

results

what Scottish Labour has done for you



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The Top 4 - Economy, Health, Education and Crime

With Labour, Scotland's Economy is Strong and getting Stronger

1. The number of **Scots on the dole is down** over 50% since the Tories left office. Our **employment rate is at its highest point since records began**. The rate is higher than the UK average, and among the highest in the EU25.
2. The Scottish economy has grown in every quarter over the past three years, and growth since 2003 has been around or above our long term trend rate.
3. We have **reduced business rates** in 2006/07 and will reduce them again in 2007/08.
4. We **have invested in the transport infrastructure** of Scotland's economy
 - 70% of investment will be targeted on **public transport**
 - **Maintaining and improving trunk roads** including M74, M8 and M80.
 - Improving access by opening **Larkhall - Milngavie and Alloa - Stirling lines**
 - Supporting rail links to **Edinburgh and Glasgow airports**

Labour Has Made the Investment and Taken the Tough Decisions to Improve Our Nation's Health

1. We have increased investment with **more nurses, more doctors, more consultants, better buildings and equipment**.
2. A focus on the killer diseases has **produced real results since 1999**.
 - Deaths from **heart disease** down by 30%
 - Deaths from **stroke** down by 22%
 - Deaths from **cancer** down by 7%

3. Tough action to improve Scotland's health. **Labour banned smoking** in enclosed public places to save lives and prevent debilitating illnesses in adults and children. **We are also improving the quality, attractiveness and nutritional value of schools meals** and introduced **Free personal care** for the elderly - 50,000 older people now receive high quality and responsive long term care in an appropriate setting – guaranteeing dignity and support to all older people in Scotland who need it – irrespective of their ability to pay.

4. Achieved the best waiting time performance ever.

- No one with a guarantee waits more than 6 months for inpatient or outpatient treatment
- Number of people waiting more than 18 weeks for an outpatient appointment down 68% (June 05 – June 06)
- Number of people waiting more than 18 weeks for hospital treatment down 55% (June 05 – June 06)

Labour's Investment in Scotland's Education is Getting Results

1. Our education system is amongst the best in the world and only 3 countries out perform us in maths, literacy and science. More and more of Scotland's pupils are now making the grade:
 - At **Primary 3** our investment in early years means 90% (2003/04) now gain the expected level, up from 81% (1998/99)
 - Across our **primary schools**, 79% of pupils (2003/4) now reach expected standards, up from 70% in (1998/99)
 - More of our young people in second year are reaching the expected standards - up from 41% (1998/99) to 59% (2003/04)

2. We are **modernising Scotland's Schools** by building or substantially refurbishing 227 schools since 1999 – on course for 300 by 2009.
3. We have provided **a nursery place for every three and four year old whose parents want one.**
4. **Teacher recruitment is growing** as we achieve our target of 53,000 teachers by 2007 and we have **reduced class sizes** - average primary class sizes have further dropped from 24.6 in 1999 to 23.6 in 2005

Labour has Tackled Crime in Our Communities and Given Greater Powers to those at the Frontline

1. Scotland now has a **record number of police officers** –up 9% from June 1999 and introduced **over 500 community-based wardens.**
2. **Crime in Scotland is down 23%** since its peak in 1991
 - **Clear up rates are at their highest ever** - up 5% since 1997
 - **Drug seizures – up** – currently 22,400 (2003 figure) up 30% from 17,197 in 1999
 - **Convictions for handling offensive weapons are up 20%**
3. Labour has delivered a **comprehensive package of judicial reform** to support the fight against crime. Our **courts are now more efficient and effective than ever with vulnerable witnesses and victims of crime protected and tighter procedures on bail and remand.**
4. **Labour has adopted new laws to protect communities from anti-social behaviour** including dispersal orders, ASBOs for under 16s and new powers to tackle vandalism and graffiti and taken tough action on **knives**

Under the Tories - 10 Years Ago

- 10 years ago, 220,000 fewer Scots were in work – and unemployment was a full 3 percentage points higher.
- 10 years ago – you could get paid £1 an hour if that's what your employer thought you were worth.
- 10 years ago – the Tories had sold off the railways.
- 10 years ago, there were only 37 scheduled international routes to and from Scottish airports – now there are 97.
- 10 years ago –classroom assistants did not exist.
- 10 years ago, 1 in 12 boys left school without a qualification – now only 1 in 20 do so.
- 10 years ago, only 62% of Scottish 4 year olds had a place in nursery – now there is a place for every Scottish 3 & 4 year old who wants one.
- 10 years ago, only 14% of the Scottish workforce graduated to degree level – now almost 23% of Scottish workers have degrees.
- 10 years ago – less than 40% of young people went into Higher Education now it is 50%.
- 10 years ago – only the wealthy were treated in the UCI hospital in Clydebank now it's a centre for heart patients no matter what your income.
- 10 years ago, 40% more Scots died from coronary heart disease and strokes – and 15% more died from cancer.

With Labour, Scotland's Economy is Strong and getting Stronger

Labour's number one priority for Scotland is a growing economy. We have used the powers of the Scottish Parliament to create the conditions for higher growth and development by investing in our people, supporting business and building the transport infrastructure of our country.

Employment in Scotland is at a historic high

1. The number of **Scots unemployed is down** over 50% since the Tories left office in 1997 with the rate now at 5.5%, equal to that of the UK.
2. Our **employment rate is around at its highest level since records began.** The rate is higher than the UK average, and among the highest in the EU25. There are:
 - 2.1 150,000 more people in jobs since devolution.
 - 2.2 180,000 more people in jobs since the Tories left power in 1997.

Scotland's Economy is growing

3. The Scottish economy has grown in every quarter over the past three years, and growth since 2003 has been around or above our long term trend rate.
4. According to the Royal Bank of Scotland the Scottish **private sector has grown for the 37th month in a row.** (July 2006 PMI)
5. **GDP growth** of 1.9% from Q1 2005 to Q1 2006. **GDP growth in Scotland has been strong relative to our international competitors.**
6. This year (March 2006) we have been judged by the Financial Times – not only to be the UK Region of the Future. But the best region in Europe for Human

Resources (skills and education) and we were judged to have the best strategy for inward investment too.

7. We have committed a **massive investment in transport** and infrastructure to support this growth.
8. We are implementing an ambitious programme of **Public Services Reform**, with our **Efficient government Plan**. A key element of this reform agenda, contains measures to deliver at least £745 million of savings each year by 2007-08 and invest more in front line services.

