

GENDER EDIT OF THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT BUDGET FOR 2021-2022

This gender edit of the [Scottish Government's Budget for 2021-2022](#) compiles the references to women and gender, as well as some specific areas of priority with particular implications for women and girls into one list, such as 'Equalities'. In outlining the Budget, Cabinet Secretary for Finance Kate Forbes [suggested that](#) "The exceptional circumstances require an exceptional response" and highlighted the impacts of Covid-19 and Brexit as key concerns. The Cabinet Secretary outlined three priorities for the Budget:

- Creating jobs and supporting and investing in a sustainable recovery;
- Responding to the health pandemic; and
- Tackling inequalities.

The Scottish Budget predates the UK Budget and some aspects of UK spending will have impacts for the Scottish allocation predicted.

This gender edit examines The Scottish Government's Budget for 2021-22 in sequence, with all emphasis added by Engender.

FOREWORD BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE

"I am publishing alongside the Budget a **distinctive Scottish pay policy** which charts a different course to the damaging pay freeze announced by the UK Government. The policy will see those earning up to £25,000 receive a pay increase of at least 3%, through a guaranteed cash underpin of £750. We will also continue to support payment of the real Living Wage, applying the increased rate of £9.50 per hour. Those earning more than £25,000 will be guaranteed a 1% increase, capped at £800 above £80,000."

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"This Budget will:

- Support the safe and sustainable recovery of the NHS, with record funding in excess of £16 billion – **an increase of over £800 million in core Health and Sport funding** to allow investment of £11.9 billion in Health Boards, £1.9 billion for primary care, and spend in excess of £1.1 billion for mental health services.
- **Invest £883 million in social care**, including **£34 million for delivery of the living wage**.
- Provide **£1.1 billion to drive forward our national mission for jobs**, and equip our future workforce with the skills they need, including an additional **£125 million of investment targeted at employment support**, including the National Transition Training Fund and Young Person's Guarantee, alongside £230.9 million for Skills Development Scotland.

- and **£51.9 million of dedicated help for our tourism sector** including doubling the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund.
- Deliver just **over £6 billion of capital investment in 2021-22** through our National Infrastructure Mission – **including £667.6 million grant funding to continue our ambitious programme of affordable house building**, £142 million to support housing support schemes including shared equity and **almost £100 million for superfast digital connectivity**.
- Secure **£3.5 billion for social security and welfare payments**, including **£68 million for the ‘game changing’ Scottish Child Payment**, which once fully rolled out will help lift an estimated 30,000 children out of poverty.
- Help to **protect local services by guaranteeing £11.6 billion for local government**, including £90 million to deliver a **national council tax freeze** and **£567 million to deliver our commitment to 1,140 hours funded early learning and childcare by August 2021.**”

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CHAPTER 1 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW - PROTECTING SCOTLAND, RENEWING SCOTLAND

Building on the significant package of support set out in Programme for Government, the Scottish Budget provides investment of around £1.1 billion for jobs and skills

“Through our Fair Work First approach **we will extend Fair Work criteria** to as many funding streams, business support grants and public contracts as we can, working with employers to commit to channels for effective voice, such as trade union recognition; investment in workforce development; no inappropriate use of zero hours contracts; **action to tackle the gender pay gap** and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace; and payment of the real Living Wage.”

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No one left behind

“Recognising the **importance of flexible working patterns, particularly people with caring responsibilities – often women – to be able to stay in paid work and develop their own careers**, we will continue to **fund support and advice for employers on flexible working, and will support women to return to the workplace** through our Women Returners Programme. We are committed to **tackling the gender pay gap** and creating a more diverse and inclusive workplace to progress towards our vision for making Scotland a Fair Work Nation by 2025.”

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“We will also continue to **support the Workplace Equality Fund**, supporting a range of **fair work projects for disabled, women and minority ethnic workers**, and work to at least halve the disability employment gap by 2038.”

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Improving life chances through education

“We will be the first country in the UK to **incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** into law, enhancing the rights-based approach of Getting It Right for Every Child, and helping ensure children, young people and families, **including pregnant women**, have the right support at the right time, particularly those who are or may otherwise become looked after.”

