



A GENDER EDIT of the *SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT BUDGET 2016-17*

This document is a 'gender edit' guide to the Scottish Government Draft Budget 2016-17. It includes all extracts that refer directly to women and gender, and selected sections on equalities and social justice more broadly, where there are clear implications for women and girls in Scotland. These include all references that directly relate to the calls we make in our [Gender Matters manifesto](#) for Holyrood 2016.

Specific responsibility for gender equality sits within the Ministerial portfolio for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights (chapter 9). The previous portfolio for Training, Youth and Women's Employment was replaced by that of Fair Work, Skills and Training in November 2014.

CHAPTER 1: STRATEGIC CONTEXT FOR DRAFT BUDGET 2016-17

INTRODUCTION [p.1]

Our focus on growing Scotland's economy in an inclusive and sustainable way, and enhancing our public services, has delivered benefits and improved outcomes for the people of Scotland.

[...]

- Employment in Scotland is above pre-recession levels and Scotland's economic activity, youth employment and female employment rates are all higher than in the UK as a whole.

[...]

- We have worked to mitigate the most damaging effects of the UK Government's welfare cuts, including through the £38 million Welfare Fund, and are committed to using our new powers over social security to tackle the deep inequalities currently present in Scotland.

[...]

- We have delivered 600 hours of free high-quality early learning and childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds and extended the offer to over a quarter of 2 year olds to help ensure Scotland is among the best places in the world in which to grow up.

INCREASING THE FOCUS ON EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT [p.8]

Our focus on inclusive growth means we are committed to tackling inequality of opportunity which can start at a young age. At the heart of our approach are our actions to improve educational attainment.

The budget provides for this aim by:

[...]

- Delivering 600 hours of free high-quality early learning and childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds and vulnerable 2 year olds, and working towards 1140 hours by the end of the next Parliament.

FUTURE PLANS

Delivering sustainable economic growth [p.11]

Our priorities include:

[...]

- Increasing free childcare provision is an important step to enabling parents to pursue their careers, and to allowing businesses to retain skilled and talented employees. We will significantly expand the provision of childcare – almost doubling free nursery hours – increasing capital and revenue investment and making it easier for parents to enter the labour market.

Tackling inequalities [p.11]

We are committed to tackling inequalities and making Scotland a fairer, more equal country.

We expect that new welfare powers will come to Scotland over the life of the next Parliament. These will give us responsibility for a range of benefits that will allow us to create a more coherent and responsive package of intervention and support for some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland. We will use these powers to support people with disabilities in a fair social security system.

CHAPTER 4: HEALTH WELLBEING AND SPORT

OUR PRIORITIES [p.24]

Our health and social care systems must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of the people of Scotland.

[...]

This year we will also invest £45 million in improvements to primary and community care.

Health [p.33]

In 2016-17 we will:

- Invest £250 million in Health and Social Care partnerships, to ensure improved outcomes in social care. This is in addition to the £130 million Integrated Care and Delayed Discharge Funds
- improve the quality of life for those with dementia and their carers and families, with a continuing focus on diagnosis and post-diagnostic support and care in all settings, including general hospitals

CHAPTER 6: EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

OUR PRIORITIES [pp.49-50]

We will continue to invest in early learning and childcare as we work towards delivering the increased entitlement of 1,140 hours a year by the end of the next Parliament. This will include additional investment in a graduate-led workforce to ensure the best level of care, support and educational development in the early phase of the learner journey, with an initial focus on our most disadvantaged communities. Alongside this, we will continue to tackle inequalities and improve outcomes for our youngest and most disadvantaged children with a programme of work to strengthen child protection and by supporting the use of improvement methodology through the combined efforts of our childhood collaborative programmes.

[...]

We will continue to invest substantially in the college and university sectors with a particular focus on tackling inequality by working to widen access to university and ensuring we address underrepresentation of women and other groups, on courses and in academia.

Children and families [pp.53-54]

The Children and Families budget supports a broad range of activity to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. We continue to provide support in the early years of life, and at the earliest point where problems emerge.

This includes investing in support and services that give parents and carers, who have such an essential role, the support, advice and guidance that will help them give the children and young people in their care the best start in life, particularly the most disadvantaged in society.

[...]