Growing Businesses and International profile

9. We are supporting a '**Pipeline of support**' for businesses to get new products out of the laboratory and into the factory. This includes support for universities through the Proof of Concept funding, SMART and SPUR awards and collaborative funding through SEEKIT and SCORE.
10. **Promoting Scottish companies** overseas – with 60% boost in our overseas sales force. **Scotland's export sales per worker are significantly higher than the OECD average and have grown strongly between 1999 and 2003.** This underlines the significance of exports to Scotland and the success of many Scottish companies competing in the global economy.
11. **Business R&D has been increasing**, and Scotland is starting to close the gap with UK and EU levels.
12. **Labour reduced business rates** this year and will reduce them again next year.

13. **Business rates are being cut and brought into line with levels in England and Wales** in order to promote growth.
14. **Backing our tourist industry** which is paying off with a 31% increase in overseas visitors 2005, ahead of the rest of the UK.
15. Prioritising Scotland's **key growth industries – financial services, life sciences , energy, tourism, electronics and food and drink – with greater focus and support from Scottish Enterprise.**
16. **Broadband** connections are now available for all Scottish communities.
17. **Green Jobs Strategy** now in place making investments in the development of new and emerging “green” industries – good for jobs and good for the environment.
18. We have **located** more than **2000 public sector jobs throughout Scotland** since 1999, to spread the benefit of public sector investment more fairly.
19. **Fresh Talent:** encouraged talented people to come and live and work in Scotland, reversing Scotland's historic population decline.
20. In 2005 **Scotland's population rose for the third year** in a row by 16,400 to 5,094,800.
21. Scotland's **international connections** had been strengthened by the creation of six Co-operation Agreements together with Malawi, Victoria (Australia) and Shandong (China), to promote economic growth and better cultural understanding.
22. Scotland is recognised as an increasingly significant player in **EU**

matters with vital EU issues influenced in Scotland's favour, such as the lifting of the beef ban.

Research & Commercialisation

23. We have established 3 **Intermediary Technology Institutes** with an annual budget of £45 million that will develop and commission research on market led ideas.
24. **The Scottish Co-investment Fund** established with £45m to help new and existing Scottish businesses grow. 146 deals completed so far. The next stage funding, £2m plus, planned though a **new Scottish Venture Fund** which will be launched soon.
25. Launch of the **Clean Energy Strategy**, committing **£20.5m** to supporting investment in emerging technologies.
26. Scotland aspires to be a science nation and the new strategy for collaboration and joint working between the four **Scottish Science Centres** with £4m is **a world-leading initiative showcasing innovative science.**
27. **Scotland has a significantly higher proportion of firms engaged in novel product innovation**, meaning Scotland has a large number of companies which have introduced new products into the market.

Skills and Learning

28. **23% increase in funding to universities** between 2005 & 2008. 300% more for buildings and equipment.
29. Working with the UK government to **improve employability skills** across the population, and further improve economic activity.
30. Labour is driving a major initiative to tackle the issue of **young people not**

- in education, employment or training**, to give all young people access to the best possible opportunities.
31. More training opportunities for young people. Around 34,000 young people involved in **Modern Apprenticeship** schemes in Scotland, Labour's target of 30,000 MAs in training by 2006 achieved two years early.
 32. World leading **Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework** has been developed and implemented, supporting the recognition of a wide range of qualifications.
 33. Enterprise in Education programme '**Determined to Succeed**' is being delivered in every school in Scotland - with our target of 2000 businesses supporting the programme met a year early.
 34. 21% more funding for FE and HE in real terms – that means **an extra £393m** for learning, teaching and research in colleges and universities and **an extra £276m** to build facilities fit for the 21st century.
 35. A **new Scottish Funding Council** to deliver the skills needs of Scotland through our colleges and universities.
 36. More opportunity than ever before for **school students to take college courses and develop Skills for Work** in areas such as construction, early education and childcare - with an extra £41.5m to make that happen.
 37. Money to help those with low incomes to learn – for adult learners **more bursary support and Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs)**.
 38. We have introduced a **higher threshold for repayment of student loans - making it more affordable**.
 39. Created **Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs)** for 16-19 year olds - to make sure no young person leaves school with financial pressures.
 40. Scotland has **13 universities, 7 higher education institutions and 43 colleges**. We have **increased collaboration** – 6 colleges have merged to establish 3 new institutions and the unique Research Pooling initiative in areas such as Physics and Chemistry, funded through the Scottish Funding Council, brings together the best research in our universities and improves their international competitiveness.
 41. In the **last Research Assessment Exercise –6 Scottish universities achieved a 5* rating for quality of research in particular subject**, recognising an **international level of excellence**.
 42. **Top up fees have not been introduced** in universities in Scotland.
 43. **Almost one in ten Scots is now enrolled on a college course**.
 44. The **percentage increase in student numbers** by each level of HE study differ significantly. 24% more people doing a first degree, 76% more doing postgraduate courses and 241% more studying at sub-degree level.
 45. **More graduates staying on in Scotland after graduation**. In 1999 79% of Scottish graduates stayed to work in Scotland; now 89% do.
 46. **Scotland's graduate workforce has risen** by 43% over the past 10 years and represents **22% of the workforce in 2005 – around the same as in the UK**. Proportion of the workforce without any qualifications has also reduced.

Growing our Cities

47. We have established the **Cities Growth Fund** to build better Scottish cities, with £173 million invested from 2003-08 including:

47.1 **Edinburgh - Bus stop improvement scheme – £2.9m** - Includes the Council's Real Time Information system, Bustracker, which tells the public when buses are expected at individual bus stops. **Hermiston Park and Ride and Bus Priority Scheme – £1m** - has delivered a 470-space bus served Park and Ride facility and a bus priority scheme from the new Hermiston Junction to the City centre.

47.2 **Glasgow - Business Centres in disadvantaged areas - £7m** – To develop business and training facilities in disadvantaged areas of the city, including Drumchapel Govan and Easterhouse. **Forth Clyde Canal £4.68m** - The Port Dundas reconnection project has reconnected the canal between Speirs Wharf and Port Dundas, in the process unlocking a number of development opportunities.

47.3 **Aberdeen - Sports Development – £1.8m** - To promote healthy lifestyles by improving access to sport through improved facilities (including a new curling centre and an extreme sports centre).

47.4 **Inverness** - City Centre Streetscape & Traffic Management Programme - £1.3m – Designed to improve access roads (and their surrounds) into the city centre.

47.5 **Dundee** - Regeneration of Dundee's Central Waterfront - £17.8m – completely redevelop and upgrade the waterfront area from the Tay Bridge to the railway station, back to the Caird Hall.

47.6 **Stirling** - Various environmental enhancement schemes (at Port Street and Albert Place) - £0.66m – including replacing concrete paving and the clutter of road architecture, including in conservation areas.

Transport Investment

Labour's policies for transport have delivered investment in the transport infrastructure of Scotland's economy with 70% of our investment targeted on **public transport**.

