

Programme for Government comparison against Quaker asks

Below is a comparison of the Quaker asks on climate justice, economic justice and peacebuilding for Holyrood and what they put in their [Programme for Government](#) which is the plan of work between 2026-2031. This five year plan will play a crucial role in the Scottish Government's approach to meeting its targets over the next parliamentary session, including those outlined in the most recent Climate Change Plan.

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Executive Summary

[Ambitious for Scotland Programme for Government 2026 – 2031](#)

Overall Assessment

The Programme for Government contains some positive commitments on climate justice but falls short of Quaker asks on peacebuilding, fossil fuels and ambitious climate action. It does not require a major change in our advocacy priorities.

Recommendations for priority actions

1. Push for a strong Private Jet Tax rate through work with SCCS and Oxfam.
2. Continue advocacy on Loss and Damage finance and seek a parliamentary debate.
3. Monitor and potentially engage with debates on the energy strategy/North Sea Oil and Gas/Carbon Capture Utilisation Storage/Data centres
4. Engage with the Heat and buildings bill.
5. Continue pressure on Scottish Enterprise human rights due diligence.
6. Engage on Community Cohesion and Hate Crime Strategy consultations where relevant.

Quaker Rapid media response:

We decided to release a quick reactive statement which focused on an increase in defence spending and can be seen here: [Quakers in Scotland concerned over military spending plans | Quakers in Britain](#)

Other organisations responses:

- [SCCS Responds to the new Scottish Programme for Government - Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#)
- [Ambitious for Scotland Programme for Government 2026 – 2031](#)
- [Quakers in Scotland concerned over military spending plans | Quakers in Britain](#)

- [Programme for Government: how has the sector responded? - TFN](#)

Relevant Planned bills 2026/2027

- **Budget Bill** (annual bill, working with SCCS about what should be in it) (p76)
- **Buildings** (Heating and Energy Performance) and Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill (we have inputted into this over the past few years) (p76)
- **Council Tax** (Scotland) Bill (high value properties, we responded to this consultation) (p76)
- **Misogyny Bill**- The Bill will recognise misogyny as a distinct form of prejudice and abuse. Signalling that violence, harassment, and abuse rooted in hostility to women and girls is a serious societal problem(p76)

Climate justice

Engagement opportunities

- **Budget bill**
 - An annual bill to get the budget through in January, I am working now with SCCS to provide some input into this, which I think is sufficient for us.
- **Heat in Buildings Bill**
 - We have inputted into this over the past few years but should keep any eye out for if we have anything to add to debates etc
- **Private jet tax**
 - Continue working with Oxfam and SCCS to ensure that the rate of this is as high as possible (10x air departure tax)
- **International Climate Finance**
 - Continuing working through SCCS/SIDA to push for loss and damage finance, attendance of COP31, a motion and debate in parliament.
- **Energy Strategy/North Sea Oil and Gas/Carbon Capture Utilisation Storage/ Data centres**
 - Look for engagement opportunities where we have a value add.

Climate Justice Detail

Quaker ask	What the Programme for Gov says	Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Thoughts
Increased funding for the Climate Justice Fund to £15 million in the next parliament	"Starting now and across 2026-27, we will: Continue and increase our Climate Justice Fund, up from £36 million, over the course of this Parliament and, following an independent evaluation, deliver new programmes that support communities in the Global South to build resilience and address loss and damage" p38 " Increase the International Development Fund by 25% and in doing so review our existing programmes while developing new modes of funding and partnership, including the development of an Aid Match scheme." pg74	Positive	It is good that they are committing to an increase to the Climate Justice Fund but a number would have been better. No mention of contributing to the UN Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). Lucy to continue working with ScotGov civil servants and to get a motion and debate in parliament on loss and damage.
Continued and expanded contributions through the Humanitarian Emergency Fund	"Continue support for tackling global emergencies and conflicts through the Humanitarian Emergency Fund, including	Positive	Good that Palestine is mentioned. It remains unclear how loss and damage will fit into the humanitarian emergency fund as it is not mentioned and was a

	continued support for the people of Palestine and give particular focus on supporting the efforts related to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognises the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls" pg74		mechanism for funds being distributed in the last parliament.
Climate finance is generated by the biggest polluters contributing the most through innovative taxation	"Set the rates for our Private Jet Tax through the 2027-28 Scottish Budget development to ensure that those who choose to travel by private jet, which produce significantly more emissions per head than commercial aircraft, make a fair contribution to public finances." P38	Neutral	It is good that a polluter pays mechanism is in the Programme for Government but we had asked private jet tax to be brought forward to 2026-2027 and there is no indication of the rates. Oxfam, SCCS, Quakers have asked for 10x the Air Departure Tax.
Support no new oil and gas developments in the North Sea or elsewhere	"Call on the UK Government to take an evidence-led and case-by-case approach to decisions on North Sea projects, with climate compatibility and energy security as primary considerations" p41 "Publish a refreshed Energy Strategy which will look beyond this Parliament to provide long-term certainty." P40	Negative	The SNP have shifted in the past few years from being against new extraction to having lots of MSPs pro and their official line indicating some should be approved. They kept delaying the energy strategy in the last parliament so it is good to see it promised for 2026/2027 and it should include some good things on renewables and community energy schemes, there may be engagement opportunities but SCCS seems to broadly have it covered.

