



Final Agenda Autumn Conference 2024

This includes the full text of all motions and amendments that which will be heard at Autumn Conference. It is ordered in accordance with the Standing Orders for General Meetings, and the outcome of the prioritisation ballot which was open to all members. It is also noted which amendments have been automatically accepted by the proposer and seconder as friendly amendments. Aside from a number of friendly amendments which have been accepted, no motions have been composited. No motions or amendments that were submitted have been ruled out of order by the Standing Orders Committee.

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Constitutional Motions

1. Creating a second Clerk role

Preamble:

The role of Clerk is far too onerous for one individual, as demonstrated by our repeated failure to recruit for or retain individuals in the post. Job-shares have proven to be more manageable, allowing the Council and Executive responsibilities to be split between two individuals. This motion formally creates a second Clerk role and leaves responsibility for uploading of minutes with each individual party committee/group.

Submitted on behalf of the Co-chairs of Executive, Co-convenors of Council and Co-convenor of Standing Orders Committee

Full Motion Text:

New: 3.2.9b: One Clerk of the SGP

New 3.3.7d: One Clerk of the SGP

New 3.4.9 All meetings of the SGP Standing Orders Committee must be minuted, and the minutes of each meeting made available to the membership with redactions as appropriate

New 3.5.12 All meetings of the SGP Conduct and Complaints Committee must be minuted, and the minutes of each meeting made available to the membership with redactions as appropriate

New 3.6.3e. That all committee meetings must be minuted, and minutes made available to the membership with redactions as appropriate

New 3.7.12d: Ensuring that copies of the minutes of each meeting are circulated to members with redactions as appropriate

New 3.9.11d: Ensuring that copies of the minutes of each meeting are circulated to members with redactions as appropriate

New 3.10.6: All meetings of SGP Parliamentary or Local Authorities Groups must be minuted, and the minutes of each meeting made available to the membership with redactions as appropriate

New: 3.11.11d. Ensuring that copies of the minutes of each meeting are made available to the membership with redactions as appropriate

New: 4.3.5:

There will be two Clerks of the SGP, responsible for:

- a. Coordinating meetings of SGP Executive and SGP Council;
 - b. Taking, maintaining, circulating, and filing minutes for SGP Council and SGP Executive;
 - c. Ensuring all held minutes are available to members, with redaction where appropriate.
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2. Changing the number of proxy votes one person can have

Preamble:

This motion reduces the number of proxy votes that any individual can hold, from 8 to 4. Accepting and maintaining the possibility of proxy voting, it is also becoming increasingly impractical for one person to vote 9 separate times (8 proxies plus their own) because we are using an online voting system.

Full Motion Text:

4.5.6 Members who cannot attend a General Meeting may delegate their vote to another member who will be in attendance. No member may exercise more than *four* such proxy votes during any single General Meeting.

Changes to the Standing Orders for General Meetings

1. Amendments from the floor

Preamble:

The purpose of this motion is to update and clarify the process for taking amendments 'from the floor' at a GM. Previously, if 10 members objected to an amendment being taken from the floor, it could be prevented, but given the size of the party now, it is considered that this requirement is out of date. The motion therefore increases the threshold to one third of members - which means that twice as many members must agree than those who disagree, for an amendment from the floor to be heard.

Full Motion Text:

Move 6.5 to 3. Amendments to Motions, and Add

3.7 Amendments from the floor

Amendments proposed from the floor of General Meetings will first be put to a vote on whether the amendment should be heard. For an amendment from the floor to be heard by the GM, twice as many members must agree than disagree for it to proceed.

3.7.1 Where agreed by motion proposers and where they do not cause, in the view of SGP Standing Orders Committee, any significant change to the meaning of the motion or amendment, minor textual amendments may be made to a motion or amendment during a debate. These changes should be recorded by the Standing Orders Committee when agreed.

3.7.2 In the case of an EGM called on the minimum timescale, where the timescale precludes amendment in advance, the chair shall allow amendments from the floor in all cases.

1.1 Amendment

Preamble:

EGMs, even more so than AGMs, often have strict time restraints and to accept all amendments from the floor could result in long-running debates on each even when it is clear that the membership does not wish them to be heard. This problem is reinforced by the nature of amendments from the floor not being possible for the Standing Orders Committee or membership being able to see them in advance. Keeping the two-thirds majority check on amendments being heard will help prevent EGMs from being derailed by excessive amendment debates that may be created by a rule setting out that they must all be accepted for debate without exception.

Full Amendment Text:

Delete Section 3.7.2 from the motion.

Note: an amendment was accepted as friendly, which replaced “Where acceptable to members” with “Where agreed by motion proposers”. Moved “in the view of SGP Standing Orders Committee, any significant change to the meaning of the motion or amendment” to follow this clause. And adds to the end of the section “These changes should be recorded by the Standing Orders Committee when agreed.”

2. Preventing entry-ism at EGMs

Preamble:

This motion aims to fill a gap in the standing orders that makes it difficult to prevent those who may have joined the party in bad faith - paying an entry fee only to vote for or against potentially controversial internal decisions and then leaving. Within the last year there were several rightwing commentators who publicly announced they had joined the party only to cast a vote in a General Meeting. We were able to prevent this through a convoluted process that would be made easier by adding in the below to the standing orders - which this motion does.

Full Motion Text:

Adds 5.5 and re-numbers subsequent points accordingly

5.5 Attendance

Attendance shall be open to all SGP members whose memberships began before the date of the Notice of Calling, except when the Standing Orders Committee stipulates that an alternative date is necessary. Such circumstances may include when an issue has been raised and is in the public domain before the date of calling the EGM.

3. Option to Refer Back

Preamble:

At 2023 Conference a motion (not developed by Policy Committee) was submitted then referred back to Policy Committee.

Motions should be referred back to relevant committee or the Proposer/Seconder because Policy Committee are not experts so any resubmitted policy would be led by the Proposer/Seconder.

'the next General Meeting' could be soon after Autumn Conference e.g. 2024 with an EGM in April, so it should refer to future Conferences, allowing at least a year before resubmitting.

We propose changing 'require' to 'request' so it is not mandatory to resubmit.

Full Motion Text:

Add 'the proposer and seconder' after 'shall be referred back' (third sentence)

Change required to requested (third sentence)

Change 'the next GM' to 'a future GM' (third sentence)

Change 'year' to 'GM' (4th/last sentence)

Add '*by agreement*' before '*proposer and seconder*'

Add '*named*' after '*relevant*'

Proposed new text

6.4 Option to 'refer back'

At any point in the debate members may call for a motion to be 'referred back'. This call may be put to a vote at the discretion of the Chair. When a motion is referred back it shall be referred by agreement to the proposer and seconder or a relevant named Committee which is then requested to bring a new motion on that subject to a future GM. A motion which is being debated at GM because it was referred back the previous GM does not have the option of being referred back again.

Note: the additional words 'by agreement' and 'named' have been added and accepted as friendly amendments.

Conference Motions

1. Renewed Call for Gender Affirming Care

Preamble:

Since the release of the Cass Report and the end of the Bute House Agreement, Scotland has seen repeated rollbacks in access to gender affirming care, including an indefinite pause to puberty blockers for under 18 trans patients and the end of self-referrals at Sandyford. The Cass Report has been internationally condemned and was commissioned for NHS England. The Scottish Government has failed to create an alternative. This motion would guide our elected representatives and leaders on practical ways to protect and expand access to gender affirming care in line with the Policy Reference Document.

Full Motion Text:

The Scottish Green Party

1. Recognises that:

1. The Cass Report was commissioned for NHS England, therefore many of its recommendations are inapplicable to structures in NHS Scotland
2. The report has been internationally condemned by medical experts, human rights groups, trans advocacy groups, investigative journalists and scholars, exposing its methodological flaws, exclusion of trans voices, and the historical anti-trans bias of those on its panel
3. The Cass Report has been weaponized by anti-trans voices in politics and the media to justify further marginalisation of trans people, even far outside the original scope of the review

2. Rejects the Cass Report as incompatible with the international medical consensus, the needs of the trans community in Scotland, and Scotland's values as a progressive, inclusive nation.