Labour's **new** national transport agency **Transport Scotland has begun to** speed up the delivery of our transport investment.

Improving our Rail Services

48. **Rail Passenger numbers** in Scotland during 2004-05 at the highest level since 1964.

49. **Rail passenger journeys** originating in Scotland rose to 72.9 million in 2004-05 – the highest level for 40 years.

50. **Funded the ScotRail rail franchise** and initiatives to improve safety at railway stations through the introduction of CCTV, improved lighting, customer information and 91 trains now fitted with CCTV and a further 100 planned.

51. Since 1999, we have introduced 285 new railway carriages to ScotRail, an increase of 12,000 seats. Around 40% of all the trains currently operated by First ScotRail have been built since 1999.

52. Opened 11 new rail stations since 1999.

53. Improving access by opening the **new Larkhall to Milngavie railway line**.

54. Work has begun to reopen the **Alloa to Stirling railway line**.

55. Progressing Bills through Parliament to clear the way to build the **Airdrie to Bathgate railway line, Edinburgh Trams, the Glasgow and Edinburgh Airport Rail links, the Waverley line** to Galashiels.

56. Smooth transition of additional devolved rail powers to Scotland

Improving our Bus Services

57. Introduction of **free Scotland-wide Bus travel** scheme for elderly and disabled people from 1 April 2006. Only part of the UK with such a scheme. Total number of bus journeys made under **concessionary fare schemes** increased from about 103 million in 2001-02 to about 145 million in 2004-05.

58. **Local bus passenger journeys** increased in each of the past 6 years from all-time low of 413 million in 1998-99 to 465 million in 2004-05. More journeys are made by local bus services in Scotland (92 per person per year in 2004-05 than in the UK as a whole (79).

59. Established the **Bus Route Development Grant** to create better value bus services improving access to public transport (by providing more frequent services, greater capacity & modern low-floor vehicles etc), encourage modal shift, reduce congestion and reduce the impacts of travelling on the environment. To date 39 projects throughout Scotland have been approved amounting to £16.8m.

Safer Roads

60. Number of car miles driven on Scotland's roads is down by 150 million miles in 2005 compared to 2004, the first fall since the 1970s.

61. Providing a national framework for **safe walking to school** 'Safer routes to

school' developed, including introduction of **20 mph speed limits** around most Scottish schools and walking buses.

62. Labour's investment in **road improvements** to reduce casualties has led to the lowest rate of road accidents (in 2005) since records began 50 years ago, including a 57% reduction in children killed and seriously injured. **Road fatalities** are now well below EU average and the current trend is falling; **child road fatalities** are at same level as the UK. Significant reductions casualty numbers in 2005 – casualties down 4% and serious casualties down 5% to the lowest figure since 1952.

63. Completing the central Scotland motorway network including the M77 opened in 2005 replacing the accident prone single carriageway A77, the A90 between Perth and Dundee (Glendoick and Kinfauns), the A876 at Kincardine, A68 Dalkeith Bypass, the A830 to Mallaig and improvements on the A9 and A77.

64. **Maintained and improved trunk roads** - M74, M8 extension & M80 upgrade, improving the A9 at Ballinluig and Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.

65. **Removed tolls** from the Erskine and Skye Bridges.

New Air Links

66. Labour's **Air Route Development Fund** supported the establishment of 32 new direct air links (at August 2006) including:

66.1 Aberdeen to Bristol, Copenhagen, Groningen (The Netherlands), Oslo, Southampton & Stornoway.

66.2 Edinburgh to Atlanta, Barcelona, Gdansk, Geneva, Katowice, Krakow, New York & Warsaw.

- 66.3 Glasgow International to Barcelona, Berlin (Schön) & Dubai.
- 66.4 Glasgow Prestwick to Bergamo (Milan), Ciampino (Rome), Gdansk, Gothenburg, Neiderrhein (Düsseldorf) Pisa, Warsaw & Wroclaw.
- 66.5 Inverness to Birmingham, Bristol, Dublin, Leeds Bradford & Newcastle.
- 66.6 Sumburgh to Faroe Islands & London (Stansted).

67. Provide support to users of the **Highlands & Islands air network** through the introduction of the Air Discount Scheme, with an 88% take up rate so far benefiting 82,094 residents.

New Ferries

- 68. Since 1999, 10 new ferries have been bought, 7 for operation on Cal – Mac routes and 3 for operation on Northern Isles Ferry routes.
- 69. Passenger use of Scotland's Ferries have increased since 1999:
 - 69.1 Cal – Mac (Up to 5,358,000 in 2005 from 4,803,000 in 1999)
 - 69.2 Northern Isles (Up to 301,000 from 242,000 in 1999)

Labour Has Made the Investment and Taken the Tough Decisions to Improve Our Nation's Health

Increased investment, more nurses, doctors & consultants, better buildings and equipment leading to more operations and better health outcomes.

70. **Increasing Health spending** by over 50% in the last 5 years. **13% Higher spending per head** on health than UK average.

Committed £2.1 billion over 3 years in capital investment to improve hospitals. Our **investment per capita** is 15% higher than for England (£1,676 compared with £1,460).

71. Invested £125m in **new Diagnostic Equipment**.

72. Invested £115m in **new Primary & Dental services**.

73. Invested £250m in **cancer services** since 2001 and funded new and replacement equipment and state of the art radiotherapy machines in every cancer centre.

74. **Investment in NHSScotland staff with a workforce increase of over 14% since 1999**. 19.3% more medical consultants, 12% more qualified nurses and midwives, 23% more qualified Allied Health Professionals, 9.5% more dentists registered and 6.3% more GPs.

75. Introduced the Flying Start Programme to **retain our newly qualified nurses, midwives and Allied Health Professionals** in NHSScotland.

76. Established a **National Nursing Bank** to secure more effective organisation and co-ordination of Scotland's nursing services.

77. **Invested £17 million in the development of audiology services,**

ensuring that digital hearing aids are available for those who need them.

78. The **Scotland's Health and Work awards**, promoting health and well-being in the workplace, now has over 1700 organisations signed up to scheme, over 40% of the Scotland workforce.

79. Through the introduction of better working and business practices **Efficiency Gains** exceeding £176 million were released for reinvestment into frontline services.

More operations and better health outcomes

80. Labour's focus on the killer diseases has produced real results since 1999.
80.1 Deaths from heart disease down by 30%
80.2 Deaths from stroke down by 22%
80.3 Deaths from cancer down by 7%

81. Increased the number of key operations/procedures undertaken in NHSScotland (e.g. between 1999 and 2005, 45% more knee replacements, 10% more hip replacements; 21% more cataract operations; 108% increase in angioplasty).

