



Equality and Fairer Scotland Budget Statement 2021-22

Summary





Introduction

What is the Equality and Fairer Scotland Budget Statement?

The Equality and Fairer Scotland Budget Statement (EFSBS) looks at the **impact** that the Scottish Budget might have on people in Scotland.

It assesses what the Scottish Government is proposing to spend public money on, whether this is likely to benefit some types of people more than others, and how it might help **reduce inequality** between different people.

The EFSBS is published with the Scottish Budget every year.

What is inequality?

Inequality means that for some groups of people, parts of their lives are harder or worse than for other groups of people, such as finding a job or feeling safe. They may not see themselves represented in positions of power or they may feel discriminated against.

What groups of people are we talking about?

We have laws that say we have to think about the differences between people according to certain **characteristics**. These are:

- **Age** (e.g. children, older people)
- **Disability** (disabled people)
- **Gender reassignment** (trans people)
- **Pregnancy and maternity** (mothers)
- **Race** (e.g. Black Scottish, White Gypsy/Traveller)
- **Religion or belief** (e.g. Christians, Muslims, Sikhs)
- **Sex** (men, women)
- **Sexual orientation** (e.g. lesbian, gay and bisexual people)
- **Socio-economic disadvantage** (e.g. people with low incomes or wealth, people who live in a deprived area)



Introduction

How is the EFSBS completed?

People working on each of the 12 main budget areas are asked to think about how the decisions they make about their budget for the coming year will affect different kinds of people.

This year, we asked people to complete a template as part of this work. This template looked at the impact that the budget could have on different **key inequalities** relevant to each area of government. The full templates can be found in the [main EFSBS publication](#).

This work was designed to help ensure our decisions about budgets are not **making existing inequality worse**, but instead helping to **promote equality** between different groups of people.

About this document

This document summarises some of the main information from the templates completed by each budget area.

It also talks about:

- the **context** for the 2021-22 budget
- the Scottish Government's **priorities**, which help it decide how public money should be spent
- **10 inequalities** that are particularly important this year, and how the budget responds to these
- the main ways that **changes** between last year's budget and this year's budget could affect inequality
- how the budget is likely to affect **different groups** of people.

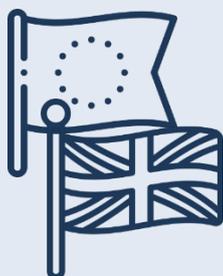
Note

'm' means 'million'
'bn' means 'billion'



Context for the budget

This year, the budget is being created in very uncertain times. These are the major events which are particularly relevant to the 2021-22 budget.



Brexit

The UK's exit from the EU, and the deal agreed by the UK Government, are expected to have a range of negative impacts for Scotland.



Climate emergency

We are facing a growing climate emergency and an urgent need to reduce our carbon emissions.



COVID-19 pandemic

This is at a critical stage. In recent months the development and roll-out of vaccines has provided some good news. However, the NHS are also having to cope with a new strain of the virus as well as rising infection rates, hospitalisations and deaths.



Black Lives Matter

The BLM movement has highlighted the significant structural inequality and discrimination that Black people continue to face, and the need for action to rectify this. COVID-19 has also shone a light on racial inequality.



National priorities



Every year, the Programme for Government (PfG) sets out the Scottish Government’s aims for the coming year. The budget then allocates money to support these goals.

The Scottish Budget directs spend in a way that promotes the 11 national outcomes in the National Performance Framework ([NPF](#)), as well as its overall purpose:

to create a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increased wellbeing and sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Our recent [report](#) set out how COVID-19 has had many negative impacts on the national outcomes. In many cases these are impacting some people more than others, and making inequality worse.

The [2020-21 PfG](#) focused on Scotland’s recovery from COVID-19. It committed to:

- create **new jobs, good jobs and green jobs** – with a focus on young people, supporting retraining, and investing in our Green New Deal to tackle climate change
- promote **lifelong health and wellbeing** – by tackling COVID-19, remobilising and reforming the NHS and social care, and tackling health inequalities
- promote **equality** and help young people fulfil their potential.



10 key inequalities

This section looks at 10 key inequalities relating to **COVID-19** and **Brexit**. These either already exist or are getting worse, or are at high risk of happening. It sets out how the 2021-22 budget responds.

