



Pensioners Manifesto 2024

Barnett must go

In November 2023, the Westminster Government issued version 10 of the Barnett Formula. There is significant underfunding of services in Wales.

NPC Wales calls upon the next Westminster Government to reform the Barnett formula and make it one that takes account of the relative socio-economic needs in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and regions of England.

Decisions on how it is applied should be made in open consultation with the devolved administrations and the regions of England rather than unilaterally by the UK Treasury. The Treasury should publish its funding calculations in a single, coherent, and consistent publication.

Health and Care

NPC Wales supports one system of seamless health and care for Wales and the UK - free at the point of need.

Digital Inclusion

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales reported in her 'Access Denied' report: "My findings highlight a stark digital divide that is not only exclusionary, but also often leaves older people feeling worthless, inadequate and that they are not valued by society."

That is unacceptable.

The next Westminster Government should ensure that all people aged 60 years or older have access to broadband internet at zero cost. They should be provided with suitable equipment and support in order to be able to access vital on-line services.

For those older people who cannot access online services, or do not wish to go on line, government must enshrine, in law, that non-digital options remain available and accessible for both the Public and Private Sectors.

Free TV Licences for the over 75s and the future of the BBC

As the world appears to be growing even more dangerous and misinformation explodes the public service ethos of the BBC to inform, entertain and educate is something that we should fiercely protect and fund properly.

Climate Change, Fuel Poverty, Energy, Housing and Environment

NPC Wales calls for the next Westminster Government and the Welsh Government to work together to ensure that we have greener environments, less air pollution, many more housing adaptations, more sustainable food systems for healthier diets and health promotion for well-being.

The next Westminster Government and the Welsh Government should both start a major home energy 'retrofit' programme.

Transport Sort out the buses!

The next Westminster Government should introduce a universal older people's travel concession card for all those aged 60 years or older, for which a moderate fee is payable, which enables them to purchase all UK wide rail and coach fares with a 30% discount.

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Decent state pensions and Universal Benefits

The basic state pension should be set at 70% of the living wage (outside London rate) and above the official poverty level.

Every year the state pension (basic and second such as State Earnings Related Pension Scheme SERPS) should rise in line with the best of earnings, the Consumer Price Index, the Retail Price Index or 2.5%. The Income Tax Personal Earnings Allowance for those in receipt of the state pension should increase, annually, with the level of inflation.

Universal Pensioner Benefits

Until we get a decent state pension, NPC Wales supports the maintenance of universal pensioner benefits such as free bus travel and a £500 winter fuel allowance.

Public Toilets

The provision of publicly owned toilets should be made a statutory responsibility for all local authorities in England and Wales and funding for them should be included in the Local Authority Revenue Support Grant.