82. **Free eye checks** for all introduced on 1 April 2006.

83. Doubled **resources for alcohol treatment** and rehabilitation.

84. Introduced **hearing tests for all newborn babies**.

85. Stabilising levels of healthcare acquired infection and international recognition for our action on reducing HAIs.

86. We have **ended mixed sex wards**.

87. Labour introduced the **Scottish Medicines Consortium** and has **ended postcode prescribing** for new drugs in Scotland, and has ensured that new drug therapies are available more quickly to all patients.

88. Secured **higher satisfaction levels** among patients both for in-patient and out-patient care in Scotland (58% and 60% compared with 49% and 51% in England).

89. **Scotland is the first country in the UK to establish an electronic Emergency Care Summary to enable quicker medical decisions to be taken.** It already covers 90% of our patients and will be completed soon.

Taking tough action to improve Scotland's health.

90. Labour **banned smoking** in enclosed public places to save lives and prevent debilitating illnesses in adults and children.

91. We are also **improving** the quality, attractiveness and nutritional value of **schools meals** through the Hungry for Success programmes.

92. **Tackling health inequalities** by strengthening NHS primary care in deprived communities to provide anticipatory care.

The best waiting time performance ever

93. **No one waits more than 6 months for inpatient or day case treatment, or for a first outpatient consultation.**

93.1 Number of people waiting more than 18 weeks for an outpatient appointment **down 68%** (June 05 – June 06)

93.2 Number of people waiting more than 18 weeks for hospital treatment **down 55%** (June 05 – June 06)

93.3 No patient with a guarantee waits more than 18 weeks for a heart by-pass surgery or Angioplasty.

The national maximum waiting times will be reduced to 18 weeks by the end of 2007.

94. We **guarantee access to an appropriate primary care professional** within **48 hours**

95. **Reducing to no more than 6 months the longest waiting times for first outpatient consultations and for hospital inpatient and day case treatment** following referral.

96. **Reducing to less than 6 months waiting time for patients able to have their operation.**

97. We have guaranteed **treatment time for inpatients** and guaranteed **waiting time for outpatient appointments.** At 31 March 2006 there was no-one waiting over 6 months for inpatient/day case admission; the number of patients waiting over 18 weeks for inpatient/day case admission has reduced by more than 5,000 (46%) when compared with 2005.

98. We have set a guaranteed **treatment time for heart disease patients.** Since September 2004, no one who is able to have their operation waits more than 18 weeks for **heart bypass surgery or angioplasty.** From the end of 2007, no one will wait more than 16 weeks for heart investigation and treatment. On 31 March 2006, Scotland had no patients waiting more than 8 weeks for heart investigation.

Care for our elderly

99. Introduced **free personal/Nursing care and now 72,000 elderly Scots** receive high quality, responsive long term care in an appropriate setting, guaranteeing dignity and support for those who need it, irrespective of ability to pay.

100. An £8m development fund for **Telecare** for vulnerable and older people to help sustain independence, improve the quality of life for users and carers.

and transplants, so securing the supply of organs for future transplants and preventing organs being retained without consent. .

Reorganisation to improve delivery

Improved care for the most vulnerable

101. **Change of focus** in dealing with vulnerable people has allowed them to receive social care, support and treatment in the community.

102. **Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care** now inspects to national standards to ensure everyone requiring it receives a high standard of care.

103. **Mental Health (Care and Treatment)(Scotland) Act 2003** establishes a more progressive, modern legal framework, new Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland, new rights and benefits for individuals with protection of the individual at its centre. Identified by World Health Organisation as good national practice.

104. The **Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003** includes provisions to allow **mothers with postnatal depression to be admitted to hospital care, accompanied by their child**. Around 186 mothers in Scotland are admitted to psychiatric care within one year of childbirth. Purpose built accommodation has been established in Glasgow serving the West of Scotland. Forth Valley has a service, a Lothian facility will open in December 2006 to serve East of Scotland and Highland and Grampian are developing accommodation and services for the North.

105. Introduced a **National sexual health strategy**

106. The **Human Tissue Act** provides a clear, modernised framework for patients and relatives to authorise post-mortems

107. **Making Local services more responsive to local needs** through formation of Community Health Partnerships.

108. **NHS Boards streamlined** and integrated through single system working from 2004. NHS Trusts have been dissolved and commissioning and delivery of healthcare brought together into single more accountable Boards with more scope for integration e.g. of primary and hospital care.

109. Introduced **one-stop shops for care services** in Broxburn, Kilmarnock, Dalmellington and Springburn.

110. Introduced **local improvement targets** for partnerships of local authorities and health boards to set out the improvements they will make for users of community care services. Examples:

110.1. Increase from 85% to 90% no. of single shared assessments completed in 20 days (South Lanarkshire)

110.2 Increase by 20% annually no. of people accessing assisted technology services (North Lanarkshire)

111. Through NHS Quality Improvement Scotland we have ensured that **NHS Boards deliver sustained improvement in the quality of services**, and that the latest, cost-effective treatments are available quickly.

112. We have **established the Scottish Health Council** to monitor what NHS Boards are doing to inform and involve the public and to ensure that they adopt the highest standards of communication

and engagement as they develop health services for the future.

113. Decisive action taken to deal with persistently underperforming NHS Boards: after 4 years of increasing financial deficit, NHS Argyll and Clyde was dissolved in April 2006 and services in the former Board's area are now delivered by NHS Greater Glasgow and NHS Highland, and NHS Western Isles has had to implant an improvement plan.

114. Introducing Telehealth to overcome many of the challenges to delivering health care in rural areas and establish a Scottish Centre in Aberdeen.

Labour's Investment in Scotland's Education is Getting Results

We need schools which are ambitious and excellent, creative and flexible. The First Minister has made clear that "learning is Scotland's strategy for the future". We are in a strong position to respond as we already have a high performing system, a system that is amongst the best in the world.

115. Only 3 countries significantly outperform us in maths, literacy and science.

More and more of Scotland's pupils are now making the grade

116. According to HMIE Scotland's Qualifications are held in high esteem internationally.

117. We secured exceptionally strong performance in early primary schools and at **Primary 3** our investment in early years means 90% (2003/04) now gain the expected level, up from 81% (1998/99).

118. Across our **primary schools**, 79% of pupils (2003/4) now reach expected standards, up from 70% in (1998/99).

119. Most pupils performing well, with all years up to S2 making progress. More of our **S2s** are reaching the expected standards, up from 41% (1998/99) to 59% (2003/04)

120. **The level of attainment** in reading, writing and mathematics at both primary (70% – 79%) and secondary level (S2: 41% - 59%) **has increased significantly** since 1999. With 47% in 2004 (an increase of 9% since 1999) achieving 5 or more standard grades at credit level and more than 90% of awarded a standard grade or equivalent in 2004/05 in English and Maths.