1. Some groups of people are more likely to have paid jobs than others, and this may well get worse

Funding continues for employability support including Fair Start Scotland (£27m), the Parental Employability Support Fund and the National Transition Training Fund. These offer targeted support for groups at high risk of poverty and unemployment. No One Left Behind is the underpinning policy for employability services and focuses on tackling poverty and inequality and supporting target groups.

2. Lack of work for young people due to COVID-19

Young people are a target group for No One Left Behind, the underlying policy for the range of employability services funded through this budget. Funding for the Young Person's Guarantee also aims to ensure that within two years, every young person will have the opportunity to study; take up an apprenticeship, job or work experience; or participate in formal volunteering.

3. Women's unfair responsibility for unpaid work and care might get worse and make it harder to find paid work

More hours of funded and flexible early learning and childcare will allow more women to work, train or study. The Women Returners Programme aims to address the 'motherhood penalty' and funding for Flexibility Works will promote flexible and family-friendly workplaces. Finally, a new 'What Works?' Institute will develop and test ways to change public attitudes to gender equality, including around care and work.

4. Risk of being ill or dying from COVID-19 is higher for some groups of people

The budget includes £869m to cover PPE, Test and Protect, healthcare backlogs, medicine and therapeutics. Advice and support is available to everyone on the shielding list and COVID-19 vaccinations will be prioritised and offered to the groups most at risk first. Testing for all care-at-home providers will increase protection for those providing care and those receiving it. We will implement recommendations from the Expert Reference Group on COVID-19 and Ethnicity including working to improve ethnicity data.



10 key inequalities

5. Drug and alcohol deaths are unacceptably high, especially for men and deprived communities

£50m per year for the next five years will be spent on the new national mission to address the drug crisis. A further £5m is being spent this year to ensure work starts immediately. We will continue to take a whole-population approach to reducing alcohol consumption and the risk of alcohol-related harms, with two key principles: our actions must reduce health inequality, and protect children and young people.

6. Mental health is getting worse due to COVID

The COVID-19 Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan addresses the challenges of the pandemic for people's mental health. It lays out key areas of mental health need from COVID-19 and lockdown, and the actions that the Scottish Government will take. These are actions to improve mental health for the population overall, but particularly for specific groups that are worse affected. This includes women, young adults, people who already had a mental health condition, LGBT people, and those in lower socio-economic groups. The Plan will be funded from £869m of additional COVID-19 funding.

7. Many people do not have access to the internet, which has become a bigger problem

We will provide every home and business in Scotland with access to superfast broadband and are investing £25m to improve rural 4G mobile coverage. Digital inclusion will be at the heart of our new digital strategy and reflected in our refreshed digital health and care strategy. Connecting Scotland will help ensure that no one is left behind, while the national online learning environment, Glow, is freely available.

8. Poverty might increase – especially child poverty

Wider inequalities drive poverty, so tackling it requires action from across government and beyond. Social Security supports low income families, young people entering work and carers, and delivers the ground-breaking new Scottish Child Payment (£68m). Free School Meals will continue for eligible children during the 2021 Easter holidays. We are reducing household costs through affordable housing, tackling fuel poverty and the digital divide (see no.7), improving energy efficiency, and expanding funded early learning and childcare. See 1, 2 & 3 for how we are tackling risks around work.



10 key inequalities

9. More disadvantaged pupils are likely to have suffered more from school closures

The Scottish Attainment Challenge is important in reducing this risk. Spend here includes over £120m in Pupil Equity Funding, and we also continue to invest in the free national online learning environment, Glow.

Further investment in the Young Person's Guarantee will improve outcomes for young people who have been particularly affected by COVID-19.

£230m for Skills Development Scotland ensures that apprenticeship opportunities are open to all while the Flexible Workforce Development Fund helps to upskill our existing workforce. The Higher Education Student Support budget (around £1.4bn) provides bursaries, student loans and free tuition for eligible Scottish undergraduate students studying in Scotland. Additional support is available for care-experienced and disabled students and childcare support for student parents.

10. Domestic abuse, sexual abuse and hate crime all seem to be rising

This budget supports actions to prevent crime, including hate crime and violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill is currently going through Parliament. This brings together and extends hate crime law and makes it more modern.

Funding is also being maintained for specialist services to support those who experience VAWG and rehabilitation services for male perpetrators of domestic abuse. Support for women in prostitution will increase. The new Delivering Equally Safe Fund will allocate £13m to organisations tackling VAWG, to develop and support frontline organisations and projects. The £50m Ending Homelessness Together Fund also includes support for victims of domestic abuse to secure positive housing outcomes.

