers, to ensure that there is a good mix of housing available for all.

“There is also a clear need for public investment in affordable housing to create the homes



needed to meet local demand, and particularly to keep young people in their community,” our lead candidate Ariane Burgess commented.

## Green tax changes mean richest pay more to fund public services

**Since 2016 Scotland has been able to set our own income tax rates. The Scottish Green MSPs were proud to be the first to make use of this new power, increasing tax for the richest people in society whilst giving those on low incomes a tax cut.**



In the last few years this change has collected hundreds of millions of pounds more for public services, keeping schools, libraries and care services open across Scotland.

While other parties wanted to increase income tax for everyone, or in the case of the Conservatives, cut tax only for the top 15%, the Scottish Greens fought for and won a fairer system where only those who can afford to pay more, do.

**Fairer tax system from Greens supports public services**

# Meaningful land reform

The question of who owns Scotland, and how landowners exercise their power remains an unresolved issue, and one of particular relevance to the highlands.

The recent, and not so recent, history of landownership in the highlands is nothing short of shameful, but in the 21st century landowners



increasingly less likely to be feudal aristocrats, as foreign billionaires, shady investors, and pompous NGOs all carve up our land to pursue their narrow interests at the expense of communities and the environment.

Radical land reform is a hallmark of the Scottish Greens and we believe in a thriving, vibrant, repopulated, and reforested Highlands.

Climate change means the way we use our land will change, but whether that means more tree planting, peat land restoration, or changes to agriculture, we want local people to be in the driving seat - and to be the main beneficiaries.

**Lead Scottish Greens  
candidate, Ariane Burgess**

## Tax dodgers banned from public bailouts, thanks to Greens

**Patrick Harvie MSP, co-leader of the Scottish Greens has changed the law in Scotland,** banning companies based in tax havens like the Cayman Islands from collecting public money through business support schemes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many large corporations operate in Scotland but base themselves in tax havens to avoid paying their fair share here. They starve essential services like the NHS of much needed funding, so the Greens were proud to prevent them from pocketing public money they did not deserve.



**Patrick Harvie  
MSP, Co-leader  
of Scottish Greens**

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