3. Affirms our commitment to a vision of Scotland as a world leader in gender-affirming care.

4. Calls on elected representatives in Holyrood and City Chambers to take practical steps to advocate for and implement this vision, including but not limited to:

1. work with the National Gender Identity Healthcare Reference Group to ensure the Scottish Government led review of trans healthcare directly involves trans people who have received, are currently receiving, or awaiting to receive gender affirming care
2. Writing to NHS Health Boards and Gender Identity Services to call for continued provision of care where this has been paused.

3. Training and guidance for primary care practitioners in accordance with WPATH in order to desegregate trans healthcare
 4. Commit to bringing waiting times for Gender Identity Services to 12 weeks, funding independent healthcare provision if necessary, until such a time as gender affirming care is accessible via primary care
 5. Actively resist the spread of misinformation regarding trans healthcare through parliamentary questions, motions and the media
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2. Opposition to SSE's plans for Peterhead Power Station

Preamble:

Energy giants, SSE and Equinor, are proposing to expand Peterhead Power Station in Aberdeenshire alongside new carbon capture and storage (CCS) infrastructure, a technology with a history of failure across the world. This would further lock our energy system into expensive and damaging fossil fuels for decades to come. The plant has been Scotland's single biggest polluter from 2018 to 2020 and again in 2022. We must reject this project and advance a real just transition for workers and the community at Peterhead Power Station.

Full Motion Text:

Scottish Green Party (SGP) Conference call on the Scottish government to reject the expansion of Peterhead Power Station. SGP Conference also call on the Scottish government to co-develop, with workers and the wider community, a real just transition plan for Peterhead Power Station. SGP Conference instructs our spokespeople on Climate, Energy, Environment, and Net Zero to press the Scottish government on these calls until such actions are taken.

3. Pressure the UK Government to Ban the Shipping of Russian Liquefied Natural Gas

Preamble:

Putin's Russia is heavily dependent on fossil fuel exports to fund its illegal, imperialist and atrocious invasion of Ukraine. Sanctions have been widely applied against its exports of oil, but much less so against its exports of gas. The UK has banned the import of Russian gas, but many other countries have not. Seapeak, which operates in Glasgow, transports Russian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Siberia to Belgium in its specialist fleet of six powerful ice-breakers (there are only 15 such ships in the world). Without such ships, Russia could not export LNG from Siberia in winter.

Full Motion Text:

This conference calls on the SGP Parliamentary Group to seek an early opportunity, through a Members' Business motion or otherwise, to secure a Holyrood debate on a motion calling on the UK government to expeditiously bring forward legislation banning the shipping or other transport of Russian Liquefied Natural Gas, and the insurance of such shipping or other transport, by any company based or operating in the UK, for as long as the Russian Federation continues to illegally occupy any part of the internationally recognised sovereign territory of Ukraine or any other sovereign state.

4. Support for the Our Republic Campaign

Preamble:

The Our Republic campaign launched in Edinburgh in 2021 and since then has been the leading organisation calling for an elected head of state for Scotland, organising several rallies and hosting political and cultural figures to discuss a more democratic future. The campaign aligns with overall Scottish Green Party Policy and has worked closely with our party's politicians for its events. This motion will commit the party to continued support for the campaign's short- and long-term objectives.

Full Motion Text:

Conference recognises that polling now shows more support for an elected head of state than for the Monarchy in Scotland.

Conference reaffirms that it is Scottish Green Party policy to abolish the Monarchy and establish an elected head of state for Scotland.

Conference recognises the Monarchy continues to enjoy privileges and exemptions from Scottish law not given to any other family in Scotland, undermining the concept of equality under the law.

Conference therefore calls for the Scottish government to act immediately to abolish all exemptions under Scottish Law for the Monarchy and its estates, ensuring that Scottish law applies equally to all in Scotland.

Conference further calls for the Scottish government to open discussions with the Government of the United Kingdom to amend the Scotland Act to abolish the requirement for members of parliament to declare allegiance to the Monarchy before taking their seats to represent their constituents.

Conference further calls for an end to the nepotistic and corrupt system of honours across the UK, including the abolition of the House of Lords, the ending of honours overseen by the Monarchy to be replaced with a new independent honours system,

and the abolition of all noble titles and orders in Scotland to be relegated to history where they belong.

Conference asks that the Scottish Green MSP Group begin working immediately towards these goals.

Policy Motions

1. Make Companies & Directors Liable

Preamble:

Initial change was suggested through Aquaculture working group, with a focus on pollution but agreed it would be better as an overarching statement about companies in general breaking the law/breaching regulations.

Other countries have this in place and there are examples of directors being jailed. To ensure Directors and the Companies cannot continue to operate freely, we propose barring them from public funding and contracts.

To ensure who owns and therefore is legally responsible for companies is transparent, we propose strengthening transparency regulations for companies.

Full Motion Text:

3.10 Transparency, Regulation and Liability

3.10.1.5 Heavy fines should be levied on companies who ~~pollute~~ break the law and these should not be allowed to be passed onto the consumer. CEOs and Directors of companies, or employees who have been negligent knowingly should be held criminally responsible and personally liable for these fines, or face prison time.

3.10.1.6 CEOs and Directors of companies, and the companies who continually flout break the law should be on a register and debarred from holding directorships of companies and companies barred from receiving Scottish Government or any public funding or contracts.

3.10.1.7 We will amend transparency regulations and through Companies House create a centralised, public register of beneficial ownership and directorship with verified information on who ultimately owns or controls these structures with financial penalties for non-compliance.

3.10.1.8 Companies House will be given the power to review and verify all applications to Companies House in advance of a company being registered, ensuring Directors are aware of their proposed roles and verifying information

including names, addresses and whether the company or people involved are not barred as per 3.10.1.6

[renumber current 3.10.1.6 onwards]

Proposed new text

3.10 Transparency, Regulation and Liability

3.10.1.5 Heavy fines should be levied on companies who break the law and these should not be allowed to be passed onto the consumer. CEOs and Directors of companies should be held criminally responsible and personally liable for these fines, or face prison time.

3.10.1.6 CEOs and Directors of companies, and the companies who break the law should be on a register and debarred from holding directorships of companies and companies barred from receiving Scottish Government or any public funding or contracts.

3.10.1.7 We will amend transparency regulations and through Companies House create a centralised, public register of beneficial ownership and Directorship with verified information on who ultimately owns or controls these structures with financial penalties for non-compliance.

3.10.1.8 Companies House will be given the power to review and verify all applications to Companies House in advance of a company being registered, ensuring Directors are aware of their proposed roles and verifying information including names, addresses and whether the company or people involved are not barred as per 3.10.1.6.

Note: 3.10.1.8 has been added and accepted as a friendly amendment, along with the phrase 'and Directorship' to 3.10.1.7.

2. Ensuring standards in new-build homes

Preamble:

There is a widespread problem in the housebuilding industry of poor quality new-build homes being handed over to buyers, who have little or no support in addressing their issues without resort to expensive legal action. There is a culture of speed over quality throughout the industry, with piecework payment to contractors and unrealistic workloads leading to incompetent and negligent work, which is not being properly inspected. Local council planning departments have no power to reject planning proposals on the basis of a record of poor-quality developments and/or environmental damage, meaning there is no motivation for housebuilders to change this culture.

Full Motion Text:

In section 7.3.4.5, insert after “sustainable.”

We will give local council planning departments the legal power to include a record of poor-quality development as part of any assessment (and as a possible reason for refusal) of *future* planning applications from housebuilding companies *on a nationwide basis*. To that end, we will support the urgent creation of a new-build housing ombudsman to define and monitor minimum standards of build quality, customer service and environmental impact. Any member of the public would be free to make a complaint if these standards were not upheld *by housebuilders*, and the ombudsman’s adjudication on these complaints could constitute a material consideration in any planning application by the same company.