The third sector plays a key role in supporting children, young people and their families. The Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund and Adult Learning and Empowering Communities Fund will provide greater stability to these organisations.



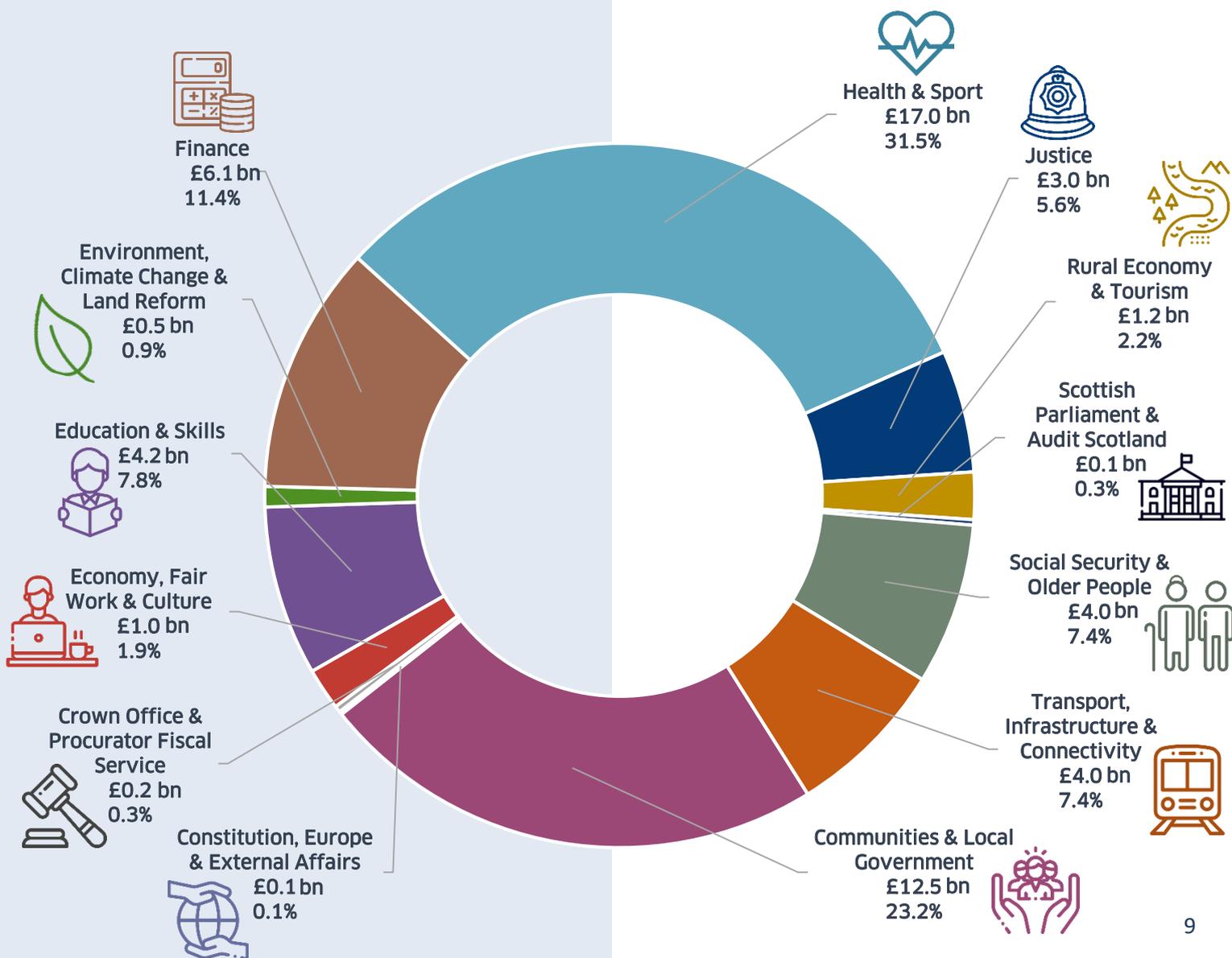
The Scottish Budget 2021-22

This budget is for the 2021-22 financial year. This runs from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

After it is published by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament examine it and then vote on whether it should be changed, or created as the government have proposed.