Sign the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty	N/A	N/A	This is seeming very unlikely, also the conversation has moved on a bit. We are now pushing for the Scottish Government to go to Transitioning Away from Fossil fuels conference.
Delivery of the Climate Change Plan and deliver net zero by 2045 (transport, Heat in buildings etc.	It is a mixed picture Good: • Support expansion of community renewables schemes, establish a ScotWind Wealth fund, national rollout £2 bus cap and engage in better buses legislation, more woodland creation and peatland restoration. • “Introduce a Heat in Buildings Bill, while also supporting clean heating and energy efficiency measures for around 100,000 properties in Scotland, enabling the scale up of heat networks.” P37 Negative:	Neutral	SCCS were disappointed with the detail and said the climate emergency was a crisis in ‘name only’ but they were pleased to see some of what they are calling for, including supporting warm homes and clean heating, delivering better buses legislation, scaling up community-owned energy and establishing a Wealth Fund, as well as a commitment to develop the Private Jet Tax during the next financial year. The Heat in Buildings Bill was dropped in the last parliamentary session so it is good to see it here, QiS have inputted into previous consultations so there may be engagement opportunities.

	Develop AI Scotland as a flagship international programme, no pause on data centres building but the development of a strategic approach to attract and secure responsible green data centre investment p24		
Prioritising proven and scalable technology rather than carbon capture storage	“Work with the UK Government and industry partners to advance the Acorn project in the North East, while supporting the broader deployment of Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technologies where they can deliver decarbonisation and industrial growth.” P41	Negative	A possible engagement opportunity in debates etc because this was a focus of our Climate Change Plan response.
A nationwide public awareness campaign	N/A		

Economic Justice

Engagement opportunities

- **Council tax bill**
 - We have already contributed to the consultation about 2 new higher rate bands, so we need to keep an eye to see if there are further engagement opportunities or value add through Tax Justice Scotland.

Economic Justice Detail

Quaker ask	What the Programme for Gov says	Good/ Neutral/ Bad	Thoughts
No specific asks as it has mainly linked to climate justice asks but we are pushing for a more equal and fairer Scottish society mainly through work with Tax Justice Scotland	£2 bus cap (p11) Review council tax to consider how it impact victim-survivors and consider any changes required to make council tax debt recovery processes fairer.p11 Invest £205 million to continue delivering winter heating payments to pensioners, families with disabled children and the households struggling the most.p11	Neutral	Keep an eye on the work of tax justice Scotland and amplify where appropriate.

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding engagement opportunities

- **Increase in defence spending/human rights with Scottish enterprise**
 - We currently have some momentum on the work about improving human rights from Scottish enterprise so this work will continue. There might be opportunities to provide a quaker peace viewpoint in debates on defence.
- **Community Cohesion/Hate Crime Delivery Plan**
 - There is work on this in 2026/2027 and so there might be a consultation that we can input into from the work happening on countering the far right in QiS/QiB.
- **Human rights bill (2027/2028)**
 - This is not this coming year but SIDA wants to push for this bill to become more internationally focused which it was originally last parliament.

Peacebuilding detail

Quaker ask	What the Programme for Gov says	Good/ Neutral/ Bad	Thoughts/ next steps
Strengthen human-rights checks on Scottish Enterprise and all public-funding bodies	N/a	Negative	We have been working with Amnesty and Oxfam to put some pressure on the Scotgov over human rights checks of Scottish Enterprise. There was an article in the National which we are quoted in, we finally got a reply to our July letter to Stephen Flynn. Next step is that amnesty is meeting Stephen this week and reporting back. We may then need to write a further letter or ask an MSP to ask a question about it.
A shift in public spending away from weapons	"Establish a responsible defence industrial growth programme to maximise the economic benefits to Scotland from	Negative	We released a statement about the PfG focused around this because it is important but also because others

and the military to be redirected to address the causes of conflict such as gross inequality and climate breakdown	increased UK and allied defence spending" p25		hadn't covered it: Quakers in Scotland concerned over military spending plans Quakers in Britain
Introduce the Scottish Human Rights Bill	"Across this Parliament we will not shy away from that challenge and ensure our action improves opportunities and outcomes for all while taking specific steps to protect those most at risk from harm – bolstering community cohesion, supporting those fleeing persecution or facing the devastation of conflicts in their own countries. Our aim will be to protect and enhance the rights of everyone, including by the development of a Human Rights Bill, aiming for introduction in Year 2 of the Parliament" p71	Neutral	I have heard that the original bill had a much more international outlook and that overtime in the last parliament it was diluted into something very domestic only. As it is reintroduced the Scotland International Development Alliance wants to push for the scope to be broadened. Year 2 of parliament is a broken promise it was promised as a priority in this parliament and it might not leave enough time for scrutiny.
Use advocacy opportunities to call for an end to devastating conflicts and nuclear weapons	See above about increases in military spending	Negative	

Embed peace education across the curriculum, increase funding for Scottish Development Education Centres	N/A	Negative	Keep an eye on what the global Citizenship group at SIDA are doing.
We have also been doing some work on countering the rise of the far right and on community cohesion	“Establish a Ministerial Taskforce on Community Cohesion to strengthen preventative action.” P72 “Take action to address the root causes of hate crime, strengthening reporting and support for victims, and drawing on robust evidence and experience, as part of the refreshed Hate Crime Strategy Delivery Plan, to be published by the end of 2026” p72	Positive	We potentially have a contribution to make to any consultations due to the work happening in QiS/QiB on countering the far right.