Note: Add the word ‘future’ and the phrases ‘on a nationwide basis’ and ‘by housebuilders’ have all been accepted as friendly amendments.

3. Justice

Preamble:

The PRD has had little to say on Justice and the importance of justice issues. This policy motion aims to build the principles for a justice system in a green society, and begin to develop specific policies appropriate to our ability to influence government policy. Our current justice system is on the verge of collapse: it does not keep us and our communities safe, it is slow to respond, it actively creates opportunities for organised crime, and it does little to rehabilitate offenders. We can do so much better. This motion sets out some of how we might do that.

Full Motion Text:

Remove section 10.6 and renumber section 10 accordingly.

Create a new Section 11, called Justice, and renumber sections accordingly.

Insert:

11.1 General Principles

11.1.1 Scottish Greens believe that:

a) Definitions of crime are made by states, and inevitably reflect dominant prejudices, inequalities and imbalances of power. Behaviours of carried out by the relatively powerless which do not cause serious harm are frequently designated as crime, whereas serious harms perpetuated by the powerful, including elites, states and corporations are often not characterised as criminal.

b) Violence and serious harms designated as crime are predominantly products of

oppression, inequality and other patriarchal structures in our society. They are consequences of intersecting inequalities and a direct result of imbalances of power. They are not inevitable.

c) Given ~~this~~ 11.1.b, violence and serious harm cannot be adequately addressed solely in terms of criminal justice and policing policy.

d) Violence against the person is of a different quality, and generally more serious than, violence against property. Similarly, violence against nature and our life support systems is of a different quality, and generally more serious than violence against property. Our justice system must reflect these different qualities in its approach to different types of violence. It should be based on supporting the commons, rather than being based on the protection of private property.

e) Violence, whether or not defined as crime, can include physical, emotional, cultural and economic harms. It can also include coercion.

f) Crime reduction should focus on the social causes of crime, including social policies that will lessen the social pressures (such as poverty, inequality, addiction) to commit crime. Prevention of violence and crime produces better outcomes for individuals, families and communities, and early intervention and education are crucial components of this.

g) Equality in front of the law and access to justice are fundamental to our democracy.

h) The lives and liberties of individuals, groups and society as a whole must be protected within a law-based system that strives for justice, including social, economic and environmental justice, and fairness. We therefore believe that it is necessary for society to define certain forms of behaviour as crimes, but that such designation should be limited to that which is essential to prevent and redress serious harm.

i) Criminal justice needs to be a product of a living, democratic community. The institutions of justice including policing should be community-based. They should provide maximum potential for public participation and accountability. There must be clear and accessible structures and procedures for the independent monitoring and processing of complaints against different parts of the justice system.

j) There is no place for capital or corporal punishment in a criminal justice system that is compassionate, just and respectful of human rights. No country or state should retain the death penalty or corporal punishment in its criminal justice system. The Scottish Green Party advocates the abolition of the death penalty in all countries and will use its influence in support of instruments and campaigns at national and international level which seek its global abolition.

k) The principle and practice of restorative justice should be supported in any compassionate justice system. This will include a central focus on the needs of the harmed, a recognition of responsibility by the harmer, an appropriate process of dialogue, where possible involving the wider community, and an outcome including

appropriate amends or repair.

l) Restorative justice recognises the need not only to ensure that the amount and nature of reparation be appropriate to the harm suffered, but also that it is within the capacity of the offender to make it. This means that any shortfall will be met by other means, including public resources.

m) Access to justice must never be dependent on the ability to pay for it. The Scottish Green Party will enable wider access to affordable legal advice and representation including increased eligibility for and provision of legal aid.

n) Corporate crime and state crime are significant issues and should be treated much more seriously than in the current dispensation.

11.1.2 Our justice system should:

a) Seek to redress and provide remedy for violations of rights and abuses of power to support a fair, equal, safe, secure and well society.

b) Be based on a care ethic, with holistic approaches that understand the cross-societal functions and structures that contribute to that fair, equal, safe, secure and well society.

c) Provide support and care to victims/survivors of violence, abuse and unhealthy environments.

d) Provide safe, confidential and non-judgemental space for the sharing of stories and experiences.

e) Correct imbalances of power and power inequalities that exist in our society as a result of gender, race, employment status, wealth and other issues that so often cause division.

f) Address environmental crimes and injustices, from global climate change to local habitat or species destruction.

g) Address corporate and state crime.

h) Act in the interests of fairness, without bias or prejudice, being mindful of the systemic and structural inequalities that often protect the interests of the powerful and the elites.

i) Seek to reduce the levels of harm perpetrated by some individuals against others, against the community, against other species or against the environment, with the emphasis on persuading and enabling rather than coercion.

j) Demonstrate clearly and constructively to offenders and other members of the community that acts of serious harm are unacceptable.

k) Require reparation for crimes committed, rather than retribution, recognising

where punishment is and is not appropriate.

l) Intervene as minimally as the seriousness of the offence and the circumstance will allow.

11.1.3 Our approach to criminal justice is therefore to seek to both reduce harm and to respond effectively to behaviour that causes it. We will focus on crime prevention, reducing the social pressures that may be conducive to crime, and on rehabilitation and restorative justice that is not restricted or complicated by incompatible or conflicting considerations of crime prevention or general deterrence.

11.1.4 All of the agencies of our justice system will be oriented towards crime reduction and responding in ways that focus on societal and environmental protection and uphold human rights and dignity.

11.2 Definitions

11.2.1 The term “crime” covers many different categories and types of acts or omission. The crimes with which we are most concerned threaten or cause harm to individuals, groups, the community, other species or the environment.

11.2.2 Crimes arise from a combination of individual and social factors, so are related to the sort of society we create and the quality of life experienced by people and their communities. Our policies, therefore, are oriented towards improving the quality, as opposed to simply the material wealth of our society, and ensuring a just distribution of that wealth and quality of life.

11.2.3 Crimes are currently defined by legislation that gives the courts power to impose sanctions, including detention, on people convicted of committing them. This approach confuses the principles of deterrence, punishment, compensation and rehabilitation. This often results in an imbalance in favour of punishment and deterrence, for which there is limited evidence of success in terms of harm reduction.

11.2.4 The Scottish Green Party therefore prioritises policies that focus on rehabilitation and compensation, seeking to reduce long- as well as short-term risks to individuals, society, and the environment.

11.2.5 The term “offender” is used to refer to people and organisations who commit crimes. The majority of offenders identified by the current justice system are so classified because of acts relating to property and/or because of their class, race or other characteristic. We believe that this means that violence against society or the environment, and corporate crime, are often not treated with appropriate levels of seriousness.

11.2.6 The Scottish Green Party therefore prioritises the identification of crimes based on the harms caused to individuals, society and the environment, rather than property.

11.3 Reducing the threat of crime

11.3.1 Scottish Green Party policies across a range of areas, from education and healthcare to culture and leisure and community development should all contribute to reduce both the real threat and the fear of crime. They will also contribute to social crime prevention, that is the reduction of social pressures that may be conducive to crime.

11.3.2 High quality and well-maintained community facilities and open spaces, measures to tackle poverty and support those with addiction issues, and measures to foster good community relations should be seen as the responsibility of all public and civic agencies. We will support and maintain education that promotes the development of communication, cooperation and problem-solving skills.

11.3.3 Approaches like the “war on drugs” and the hostile environment for immigrants create opportunities for crime, particularly organised crime. There are many reasons why these approaches should be abolished, including their role in facilitating and supporting criminal enterprise.

11.3.4 Policies which prioritise public health rather than criminalisation are both more effective in tackling problem behaviours and more appropriate in meeting the holistic needs of individuals and communities.

11.4 Institutions of Justice

11.4.1 The Ministry of Justice will take responsibility for the administration and funding of the civil and criminal law systems, for legal aid, the courts, their procedures and for implementing law reform.