SCOTTISH BUDGET IN 2021-22 IS £54.0 BILLION

Note: These figures include Annually Managed Expenditure (mainly in Finance and Communities and Local Government). Please see Annex A of the Scottish Budget 2021-22 for more information.





Budget areas



Communities & Local Government

Budget purpose:

Tackle inequality, reduce child poverty, ensure accessible, affordable, energy-efficient housing, promote regeneration and participation, and fund Scotland's 32 local authorities.

Primary national outcomes:



Communities



Children & Young People



Poverty

Key human rights:

- Right to an adequate standard of living, including: adequate housing, adequate food, protection against poverty and social exclusion.

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

This budget has significant potential to promote equality and ease inequality. Social Justice and Regeneration spend has increased (£122.5m), so that organisations can continue to tackle poverty and remove barriers for disadvantaged groups. The budget for child poverty has increased to over £23m to provide essential support to families in need. Spend for social rented housing, home adaptations and homelessness will be prioritised and £26m is allocated to the Third Sector budget. Funding for local authorities is allocated with a needs-based formula and local authorities decide how to spend this.



Constitution, Europe & External Affairs

Budget purpose:

Co-ordinate policy on constitutional matters, elections, freedom of information and veterans, and promote Scotland's interests at home and abroad.

Primary national outcomes:



Communities



International

Key human rights:

- Right to free elections
- Right to freedom of expression
- Right to an adequate standard of living

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

This budget funds the International Development Fund (£10m) which aims to improve outcomes in partner countries. It has a particular focus on race and equality issues. A current review of this fund looks to further strengthen partner-led development and pursue an inclusive approach that breaks the 'white gaze'. This budget is largely unchanged from last year, apart from an extra £34m to ensure safe, democratic participation in the 2021 Scottish Parliament election during COVID-19. Planned spend on safety measures and communication is designed to reduce risks for voters and prevent barriers to voting.



Budget areas



Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service

Budget purpose:

As Scotland’s public prosecuting authority, COPFS receives reports about crimes from Police and other agencies and decides what action to take.

Primary national outcomes:



Communities



Human Rights

Key human rights:

- Right to a fair trial
- Right to freedom from punishment without law
- Right to liberty and security of person

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

COPFS cannot choose how to spend its budget and must respond to all cases reported to it. However, it is committed to equal and inclusive access to justice for everyone and offers the court stronger sentencing options in recognition of the harm caused by crime and the vulnerability of victims. It works to support both victims and vulnerable witnesses. Current priorities include reducing the backlog of cases caused by COVID-19, effectively prosecuting domestic abuse and sexual offences and investigating COVID-19 deaths within care homes and of front line workers.



Economy, Fair Work & Culture

Budget purpose:

Protect industries, businesses and jobs, build long-term green infrastructure, drive fair work practices and invest in Scotland’s heritage and culture.

Primary national outcomes:



Economy



Fair Work & Business



Culture

Key human rights:

- Right to an adequate standard of living
- Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association, including to form and join trade unions
- Right to take part in cultural life

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

Advancing equality and reducing inequality is at the heart of this budget’s aim to deliver a sustainable wellbeing economy. The principle of reducing barriers to work for disadvantaged groups, especially those worst impacted by COVID-19, underpins the fair work and employment programmes funded here. Reducing inequality is a key mission for the Scottish National Investment Bank, while funded cultural bodies are working to improve access and inclusion for groups experiencing disadvantage.



Budget areas



Education & Skills

Budget purpose:

Change children and young people's lives for the better in and beyond educational settings and ensure that all children and young people are able to reach their full potential.

Primary national outcomes:



Education



Children & Young People

Key human rights:

- Right to education
- Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Right to an adequate standard of living

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

This spend is targeted to tackle differences in development and attainment for people experiencing disadvantage. Funding is provided to almost double hours of free early learning and childcare, and to deliver the Scottish Attainment Challenge. Bursaries, student loans and free tuition will support people to access education and future employment. We will continue to invest in the Young Person's Guarantee to ensure that within two years, every person aged between 16 and 24 will have the opportunity to study; take up an apprenticeship, job or work experience; or participate in formal volunteering.



Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform

Budget purpose:

Protect and enhance Scotland's environment, lead action to tackle the global climate emergency and drive forward land reform.

