



Dear Ruby,

Our Labour Budget last week was to deliver a Britain built for all – and it was a Budget that delivers on Scotland's priorities.

After 14 years of Tory decline, made worse by SNP failure, Labour is renewing our economy and our communities.

This Labour Government has rejected austerity and is instead making the fair and necessary choices to slash the cost of living, invest in public services, and cut government borrowing.

I am particularly proud that my Labour Budget scrapped the two-child limit.

Since it was introduced by the Tories a decade ago, this policy has become the biggest driver of child poverty in this country. It is a policy that punished children and scarred their life chances through no fault of their own.

Scrapping it will achieve the biggest reduction in child poverty in a single Parliament since records began – breaking down the barriers to opportunity for children across the UK. In Scotland, it will raise the living standards of 95,000 children.

And that's not all. To cut the cost of living, the Budget slashed energy bills for every household in Scotland by an average of £150. We raised the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage, boosting the incomes of 200,000 working people in Scotland. And we delivered on our commitment to the Triple Lock, increasing the State Pension by up to £575 for Scotland's 1.1 million pensioners.

This is the difference that Labour makes.

Thank you,



The Chancellor leaves Downing Street to deliver the Budget

Three Ways Labour Will Rebuild and Protect Scotland's Communities

The SNP has squandered Scotland's potential. After two decades of broken promises, our NHS is in crisis, the economy has flatlined, and communities feel unsafe. Next May is our chance to put Scotland back on track and build a government that works as hard as the people it serves. Here's three ways Labour will support and protect communities:

- Trained NHS professionals, not police, will respond to 999 mental health crises. Dedicated teams, mental health ambulances, 24/7 psychiatric liaison nurses, and stronger A&E training ensure immediate, specialist support.
- Every qualified applicant in priority sectors is guaranteed an apprenticeship. 9,000 new places, £36m annual funding, and a clearing system ensure no young talent is wasted.

- Restoring Community Policing and giving every ward a named officer, with 360 extra officers freed for frontline duties. Crime prevention teams will work directly with schools, retailers, and local groups, while courts are modernised and trauma support is strengthened for officers.

Leader of Scottish Labour, Anas Sarwar, said:

“We can’t risk a third decade of the SNP and John Swinney. In May Scots have a clear choice, the past with John Swinney and the SNP or the future with Scottish Labour.”

A Budget to cut the cost of living and lift children out of poverty

Last week, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves delivered her second Budget, setting out the fair choices that this Government is taking, a Budget grounded in Labour values.

Labour is putting more money into people’s pockets, tackling the cost of living and lifting hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty.

- We will save families £150 on average next year, rising to £300 for many poorer households.
- Scrapping the two-child limit in Universal Credit will lift 450,000 children out of poverty by the next election – the largest ever reduction in a single parliament.
- Boosting the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage will increase the incomes of around 2.7 million workers.

In contrast, the Conservatives and Reform have pledged billions in cuts – a return to the austerity that left Britain in decline.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, said:

“I can tell you today that, for every family we are keeping our promise to get energy bills down and cut the cost of living with £150 taken off the average household energy bill from April.

“Money off bills, and in the pockets of working people. That is my choice.”

[Read the full speech here](#)

Revitalising our high streets

Labour is reversing 14 years of Tory decline and breathing new life into high streets up and down the country. Our second Budget will clamp down on illegal high street activity to deliver lasting change for communities. This is

alongside our landmark Pride in Place programme that will revitalise our high streets.

What does this mean?

- Labour's £5 billion Pride in Place programme is giving people across the UK the power to revitalise their neglected high streets and restore pride in their communities.
- Labour is clamping down on illegal high street activity in premises like mini-marts, barbershops, vape shops, nail bars and car washes.

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Steve Reed, said:

"When people step out of their front doors, they know their communities are struggling. They see shuttered pubs, fading high streets and their local areas in decline.

"Yes, communities have been stretched – but they haven't given up. They're working hard to make things better, and we're backing them.

"The Government is putting power into their hands so local people decide how best to restore pride in their neighbourhoods, not us in Westminster.

"That's what real patriotism looks like: building up our communities and choosing renewal over division."

Immigration: restoring order and control

This country is an open, tolerant and generous place. Our asylum system is not working, and we do not have control of who enters our country or how they enter it. In recent years, we have all watched in horror the images of people crammed into dangerous small boats making the potentially deadly journey across the Channel. With rising hatred and division on our streets, we will never bring our country together until we restore order and rebuild trust in our asylum system.

Labour will deliver the most comprehensive reform of the asylum system in a generation by:

- Removing incentives that draw illegal migrants to Britain
- Increasing removals of those with no right to be here
- Creating new, capped, safe and legal routes

Key talking points:

- With Labour, net migration has fallen to its lowest level in half a decade
- Labour has already returned 50,000 people with no right to be here

- Our new package of major reforms to the asylum system will reduce arrivals, speed up removals, strengthen law enforcement, and improve support for genuine refugees.

Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, said:

"For those who believe that migration is part of modern Britain's story, we must prove that it can still work, with those who come here contributing, playing their part and enriching our national life."

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