121. A high proportion - 52% - of our pupils enter Further or

Higher Education, compared with 43% for England.

122. The latest international figures show **68% of Scots have attained at least an upper secondary education** compared with 65% for the UK as a whole.

123. Invested £4 million in 2005-06 to guarantee the opportunity for P6 and P7 pupils to learn **a modern European language**, with an uptake of 96% of P6 and 98% of P7.

Lower class sizes

124. Since 1997 average class sizes have fallen steadily and pupil teacher ratio improved. Pupil teacher numbers ratios have dropped from 19.1 in 1999 to an **all time low** of 17 in 2005 in our primary schools. In 2004, when the ratio for Scotland stood at 17.6 it was lower than the comparable average UK figure of 21.8 pupils per teacher.

125. We have **reduced class sizes and** average Primary class sizes have dropped from 24.6 in 1999 to 23.6 in 2005.

126. Class sizes for P1 are smaller. The first stage was **training new teachers**. We are doing that and teacher training for new primary teachers increased **by 110% between 2003 and 2005**; Maths teaching intakes increased by 75% between 2003 and 2005; English teaching intakes increased by 100% between 2003 and 2005

New schools and more teachers

127. We are **modernising Scotland's Schools** by building or substantially refurbishing 227 schools since 1999 and are on course for 300 by 2009.

128. We have provided a **nursery place for every three and four year old** where required. With almost all (94%) under 5s enrolled in early education in Scotland (2004) ahead of both the UK (81%) and the international average (67.8%).

129. **Teacher recruitment is growing** as we achieve our target of 53,000 teachers by 2007. The 2005 Teacher census recorded **52,179 teachers** based in schools and pre-schools. And we are on track for 2007.

130. When combined with centrally employed staff, **teacher numbers have risen by 1,053 since 2003**. An **additional 3,125 support staff** have been recruited. As a result we have less Teacher vacancies.

131. We now have a respected and rewarded teacher profession

Improving our Schools

132. Her Majesty's Inspector for Education found 93-95% of primary schools and 94% of secondary schools have either a good or **very good standard of teaching**.

133. We have addressed the importance of a **healthy diet at a young age**, free fresh fruit is available to all P1 and P2 school children and free fresh water has been made available to almost all publicly funded schools. We have put new nutritional standards for schools meals in place.

134. At least 75,000 pupils benefiting from **improved school accommodation**.

135. 27 schools are now participating in our **Schools of Ambition programme**, which aims to raise the ambitions of schools and to instil belief and ambition into pupils, extending their opportunities and transforming their life chances.

136. We have guaranteed the opportunity to learn a modern **European language starting in Primary** school.

137. We are creating an education system that is inclusive, which welcomes diversity, and which provides an equal opportunity for all children to develop to their fullest potential. A **major programme of curriculum reform is underway**, designed to make sure that every child has a relevant and stretching education. An education tailored to their needs so that they can be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Protecting children and young people

138. Legislated to end bureaucratic hurdles faced by children with additional support for learning needs. Put in to place a **national strategy for special educational needs**.

139. Modernising adoption law through our **Adoption and Children (Scotland) Bill** to give greater stability to children who are living long-term in care.

140. Labour's new honours degree level in social work is helping to attract high quality staff to the sector (previously diploma level only); The **National Strategy for the Development of the Social Services Workforce: A Plan for action 2005-2010** is developing a competent workforce to respond to changing needs and improve delivery and quality of services.

141. **Increased number of social workers** – 2006 figures show 24% increase since 2001; Fast Track graduate scheme of training existing graduates in social work will produce approx 400 new social workers by 2008; the numbers undertaking social work degree has increased - 52% increase from 2000 to 2003 and a further 25% increase from 2004.

142. Worked with the Home Office to **improve the treatment of children and families seeking asylum in Scotland**, ensuring with dignity and respect, through the introduction of lead professionals and independent inspection.
143. **Sure Start Scotland** programme helps to ensure that every child gets the best possible start in life & supports families with very young children in areas of greatest need. Supported community nurseries, family centres, home outreach services and play facilities. Programme has risen to £59.9 million in 2007-08 from £9 million in 1999-2000.
144. Labour's **Changing Children's Services Fund** supports local services for children and young people including early years support in disadvantaged areas, services for children who misuse drugs or alcohol or whose parents do so, children with health problems or disabilities and support for child protection. The Fund's has risen to £65.5 million in 2006-07 from £4 million in 2001-02.
145. We are determined to **improve outcomes for looked after children:** we are providing an additional £12 million from 2005-06 to 2007-08 to improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers and to increase placement choice. We have also provided an additional £10 million to local authorities from 2003/04 to 2005-06 to help them ensure that young people leaving care are supported to make successful transitions to independent adult living.

Labour has Tackled Crime in Our Communities and Given Greater Powers to those at the Frontline

Investing in the Police

- 146. Scotland now has a **record number of police officers**, up 9% from June 1999.
- 147. Introduced **over 500 community-based wardens** to support our police.

Lower Crime Rates

- 148. **Crime in Scotland is down 23%** from its peak in 1991: down to 863 per 10,000 population (2004/05); from 819 (2003/04), 827 (2002/03) and 859 (1999/00).
- 149. **Clear up rates are at their highest ever** - up 5% since 1997. Up from 43% in 1999 to 45% now, compared to 23% in England in Wales.
- 150. **Drug seizures – up** – currently 22,400 (2003 figure) up 30% from 17,197 in 1999.
- 151. **Conviction for handling offensive weapons are up** 20% from 2003/04 to 2004/05.
- 152. Serious violent crime is now coming down.
- 153. Housebreaking crimes are down for the 6th consecutive year – down from 105 to 69 crimes per 10,000 population (2004/05 figures).

Reducing Violent Crime

We are tackling the “Booze and Blades” culture with more powers for the police and more action.

- 154. **Strengthened the law on knife crime.** We adopted the **Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006**, to **improve police effectiveness and community safety**, by giving new powers to support the police in the crack

down on knife crime, sex offenders and football-related disorder.