Primary national outcomes:



Environment

Key human rights:

- Right to a healthy environment, including the right to benefit from healthy ecosystems which sustain human wellbeing and the right of access to information, participation in decision-making and justice

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

This budget's focus on a green economic recovery aims to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 and Brexit in an inclusive way. This is important as COVID seems to have hit lower socio-economic groups, migrant workers and women in rural and coastal areas harder. Funding is provided to help more people access green and blue space, and to help those from low income households adapt or recover from air pollution, climate change and flooding. This budget will also tackle environmental crises, which may often have worse impacts for disadvantaged groups.



Budget areas



Finance

Budget purpose:

Coordinate delivery of the Scottish Government’s purpose and budget, support the focus set out in the NPF, promote the digital economy, and set public pay, pension and tax policy.

Primary national outcomes:



Economy



Fair Work & Business



Poverty

Key human rights:

- Right to an adequate standard of living, including protection against poverty and social exclusion

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

This budget has the potential to reduce barriers that people face and to promote equality. The Scottish Government’s budget process considers likely budget impacts in terms of equality, child poverty, socio-economic disadvantage and human rights.

In line with Scotland’s Economic Strategy, Digital Strategy and the NPF, this budget area will continue to promote and follow our ambitions for an equal and Fairer Scotland.



Health & Sport

Budget purpose:

Improve population health and tackle health inequality.

Primary national outcomes:



Health



Human Rights



Children & Young People

Key human rights:

- Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- Right to an adequate standard of living

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

The Health and Sport budget has the potential for significant positive impacts for people with protected characteristics and those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. The budget may also help ease existing inequality.

Spend on mental health, on tackling alcohol, drugs and substance misuse, and on workforce has all increased. This is likely to have a clear positive impact on tackling inequality and improving the population’s health.



Budget areas



Justice

Budget purpose:

Keep our communities safe and secure, and manage justice in its different forms: civil, criminal and administrative.

Primary national outcomes:



Human Rights



Communities

Key human rights:

- Right to liberty and security of person
- Right to a fair trial
- Right to freedom from punishment without law

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

Justice is committed to advancing equality and providing a setting to address the causes of inequality. Funding for Justice partners such as Police is 81% of this budget and is invested in system-wide measures to prevent crime and offending, reduce re-offending, and ensure an effective civil law system. This spend will help protect and support disadvantaged groups, including women, children, the LGBT community and older people, from the damaging effects of crime and accidental harm. It is partners' duty to allocate budgets in line with equality law.



Rural Economy & Tourism

Budget purpose:

Ensure a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous rural Scotland. Twin priorities of supporting agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors, and wider support for rural and island communities.

Primary national outcomes:



Environment



Economy

Key human rights:



Culture

- Right to protection of property
- Right to an adequate standard of living
- Right to a healthy environment
- Right to take part in cultural life

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

This spend addresses issues around rural disadvantage through supporting traditional rural industries and through direct funding to community groups. Funding for Highland and Islands Enterprise and South of Scotland Enterprise aims to address inequality issues in rural and coastal areas.

Financial support for farmers may help keep food prices affordable although evidence on this is limited. More broadly, there is currently limited data on the impacts of this budget on groups experiencing disadvantage.



Budget areas



Social Security & Older People

Budget purpose:

Create a fairer Scotland, tackle poverty and inequality, reduce child poverty, and promote equality and human rights. This includes the delivery of all benefits through Social Security Scotland.

Primary national outcomes:



Poverty



Human Rights

Key human rights:

- Right to social security and social protection
- Right to an adequate standard of living
- Right to non-discrimination

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

Social security assistance spend has been increased to improve outcomes for people who are entitled to these vital payments. Spend to support the roll-out of the Scottish Child Payment will help tackle child poverty (£68m). There is also new funding for projects to address inequality, discrimination and violence against women and girls. The promoting equality and human rights budget (over £18m) will help change the way that equality and human rights are embedded across the Scottish Government and wider public sector.



Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity

Budget purpose:

Ensure public transport is available and accessible, promote active and sustainable travel, and support delivery of the National Transport Strategy which has reducing inequality as one of its priorities.

Primary national outcomes:



Economy



Environment

Key human rights:

- Right to an adequate standard of living
- Right to a healthy environment
- Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Impact on Equality & Fairer Scotland:

Public transport services are important for and used more often by some groups of people. For example, women, older people, younger people and those on lower incomes use bus services more. Continuing to invest in public transport means that those reliant on public transport can continue to access key services, employment and education. Spend on active travel (£100.5m) and sustainable travel will also increase the provision of low cost, sustainable transport options.



