

This material was extracted from a document which listed the manifesto contents of the Scottish Conservative Party.

## CNOD MANIFESTO ANALYSIS – SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVES

Published 13 April 2013

**Title:** “A strong Opposition, a stronger Scotland” 48 pages long

**Key points:** Ruth Davidson introduction: “it is clear that the SNP are on course to win the Scottish election. Instead, I’m applying for another job. Because there is an important vacancy in Scottish public life that I, along with my team, are best placed to fill. And that is the vacancy for a strong opposition. It is a vacancy that has been lying open now for nine years, with Labour leader after Labour leader failing in the post. A strong opposition results in a better government. I believe I can make a positive contribution to Scotland’s public life and political discourse by stepping up to become the main opposition leader in this country”.

### Top line commitments: “Our Programme for Opposition”

- Saying no to a second referendum
- Protecting family finances
- Protecting NHS spending and boosting mental health support . A world-class health care system for your loved ones
  - Protecting NHS funding with a health guarantee (funding increased by 2%, inflation or Barnett consequentials, whichever is higher)
  - Boosting mental health investment – a ‘significant increase’
  - Seek to find consensus with government when required to ensure progress in long-term organisational change
- Backing vocational education and reversing college cuts
- Reversing the Named Persons law and setting up a new Crisis Family Fund in its place
- Empowering school leaders and ensuring every child can read well. Give schools and teachers more freedom.
- Making childcare more flexible and extending hours for younger children
- Supporting growth and halving the disability employment gap
- Tackling ant-social behaviour and focusing prisons on rehabilitation
- Building 100,000 new homes and rebuilding empty properties
- Ensuring no-one lives in a hard to heat home and reduce fuel poverty
- A sustainable future for your community

### Chapters

- Foreword– 3 pages
- No to a second referendum – 2 pages
- Holding the SNP to account “Our Programme for Opposition” – 4 pages
- Meet some of our new candidates – 4 pages
- A Scottish Conservative and Unionist approach
  - A Scottish parliament that works for you – 6 pages
  - A better start in life for your children – 4 pages
  - A world-class health care system for your loved ones – 4 pages
  - A warm home for your family – 4 pages

- A strong economy for your job and business – 6 pages
- A safe environment for your neighbourhood – 4 pages
- A sustainable future for your community – 6 pages

**Health chapter: “A world-class health care system for your loved ones”**

***Top priorities:***

- Protecting NHS funding with a health guarantee
- Boosting mental health investment
- Putting patients in charge (taking personal responsibility, access to records, involved in own care)

**Relevant to CNOD:**

- ***“Funding our NHS properly”***
  - Reintroducing prescription charges to “raise £65m by the end of the Parliament to invest in nurses, health visitors or GPs as well as improve access to new medicines...Our objective should be sustainable and safe staffing levels across all health boards.”
- ***“A health service there when you need it”***
  - There is cross-party consensus on the need to develop a new model of primary care. Support move to GP clusters. “Scottish Conservatives have a long-standing commitment to a universal GP-attached health visiting service, extended to age 7. **In order to achieve this, we would hire an additional 500 health visitors over the next 4 years, above and beyond the SNP’s present plans, and providing a considerable shift towards early intervention”**
- ***“A step-change in mental health support”***
  - Long-term 10 year mental health strategy. Argue for an additional £300m to be invested. “This should be used to improve capacity and staffing across the health service, with an ambition to provide **dedicated mental health support** in every GP surgery and every A&E department 24/7”