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“We will **continue to support children, young people and families (including pregnant women)** in the most vulnerable situations, and who may have been significantly affected by the detrimental impact of the pandemic on inequalities.”

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“Providing the best start in life forms a central part of our ambition to invest in high-quality early learning and childcare, with our **commitment to deliver the most ambitious childcare offer anywhere in the UK – 1,140 funded hours for all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds**. When the scale of the crisis became clear, we took the difficult decision to **temporarily pause the statutory roll-out** to allow local authorities to focus on responding to the pandemic and providing critical childcare, which was crucial to supporting key workers. Following a joint assessment with local government, **we now expect full implementation to be achieved by August 2021.**”

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Ensuring safer communities

“We will **increase by £1.5 million our support to victims, including to organisations which provide crucial emotional, financial and practical assistance to victims and survivors of crime**, recognising the value of a **gendered approach**. This will take account of the significant challenges posed by the pandemic and the associated impacts for victims and witnesses and the organisations supporting them.”

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“We also recognised the **particular impact of the pandemic on women involved in prostitution** and created a bespoke fund to provide immediate crisis funding as well as offering advice and guidance in navigating mainstream services.”

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“We will **build on the work of the Victims Taskforce**, focusing on a victim-centred approach, trauma informed practice and **key aspects of our response to gender-based violence**. This will include an evaluation of the first commencement provisions for the Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2019 to help inform the next stage of the implementation plan.”

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“We know that **women in the justice system often have a range of complex needs including experience of trauma and abuse**. The Scottish Prison Service and other agencies will continue to take forward our progressive plans **to transform the female custodial estate to address the specific needs of women**. This includes progressing the construction of two innovative community-based custody units in Glasgow and Dundee, to be operational in 2022, as well as a national facility at HMP Cornton Vale. These facilities and support services **will help women in custody to overcome issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, mental health and trauma**, which evidence shows can drive offending behaviour.”

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CHAPTER 2 TAX

“We will continue to engage the public and stakeholders on how the tax system can **underpin a wellbeing economy**, and deliver the healthier, wealthier, **fairer** and greener Scotland we want to see.”

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CHAPTER 3 PRE-BUDGET SCRUTINY BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Economy Energy and Fair Work Committee

“There was a focus on economic recovery and the government’s response to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (AGER) report and performance and outcomes linked to the National Performance Framework. The Committee raised a number of concerns covering the **impact of COVID-19 on the labour market including on young people, women, graduates and apprenticeships**. The Scottish Government shares these concerns and has provided an additional £125 million support for the Young Person’s Guarantee, Employability and Skills provision.”

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“The funding recognises the increasing challenges we are likely to see in the Labour Market this year, whilst also contributing to our national mission for new green and good jobs, **alongside our Fair Work and equality commitments**.”

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Equalities and Human Rights Committee

“The Equalities and Human Rights Committee’s pre-budget scrutiny reflected a wide cross-section of policy commitments, including interrogation of the budget-setting process; **how equality and human rights considerations are taken into account when making budgetary decisions**; and scrutiny of third sector funding.”

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“The Scottish Government welcomes the important points raised in the Committee’s pre-budget scrutiny, in **particular the recognition that equality and human rights considerations are central to policy and financial decisions across government**, and the increased importance of these considerations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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“In the Scottish Budget 2020-21 the **Promoting Equality and Human Rights budget line increased to £30.2 million**. This was a significant increase from the 2019-20 budgetary position, and has been increased by a further six per cent to £32.2 million for the 2021-22 budget, signalling the Scottish Government’s commitment to this work. In this exceptionally challenging year the budget prioritised support for those most at risk from the pandemic, extending existing funding streams to provide clarity and consistency to our funded organisations and enable them to provide flexible support to communities. **In 2021-22, we will deliver streamlined funding streams – Delivering Equally Safe and Embedding Equality and Human Rights – that will more closely align our funding with the National Performance Framework outcomes**, in line with the Committee’s recommendations, and will encourage and support partnership working to tackle some of the more entrenched issues of inequality across our society.”

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Health and Sport Committee

“This budget will prioritise our work in embedding a world-class public health system, with a focus on **improving population health and tackling inequalities**.”