Key changes in spend

Key increases

Key increases in spend in the 2021-22 budget that are likely to have **significant positive impacts** for equality and socio-economic disadvantage include:

- An increase of £22m for the mental health budget
- A further £72.6m in social care and health and social integration (total of £883m)
- £50m per year for the next five years to tackle the drugs death crisis
- £869m of additional COVID-19 funding in response to the on-going costs of the pandemic
- An increase to over £23m for child poverty, to provide vital support to families in need
- £68m for the first full year of Scottish Child Payment
- £3m for the entirely new Child Winter Heating Assistance
- Funding for free bus travel for 5-18 year-olds and significant additional support for transport operators during COVID-19 to continue to provide public transport services
- £125m for the Young Person's Guarantee, employability and skills provision

- An extra £5.8m for Fair Start Scotland (to £27m), to help with employment for people not currently working and those impacted most by COVID-19
- Added investment in peatlands, flood risk management and carbon reduction

Reductions

The key reductions in this budget which may impact equality and socio-economic disadvantage include:

- The EU-funded LEADER programme (from £22m to £10m), because of the Brexit deal. This fund supports community cohesion projects in rural Scotland. The UK Government is not currently replacing this funding. Some or all of it may be replaced by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, but we do not yet have much information about this.
- Grant funding for affordable housing is lower, but this is mainly because last year's budget was the end of a steep increase in spend as we moved from a 30,000 to 50,000 homes target. The grant funding for affordable housing over the parliament's next term will go up over all.



Impacts on different groups of people

This section looks at which parts of the budget are particularly important for people with the characteristics set out in the introduction.

It responds to the inequalities discussed in the EFSBS templates, and so it only includes a selection of key budget responses.

Socio-economic disadvantage



- Support to reduce health problems which are more prevalent in deprived areas
- Attainment Scotland Fund (£182m), which helps children in low income families reach their potential, and the widening access programme and bursary payments for students
- Expanded early learning and childcare, which will be available for disadvantaged children at an earlier age
- Budget to tackle digital exclusion
- Social Security benefits, employment support, Free School Meals and affordable housing to help increase income and reduce living costs
- The £50m Ending Homelessness Together Fund, which will help secure positive housing outcomes
- Funding for air pollution, flood management and electric vehicles, which can benefit disadvantaged households now and in the future
- Increased Police budget (£1.3bn), which may help people in more deprived areas feel safer
- Funding to increase people's influence through local place planning and community regeneration



Impacts on different groups of people

Children and young people



- Funding for policies to increase income from employment and social security or reduce costs of living for low income families
- Several areas of funding to widen skills and improve access to education and opportunities
- The expansion of early learning and childcare and the Scottish Attainment Challenge (supported by the Attainment Scotland Fund, £182m), to support children's learning and development
- Additional resources to promote learning and development for children with Additional Support Needs
- Employment policies as part of the Young Person Guarantee and Developing the Young Workforce Programme, to support training and employment
- Support for undergraduates studying in Scotland
- Affordable rail fares for job seekers and the newly employed, and free bus travel for 5-18 year olds
- Increased spend on services to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Young Carer Grant, for annual financial support to 16,17 and 18 year-old carers (£1m)

Older people



- Support to deliver the 'A Fairer Scotland for Older People' framework which challenges the inequalities people face as they age
- Funding which will reduce the impacts of COVID-19 on older and socially isolated people, including prioritising older people for vaccination
- The Affordable Housing Supply Programme to help deliver flexible housing to suit peoples' changing requirements as they age, and increased funding for the adaptations programme delivered by Registered Social Landlords (£11m)
- Funding for Police Scotland's new cyber strategy, which will benefit older people who are most at risk of cyber fraud
- Connecting Scotland fund to offer training and devices to allow older people to be more connected to friends, family and services



Impacts on different groups of people

Disability



- Employment schemes, especially No One Left Behind, to help disabled people to find fair work
- Disability benefits (expected spend of £3bn), including the Child Disability Payment
- Carer's Allowance (£306m) and Carer's Allowance Supplement (£42m), which will benefit families with a disabled adult or child
- Families with a disabled child or adult are a priority group for the Tackling Child Poverty Fund and will be helped by the Scottish Child Payment
- £15m to further support disabled children and young people with Additional Support Needs
- Health funding to support those with complex pain needs, those requiring access to social care and those with a sensory loss
- Investment in adaptations to make necessary changes to people's homes
- Equality funding for disabled people's organisations
- Funding to Disability Equality Scotland to monitor and report on public realm accessibility during COVID