11.4.2 The Lord Advocate will be the principal legal enforcement officer in Scotland and will concentrate on the provision of legal advice to the Scottish Parliament and the prosecution of crime. We favour a move away from the title “Lord Advocate”, which is sexist and hierarchical.

11.4.3 In addition to police, courts and prison systems, the Scottish Green Party believes that victim/survivor and witness support schemes, Women’s Aid, Rape Crisis Centres, Bairns Hoose facilities, mediation centres and schemes to support people who suffer attacks or victimisation because of their race, gender identity or any other social characteristic, should be seen as integral to our justice system, and therefore should be publicly funded while enabled to retain governance and operational independence from the state.

11.4.4 All agencies of the justice system must embed trauma-informed systems and practices throughout their operations and provide for the ongoing training and education for all personnel on trauma and anti-discrimination to ensure human rights and equalities are protected at all times.

11.5 The Justice Process

11.5.1 Our first response to a crime must be to offer support and services to victims/survivors and witnesses. *Part of the service to victims is to robustly record trauma at the start so they can start healing without having to live with the trauma for*

years. Where appropriate, this will include acknowledgement and documentation of trauma in order that the process of recovery need not be delayed by legal processes, and to minimise the need for the victims/survivors to have to repeatedly tell their stories and therefore possibly be repeatedly re-traumatised.

11.5.2 The Scottish Greens support the provision of high-quality rehabilitation and therapy facilities in local communities and will provide adequate funding for agencies working for reparative and restorative justice. We will set up local mediation and dispute-resolution centres and accept reparation in place of punishment where appropriate.

11.5.3 All accused who admit the offence or are convicted will immediately be provided with an opportunity to offer reparation to the victims/survivors. Mediation or restorative justice services would convey such offers to victims/survivors, in liaison with victim/survivor support services, and negotiate between the parties, on the basis of mutual consent of all parties.

11.5.4 Where offences have no identifiable victim, or where the victim/survivor does not wish to take part, offenders may still be offered the opportunity for mediation or restorative justice processes, but in this case with community representatives or with victims/survivors of similar but unresolved crimes.

11.5.5 Reparation can take various forms:

- a) directly to the victim/survivor, if they wish for this;
- b) in service or payment to the community;
- c) the offender participating in a programme that would encourage them to avoid re-offending (vocational training, counselling, therapy, problem solving and other ways of overcoming disadvantage, for example); or
- d) ~~or it might be~~ as a combination of these different forms.

11.5.6 Where a crime has a transphobic, homophobic, or racist element or targets people due to a disability or faith or other protected characteristic, the offender ~~should be given specific training~~ participate in specific programmes to encourage them to review their attitudes.

11.5.7 For less serious crimes that have little effect except on those personally involved, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) will use its discretion not to prosecute if adequate compensation has been agreed, or to suspend prosecution conditionally on the offenders carrying out agreed reparation.

11.5.8 For serious offences where the offender is regarded as a danger to society, or others are affected (for example because they fear they may become the next victims), a personal settlement is not enough. Such serious offences require full and accountable consideration by courts, normally by way of public prosecution.

11.5.9 Where the offender has pleaded guilty or is found to be guilty, the court will:

- a) review any reparation already made and decide whether more is required in view of the seriousness of the offence;

- b) consider any other suitable non-custodial options, e.g. probation or assistance with relocation;
- c) offer to arrange treatment or counselling; or
- d) where the offender's past behaviour or the offence is so serious as to indicate a grave danger to society, and there is a serious risk of repetition, order restrictions or detention.

11.5.10 In the case of property crimes where the victims cannot afford insurance, and where the offender(s) has not the means to make full financial reparation, or where no offender has been convicted, compensation from a publicly funded safety-net compensation scheme (such as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme or an alternative) will be awarded to the victims/survivors.

11.6 Detention, Prisons and Prisoners

11.6.1 The Scottish Green Party believes that current prisons are not safe places. They are places of violence, heightened levels of suicide, and substance abuse. This impedes genuine rehabilitation, restoration and the prevention of reoffending. Scottish Greens support the abolition of the current prison system.

11.6.2 Detention should always be seen as the last resort. Our justice system will have a presumption against prisons and detention. When it is deemed necessary, its purpose is not to punish, humiliate or degrade an offender, but to protect society and the offender themselves, while maintaining their dignity and human rights. Those in detention, therefore, must still have the right to vote, the right to access healthcare and education, and the right to a family life, for example.

11.6.3 Social integration and reintegration of offenders must be a priority, not outlawing, stigmatising or marginalising them.

11.6.4 The families of those detained must not face hardship or constraints as a result of the detention. They should be supported to maintain good relationships with those in detention.

11.6.5 To ensure accountability, no places of detention will have Crown immunity.

11.6.6 The court martial system will be brought into line with civil justice to ensure human rights are observed.

11.7 Sentencing

11.7.1 Too many people are currently imprisoned at great cost to their future rehabilitation, as well as to their families, public finances and society in general. The Scottish Green Party is committed to significantly reducing the prison population and will reform sentencing policy and practice to ensure a focus on:

- a) ensuring reparation to the victim/survivor or the community
- b) persuading and enabling the offender to become a law-abiding member of the community.

11.7.2 Reparation of whatever nature agreed or ordered would in the first place seek to reflect the actual financial and other losses and the pain, injury and inconvenience suffered by the victim/survivor. Then the offender's ability to pay and perform the reparation would be taken into account.

11.7.3 Reparation successfully completed before sentencing by the court in a serious case will be taken into account in determining the sentence. Any reductions in sentence should take into account the impact of the reparation on the offender. We must avoid the wealthy being able to buy lesser sentences, so any reparation should have a basis on the resources of the offender as well as the offence. Mediation between victim/survivor and offender will be a voluntary process.

11.7.4 People facing particular challenges, including as a result of traumatic experiences, will benefit from sufficient community support to reduce the likelihood of their offending. Their greatest needs are not for penal measures but for stable and caring families, decent accommodation and community medical ~~(including psychiatric)~~ provision of services and resources to develop and maintain their wellbeing.

11.7.5 Sentencing practice would be constantly monitored to reveal:

- a) whether it is being effective in ensuring reparation for the victim/survivor
- b) whether offenders are required to make reparation
- c) whether it is delivered in a non-discriminatory way as between different ethnic, gender and other social groups
- d) the extent to which it contributes to a reduction in crime.

11.8 Immediate prison reforms

11.8.1 There will be an immediate reduction in the use of custodial sentencing and an end to prison building.

11.8.2 The physical and social standards of prisoners will be improved so that as far as possible the only limitation on the dignity of their lives will be the denial of freedom of movement outside the prison. Prisoners should have their own room and should enjoy extended facilities for communication and association with family and friends including unsupervised visits. They should, as far as possible, be detained near their family and home community.

11.8.3 Evidence shows that incarceration is particularly damaging for the health and wellbeing of women. The only women who should be in custody are those very few who present a very real and dangerous threat to the public and who cannot be better supported, safely, in another way. Community solutions for women must be prioritised, and more supported accommodation will be provided for women on release to break the cycle of repeat offending and custody. Pregnant people and those caring for young children should not be incarcerated.

11.8.4 Prisoners should have access to meaningful activities: real and appropriately remunerated work, education, and artistic/creative facilities. All prisoners should be given the opportunity to attain levels of literacy sufficient to allow them to participate

effectively in society.

11.8.5 Prisoners will be offered counselling and appropriate assistance to overcome difficulties which have contributed to their offences and reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

11.8.6 Young people under the age of 18 will not be kept in custody. Social services and social work should provide suitable community support and accommodation.

11.8.7 There will be adequate facilities and a suitable environment to allow a young child to stay or live with their parent or guardian in custody ~~when this is considered to be~~ if this is in the best interests of the child.

11.9 Environmental Crime

11.9.1 The Scottish Green Party believes that crimes or acts of violence against our life support systems, other species and habitats must be taken seriously by all agencies within our justice system.

