"Abandoned" and "failed to deliver" – the SNP's broken promises revealed

Contents
Foreword – Why the SNP cannot be trusted.................................................................2
Introduction and methodology.....................................................................................4
Section 1 – Review of the 2007 SNP manifesto............................................................5
Section 2 – Review of the 2011 SNP manifesto............................................................12
Section 3 – Economic promises...................................................................................16
Foreword

Why the SNP cannot be trusted

By Murdo Fraser MSP

A COMPONENT in the SNP’s electoral success in recent years has been the party’s perceived reputation as providing competent government in Scotland, during its period of minority rule in the Scottish Parliament in 2007-2011, and as a majority government from 2011 onwards. And yet, as the research in this ThinkScotland paper makes clear, that reputation is wholly undeserved.

The list of SNP broken promises is a long one, and grows longer as each year goes by.

It was a short list of flagship policies which saw the SNP gain power from Labour in 2007. These included maximum class sizes of 18 in Primaries 1-3, wiping out student debt, the introduction of local income tax, and a new first-time house buyers’ grant of £2000. Not a single one of these flagship policies has been delivered after 8 years of the SNP in power.

In the field of education, we have seen Scottish schools failing to deliver improvements and making no progress in international league tables. As a consequence of its commitment to fund free tuition for middle class families at universities, the SNP has slashed college places by 140,000. And, despite all the rhetoric, the percentage of students from under-privileged backgrounds attending Scottish universities continues to lag behind every other part of the United Kingdom.

When it comes to Health, the situation is little better. In 2011 the SNP promised to protect the NHS budget, but according to Audit Scotland there has been a real-terms reduction of 0.9% from 2013/14 to 2015/16. Initiatives such as the promised “Life Begins” health checks for over-40s have been abandoned. And even the flagship policy of a minimum unit price of alcohol has still to be introduced, nearly four years after the legislation passed through the Scottish Parliament.

SNP Ministers will claim credit for economic success, while simultaneously complaining that they do not have “the levers of power” to grow the economy. But it remains unclear exactly what the SNP’s economic strategy now is.

Throughout Alex Salmond’s leadership, the keynote policy was to cut corporation tax in Scotland by 3 per cent below the UK level, but this has been abandoned by Nicola Sturgeon, with nothing substantial to replace it. An important measure which would have incentivised local councils to promote economic growth by allowing them to retain a share of business rates uplift, announced in 2011, has still to be delivered. In fact in other areas such as earnings growth, income poverty and child poverty the situation in Scotland has been patchy at best, with some measurements showing a relative deterioration (such as in earnings), or an improvement followed by a decline (such as in child poverty).

In transport and connectivity, an economic lever that the Scottish government does have responsibility for, improvements promised in journey times on rail routes such as the Inverness-Edinburgh have not materialised while many programmes have been cancelled (Edinburgh Airport Rail Link) or delayed (Borders Railway).
In the very last speech made in the Scottish Parliament before the independence referendum, on Thursday 28th August 2014, the then Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon said the referendum was a “once in a life time opportunity”. Yet today that description is long forgotten, with the SNP determined to bring forward another referendum as quickly as the circumstances seem to be in its favour.

What is even more curious than the failure of the SNP to meet its pledges is the supine manner of so many observers who have chosen to ignore the party’s poor performance in government. Consider the treatment of the Liberal Democrats by comparison. It was right that the abandoning of the promise to remove a cap on tuition fees in England (that led to them increasing to £9,000) result in condemnation of their betrayal of students and their parents. And yet the abandoning of the SNP’s policy to write-off student debt has generally been forgotten. That it has been accompanied by a fall in the proportion of students from poorer income families attending university (while the relative share of that same group has increased in England) is all the more damning.

Looking at the SNP’s record, it is clear from this research that they cannot be trusted with the promises that they make. Even now, the party is failing to deliver on commitments recently made, and abandoning long-held policy positions. The message is quite clear: the SNP is not to be trusted.
Introduction and methodology

ThinkScotland has reviewed the commitments made by the SNP in the 2007 and 2011 manifestoes to establish just how many were broken and categorised them as follows:

- **Abandoned** - the promise has been withdrawn or is now impossible to deliver and no further efforts are being made;
- **Failed to deliver** - the Scottish Government is substantially behind reaching its target; and,
- **Still chasing** - efforts continue to be made to meet the target but remain short.