- 155. The **Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006** also doubles the maximum penalty for carrying a knife in public; increasing police powers of arrest for these offences and increasing the purchase age for non-domestic knives from 16-18.
- 156. We are adopting additional legislation in this Parliamentary session to ban sale of swords & licence sale of non-domestic knives.
- 157. Conviction for handling offensive weapon are up 20%.
- 158. Labour's created a Violence Reduction Unit to be a national centre of expertise, supporting local police forces and partners in developing effective interventions to tackling the underlying culture and attitudes that lead young men in Scotland to violence and aggression.
- 159. The VRU is co-ordinating a year long Safer Scotland anti-violence campaign to raise the profile of the problem – milestones include the recent knife amnesty which resulted in the hand-in of over 12500 knives across Scotland.
- 160. We have provided an extra £100k to fund the purchase of over 1000 metal detecting devices to support local police in their fight against knife crime.
- 161. Legislated to **modernise licensing laws** to stop drink fuelled violence culture.
- 162. Worked with Westminster to **tighten the control on the sale of airguns** as part as the toughest firearms regime in Europe.

Tackling Sectarianism

163. Tackling the shameful legacy of **sectarianism** by toughening up the rules on behaviour at marches and parades.
164. Introduced sectarianism as an **'aggravated factor'** in sentencing.
165. **Funded education projects** in schools to encourage awareness and understanding between communities.
166. Introduced **football banning orders** and acting with our football clubs to clamp down on sectarianism.

Protecting the Public

167. **Conditions for bail** and the **monitoring** of those on bail have been **tightened up**. Along with the intention to end automatic release and introduce tough new monitoring requirements on sex offenders.
168. The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 is bringing about the biggest shake up in the **Fire and Rescue Services** in Scotland for over half a century to shift from response to fire prevention and community safety. Firefighters are integrated in front line, multi-agency community safety initiatives to reduce the number of fires and casualties.
169. £10 million (2001 – 2004) to implement a **National strategy to address domestic abuse**, meaning that a further 28% refuge places available for vulnerable women fleeing from violence, with a supporting refuge development programme.
170. **Ending unconditional early release for sex offenders** sentenced to more than six months but less than four years imprisonment. For the first time, they would only be released on licence and be subject to supervision in the community for the remainder of their sentence and

could be recalled to custody for any breach of their licence conditions.

171. We have introduced greater protection for **emergency service workers**.
172. **Expanded CCTV** to Reduce Crime.
173. We have made **Drug treatment and testing orders** available almost everywhere in Scotland. They offer an alternative to a custodial sentence and have shown to reduce the reconviction rate by almost half (recorded over a period of 2 years).
174. **We have invested in drug treatment and rehabilitation and the Know the Score** - drugs communications strategy

Building Respect

175. **Building respect in our communities** by implementing the antisocial behaviour act to combat the scourge of antisocial behaviour including dispersal orders, ASBOs for under 16s and new powers to tackle vandalism and graffiti, banning the sale of spray paint to under 16s. We have legislated to introduce **Anti-social behaviour orders** for under 16s.
176. Labour's new **laws to protect communities from anti-social behaviour** have been complemented by a £1 million investment in mobile CCTV cameras to react quickly and with flexibility to crime in specific areas.
177. Set up new arrangements to **manage offenders through community justice authorities**.
178. We have consulted on a national system of **warnings for young offenders**

Protecting victims and eyewitnesses

179. **Our Court reforms have radically changed our courts. High Court**

Reforms have improved efficiency and effectiveness of handling serious and complex cases leading to 25% fewer witnesses having to come to Court with regulations planned to protect those witnesses deemed vulnerable.

180. A dramatic **decrease in adjournment** in High Courts (from 1030 to 125 comparing two 12 month periods), now doing the same for lower courts. Making it easier for victims and witnesses caught up in our justice system.

181. We have legislated to **Protect Vulnerable Witnesses**. We increased funding for Victim Support to Scotland and in 2004-05 £5.7 million was spent on **victim and witness services**. We have **extended the Witness Service** to all High and Sheriff courts.

182. Rolled out the **Victim Information and Advice** service across Scotland and have acted to encourage prosecutors to give appropriate **information to victims**.

Reforming Scotland's justice system

We are reforming Scotland's justice system from top to bottom. We want a Justice system that protects witnesses, supports victims, punishes and rehabilitate criminals, ensures public safety by:

183. Reforming offender management to make sure offenders start getting rehabilitated much earlier before they are let out of prison to reduce re-offending.

184. Bringing clarity, consistency and openness to sentencing and providing Sheriffs with tough community sentence.

185. Improving judicial appointments to ensure their independence from politicians.

186. Announcement in April 2006 of the intention to carry out a similar wide-ranging review of the **civil court**

structure in Scotland as we have done with criminal justice.

Modern Laws for a Modern Scotland

187. **Reform of family law** to strengthen the family and put children's welfare at its heart: updated laws on marriage and divorce, parental responsibilities, protection from abuse, and cohabitation.

188. Laws for the way we live now: key reforms for Scotland on **civil partnership and gender recognition** included in UK-wide measures passed at Westminster.

189. A trio of **property law reforms** to complete the abolition of feudal tenure, clarify individual rights & conditions on the use of land, and modernise the management and maintenance of tenements.

190. Implemented our **Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002** which replaced the warrant and poinding sales.

191. Introduced the **Bankruptcy And Diligence Etc. (S) Bill** to modernise the bankruptcy laws in Scotland.

192. **We are protecting the victims of asbestosis related cancer (mesothelioma)** in Scotland by reversing the House of Lords decision in *Barker* through UK legislation.

Tackling Poverty and Improving Housing

Tackling poverty

We are proud of our record – we have made massive reductions in poverty by what ever measure you choose. We are in it for the long haul. Sustainable change will take a generation. Latest figures show significant progress since 1997. The SNP do not pledge to end child poverty or say how it should be measured, or how they would target resources to those who need it.

Reducing Pensioner Poverty

193. We have made significant progress in ending pensioner poverty since 1997, 1999 and 2003.

194. In 1999 no **older person in Scotland** benefited from the services we now provide, such as warm homes and free central heating, free bus travel and free personal care. And Scotland's pensioners benefit from UK Government schemes such as the pension Credit, free TV licences, winter fuel allowances and the cut to vat on fuel.

195. We have reduced pensioner inequality, reducing relative pensioner poverty

195.1 Over 120,000 pensioners have been lifted from relative poverty since 1997.

195.2 Reduced relative pensioner poverty from 30% to 16%; A reduction of 46%. A reduction from 1 in 3 to 1 in 6.

196. We have made a massive reduction in absolute pensioner poverty

196.1 Over 200,000 pensioners have been lifted from absolute poverty since 1997.

196.2 Reduced absolute pensioner poverty from 30% to 6%; A reduction of 77%. A reduction from 1 in 3 to 1 in 20.

Reducing Child Poverty

197. We have made an historical commitment, not to reduce, not to tackle, but to **end child poverty**. We are on track to end child poverty in a generation (by 2020). Since 1997 we have:

197.1 Lifted over 200,000 children from absolute poverty.

197.2 Lifted over 100,000 children lifted from relative poverty - 1 in 3 to 1 in 4 in 2005, we hit our target ahead of the rest of the UK.