11.9.2 We will establish an Environmental Court to ensure full compliance with the Aarhus Convention, and to address gaps in environmental governance in Scotland and the loss of access to the determination of the European Court of Justice.

11.9.3 We will ensure strong legal provision for the identification and prosecution of ecocide and other crimes that threaten our life support systems, including enforcement powers, from reparations to detention, for actions that contribute to climate breakdown and the destruction of biodiversity.

11.9.4 We will ensure that communities and individuals have a strong legal base from which to access environmental justice in line with the Aarhus Convention, and including community-based and regional forums for the settlement of environmental disputes and for preventing environmental harm by means of binding agreements.

11.10 Civil Liberties

11.10.1 The Scottish Greens will introduce and support a Bill of Rights to safeguard our civil liberties incorporating the National Council for Civil Liberties' Charter for Civil Liberties.

11.10.2 The Scottish Greens supports robust Freedom of Information legislation to ensure access to all access to all information collected at public expense, to all decisions and discussions made in the name of the people, whether by government or Parliament, or any parliamentary committee, or in or by any government or quasi-government body or representative agency. It will also ensure access to any information relating to an individual personally, whether held by government or a quasi-governmental agency, a military agency, a police force or any private individual or organisation. Where the state wishes to withhold information on the grounds of national security, it must make known the subject matter of that information, the party authorising restriction of access, and the reason for that decision.

11.10.3 Ban on Facial Recognition Software

a) As facial recognition software is increasingly used by law enforcement and private enterprise, little or no consideration is being made to the security and limitation of the use of private information captured by these technologies. There is currently no way to limit the threat these technologies pose to our privacy and data security, and the storage of information captured by it cannot be trusted to be kept from abuse by state and private interests.

b) Facial recognition software presents a present and future threat to the right to privacy and the possibility of abuse by authorities taking advantage of such surveillance technologies. This kind of software is by nature shaped by the biases of its authors and flawed by its early adaptation state, which undermines its claimed legitimate usages. The threat posed cannot be sufficiently mitigated in a way that prevents the weaponisation of these technologies by corporations or state authorities in future, and as such must be considered with the precautionary principle.

c) The Scottish Green Party will legislate for a ban on facial recognition software being implemented with mass surveillance cameras, such as CCTV or portable recording devices, in public spaces or private businesses. This ban will apply to technology used by public bodies and corporations. Personal devices will be permitted to continue to use this software where it is clearly intended for personal use and appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent the sharing of personal data beyond individual devices.

d) We will ensure that consent is required before identification can be used on an individual. The individual will have the right to have any data associated with their identification deleted at any time.

11.11 Building support for justice reform

11.11.1 Justice reform is a contentious area where the solutions to problems often receive little attention, while counterproductive punitive approaches are favoured. We cannot achieve our policy aims without building support for alternatives. Citizens' Assemblies have been used to build support for other policy areas like this. We therefore support the commissioning of a series of Citizens' Assemblies to test ideas for justice reform and to allow the public to understand the costs (including social and environmental) of the current system.

Note: several minor technical amendments have been made, along with more substantive wording changes highlighted in the text above, and the addition of 11.3.4. All of which has been accepted as friendly and technical amendments to this motion.

4. Public Transport Accessibility & Rail Policy

Preamble:

Proposals have been available on the Forum and developed through Forum comments, working group and Policy Week discussions. The proposals on accessibility aim to strengthen some sections from support or advocate to regulate, improve public transport accessibility and add specific consultation with users. The rail proposals remove some duplication, remove reference to out-dated projects e.g. HS2, clarify priorities as well as new clauses to improve safety for passengers. The aim is to have clear policy for elected reps and candidates for future elections.

Full Motion Text:

Propose renumber from 5.1.1.1 onwards. Renumber throughout as clauses added/moved/deleted.

In section 5.1

5.1.1 iii) Insert 'and those at risk of experiencing crime (see Justice Section TBC)'

5.1.1 iii) Delete 'road users'

5.1.1 insert new clause v)

5.1.2 insert 'air travel' after 'private cars'

Proposed new text

5.1 Aims

5.1.1 The aims of our transport policy are:

- i) to move towards a carbon-free, sustainable future;
- ii) to improve public health and wellbeing, including through the reduction of air pollution;
- iii) to improve safety, especially for the most vulnerable and those at risk of experiencing crime;
- iv) to encourage the social and economic development of local communities;
- v) to ensure the system is inclusive and accessible for all marginalised groups in society.

5.1.2 We want to see a socially equitable and environmentally sustainable transport system for Scotland that prioritises active travel (walking, cycling, and other active mobility modes), then public transport, commercial traffic and business travel and finally private cars and air travel. This will be accounted for within the planning system, encouraging measures which bring jobs (including through use of technology and flexible working patterns) and amenities closer to where people live,

especially in rural areas.

In section 5.4

5.4.1 Amend 'advocate as basic principle' to 'will regulate so public'

5.4.1 insert 'and related infrastructure' after 'transport provision'

5.4.2 insert new clause on oversight body, see full text below

5.4.3 replace 'advocate for' with 'support'

5.4.4 insert 'asylum seekers' to list of people requiring subsidised travel

Insert new clauses 5.4.6, 5.4.7 and 5.4.8

Proposed new text

5.4 Social Inclusion

5.4.1 We will regulate so public transport provision and related infrastructure must meet the requirements of people with particular needs (for example children and those looking after them, disabled and elderly people) and give them equal priority in all aspects of transport provision.

5.4.2 We will introduce an independent oversight body (with the requirement to consult on their priorities) to monitor and enforce compliance with accessibility regulations, who will actively engage with public transport users and relevant advocacy groups to address concerns.

5.4.1.3 We support fare-free access to public transport.

5.4.1.5 Until this is achieved, we will support calls for subsidised travel for all those who require it, such as but not limited to those who are elderly, disabled, carers, unemployed, children & young people, asylum seekers, those in full time education or on low incomes. This subsidy must be at least a 50% reduction on standard fares.

5.4.1.6 School travel via public transport should be free, including for those accompanying children under 11.

5.4.1.7 We support schemes which allow young people, disabled people, and those on low incomes to own cycles at low or zero cost.

5.4.1.8 We support initiatives and measures to improve safety for vulnerable groups accessing public transport

5.4.1.9 We support level boarding at all train stations to enhance accessibility.

~~5.4.1.10 We will introduce a legal requirement for all transport projects to have an Equality Impact Assessment.~~

In section 5.5

5.5.2 insert 'involving representatives of marginalised communities, in decision-making'

Proposed new text

5.5.1.2 There must be extensive public consultation on all significant transport developments and strategies involving representatives of marginalised communities, in decision-making.

In section 5.7

Split 5.7.1 into 2 clauses

5.7.2 insert 'such' after 'enabling and before 'transport'

Delete clauses 5.7.1.3-5.7.1.6

Combine current 5.7.1.9 with new 5.7.4 and delete 'urban' from 1st line

Add to 5.7.4 'We will bring all rail, bus and publicly contracted ferry routes fully into public ownership'

5.7.5 Replace 'while supporting new electrified' with 'We support an electrified'

5.7.5 delete 'and powered by electricity from renewable resources'

Split 5.7.5 into 2 clauses

5.7.7 delete 'will plan for full integration with HS2 services and we'

5.7.7 delete 'higher speed' after 'new' and before 'rail'

5.7.8 delete 'use' after 'energy'

5.7.8 insert 'we will work to make' after 'lifestyle'

5.7.8 delete 'must be' before 'as seamless'

5.7.8 insert 'between trains and all other modes of public transport' at end

5.7.9 insert 'form of' after 'introduce a'

5.7.9 delete capitalised letters on Smart Integrated Travel Card

5.7.9 delete 'matching the railway' at end

5.7.10 delete 'also' after 'will' before 'introduce'

5.7.11 insert 'devices' after 'micromobility'

5.7.12 insert 'suitable' after 'to all' and before 'railways'

5.7.12 amend 'railways' to 'railway'

5.7.12 insert 'lines in Scotland'

5.7.12 delete 'between Scotland's urban centres'

5.7.13 delete 'electrification' after 'bridges,' and before 'and increased'

5.7.14 Insert new clause 'We support bringing rolling stock into public ownership through the most cost-effective means'

5.7.14 Delete 'Assuming plentiful supplies of renewable electricity, we propose railway electrification where practicable.'