The review reveals a litany of abandoned pledges or a failure to deliver and, with one final year of the SNP administration left, many targets are still being chased.

While the process is undeniably subjective the outcomes are clear cut: an abandoned policy is just that, abandoned.

A promise that the SNP has failed to deliver can be measured against its own targets. If it has not met that target then the SNP government has indeed failed to deliver.

In a spirit of charity some targets that have not yet been met - but where the trend suggests they could yet be met within the remaining year of the current Scottish Government’s tenure - or it is obviously close to being met - have been branded Still Chasing even though they have not yet been delivered. Disappointingly there are not very many worthy of that description.
Section 1

Review of 2007 SNP Manifesto

Health and Sport

“Direct elections to Health Boards to give local people a say”

Page 10

ABANDONED. SNP ministers spent £773,000 on two pilots in Fife (10% turnout) and DG (25% turnout). Nicola Sturgeon, who was health secretary at the time (2008) said that the scheme was “massively popular”.

“2 hours of PE per week, free use of council swimming centres and a moratorium on the sale of playing fields”

Page 10

FAILED TO DELIVER. Playing fields are still being sold and free use of swimming centres is scarce, the 2 hour target is not being met by all local authorities and is taking considerably longer to implement.

“Life Begins Health checks for those over 40”

Page 10

ABANDONED. Also included in the 2011 Manifesto: “we will also start a four-year pilot to test the effectiveness of universal, face-to-face ‘health MOTs’ for the over 40s.”

The SNP downgraded its pledge to a pilot of the 2007 pledge. In reality, the ‘Life Begins at 40’ programme got downgraded from GP or health centre checkups to being an internet questionnaire. The whole programme was quietly scrapped in May 2014.

“We will set a target that no patient should wait longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment by the end of 2011.”

Page 34

STILL CHASING. Statistics from December 2014 showed that nationally 89.2% of patients were being seen within this timeframe; minimum guideline is 90%.

“Presumption against the centralisation of core hospital services to protect local access to healthcare”

Page 36

FAILED TO DELIVER. Health services are being centralised with community hospitals closing and a leaked paper during the referendum confirmed the funding pressures of NHS services.

“With this support we aim to reduce the use of anti depressants by 10 per cent by 2009.”

Page 36
**FAILED TO DELIVER.** There has been a £10 million increase in the past year. 2013/14 - 5,495,580 items / £40,056,459 against 2012/13 - 5,220,431 items / £29,568,045, and 2011/12 - 5,015,323 items / £31,413,645.

“To achieve this, national policy and targets will become a ministerial responsibility, advised by sports governing bodies and other organisations involved in physical recreation. We will abolish SportScotland and establish the 3 national centres currently run by SportScotland as not-for-profit trusts.”

Page 40

**ABANDONED.** Pledge was abandoned and SportScotland still exists.

**Education**

“Delivery of a 50% increase in free nursery education for three and four year olds, smaller class sizes starting with a reduction in the first three years of primary education to 18 or less.”

Page 10

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** In 2013, the percentage of P1-3 pupils in class sizes of 18 or fewer fell from 18.8 per cent to 13.6 per cent. In fact, last year’s statistics showed that average class sizes have increased to 23.2 pupils, up from 22.8 in 2007. The pledge was largely changed to a limit of 25 pupils. The number of hours of free early learning and childcare for children aged three and four was to increase from 12.5 to almost 16 hours a week from the start of August 2014; still well short of target.

“Maintain teacher numbers in the face of falling school rolls to cut class sizes”.

Page 52

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** In 2013 there were 51,078 teachers in Scottish state schools. This is down by more than 4,000 from 2007 where the total was 55,100 - and slightly down on 2012 where it was 51,253.

“Creation of an additional support fund. We propose to create an Additional Support Fund to improve services for children with additional support needs, for example dyslexia and autism. This £10 million fund will be focused on providing continuous professional development for teachers. It will also ensure that initial teacher training emphasises early identification of additional support needs and that specialist training is rolled out to each and every teacher in Scotland.”

Page 10

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** In answer to a parliamentary question from November 2007 asking whether “the £10 million additional support for learning fund promised in the SNP manifesto will be additional to existing resources and in which financial year or years it will be made available”, SNP ministers confirmed it would not be: “the additional support fund will be provided by means of a block grant. It is the responsibility of each local authority to allocate the total financial resources available to it on the basis of local needs and priorities”.

“Removing the burden of the debt repayments owed to the student loans company”.