In 2016-17 we will:

- provide strengthened protection and care for children at risk through more effective evidence-based interventions, earlier permanence, better support for carers and embedding our collective approach to corporate parenting

Scottish Funding Council [p.56]

In 2016-17 we will:

[...]

- Work in partnership with the Scottish Funding Council, university sector and others to address the underrepresentation of women in STEM subject courses and in academia.

CHAPTER 8: JUSTICE

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES [pp.63-64]

Scottish Ministers have strengthened the justice system's response to tackling violence against women and girls and all forms of hate crime. We have maintained access to justice for individuals and businesses through the Legal Aid system and are also investing in advice services to help people deal with issues that give rise to civil justice problems.

[...]

We will also:

- continue to strengthen the justice system response to tackle and prevent the unacceptable levels of violence against women and girls in Scottish society;
- support work which protects society from sex offenders, take action to tackle domestic abuse and reduce violence, hate crime and sectarianism wherever it occurs

Community justice services [p.68]

In 2016-17 we will continue to:

[...]

- implement the recommendations of the Commission on Women Offenders and take further action to meet the needs of women offenders

Scottish Prison Service [p.75]

In 2016-17 we will:

- take forward the Strategy for the Management of Women in Custody

CHAPTER 9: SOCIAL JUSTICE, COMMUNITIES AND PENSIONERS' RIGHTS

OUR PRIORITIES

Creating a Fairer Scotland [p.80]

We are committed to using our new powers over social security to tackle some of the deep inequalities currently present in Scotland, ensuring our investment in social security leads to

better outcomes for individuals. In 2016-17, our spend will focus on the development of the foundations of our system.

We are clear that inequality in our society also results from discrimination and prejudice. Some of those inequalities, for example unequal pay, violence against women or underrepresentation in decision-making, are structural and persistent. So we will continue to give priority to tackling inequality and to promoting equality.

In 2016-17 we will again be investing over £20 million to continue to tackle violence against women and hate crime, to reinforce the commitment to equality and human rights, to assist in strengthening community cohesion, to promote equality across all the protected characteristics defined in equality legislation, to continue work on the integration and support for asylum seekers and refugees, to support the implementation of the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act and to help take forward the commitments on equality in the Scotland Bill. We will continue the focus on gender equality and strengthen the drive for race and disability equality. We will want to ensure that Scotland continues to take pride in its commitment to LGBTI equality.

In addition to the range of direct investments we are making in housing, in energy efficiency, in social security, and in tackling inequalities, we will also ensure we create the right environment and conditions for a fairer Scotland and ensure our own policies and programmes address the underlying causes of inequality and poverty. The social justice action plan, which will be launched in early 2016, will set out how the Scottish Government will continue to play its part in creating a fairer and more prosperous society.

Social security [p.87]

This provides funding to support some of the poorest members of our society, to mitigate the negative impacts of welfare changes and cuts as well as tackle poverty. [...] The budget also provides funding to enable the design and delivery of legislation and systems to facilitate the delivery of social security powers being devolved under the new Scotland Bill.

In 2016-17 we will:

- provide £35 million of funding to allow local authorities to fully mitigate the effects of the 'bedroom tax';
- sustain funding to the Scottish Welfare Fund; and
- begin work to develop a Scottish social security system, including delivery of a social security Bill.

Equalities [p.90]

Our spending on equality and human rights supports the drive for social justice, economic growth and community empowerment in Scotland. It enables work to promote equality and human rights and supports and empowers groups experiencing discrimination and

disadvantage. It enables investment in the capacity of equality organisations and in frontline action to address violence against women and discrimination and inequality.

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In 2016-17 we will:

- support activities to promote equality and address discrimination and inequality;
- continue to fund frontline services that are tackling violence against women and girls;
- [...]
- drive forward gender equality, including taking forward the equality provisions of the Scotland Bill.

CHAPTER 14: CROWN OFFICE AND PROCURATOR FISCAL SERVICE

OUR PRIORTIES [p.141]

This includes tackling inequality and protecting human rights. Operational priorities make it clear that prosecutors are targeting hate crime, domestic abuse, stalking and sexual offending, all of which involve significant equalities issues for those who have protected characteristics across all sections of society.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ABOUT ENGENDER

Engender has a vision for a Scotland in which women and men have equal opportunities in life, equal access to resources and power, and are equally safe and secure from harm. We are a feminist organisation that has worked in Scotland for 20 years to advance equality between women and men.