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“We will continue to drive long-term reform to **support safe, effective and faster care at home or in the community** by building on innovation achieved during the pandemic. We will also shortly be receiving the report from the **Independent Review of Adult Social Care** – Scottish Ministers will then consider the recommendations for improvements along with options to ensure that policy developments are appropriately funded. **We will revisit the performance and financial assumptions underpinning the Medium-Term Health and Social Care Financial Framework**, which considers the health and care system as a whole, along with our expectations of demand and future resourcing. This will set

out the anticipated next steps in securing a sustainable and balanced health and care sector and supporting delivery of world-class, sustainable services.”

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CHAPTER 4 HEALTH AND SPORT

“In responding to the **unprecedented challenges facing our health and care system** – those that existed before the pandemic and the pandemic itself – the portfolio is responsible for supporting remobilisation and long-term reform of services in order to embed a world-class public health system that delivers the right care, in the right place, at the right time to **improve population health and address inequalities.**”

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“Recognising the continued importance of the care sector, a total of **£883 million will be passed from the Portfolio in 2021-22 to support social care and integration.**”

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This includes:

- £869.0 million in Covid-19 specific funding
- £317.8 million for workforce and nursing (£262.1 million in 2020-2021)

CHAPTER 5 COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

“The portfolio’s **overarching aims are to tackle inequalities and reduce child poverty**, to create a fairer Scotland, support regeneration and inclusive growth, ensure provision of accessible, affordable, energy efficient housing for all, and to promote community empowerment and the participation of people in all aspects of Scottish life.”

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This includes:

- Planning and Building Standards - £30.4 million (£12.4 million)
- Third Sector - £26.1 million (£24.6 million)
- Social Justice and Regeneration - £122.5 million (£76.9 million)
- Local Government £11,112.0 million - (£11,020.8 million)
- Specific Grant Funding and Other Local Government Funding –
 - Early Learning and Childcare Expansion - £521.9million (£463.2 million)

CHAPTER 7 ECONOMY, FAIR WORK AND CULTURE

“The Economy, Fair Work and Culture portfolio is at the heart of delivering the Scottish Government’s purpose through sustainable and **inclusive growth**, whilst ensuring that Scotland’s diverse and evolving culture and heritage thrives and is celebrated.”

This includes:

- Employability and Training £63.3 million (57.5 million)
- Scottish National Investment Bank £204 million (£241.1 million)

CHAPTER 8 EDUCATION AND SKILLS

“Improving the life chances of our children and young people through excellence and **equity in education** continues to be the principal mission of this government.”

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“This budget, including funding delivered through the local government settlement, will therefore:

- Invest a further £59 million to **deliver on our commitment to expand funded early learning and childcare from 600 hours to 1140 hours** to all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds, bringing our additional annual revenue investment to £567 million.”

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“In 2021-22 we will:

- **incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** into law; and
- deliver on our commitment to the **expansion of early learning and childcare.**”

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This includes:

- Total Skills and Training - £270.2 million (£264.1)
- Early Learning and Childcare - £39.8 million (no change)

CHAPTER 9 JUSTICE

“The purpose of the Justice portfolio is to keep our **communities safe and secure, and to administer justice** in its various forms. The portfolio both tackles inequalities and ensures an environment where sustainable economic activity can prosper, enabling our communities to be safe and resilient, reducing crime and offending, **supporting victims and witnesses** and **improving wellbeing and life chances.**”

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This includes:

- Victim/Witness Support - £18.2 million
- Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service - £129.3 million (£122.6 million)

Chapter 14 Social Security and Older People

“The portfolio supports a wide range of work to **prevent discrimination and promote equality and human rights**. We continue to support the embedding of equality and human rights in the **development of policy across government** and the **improvement of public sector delivery on equality**, and support the Equality and Human Rights infrastructure across Scotland.”

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The allocations here include:

- £32.2 million for Equalities (£30.2 million)
- £472.3 million for Social Security (367.3 million)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ABOUT ENGENDER

Engender is a membership organisation working on feminist agendas in Scotland and Europe, to increase women’s power and influence and to make visible the impact of sexism on women, men and society. We provide support to individuals, organisations and institutions who seek to achieve gender equality and justice.