Page 8

**ABANDONED.** Never delivered, then dropped from the 2011 Manifesto; students still repaying loans.
“We will pay particular attention to raising the achievement of the poorest performing 20 per cent of school pupils, with increased early intervention and support.”

Page 34

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** Only 28% of children from poorer families performing well in numeracy, compared with 56% of those from advantaged backgrounds.

2007 Manifesto: “recognise the key role colleges play in the economy and in their communities and will help them develop this role as part of a revitalised life-long learning agenda”.

Page 54

2011 Manifesto: “In the most recent Scottish Budget we provided an additional £15 million for college bursaries and funding to support 1,200 additional college places. We are committed to protecting existing students’ living costs through our budget for 2011-12. For the future, we will protect the advances already made.”

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** Since 2007, the SNP has cut 140,000 college places. Since 2009-10, the ‘hours of learning’ provided by colleges has fallen from 83.4m to 73.7m.

**Department of Finance**

“Introducing a first time buyers grant of £2,000 and the creation of a Scottish Housing Support Fund”.

Page 10

**ABANDONED.** Pledge was abandoned, Government Report claimed “It was felt the amount proposed in grant was too small to make a significant difference to a household’s capacity to purchase a home, and that it was likely any such grant would simply feed through into increased prices.”

“Replace council tax with a local income tax, with a rate set at 3p.” 2011 Manifesto also included this pledge “Over the period of the next Parliament we will consult with others to produce a fairer system based on ability to pay to replace the Council Tax.”

Page 10

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** Council Tax still in use, however a commission has been set up (Nov 2014) to look at options for replacing it.

“Introduce a new grant enabling artists to reclaim the cost of the tax paid on work they have sold up to a maximum of £15,000”.

Page 55

**ABANDONED.** Dropped from 2011 manifesto, asked in November 2010 whether Creative Scotland will introduce a grant enabling artists to reclaim the cost, up to a maximum of £15,000, of tax paid on work that they have sold, Scottish Ministers confirmed that, “While Scottish Ministers believe that the tax system should include tax breaks and incentives for artists, that is a matter for the UK Government.”

**Department of Justice**

“The presumption will be that an offender given a custodial sentence of less than 6 months will have that sentence turned into an equivalent punishment in the community. However, if an offender commits a further crime while serving a community punishment they will be punished
severely. This will involve serving their original sentence in full, plus any sentence given for their later offence, with no prospect of remission.”

Page 62

FAILED TO DELIVER. The SNP failed to bring forward this manifesto promise, instead introducing a presumption against sentences of less than three months, but with inadequate investment in community sentences.

Department for Rural Affairs

“The SNP will continue to work for withdrawal from the Common Fisheries Policy and will not support any future European Constitution that grants the EU “exclusive competence” over this valuable resource. We will work with our partners to enlist support for the repatriation of fisheries responsibilities to member states.”

Page 72

ABANDONED. Pledge has been abandoned as the SNP no longer wishes to scrap it but reform it instead.

Scottish Civil Service

“We will also seek early discussions on the creation of a wholly devolved Scottish civil service on the same model and basis as the Northern Irish civil service.”

Page 14

FAILED TO DELIVER. The civil service in Scotland remains a part of the UK Home Civil Service under the leadership of the UK Cabinet Secretary.

International Aid

“For the wider world, we will double the International Development budget. We will work with Scotland’s Aid Agencies to ensure this support meets the needs of those in greatest need.”

Page 16

FAILED TO DELIVER. In 2008/9 the International aid budget was £6million today it is £9million.

Co-operation on Energy

“Transfer of responsibility for North Sea oil and gas to the Scottish Parliament”.

Page 17

FAILED TO DELIVER.

“A North Sea super-grid, able to take electricity from offshore Scotland and Norway direct to markets in mainland Europe.”

Page 16

ABANDONED. SSE pulled out of the project and any future interconnector will be built between Blyth in Northumberland and Norway.
“Sustainability - extend the current emissions commitment beyond 2012 to ensure continued cuts in CO2 output equivalent to a 3 per cent annual reduction”.

Page 20

FAILED TO DELIVER.

“We will press the case for a Scottish green-card that is awarded to eager, qualified immigrants, who want to come to Scotland for five years or longer.”

Page 22

FAILED TO DELIVER. Immigration remains reserved.