197.3 Lifted over 150,000 children lifted from severe poverty.

Making Work Pay

198. Tax credits help ensure that work pays, together with does the minimum wage and over 25% increases in child benefit for the oldest child.

199. Labour introduced the minimum wage in 1999 which the SNP and Tories failed to support.

200. Its estimated that around 130,000 people in Scotland benefited from the October 2004 up-rating of the national minimum wage. (Hansard 5 April 2005)

201. More people are in work than at any time in our history, over 75% in work, one of the highest in EU.

202. We also have the lowest unemployment for a generation and we are on track to get 9 in 10 people into work

203. We are the closest we have ever been to full employment in generations.

Improving Housing & better communities

Since 1999 we have devoted an un-presidented level of resources to improving housing in Scotland and made significant progress.

Affordable Housing

204. Since 1999 we have funded the delivery of over 47,000 **affordable homes**, through investment of around £2 billion.
205. Expanded our investment in affordable homes. **Public investment** of £1.2 billion for the period 2004-2007, along with an £500 million of private finance, will provide over 16,500 social rented homes and nearly 5,000 **low cost homes** by 2008 – more affordable homes for those who need them most.
206. This year we are investing £439 million in affordable homes, to create 7,100 units for **social rent** or low cost home ownership.
207. Increased investment in affordable homes in **rural areas** beyond current record levels. This year we are investing £119m in rural areas for affordable housing – a share of the programme at a record high.
208. Funded over 10,000 affordable homes in rural areas and raised the rural share of the housing investment programme to over 27%.
209. Promoted low-cost home ownership schemes (in both urban and rural areas) to help **first time buyers** get a foot on the property ladder, and have introduced the new “**Homestake**” shared equity scheme where over 1,000 units have been approved in 2005/06 with a further 735 this year.
210. Set a benchmark in **Planning Advice** for 25 per cent of all new private housing developments to be affordable homes for sale or rent.

Improving Investment, Improving Housing Quality

211. Brought 1,400 houses back into productive use through our **Empty Homes Initiative**.
212. Pushed up **standards of design** and sustainability in building construction through a combination of guidance, targeted investment, promotion and legislation.
213. Introduced a **new Scottish Housing Quality Standard** to raise the quality of people’s homes and set the ambitious target of ensuring that all social housing meets this standard by 2015.
214. Transferred nearly 100,000 homes to **community ownership**, giving tenants a greater say in the management of their homes and generating around £2 billion for investment in housing improvement over the next 10 years. That trend is set to continue with a further 6 authorities actively considering transfers.
215. Introduced the **Prudential Borrowing Regime** to offer local authorities a further option to invest in the quality of their housing stock. Alongside the abolition of the requirement to set aside a proportion of capital receipts to repay debt, this is forecast to generate additional housing investment of over £420 million over the period 2005-2008.
216. Home **insurance schemes** tied to rents.
217. **Invested in strategic water and sewerage** infrastructure specifically to meet the capacity requirements for all estimated new housing developments.

Private Housing

218. Introduced **licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)**, giving additional protection for tenants in these properties (who are often either

vulnerable or have particular needs).
Over 8,400 HMOs are now licensed.

219. Introduced **registration of Scotland's private landlords**, one of the most significant developments to impact on the sector. Gives tenants in the private sector the assurance that their registered landlord is fit and proper to be letting their home to them. Over 70,000 landlords and agents have now applied, accounting for over 115,000 privately let properties.

220. Legislated to give housing association and local authority tenants **security of tenure** and the opportunity to influence housing matters— a move that has seen the registration of over 600 tenants organisations across Scotland.

221. Worked with social landlords to introduce **common housing registers** to make it easier for prospective tenants to find the most suitable accommodation that meets their needs.

222. Adapted privately-owned homes to suit the needs of **disabled occupants** and targeted Private Sector Housing Grant for this purpose.

223. Support standards for voluntary **accreditation for private landlords**.

224. Introduced the **2006 Housing (Scotland) Act** to raise the quality of housing in the private sector and tackle the backlog of disrepair.

Supporting Vulnerable people and Tackling Homelessness

225. Introduced the most progressive **homelessness legislation** in Europe to give all homeless people in Scotland entitlement to at least temporary accommodation, and have provided financial support to local authorities to expand the temporary accommodation available.

226. On track to achieve our target of ensuring that local authorities are able to offer all unintentionally homeless people the right to **permanent accommodation** by 2012.

227. Given over 170,000 vulnerable people in Scotland assistance through the **Supporting People** programme to enable them to continue to live in their own homes.

228. Legislated to make it easier for people experiencing difficulties in paying their mortgage to remain in their homes while they sort out their finances and established the **Mortgage to Rent** scheme.

229. It is a condition of funding that new build housing should be designed to the standards included in **Housing for Varying Needs**. This design guidance uses the premise that housing should be barrier free and therefore sufficiently flexible and adaptable in use to accommodate the lifetime needs of everyone with a community care package (if appropriate).

Warmer Homes

230. Installed over 70,000 **central heating systems** in people's homes and insulated over 230,000 reducing dampness in Scottish housing and fuel poverty.

231. The proportion of dwellings with **full central heating has risen from 62% in 1991 to 86% in 2002** and we extended the **central heating programme** to improve another 4000 homes by 2006.

Tackling Regeneration

232. Invested in the **regeneration of communities** that were previously seen as undesirable.

233. Established **6 Regeneration Companies** to begin the task of rebuilding Clydebank, Craigmiller, Raploch, Inverclyde, Irving Bay and The Clyde Gateway which are transforming these areas.

234. We are undertaking a **major modernisation of the Planning system to speed up decision making**, grow the economy and involve the community.

235. Supported area regeneration through our first **national planning framework**, which we used to help guide investment decisions.

Building a fairer Scotland

236. Continuation of the **One Scotland Many Cultures** campaign against racism.

237. Introduction of **Project Scotland**, allowing 16-25 year olds to undertake voluntary work for 3 months – 1 year, with allowances for subsistence and travel expenses.

Environment and Rural Affairs

Labour is proud of our record of sustainability in government - balancing the demands of today with the needs of tomorrow. We have put climate change centre stage and raised the profile of environmental justice. Labour governs for all of Scotland and we believe in increasing opportunity and combating disadvantage in rural as well as urban areas.

Tackling Climate change

238. **Recycling** – meeting our ambitious target to increase to 25% recycling and composting of municipal waste by 2006, through significant investment in the Strategic Waste Fund. This is from a starting point of just 6% in 2000/1.