5.7.21 insert new clause on safety critical staff onboard trains

Proposed new text

5.7 Public Transport

5.7.1 We will encourage modal shift from cars to public transport by investing ambitiously to improve the frequency, reliability and coverage of our train, bus and rapid transport networks.

5.7.2 We will heavily invest in public transport, aiming to increase the frequency of most buses and trains in urban areas to every 15 minutes or better, enabling such transport to be used as a turn-up-and-go service.

5.7.3 The Scottish Green Party would introduce new regulating powers to ensure that public transport services – buses, coaches, trains, trams, ferries, and planes provide excellent quality and frequency of services and full co-ordination of routes and timetables, both nationally and locally. This will also require a greatly improved national network of convenient, accessible and strategically located transport interchanges.

5.7.4 We will bring all rail, bus and publicly contracted ferry routes fully into public ownership.

5.7.5 We support bringing rolling stock into public ownership through the most cost-effective means.

5.7.6 We will promote light rail services where they can be shown by cost-benefit analysis to be beneficial, connecting underserved places to the network, and new bus lanes to increase bus speeds and reliability. For large cities, we will aim to create S-bahn style suburban train networks (akin to Crossrail in London or the low-level platform services in Glasgow), ideally segregated from long distance services, with turn-up-and-go frequencies.

5.7.7 We support an electrified high-speed rail line between Scotland and London, connecting directly to the cross-channel rail link.

5.7.8 We will prioritise improvements to our existing network by measures such as extending electrification to those lines in Scotland which are not already electrified, opening up new lines, and moving more freight to rail.

5.7.9 We support building new rail lines in places where existing lines are congested, thereby freeing capacity on the existing network for more local and freight trains.

5.7.10 To encourage mass adoption of a low energy, car-free lifestyle, we will work to make public transport as seamless to use as a car. To do this we will oblige all operators to work within a coherent and integrated national transport system in which multi-modal journeys are easy to plan, inexpensive and convenient, accomplished through a fully integrated ticketing system and well-timed connections between trains and all other modes of public transport.

5.7.11 We will introduce a form of smart integrated travel card, covering all public transport in Scotland, and look to bring other transport operators back into public ownership.

5.7.12 We will introduce an Austria-style Climate ticket; that is a yearly ticket that allows unlimited travel on all public transport in the country.

5.7.13 We will require all public transport operating companies to provide ample secure storage for cycles and other micromobility devices next to all stops and

stations.

5.7.14 We are committed to the dualling and electrification of all suitable railway lines in Scotland.

5.7.15 We will also prioritise improvements to the speed and efficiency of existing rail services (and continue to oppose the construction of unnecessary motorways) as a means of promoting economic decentralisation. The Scottish Green Party commits to rolling improvements to the railways through the strengthening of bridges, and increased line speeds to an average of seventy miles per hour.

5.7.16 We support the provision of ferry services to all Scottish island communities at road equivalent tariff and will work towards establishing a more fuel-efficient fleet.

5.7.17 With particular reference to Council-owned and operated ferries, the Scottish Government should provide sufficient annual resources through Transport Scotland budgets which will enable Islands Councils which require ferry service funding from the Scottish Government to operate their internal ferries at no net detriment to their annual revenue settlement.

5.7.18 The Long-Term Plan for Vessels and Ports on the Clyde & Hebrides and Northern Isles networks (2023 – 2045) should be used as a framework for the replacement of ageing public ferries and infrastructure, recognising that some fleets must be replaced in total at pace. As part of this replacement programme, and to speed up both the rate of replacement and the use of green energy in those replacement vessels, local authorities should be encouraged and enabled to borrow capital if they so wish through the appropriate financial bodies from the Scottish and UK Governments, or other sources. This borrowing requirement would be facilitated by annual repayments made in full by the Scottish Government on any capital borrowed specifically for vessel replacement and any associated port infrastructure.

5.7.19 We support the maintenance of good air links to remote island communities.

5.7.20 We would promote the better use of ferries and railways for international transport links.

5.7.21 We will extend any existing discount and concessionary travel schemes to community transport providers.

5.7.22 We will ensure all passenger rail services run with a second safety-critical member of staff (Train Guard) on board for the purposes of passenger safety, ensuring accessibility and protecting the train in the event of emergency.

In Section 5.8

Split 5.8.1 into 2 clauses

5.8.1 replace 'encourage' with 'prioritise moving'

5.8.1 replace 'and' with 'with'

5.8.1 insert 'and through' after 'green freight'

- 5.8.1 insert 'and urban' after 'rural'
- 5.8.1 delete 'is crucial...'
- 5.8.2 delete 'also' after 'we will'
- 5.8.2 insert 'passing loops' after 'rail bypasses'
- 5.8.2 amend 'need' to 'needs'
- 5.8.2 replace 'to enable' with 'to increase rail capacity and allow for'
- 5.8.2 delete 'with the added benefit of improving passenger journey time'
- 5.8.3 insert 'high speed lines and faster trains' at end
- 5.8.3 replace '*last mile delivery*' to '*final delivery*'
- 5.8.4 insert 'We will create freight train terminals in urban areas'
- 5.8.4 delete 'could be an important part of the solution in urban areas.'
- 5.8.8 insert 'through planning criteria and regulations' at end
- 5.8.9 replace 'bulky' with 'overseas'
- 5.8.9 insert 'ferries' after 'boats'
- 5.8.10 replace current (5.8.1.7) with new clause

Proposed new text

5.8 Freight

5.8.1 We will prioritise moving freight back onto rail with initiatives such as “green freight” and through significant investment in rural and urban rail development.

5.8.2 We will invest in dualling railways and creating rail bypasses *and passing loops* where needs be, *to increase rail capacity and allow for* more freight trains to be run.

5.8.3 We will fund adoption of new technology that can improve rail freight efficiency, such as containers that can be easily transferred to lorries for *final delivery journeys, high speed lines and faster trains*.

5.8.4 We will create freight train terminals in urban areas, combining rail freight with local cycle delivery.

5.8.5 We will progressively decrease the maximum permissible size and weight of lorries on our roads.

5.8.8 In vehicle excise duty rates, we will end the cross-subsidy of larger vehicles by smaller ones.

5.8.7 We support the 'Eurovignette' scheme.

5.8.8 We will encourage new industries to locate near rail and water-based freight facilities *through planning criteria and regulations*.

5.8.9 We will encourage the transfer of *overseas* freight onto ships, *ferries* and boats.

5.8.10 We will commit to introducing funding for mode shift to incentivise switching from road to rail haulage.

In Section 5.10

5.10.1.6 delete 'prioritising urban and main lines. Rail freight will also be prioritised for electrification'

5.10.1.6 replace 'on very rural lines' with 'where not technically feasible'

5.10.1.6 replace 'the feasibility of using either battery or hydrogen-based vehicles, as an alternative to full electrification' with 'alternative renewable sources'.

Proposed New Text

5.9.1.6 We will regulate to ensure motorway and other roadside service stations have disabled access facilities.

Proposed new text

5.10 Transport – Fuel

5.10.1.6 We will continue the electrification of Scotland's railways and bus fleet. Where not technically feasible, we will investigate alternative renewable sources.

Note: 5.9.1.6 has been added, 5.7.4 has been moved and 5.4.1.9. has been deleted. All of which has accepted as a friendly amendment.

5. Ban Imitation Plant Plastics

Preamble:

There is abundant research regarding microplastics in the environment. The Society of Garden Designers has a "Say 'no' to plastic grass and plants" campaign, and the Royal Horticultural Society has banned fake grass since 2022. New research from Stirling University this year links the rubber infill crumb used in artificial plastic pitches to cancer. The Scottish Premier League has now joined the growing consensus and moved to ban artificial pitches for health and environmental reasons. This follows the EU. This clearly indicates now is the time to make the promise in Scotland to ban these imitation plant plastics.