Transport

“In government the SNP will publish a 10-year plan to transform Scottish road safety. The case put forward by organisations including the AA motoring trust proves that a range of measures
- including dualling of key roads, such as the A9 - would contribute to fewer lives being lost.
- improvements to the Glasgow Queen Street to Edinburgh Waverley so we can reduce the journey time on this route
- extensive electrification of Scotland’s rail network so we can identify and then implement any schemes that offer a clear benefit for the travelling public
- a connection to an overland station at Edinburgh airport, avoiding the additional cost and risk of the proposed new hub station under the airport runway.”

Page 26

FAILED TO DELIVER. The Edinburgh Airport Rail Link was cancelled following a parliamentary vote in September 2007. The A9 is still to be dualled (completion date of 2025). The Edinburgh to Glasgow improvement is on-going.

“We will give the go ahead for the necessary track improvements to cut journey times from Inverness to Edinburgh by 45 minutes.”

Page 26

FAILED TO DELIVER. According to a PQ from Tavish Scott in 2013, average journey times had actually increased by 1 minute and shortest possible journey had only decreased by 4 minutes.

“In Edinburgh school pupils will be given free bus travel before and after school to encourage greater use of public transport.”

Page 26

FAILED TO DELIVER. The radius to access free bus travel to school was extended from 2 to 3 miles in 2010 therefore decreasing the numbers able to use free buses.

“In government we will conduct an early study into options for inter-city high-speed links in Scotland.”

Page 26

STILL CHASING.
Communities in control

“The SNP’s aim is to give individuals, families and communities more control of their own destiny. We will opt for de-centralist policy solutions that devolve power to local level wherever that is possible and seek ways to devolve power from local authorities to community level.”

Page 44

FAILED TO DELIVER. Local Authorities have had their authority eroded and there are now centralised Police and Fire services. In April 2014, CoSLA called Scotland the most centralised country in Europe.
Section 2
Review of 2011 SNP Manifesto

Transport and Connectivity
“The rate of broadband uptake by people in Scotland should be at or above the UK average by 2013, and should be highest among the UK nations by 2015.”

Page 13

STILL CHASING. Broadband use is 76% in Scotland compared to 77% in England and Wales

“Construction of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and A90 Balmedie.”

Page 13

STILL CHASING. Construction on the Aberdeen Peripheral Route only began on the 19th of February 2015.

“And through Network Rail’s Regulated Asset Base (RAB) we will also take forward the important Edinburgh-Glasgow improvement programme which will see the electrification of much of the central Scotland rail network and more-frequent and faster journeys between Edinburgh and Glasgow, including services of just over half an hour.”

Page 13

STILL CHASING. On 4 July 2012 the Scottish Minister for Transport and Housing Keith Brown announced that the project had been significantly scaled down, with the estimated budget cut to £650 million.

“They will also see faster journey times between these two cities, Dundee, Stirling, Perth and the central belt.”

Page 13

STILL CHASING. Precise statistics don’t exist.

Health
“Health treatment that is faster and better.”

Page 7

FAILED TO DELIVER. Waiting times are up and a 2014 HEI report into the cleanliness of Scottish hospitals recommended that the Scottish Government should take a “Scotland-wide approach to addressing solutions to the widespread problem of dirty patient equipment. We also found the cleanliness of patient equipment was not always being monitored effectively to ensure it was clean and ready for use.

The report also states: “We continue to find issues with cleanliness on our inspections. A common theme from our inspections this year is the poor standard of cleaning in emergency departments.”
“We will protect the NHS Budget, ensuring shorter waiting times and treatment that continues to improve. That means extra investment of £1 billion over the next four years.”

Page 7

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** Audit Scotland report shows a real terms reduction in the NHS budget by 0.9% from 2013/14 to 2015/16.

“We will keep the NHS public and free, rejecting the plans adopted elsewhere in the UK so you feel safer in your community.”

Page 7

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** NHS Private spending tops £400million since the SNP came to power and rose by £15 million in the past year

“We will also reduce the number of senior managers working in the NHS by 25% over the next parliament.”

Page 14

**STILL CHASING.** Latest figures show an average 10% reduction

“We will continue to tackle hospital infection as a top priority, maintaining our investment in the various initiatives we have standards for MRSA screening in Scottish hospitals.”

Page 14

**FAILED TO DELIVER.** Infections up

“An SNP government will introduce a Minimum Pricing Bill as a priority in our first legislative programme and we will seek to build a coalition of support for it in Parliament to match the one that already exists outside of Parliament.”

