

Briefing for Convenience Retailers | SNP Manifesto 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH

The SNP have made a range of commitments on public health in an effort to retain their trailblazing approach to new public health regulations. There is a commitment to bring back legislation restricting HFSS products that was delayed by the pandemic, a new tobacco strategy and regulations on reducing children's exposure to alcohol advertising.

> *Obesity*

- We will bring forward legislation to restrict the use of promotions on food and drink high in fat, sugar and salt over the next parliament.
- We will aim to halve childhood obesity by 2030, significantly reducing diet-related health inequalities.
- Produce a local food strategy which supports locally based production and circular supply chains, cutting food miles and enabling more people to enjoy food grown locally.

> *Alcohol*

- We will look to introduce restrictions on alcohol advertising in locations where children would be readily exposed to it.

> *Tobacco*

- We reaffirm our commitment to the 2034 smoke-free Scotland ambition and will publish a new tobacco strategy.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

The SNP manifesto says they will deliver their deposit return scheme by next year, which will represent significant logistical challenges for retailers. There is also a commitment to bring forward a new Circular Economy Bill to ban certain single-use plastic cutlery but it is also likely to include a range of other environmental regulations that could impact retailers.

- Appoint a Minister of Just Transition with responsibility for overseeing a 'national mission' of fairness and opportunity as we move to net zero.
- To bring forward sectoral Just Transition plans, charting the transition of sites, industries, regions and communities.
- Bring forward a Circular Economy Bill to ban single-use plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, stirrers and chopsticks), plates, straws, balloon sticks, food and beverage containers and cups for beverages.
- Implement a Deposit Return Scheme for single-use drinks containers **next year** to improve recycling, reduce litter and achieve our climate change targets.

- Phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, two years ahead of our original target.
- Publish a Hydrogen Policy Statement setting out the role hydrogen can play in decarbonising energy and being part of the energy transition picture. To support the delivery of the hydrogen economy, there will be a pilot of hydrogen trains as an alternative to diesel and electrification
- We will bring forward legislation to ensure fireworks are used safely and appropriately, so that we can reduce the negative impacts they have on individuals, communities and pets.

BUSINESS RATES AND HIGH STREETS

The SNP acknowledge the impact of the pandemic on high street and the ever increasing role of online shopping. They seek to address some of these concerns through reforms of the business rates system including the development of a digital sales tax with revenues used to support high streets. There is an important commitment to retain the Small Business Bonus Scheme for the duration of the parliament, which alleviates concerns about the review of the small business bonus scheme and the use conditionality for access to business rates relief.

- We will maintain the Small Business Bonus for the lifetime of the parliament – ensuring 100,000 business properties pay no rates.
- We will maintain the Business Growth Accelerator which removes rates liabilities for the first 12 months after occupation of a new build, and the fresh start scheme which removes liabilities for the first 12 months after occupation of a previously empty property.
- A new national digital sales tax to level the playing-field between online and digital and use any revenue from this to breathe new life into our town and city centres.
- A Retail Strategy to help the sector in Scotland change, innovate and thrive, and become an exemplar in inclusive growth, supporting a robust, local supply chain and offering people and communities the goods, experiences and services they want.

FOOD AND DRINK

The SNP manifesto retains a strong commitment to promoting Scottish food and drink. They will enshrine a right to food in law and increase the value of Best Start Food scheme which is widely used in convenience stores across Scotland.

- Introduce a Good Food Nation Bill creating a single independent Scottish Food agency to promote food, drink and horticulture, attract investment, help increase processing capacity and improve supply chains and infrastructure.
- Enshrine the Right to Food in law as a key part of our ambition to be a Good Food Nation.
- Extend the Best Start Food Scheme to £4.50 per week via a pre-paid card.
- Work with food retailers to offer more Scottish produce and fresh, healthy products and support the growth of local food markets and renovated pop-up and retail outlets, starting in disadvantaged city areas, to bring fresh affordable produce closer to where people live and work
- Work with the out of home food industry to make products healthier; revamping the approach to children's menus and moving to better food labelling and information on menus