Full Motion Text:

8.12.2.2 We will introduce measures to reduce the amount of plastic in circulation. These will include a phasing out of unnecessary single use plastics and a ban on distribution of plastic bags by retailers, and a nationwide programme to encourage provision and use of free drinking water supplies in public places and workplaces we will phase out and ban all imitation plastic plants, lawns and artificial pitches.

8.12.2.3 We will implement a phased approach to banning artificial grass and plastic

plants in public spaces, workspaces, and private gardens. This will include:

Artificial Grass: We will phase out and prohibit the use of artificial grass in public areas such as schools, sports fields, and parks. We will also encourage and support householders in replacing astroturf with environmentally friendly alternatives.

Plastic Plants: We will ban the use of plastic plants in public spaces and workplaces, with the long-term aim of prohibiting all new sales of these items.

Rubber Crumb Sports Surfaces: In response to growing concerns about the health risks posed by rubber crumb materials in sports pitches and play areas, we will ban new installations of these surfaces. We will also provide resources to local authorities to facilitate the transition to non-toxic alternatives.

This phased ban will contribute to improving public health and reducing environmental harm, while encouraging more sustainable and natural solutions.

Note: all of 8.12.2.3 has been added and accepted as a friendly amendment.

6. Animals in Science

Preamble:

Section 9.8 of PRD doesn't describe the ethical basis of the policy. Some scientific techniques that may cause harm are specified, which could be interpreted to mean we are not concerned about other types of research involving or affecting animals, and that we are not concerned about regulation in any way other than abolition. It doesn't address the welfare of animals affected directly or indirectly, nor does it mention species of conservation concern, where research may be necessary.

The topic was discussed during Policy Week, following which a draft motion was developed and posted in the Motions Forum in July.

Full Motion Text:

Delete Section 9.8 and replace with:

9.8 We recognise that all animals are complex living systems that evolved in nature; that they have their own inherent value independently of human interests; and that respect, care and compassion should guide all human interactions with them.

9.8.1 All scientific research that may affect animals should be demonstrably designed and carried out within an ethical framework that can justify actions in terms of benefit and harm to all animals, not just humans.

9.8.2 We recognize that many animal species and populations are of conservation concern.

9.8.2.1. We support the policy of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which says, “all research on or affecting a threatened species carries a moral responsibility for the preservation or enhancement of the survival of that species”.

9.8.2.2. No animals should be used in science without an informed and transparent examination of how potential impacts (direct and indirect) on wild populations are to be prevented.

9.8.2.3. A valid justification for scientific use of an animal could be the expectation that there will be benefits for the well-being and/or conservation of other members of its species.

9.8.3 The use of animals in science (meaning all forms of study regardless of purpose, protocol, procedure or potential application in any sector of human enterprise) will be regulated.

9.8.3.1. We will enhance the system of regulation to ensure that actions that may result in harm to animals are always subject to ethical supervision to promote animal welfare, minimise harm and to seek alternatives that reduce the involvement of animals.

9.8.3.2. We will ensure that scientific techniques with significant potential to cause harm to people, animals and/or nature are proactively identified and regulated in a precautionary way to avoid such risks entirely, or (subject to justification) to keep them to a low minimum. Examples may include cloning, genetic engineering and xenotransplantation.

9.8.3.3. We will maintain international best practice in the replacement, reduction and refinement of use of animals in research (~~where refinement refers to being justified by research design and practice~~ to maximise the efficiency with which individual animals are used to generate reliable results with minimal impact on the animal's well-being).

9.8.4 We will encourage the development of scientific methods that avoid or minimise the use of animals.

Note: the deletion of the words ‘where refinement refers to being justified by research design and practice’ has been accepted as a friendly amendment.

7. Peace With Nature in a Written Constitution for Scotland

Preamble:

Supported by the Edinburgh Branch, this calls on Greens to affirm that: (1) principles of ecological sustainability outweigh legal codes, (2) laws violating these principles generate a 'war' with nature deadly to all life and condemned by the UN, and (3) ways to overturn such laws are needed. Our Constitution should therefore declare Peace with Nature and establish a Constitutional Court for Ecological Protection as a final court of appeal against harmful laws and practices. This would accord with

global priorities, build on global efforts to ban ecocide and grant rights to nature, and offer leadership and inspiration to others.

Full Motion Text:

Adds the following new Section 10.1.2.4 (and renumber Section 10.1.2.4 to new number 10.1.2.11):

In the development of these documents, consistent with our philosophy laid out in Section 2.2 and with the goal of securely founding a sustainable way of life for humankind well before the end of the present century, we will make the case for a constitutional article with the following effect:

- To declare Peace with Nature with the aim of helping to restore and maintain mutually supportive relations between humankind and nature.
- To establish a Constitutional Court for Ecological Protection ('EcoCourt'), comprising judges with adequate training in ecology, as a final court of appeal against laws and practices that have the potential to stress or harm Earth systems beyond their safe limits or tolerances.
- To ensure that the EcoCourt has sufficient staff and other capacity (1) to review potential cases and select those for detailed hearings, (2) to obtain and consider evidence on laws, regulations, precedents or practices where human interests and ecological reality may conflict, and (3) to hold detailed hearings on a meaningful number of cases annually.
- To confirm that potential cases may be reviewed by the EcoCourt (1) at the request of the Scottish Environmental Court and other courts within Scotland, or (2) in response to a public petition bearing at least one thousand signatures of voters registered in Scotland.
- To assert that no law or regulation issued by any branch of government or precedent established in other courts shall have effect if it conflicts with the principles of ecological sustainability as ruled by the EcoCourt.
- To cooperate with other peoples, nations and countries that are of like mind in restoring and maintaining Peace with Nature."

Adds the following to 10.6.1.6 (or the corresponding point in this section if it is re-numbered): 'Which is separate from the Constitutional Court for Ecological Protection ('EcoCourt')'

Note: the change to 10.6.1.6 has been added and accepted as a friendly amendment.

8. Scotland must keep The Promise to the Care Experienced Community

Preamble:

The Promise stemmed from the Independent Care Reviews recommendation which was commissioned by the then First Minister Nicola Sturgeon who promised care

experienced people that Scotland should do better for Care Experienced People. She said Scotland would come together and love its most vulnerable children and give them the childhood they deserve.” The Care Review listened to over 5000 voices about what needs to change within the Care System - these voices include children, young people, families, and the workforce of the care system. This motion edits the PRD to reflect recommendations of the Care Review.

Full Motion Text:

In Section 7.5.5

Delete “Looked After Children” and insert “Care Experience and The Commitment to the Promise”.

In section 7.5.5.1

Delete “A” and insert: “In 2016, the Scottish Government committed to an independent review of Scotland’s Care System for those with Care Experienced People.”

Insert: “those with Care Experienced People, this”.

Delete “the” before corporate parent, replace “the” with “a”. Delete “and” and add a full stop.

Insert: “This will” before “ensure”.

Delete from “work” to “Effectively”. Insert “are working collaboratively to ensure that the needs of care experienced people are at the heart of the decisions that are made about the individual and that everything is in line with the commitment with the Promise to Care Experienced people of Scotland.

Delete from “it” and Insert “This”.

Delete “It would also highlight how we both value this group of children and how seriously we view our responsibilities.”

In Section 7.5.5.2

Delete “Health” and insert: “who is Trauma-Informed” before should be identified to. Then insert “fully support the Health and Wellbeing needs of Care Experienced individual’s and ensure that they can access services if and when required.

Delete “Looked After and Accommodated Care nurses” and Insert “Care Experienced Nurses should be rolled out across Scotland.

In Section 7.5.5.3

Insert “There should be” before “Clear information”.

Delete from “on” to “and their carers”.