Page 14

**STILL CHASING.** A minimum pricing bill has been introduced in 2012 but has yet to pass through stages 2 and 3 in parliament.

“We will continue to address the variation in waiting times for IVF treatment and during the next Parliament we will work to establish a maximum waiting time of 12 months.”

Page 14

**STILL CHASING.** Eligible patients will commence IVF treatment within 12 months by 31 March 2015.

**Housing**

“We will maintain the momentum generated in council house building by funding construction of 5,000 new council homes in the next parliamentary term, creating an estimated 8,000 jobs. Overall, our aim is to build over 6,000 new socially-rented houses each year.”

Page 17

**STILL CHASING.** The number of socially-rented completed houses (LA and Housing Association built) was 4,051 in 2013/14
“We believe the UK government should introduce a targeted VAT reduction on building maintenance and repair. This would have the twin benefits of supporting the construction industry and also making it easier for people and businesses to improve the energy efficiency of their properties. The SNP has pushed this issue at Westminster, and will continue to make the case to the UK government.”

Page 17

FAILED TO DELIVER, as the issue is reserved.

Justice

“We will build on the work already done and involve the sentencing council in further action to address unconditional early automatic release. We remain committed to ending automatic early release once the criteria set by the McLeish Commission are met.”

Page 19

STILL CHASING. Automatic early release still exists for prisoners serving sentences less than 4 years.

Education

“We are determined to see an increased performance in the next PISA survey.”

Page 23

FAILED TO DELIVER.

“And we will adopt a similar approach for a wider range of College courses, with Technical Apprenticeships at HNC and HND level, focused on more of the technical skills our economy will need in the years ahead.”

Page 12

FAILED TO DELIVER. STEM places at College have dropped by 34% since the SNP came to power in 2007.

“At the same time we will develop the concept of “Scottish Studies” in our schools, creating a distinct strand of learning focused on Scotland and incorporating Scottish History, Scottish Literature, the Scots and Gaelic Languages, wider Scottish culture and Scottish current affairs.”

Page 24

STILL CHASING, only a working group set up.

Energy

“We will take action to protect and restore peatlands and will significantly expand our forest estate with the planting of 100 million trees by 2015.”

Page 35
FAILED TO DELIVER. 100 million tree target missed, as of November 2014 64 million had been planted.

“We have set two new targets that will apply to all waste: a 70% target for recycled waste and maximum 5% to be sent to landfill, both by 2025. We also want to see a total ban on organic waste being sent to landfill by 2017.”
Page 35

STILL CHASING, but most recent evidence shows that the target is not being met.

“We will continue to press the UK government to take action to lower fuel prices in Scotland, with the introduction of a Fuel Price Regulator and specific derogations to allow substantially lower fuel duty levels in both remote and island communities where pump prices are particularly high.”
Page 39

FAILED TO DELIVER, as fuel duty is reserved.

“Our plans will see 130,000 jobs in the low carbon economy by 2020 and we will increase Scotland’s renewable generation target to 100% by 2020.”
Page 34

FAILED TO DELIVER. Only 11,000 jobs have been created in the low carbon sector and wave and tidal development companies have recently entered administration.

Miscellaneous
“We are also taking forward a range of early severance schemes across the public sector and this will reduce the costs of the Senior Civil Service by 25% by 2014-15.”
Page 8

STILL CHASING.
Corporation Tax
2007
“We will send a clear signal of our intention to reduce Corporation Tax rates in Scotland in stages to 20% when the Scottish government has responsibility for this financial lever.”
Page 21
2011
“Responsibility for Corporation Tax would allow Scotland to do even more to create jobs and make our economy more competitive and successful. SNP victory in this election will send a clear message to the UK government that Scotland should take responsibility for this tax. The UK government is currently considering Corporation Tax devolution for Northern Ireland and we will press the case for Scotland too. As part of this we will publish our own consultation paper by the summer on the most appropriate arrangements for this tax in Scotland including questions on the lower rate needed to maximise the economic benefit for our nation.”
Page 3 and 30
2014 (White Paper)
“A timetable for reducing the rate of corporation tax by up to three percentage points to counter the gravitational business pull of London.”
Page xiii
ABANDONED by Nicola Sturgeon in March 2015.