Gender reassignment



- Budget allocated to Social Security Scotland to collect and analyse equality data on applicants and clients, in order to assess outcomes for transgender people
- Funding to deliver the Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan, addressing key mental health concerns and setting out actions to offset inequalities for specific groups of people who may be particularly affected
- Spend to prevent crime, including hate crime, and promote trans-inclusive policy
- Funding for National Registers of Scotland to include voluntary questions on transgender status/history in the Population Census in 2022



Impacts on different groups of people

Pregnancy and maternity



- The Baby Box, Best Start Grants (£19m), Best Start Foods (£12m) and Scottish Child Payment (£68m) will help mothers through pregnancy and the first years of a new baby's life
- The expansion of early learning and childcare will provide affordable options for childcare
- The Parental Employment Support programme, Women Returners Programme and Flexibility Works, which all help mothers return to and remain in the labour market
- Extra funding for mental health care and recruitment, to help the high numbers of women who develop a mental illness while pregnant or following birth
- Funding for the Best Start programme (£9m) to increase the number of midwifery students and introduce continuity of care. The next stage of the programme will focus on women with complex social needs and minority ethnic women, for whom risks are greater

Race



- Several budget areas recognise that a significant and long-term cultural change is required to tackle inequality and discrimination and have committed to improve data and evidence to build from a strong base
- Poverty rates are high for many minority ethnicities, so funding under socio-economic disadvantage is also relevant
- Funding for employment and fair work policies, which include tailored support for people of minority ethnicities
- Measures to prevent hate crime and support services for victims of hate crimes
- Spend to educate social enterprises on the barriers for minority ethnicities and to increase board representation
- Support to help EU nationals apply for settled status and to ensure that people who do not speak English as a first language know how to vote safely in the forthcoming elections



Impacts on different groups of people

Religion and belief



- Measures to prevent hate crime and offer support services for victims of hate crimes
- Funding included under socio-economic disadvantage is relevant for those of religions for whom poverty rates are higher
- The Funeral Support Payment (£11m), with a commitment to processing applications within 10 working days – this is especially important for faith groups that require funerals to take place quickly
- Continuing support for faith groups throughout the pandemic, as they try to maintain services at Places of Worship

Sex



- Funding for employment support, including employability schemes, encouragement of flexible working practices and expansion of early learning and childcare provision
- Funding to improve fair work in Social Care, where women are the majority of the workforce
- Scottish Funding Council and the Skills Development Scotland funding to tackle occupational segregation, as well as other schemes to encourage women into agriculture and aquaculture
- Funding for the COVID-19 Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan
- Continued investment to tackle domestic abuse, as set out in key inequality 10
- Carer's Allowance (£306m) and Carer's Allowance Supplement (£42m), which will particularly benefit women who are the majority of unpaid carers
- Funding to tackle Scotland's drug death crisis, which will particularly benefit men (£50m per year for the next 5 years)



Impacts on different groups of people

Sexual Orientation



- New funding to support the mainstreaming and embedding of equality and human rights across Scotland
- Funding to tackle hate crime and prejudice and improve data on these
- Annual funding to the Scottish Police Authority LGBTI Staff Association to advance LGBTI equality and inclusion
- The Health and Sport budget, which will help tackle the poorer levels of mental and physical health reported by LGB+ people
- Funding for National Registers of Scotland to include voluntary questions on sexual orientation in the Population Census in 2022



Further resources & contact

Read the full Equality and Fairer Scotland Budget Statement 2021-22 at:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800045521>

Read the Scottish Budget 2021-22 at:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800045507>

[Scottish Parliament](#) also provide useful resources to help you understand the Scottish Budget.



We very much welcome feedback on both this summary document and the full Equality and Fairer Scotland Budget Statement.

You can contact:

Liz Hawkins at liz.hawkins@gov.scot

The Chair of the Equality Budget Advisory Group (Dr Angela O' Hagan) via the Secretariat, Gillian Achurch at gillian.achurch@gov.scot

Further resources:



National Performance Framework website:

nationalperformance.gov.scot



Report on [Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of COVID-19](#)

Report on [COVID-19: Impact on Equality](#)



Equality Evidence Finder: equalityevidence.scot

You can find more evidence about equality [on the Scottish Government website](#).