After “information” insert: “given to care experienced children, young people and adults with regards to health and wellbeing and also what services are available to them this includes access to sexual health services, these should be available to all Care Experienced people regardless of age. Health and wellbeing services should NOT have age caps on services of 26 years old. The age cap on services puts Care Experienced people off accessing vital services. Scottish Government needs to remove the age cap on vital health and Wellbeing services and promote a more inclusive health service that does not cut off vital health and wellbeing services for Care Experienced People.

In Section 7.5.5.4

Before “Children and Young people” and insert “Care Experienced”. Delete from “allowed” to “care”.

Insert “able to develop and enhance their life skills without the restrictive cultures of their Care Identity.”

Delete from “A” to “risk taking”.

Insert “We need a more consistent approach to assessing whether or not a certain activity needs a risk assessment which should acknowledge the balance of child protection with health & cognitive development.”

Insert “Alongside the risk assessment, residential care staff or foster carers should also carry out a positive risk assessment of what the Care Experienced child or young person can achieve through being able to take part in risk taking activities.”

In Section 7.5.5.5

Delete from “There” to “Young People” and Insert: “Corporate Parents play a vital role in a Care Experienced individual’s life. Corporate Parents are often underestimated for the work that they do. Within Scotland, there are 26 named Corporate Parents this ranges from Local Authorities (which includes social workers), Colleges & Universities to police and the ambulance service but there are also 124 organisations that have corporate parenting duties who all have a duty care to ensure that Care Experienced people are safe and healthy.

In Section 7.5.5.6, Delete from “Children” to “young”. Insert “Care Experienced People” and insert “who are” before “are leaving Care should not”. Insert “be” before “drastically cut off.”

Delete from “If” to “provided” and Insert “Care Experienced should be encouraged where possible to maintain contact with their Birth family, this may include overnight stays at the family home, and this should be encouraged by the social worker & Foster and/or Residential Carers where safe to do so.

Merge section 7.5.5.6 & section 7.5.5.7:

Care Experienced young people should not be forced into independent living until they feel ready and able to do so. This includes independent living that some residential care homes encourage older Care experienced people to learn to cook for themselves. Care Experienced people often feel pressured into independent living by the residential staff. Both should be done by taken gradual steps, supporting & helping the Care Experienced individuals to make that transition into adulthood and gaining the necessary skills to live independently.

Proposed new text

7.5.5 Care Experience and Commitment to The Promise

7.5.5.1 In 2016, the Scottish Government committed to an independent review of Scotland's Care System for those who are Care Experienced. this would help to highlight the role of a corporate parent. This will ensure that social work, health, education, housing, the police, and other agencies are working collaboratively to ensure that the needs of care experienced people are at the heart of the decisions that are made about the individual and that everything is in line with the commitment with the Promise to Care Experienced people of Scotland.

7.5.5.2 A Practioner who is Trauma-Informed should be identified to fully support the Health and Wellbeing needs of Care Experienced individual's and ensure that they can access services if and when required. Care Experienced Nurses should be rolled out across Scotland.

7.5.5.3 There should be clear information given to care experienced children, young people and adults with regards to health and wellbeing and also what services are available to them this includes access to sexual health services, these should be available to all Care Experienced people regardless of age. Health and wellbeing services should NOT have age caps on services of 26 years old. The age cap on services puts Care Experienced people off accessing vital services. Scottish Government needs to remove the age cap on vital health and wellbeing services and promote a more inclusive health service that does not cut off vital health and wellbeing services for Care Experienced people.

7.5.5.4 Care Experienced children and young people should be able to develop and enhance their life skills without the restrictive cultures of their care identity. We need a more consistent approach to assessing whether or not a certain activity needs a risk assessment which should acknowledge the balance of child protection with health & cognitive development. Alongside the Risk assessment, Residential care staff or foster carers should also carry out a positive risk assessment of what the Care Experienced child or young person can achieve through being able to take risk taking activities.

7.5.5.5 Corporate Parents play a vital role in a Care Experienced individual's life. Corporate Parents are often underestimated for the work that they do. Within Scotland, there are 26 named Corporate Parents this ranges from Local Authorities (which includes social workers), Colleges & Universities to police and the ambulance

service but there are also 124 organisations that have corporate parenting duties who all have a duty care to ensure that Care Experienced people are safe and healthy.

7.5.5.6 Ties with Care Experienced people who are leaving care should not be drastically cut off. Care Experienced people should be encouraged where possible to maintain contact with their birth family, this may include overnight stays at the family home, and this should be encouraged by the social worker, foster and/or residential carers where safe to do so. Care Experienced young people should not be forced into independent living until they feel ready and able to do so. This includes independent living that some residential care homes encourage older Care Experienced people to learn to cook for themselves. Care Experienced people often feel pressured into independent living by the residential staff. Both should be done by taken gradual steps, supporting & helping the Care Experienced individual to make that transition into adulthood and gaining the necessary skills to live independently.

9. Automatic uprating of MUP

Preamble:

This motion updates the section of the PRD relating to Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP), acknowledging that this policy has now been introduced and has been uprated from 50p to 65p this year. It also makes clearer the need for a mechanism for automatic uprating MUP in line with inflation and market factors. It also expands on what was previously in the PRD to ensure that this doesn't just financially benefit retailers of cheap alcohol and build more profit for business from selling a health harming product.

Full Motion Text:

Replaces:

7.2.13.3 We support the introduction of a minimum price per unit of alcohol. That price should be set at a level that takes into account the health and social costs of alcohol-related harm and the impact that price has on alcohol consumption. Initially we support a minimum price of at least 50p per unit, but this should be regularly reviewed in light of evidence of its effectiveness in reducing consumption and harm, and to ensure alcohol does not become more affordable over time.

With:

We support a minimum unit price on the sale of alcohol, alongside investment in prevention and addiction services. The price should be set at a level that takes into account the health and social costs of alcohol-related harm and the impact that price has on alcohol consumption. It should be regularly reviewed to take into account inflation, market factors, the evidence of its effectiveness in changing behaviour, and a mechanism introduced for automatic uprating to ensure that alcohol does not

become more affordable over time. Appropriate measures should accompany the Minimum Unit Price to ensure that it does not inadvertently increase the profits margins of alcohol retailers. This will optimise the effectiveness of MUP in saving and improving lives.

10. Public health levy

Preamble:

This motion makes clear that we support the re-introduction of a public health levy specifically, in addition to mechanisms like Minimum Unit Pricing that aim to reduce alcohol harm. Simply put, big retailers should not be allowed to profit excessively from selling health harming products. Following the ‘polluter pays’ principle, retailers should instead be paying back into public funds, to help deal with the harm caused to the public’s health as a result of their alcohol and tobacco sales.

Full Motion Text:

Replaces:

3.6.1.11 In order to address concerns over public health, taxes will continue to be levied on alcohol and tobacco products.

With:

3.6.1.11 Aligning with other public health policies such as Minimum Unit Pricing, health-harming commodities such as alcohol, tobacco and vapes will be taxed in a manner which reflects their impact on society and public services. Such taxes will be primarily focussed on their retailers and producers, for example through a supplement to be paid on their non-domestic rates, or a prohibition on such companies receiving discounts or exemptions on non-domestic rates. Proceeds from such measures should be invested in services which support those affected by relevant health-harming commodities.

And deletes 7.2.13.4 as it’s repetitive and not necessary to be in two sections.

11. Unpaid Trial Shifts

Preamble:

Applicants undertaking trial shifts assume the same responsibilities and expectations as employed workers. Despite this, applicants are frequently expected to undertake these shifts without financial compensation. This is particularly common within the Hospitality and Retail sectors, and as such disproportionately affects young people.

Full Motion Text:

Adds 10.5.2.5

We Recognise that Applicants undertaking trial shifts assume the same responsibilities and expectations as employed workers, and will support all measures at local authority, Scottish Government and UK Government levels towards ensuring applicants are treated as contracted workers in respect to laws regarding Wages and Discrimination whilst working a Trial Shift.

ENDS