



Candidate: Gail Angus, 3F1

Crime & Law and Order: Crime is one of the biggest issues facing the country. It is far too high and too many people don't feel safe - in their own homes and in their town centres. As well as putting 10,000 more police officers on the beat by scrapping ID cards, the Liberal Democrats are committed to meaningful reform of the police service and to putting criminal justice policy on an evidence-based footing. We will use alternative measures that are proven to reduce re-offending. These include community justice panels, the nationwide use of restorative justice and rigorous community punishments as an alternative to short-term prison sentences. We will give victims and local communities a major say in punishing offenders and make prisoners work and pay into a Victims Compensation Fund.

Energy and Climate Change: Climate change is getting worse and could destroy our way of life. We must act now. Going green is hard, but the Government is not making it any easier. Liberal Democrats take the environment seriously. We believe that there is a huge opportunity to get out of recession by going green – strengthening the economy, creating new jobs and improving the quality of people's lives. We will insulate every home – through the use of draught proof windows, heating appliances and lighting - so that it is cheaper to keep warm and pollutes less. We will protect the parks, countryside and coastline. Labour and Conservatives both support the construction of new nuclear power stations. We will stop building nuclear power stations and instead use Britain's natural resources of wind and wave power. These will be funded through 'green loans' that allow people to use the savings they make from lower energy bills to pay back the cost of the improvements. We pledge that at least 20% of energy 40% of electricity will come from renewable sources by 2020 rising to 100% by 2050. To do this we will bring in new incentives to speed up the growth of renewable energy and micro-generation using guaranteed minimum prices. We will also promote the use of renewable heat.

Transport: The transport system is in a mess. There is too much traffic on the roads, trains are expensive and overcrowded, and buses are too few and far between, particularly in the countryside. We believe buses and trains should be affordable and reliable so people can have a real choice about how to travel. That's how we can cut pollution and make it easy for people to leave their car at home. We will open new railway stations and new lines with high speed trains between cities. Only the Liberal Democrats have been honest with the public about exactly how we will pay for our public transport improvements and High-Speed Rail. We will cut the number of lorries on the road to reduce congestion and exhaust fumes and will set a zero emissions target for all new cars by 2040.

Education: Right now the education system is not at its best, and since the welfare of the young is important to the Liberal Democrats we plan to introduce changes to improve it. Class sizes are large at the moment, and we plan to introduce cuts to these sizes so that children can have more focus from teachers. We also plan to spend more money on things like one-to-one tuition and classes in the evening if the pupils wish to have these. We will replace the National Curriculum with a more flexible Minimum Curriculum Entitlement. This allows greater choice and would allow young people to have more room for innovation. If a college offers a more suitable course for 14-19 years olds then they should have the right to study there. We also believe that the young people wanting to go on to higher education should be able to do so anywhere in Britain without the burden of tuition fees. We would like to get rid of fees in Universities across the whole of Britain – not just Scotland – so that people don't feel limited as to where they can study due to costs.



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Economy: We understand that many people are struggling to make ends meet in this time of uncertainty. We will take control of wasteful government spending and boost the economy by cutting taxes from the bottom up. We will work to strengthen the economy by requiring the Bank of England to take house prices into account when settling interest and effectively regulate the banking system to prevent irresponsible lending and business practise. As the recession is taking hold, more and more people are losing their jobs, and we are shocked to find that the unemployed have to wait 12 months before getting the chance to find a job. We believe that everyone deserves help in finding a new job as quickly as possible. We will change the way that the jobcentres help people find work and how the unemployed approach this. We also want to help young people get the best start in their working life. This is why we would charge no tax on the first £10,000 they earn once out of university as we hope that this would prevent them from getting into debt by not being able to afford things. We believe in Fair Trade and seek to break down these tariff barriers and promote fair trade and investment in developing countries.

Health: The NHS is important to the people and the Liberal Democrats will make sure that the NHS gives us the best care needed. We believe that the people should have a say in how it runs as every patient counts. This is why patients would be given the powers to anonymously report failures in standards so that the government can work to improve the NHS to the standards the people expect. We believe that there must be zero tolerance on low hygiene and failures in infection control standards. Screening in all hospitals, GP practises and care homes would be enforced. However we do understand that sometimes outbreaks can happen or mistakes can be made and thus compensation would be offered to patients and families who have suffered as a result of hospital negligence in relation to super bugs. We will also make a 'universal care payment' based on an individual's need, not their ability to pay, for those aged over 65 who require personal care (such as help with dressing and bathing). This would slash care costs for many people and guarantee a minimum standard of care for those who need it. Whilst we care about keeping the NHS up to a high standard, we are also very interested in trying to tackle health inequalities. We will tackle the wider problems contributing to health inequality such as poverty, poor Housing and poor environment. We are committed to increasing the availability of good-quality but also affordable housing and will introduce a "warm homes" package to trying and reduce the number of cold related illnesses. Thus warding off avoidable health problems. We will also help severely disabled people of working age with their fuel bills by giving them the same £250 a year Winter Fuel Payment that pensioners receive.

Government and Civil Liberties : We will lower the voting age to 16. We will establish a fair, proportional voting system for elections. The House of Lords would be replaced with an elected second chamber. We will further devolve power to town and community councils so local people are making decisions that will affect their communities.



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