Business Rates Incentivisation Scheme
In neither the SNP’s 2007 or 2011 manifesto, the Business Rates Incentivisation Scheme (BRIS) was established in April 2012 and allows councils to keep 50% of business rates cash brought in over official targets specified by Scottish Government ministers.
FAILED TO DELIVER. So far, it appears that the scheme has delivered no cash benefits to councils, despite discussions on the subject between the Scottish Government and local authority umbrella group, CoSLA. In 2014 no targets were set, meaning that councils have no “incentive”, as the scheme’s title suggests, to attract new businesses.

Wealthier and Fairer
2007
“The First Minister will be responsible for ensuring that families that are wealthier, with lower and fairer local tax leaving more money in people’s pockets at the end of every month.”
Page 8
2011
“In 2007 we said that Scotland could be wealthier and fairer. And despite the global downturn, progress has been made and is still being made. As of this month, we know that almost 80,000 Scottish businesses are being helped as a result of our Small Business Bonus, with 60,000 small Scottish firms paying no business rates at all. In addition on a personal and family level, our decision to freeze the Council Tax for four years is saving the average Scottish family over £300.
These are just our first steps. As is only fair, we will protect the current concessionary travel scheme. We will continue the Council Tax freeze throughout this Parliament. Over the period of the next Parliament we will consult with others to produce a fairer system based on ability to pay to replace the Council Tax and we will put this to the people at the next election, by which time Scotland will have more powers over income tax. We will also continue with the Small Business Bonus and remain committed to ensuring the Scottish poundage remains at least in parity with England.”

Page 3

FAILED TO DELIVER. on a fairer local tax, and salaries are not matching inflation. In 2007 the average annual income in Scotland was £23,098 and in 2014 it is £27,045; an increase of 17%. Inflation over the period has been 26%. This means that average wages should have reached nearly £29,000 in order to keep up with inflation.

Child Poverty
2011

“The SNP is committed to ending child poverty in Scotland. That is a big ambition, but one that a nation of Scotland’s wealth should be determined to achieve. We have recently published our first Child Poverty Strategy, which will be updated every three years. This has been developed in close consultation with stakeholders, including the End Child Poverty Coalition, and we will work to implement it over the next parliamentary term.”

Page 16

FAILED TO DELIVER, the SNP has published and updated a Child Poverty Strategy, but the number of those suffering in poverty has recently increased (as of stats for 2013).

Relative child poverty decreased from 21 per cent in 2008/09 to 15 per cent in 2011/12, before increasing to 19 per cent in 2012/13. Relative poverty is a measure of whether income for the lowest income households is increasing compared with the average income in the current year.

The number of children in absolute poverty decreased from 20 per cent in 2008/09 to 17 per cent in 2011/12, before increasing back to 20 per cent in the latest year. Absolute poverty is a measure of whether income for the lowest income households is keeping pace with inflation.

The number of children living in combined low income and material deprivation in Scotland fell by 3 percentage points to 9 per cent between 2010/11 and 2011/12, but increased to 11 per cent in 2012/13. This indicator aims to provide a measure of children’s living standards which, unlike relative and absolute poverty, is not solely based on income.

Income inequality
2007

“Scotland has one of the highest levels of income inequality in Western Europe. Too many deprived areas suffer from persistent inter-generational poverty and dependency, damaging the health and limiting the life chances of the individuals who live there. Inequality on this scale is a sign of serious political and economic failure. Reducing poverty and dependency will be an SNP priority.”

Page 44

FAILED TO DELIVER. In 2012/13, there were 250 thousand working age adults in in-work poverty. In 2012/13 the rate of in-work poverty increased compared with 2011/12.
Productivity and Competitiveness

2007

“To ensure Scotland matches the success of similar nations, we propose:
- be among the top 15 most competitive countries in the world including being the most competitive among the present UK nations, building on the fact that Bavaria is ranked more competitively than Germany, Catalonia is ranked higher than Spain and Lombardy is ranked higher than Italy.”

Page 20

2011

“Over the next five years we will build on this record to deliver budget settlements for Scotland that direct maximum funding to the frontline and continue to protect family budgets and business competitiveness.”

Page 8

FAILED TO DELIVER. Productivity gap between Scotland and the rest of the UK has narrowed but we are not among the 15 most productive (competitive) countries in the world. The Scottish Government wants to be in the top quartile of OECD countries by 2017.

Scotland’s productivity performance relative to the lowest ranked country in the top quartile of OECD countries has worsened in 2012. Since the baseline position of 2006, the gap in productivity performance between Scotland and the closest ranked country in the top quartile has fallen from 25.4% to 21.8% in 2012.