239. Scotland's **Climate Change Programme** quantifies for the first time in carbon terms Scotland's contribution towards UK commitments to reduce greenhouse gases, and sets a Scottish target to exceed its UK climate change contribution by reducing carbon by an additional one million tonnes in 2010. We have already achieved a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 1990 Kyoto baseline, at a time when the Scottish economy grew by 29%.

240. Labour's **increased investment in transport has been targeted on public transport**, leading to a reduction in the number of car miles driven on Scotland's roads by 150 million miles in 2005 compared to 2004, the first fall since the 1970s.

241. **Clean energy**. We are on course to meet our ambitious target of 40% renewable energy generation by 2020 with diversification beyond onshore wind, from a base of just 10% six years ago. Funding for the Green Jobs Fund for biomass, and the Community & Household Renewables Initiative.

242. The amount of electricity generated from **nonhydro renewable sources** (including wind, wave, solar power and thermal renewables) increased from 0.6 per cent in 2000 to 2.6 per cent in 2004.

243. **Electricity generation from renewable sources** is near the EU average and above the UK.

Securing Environmental Justice

244. Labour's Anti-Social Behaviour legislation **helps deliver Environmental Justice** by tackling littering, vandalism, fly-tipping, noise & abandoned vehicles.

245. **Reducing environmental crime** through increased training and support for specialist prosecutors in dealing with environmental and wildlife crime.

246. Consulted on **access to courts for NGOs on environmental matters**, improved public access to **environmental information** and introduced a **pollution inventory**.

247. Established 2,000 **Eco-schools** to promote environmental understanding.

248. We have invested to improve the **quality of life for local communities** - £275m between 2002 & 2006 to fund local initiatives that focus on young people and improving local environment, including:

248.1 Increasing Opportunities for Children and Young People, including projects to promote health and sports in Clackmannanshire, new skatepark in Dundee, upgrading of play areas in Fife.

248.2 Improving the Local Environment, including projects to improve neighbourhood safety in East Ayrshire, road safety in Falkirk, flood prevention in Highland, measures to improve roads, pavements and road safety, litter, dog fouling and 'Clean up Glasgow'.

249. **The UK's first statutory right of responsible access to land** came into force in Scotland in 2005, going further than any other land access laws in the UK.

250. Consulting on the location for our **first Coastal and Marine National Park**.

251. Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 to **safeguard Scotland's special wildlife sites** and addresses wildlife crime.

252. **Scottish Water has been** maintained in public ownership with £1.6 billion programme of investment from 2002-06. with the prospect of inflation-only increases in the years ahead.

253. Labour's new **Animal Health and Welfare Act** 2006 introduces a duty of care on any person for the welfare of any animal for which they are responsible.

Rural Affairs

254. **Investing in broadband connectivity** in the Highlands and Dumfries and Galloway to enable tele-working and business development in our rural areas.

255. **Implemented a reformed Common Agricultural Policy** to pay farmers not to produce but to be stewards of the land, which is better for the environment, for the world's poor and points farmers towards a life without subsidy.

256. We have been successful in getting **Scotch beef** back onto European menus.

Tourism, Culture and Sport

Labour is growing the tourist industry which is vital to Scotland's economy. Through culture and sport we seek to give all the chance to participate, while raising quality of life, national esteem and our image in the world.

Strengthening the Tourism Industry

257. Increased by **31% the total number of overseas visitors to Scotland** in 2005 by overseas residents, compared with an 8% increase for the UK as a whole.

258. Secured a rise of 2.8% in visits to **visitor attractions** (2005 over 2004)

259. **Rising accommodation occupancy** (up to 54% in February 2006 from 51% in February 2005).

260. Increased by 28% **VisitScotland's marketing budget** in the period 2003-07 to strengthen marketing power in key markets both at home and abroad.

261. Reorganised & streamlined the tourism support network.

262. Created **EventScotland** in 2003 to attract world-class events to Scotland, such as the 2014 Ryder Cup. Also secured major events like Heineken Cup Final 2005 & Davis Cup 2006.

263. Supporting major **new tourism and culture festivals** - Year of Highland Culture 2007, Six Cities Design Festival 2007, Year of Homecoming 2009.

New support for Sport in Scotland

264. Ten new **international and regional multi-sport facilities** are being developed, to bring us up to world-class level and inspiring a new generation.

265. Backed the **2014 Commonwealth Games** bid by Glasgow, building on Scotland's performance in Melbourne

and contribution to **Olympic** and Paralympic Games in London 2012.

266. The Executive's £12 million per annum investment in the **Active Schools** programme is delivering **over 250,000 sessions** a year.

267. The **Active Schools** programme has increased by **10,500** the number of **volunteers** providing extra curricular activities over two academic years.

268. Contributed to the **review of youth football** and contributed £12.2m to 10 year Plan to improve youth football from grass roots to excellence levels.

269. Contributed £2.5m to the **Commonwealth Games Scotland** Endowment Fund helping towards the Scottish Team's training, preparation for and participation in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

270. Launched the '**Clubgolf**' programme in 2003 to introduce all youngsters to the game by the age of nine and to enable young talent to fulfil its potential. In 2005 825 volunteer coaches trained (target 800); and 438 State primary schools involved (target 250).

Strengthening Scotland's Culture

271. Created the **National Theatre** to join our world-class national arts companies.

272. **National Museums and Galleries** have **increased visitor numbers from 2.5m in 2003-04 to a record 3.0m in 2005-06, an increase of 20%**, well in excess of the target set of 3%. Web page visits at NMS and NGS doubled from almost 6m to almost 12m over the period.

273. Children are now given **one year's free music tuition** by the time they reach Primary 6.

274. Created **Architecture and Design Scotland** to ensure high quality built environment.
275. Funded Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic College in Skye.
276. Funding to Gaelic Media Service and BBC for the delivery of a Gaelic digital channel.
277. Supported **Gaelic medium education with increased pupil** and teacher numbers.
278. Funded the **Glasgow Gaelic school** (pre-school, primary, secondary) which will open in 2006.
279. **Gaelic Language** (Scotland) Act passed to secure the language's status; Bòrd na Gàidhlig established and published draft National Plan for Gaelic development.
280. Research for Scottish Arts Council in 2004 show that **3 out of 4 people have now attended an arts or cultural event in the previous 12 months.**
281. Announced plans to establish Creative Scotland and committed an extra **£20m for 2007-08** to support Scotland's national arts and culture.
282. Contributed £2.5m in 2006-07 for Arts in Business, cultural entitlements pilots, audience development and the new Cultural Academy.
283. Awarded an additional £2.25m over 2006-07, 2007-08 to National Library for Trusted Digital Repository and George IV Bridge front hall redevelopment and to the Royal Museum Phase 1.