INVEST IN OUR HEALTH SERVICE

• We will increase frontline NHS spending by at least 20% to support and renew our NHS as it recovers from Covid-19. This will increase funding of frontline services by over £2.5 billion.
• We will ensure that half of the total budget for frontline NHS services will be invested in community and primary care.
• We will ensure every GP practice in the country has access to a dedicated mental wellbeing link worker.
• We will implement an NHS recovery plan to restore paused services, ensure urgent care is delivered swiftly, catch up on treatments that have had to be delayed, and bring waiting times back within targets.
• We will roll out more mobile health services for direct delivery of care, particularly in rural areas. This will include additional mental health services.
• To help renew our NHS, we aim to invest £10 billion over the next decade to replace and refurbish health facilities across Scotland. This will include:
  - Renewing or upgrading primary and community facilities, for example the completion of the new St Brendan’s Community Hospital in Barra, and the rollout of improved connectivity services to enable greater use of ‘NearMe’ in Orkney.
  - Renew acute and general hospital facilities to keep them fit for the future, including a new Belford Hospital in Fort William.
  - Planning and enabling the refurbishment of hospitals, including Caithness General Hospital in Wick and the Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick.
  - An elective centre in Inverness.
• We remain committed to the reintroduction of consultant-led maternity services at Dr Gray’s in Elgin in a safe and sustainable way.
• We will establish a fast track cancer diagnostic centre in every health board area.
• We will create a new centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care.

BOOST OUR ECONOMY AND CREATE JOBS

We will invest over £33 billion over the next five years in our National Infrastructure Mission, supporting an estimated 45,000 jobs and providing benefits across Scottish supply chains. In the Highlands and Islands, we will invest:

• £30 million in delivering the National Islands Plan;
• £135 million in the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal;
• Over £100 million growth deal investment in the region; £32.5 million for Moray, £25 million for Argyll and Bute and £50 million for Islands.
• over £6 million to Highlands and Islands Enterprise to deliver the Green Jobs Fund;
• £10 million to support the reinstatement of the Cairngorm Funicular;
• Improvements to piers and harbours and support for ferry services to and from Scotland’s islands.
• Funding for a new ferry designed to provide a year-round service to the Uig Triangle;
• We will create a new, £20 million Rural Entrepreneur Fund.
• The SNP will invest £275 million to support community-led regeneration and town centre revitalisation with funding available across the Highlands and Islands.
• We will create a new ‘Tech-Scaler’ hub in Inverness and ensure that the commercial education on offer in the hubs is accessible virtually to ensure access for businesses in rural areas.
• To provide more employment opportunities, we will deliver islands-focused activity through the Young Person’s Guarantee.

SUPPORT OUR RURAL ECONOMY

• We will transform support for farming and food production so that by 2025 half of all funding for farmers and crofters comes with “green strings” and we will support crofters and their communities to play a bigger role in peatland and woodland creation.
• We will create a new £15 million fund to support food processing and manufacture to develop local supply chains and transition to low or zero carbon operations.
• We will continue to support our fishing industry to recover from the Tories' Brexit betrayal and press for the £62 million of marine funding Scotland is entitled to, and do all we can to regain markets and opportunities for our fish and seafood sector.

• We will maintain our doubled investment in the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund at £6.2 million, and invest £10 million in wider initiatives including the Lossiemouth East Beach footbridge, the Inverness Castle Project, rural hotel infrastructure, and the deployment of Seasonal Rangers to encourage responsible tourism in rural hot-spots.

• We will expand the Islands Passport to encourage more people to visit more of our islands, promoting more off season visiting and creating more equitable benefit for communities.

**INVEST IN EDUCATION AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

• Over the next parliament we will invest £2 billion – in partnership with local government – in a Learning Estate Investment Programme, including:
  - Castlebay Campus
  - Tain 3-18 campus
  - Broadford Primary School
  - Nairn Academy
  - Findrassie Primary School

• In the last year alone, the SNP has provided a free school meal to over 13,000 pupils in the Highlands and Islands region. We will go even further by providing free school breakfasts and lunches to every primary school pupil, all year round.

• We will ensure that Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's place as a centre of excellence for provision Gaelic training is both recognised and supported, with dedicated funding to offer FE/HE courses through and for Gaelic.

• Child poverty is in every part of Scotland. We want to lift children out of poverty in the Highlands and Islands – that’s why we will double the Scottish Child Payment to £20 per child by the end of parliament and nearly double the planned investment in the Parental Employability Support Fund.

**INVEST IN HOUSING AND SUPPORT COMMUNITIES**

• Since taking office, we have delivered 96,750 affordable homes, nearly 67,000 of which were for social rent – including over 27,500 in the Highlands and Islands. We will deliver a further 100,000 affordable homes by 2032, backed by investment of £3.5 billion over the parliament – supporting 14,000 jobs a year.

• To stop depopulation and support our communities, we will give local authorities the powers to manage the numbers of second homes in their area.

• We will establish an Islands Bond – offering 100 bonds of up to £50,000 to young people and families to stay in or to move to islands currently threatened by depopulation.

• We will work with local authorities to develop a Rural Visa Pilot as a rural and remote migration initiative.

**IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY**

• We we will open a new railway station next to Inverness airport.

• We will continue to call for connections to be established between the Caledonian Sleeper service and the Eurostar at St Pancras International, helping join up the two key services linking the Highlands with European cities.

• We will deliver the short, medium and long term solutions required at The Rest and Be Thankful, moving as quickly as possible to deliver the preferred new route.

• We’ve made progress in upgrading the A82 and will make further progress in the next Parliament.

• We remain committed to dualling the A9 and A96.

• We are committed to funding ferry services and maintaining Road Equivalent Tariff on all current island ferry routes.

• We will deliver an Islands Connectivity Plan to replace the current Ferries Plan looking at aviation, ferries and fixed links, and to connecting and onward travel.

• We will invest in more sustainable ferries – 30% of state-owned ferries being low emission by 2032.

• We remain committed to finding a solution with the UK Government on Air Departure Tax that would allow for the Highlands and Islands exemption to remain.

• Our £579 million investment in the expansion of superfast broadband means every home and business in the Highlands and Islands will have access in the next five years.

• We will invest over £20 million to install at least 39 masts to provide mobile coverage in remote rural and island communities.

**WORK TOWARDS NET ZERO**

• We will work with at least 3 islands to enable them to become fully carbon neutral by 2040.

• We will ensure that every Local Authority area will have a Nature Network of new, locally driven projects which aim to improve ecological connectivity across Scotland.