

From Scotland's Young People summary Highlands and Islands region



SYP's 2021-26 manifesto, [From Scotland's Young People](#), raises a wide range of changes young people have told SYP they would like to see happen over the coming Parliamentary term. These are based on consultation with 12-25 year olds from across the country, with a specific focus on the voices of seldom-heard groups. Overall, around 10,000 young people participated in the national consultation. The demographics from this region are shown on page 2 of this document.

This document highlights the top ten issues raised by young people in Highlands and Islands region¹.

The top ten issues in Highlands and Islands Region are:	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
The food and retail industry should make it possible to recycle and reuse packaging.	95.8%	1.7%	2.5%
The food and retail industry should avoid using too much packaging in their products.	94.5%	2.5%	3.0%
Employers should increase efforts to close the gender pay gap by ensuring equal pay for equal work.	92.5%	3.2%	4.2%
There should be mandatory training for those working in education and health care settings on how to identify mental health problems and provide support for all young people, especially those most at risk.	91.9%	2.8%	5.3%
The right to food should be upheld in Scotland by creating a fair, healthy and sustainable food system that is accessible to everyone.	91.7%	3.3%	5.1%
The food and retail industry should make it possible for people to rely less on packaging made out of plastic.	90.8%	4.0%	5.2%
Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government should provide funding to support initiatives which make it easier, cheaper, and safer for young people to use active and sustainable travel options.	90.8%	3.0%	6.2%
The food and retail industry should make it possible for people to rely less on packaging that can only be used once.	90.3%	4.0%	5.7%
Every child or young person with a disability or long term health condition should have the right to a Transitions Plan to help with their move from child to adult services.	90.1%	2.5%	7.4%
In order to protect young offenders and young people who have a family member in prison, newspapers and other media outlets should be prevented from publishing the address of a person who has been sentenced in Court.	89.4%	5.4%	5.2%

For more information about *From Scotland's Young People*, or for a full breakdown of results, please contact Kirsty Morrison, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, at kirsty.m@syp.org.uk.

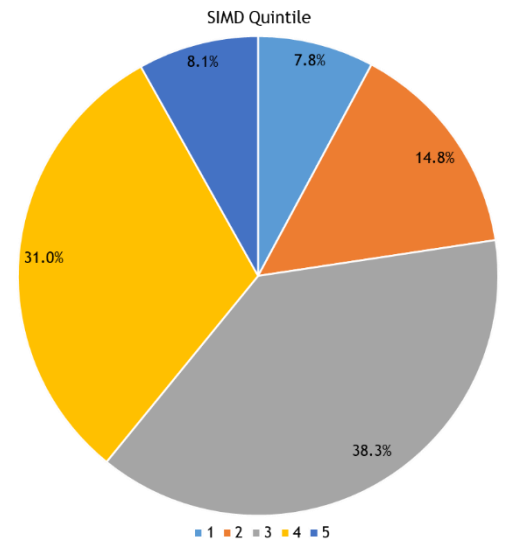
¹ The local authorities in this region are Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, Highlands, Moray, Orkney, and Shetland Islands

Demographics

406 young people from the Highlands and Islands region took part in this consultation.

Of these respondents who provided demographics information:

- 71.9% are aged between 12 and 17, 14.6% are aged 18-20, and 13.6% are aged 21-25.
- 63.5% identify as female, 31.1% identify as male, 2.2% identify as non-binary, and 0.7% prefer to use their own term. The remaining respondents preferred not to say.
- 65.7% are at school, 13.1% go to university or college, 14.8% are in part-time or full-time work, 2.0% are doing an apprenticeship, and 4.5% are not in education or training.



Conditions for use of *From Scotland's Young People* manifesto results data

1. Data may be used by Local Authorities/National Voluntary Organisations for local planning and promotion.
2. Manifesto statements must not be reworded, or the meaning of any statements changed or interpreted in any way.
3. Local Authorities/National Voluntary Organisations must reference the Scottish Youth Parliament when using the data.
4. Local Authorities/National Voluntary Organisations must outline the manifesto consultation process and how data was collected when using the data.
5. Local Authorities/National Voluntary Organisations must follow the Scottish Youth Parliament's brand guidelines when using the SYP logo, the *From Scotland's Young People* logo, or any other logos or images owned by SYP. For more information, please contact hello@syp.org.uk.

How we consulted young people

As the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people, SYP has a responsibility to establish and then communicate the views of young people to local and national decision-makers, to ensure they are taken into account in all decisions that affect them. By actively asking young people about the changes they wish to see over the next Parliamentary term, we are able to confidently advocate and campaign for policies that reflect the needs and wants of Scotland's youth. Our *'From Scotland's Young People'* manifesto consultation exercise will determine our policy direction for the 2021-26 period.

The consultation process as a whole was led by MSYPs and supported by the SYP staff team, in line with our youth led ethos. Due to the innovative and multifaceted approach we took with this manifesto, we do not have the exact number of young people we engaged throughout this process. However, we estimate this to be around 10,000.

Adapting the consultation for unprecedented times

We made a deliberate effort to shine a light on the issues that are most important to young people who might otherwise be harder to reach - and whose lives may have been affected disproportionately by the pandemic. The manifesto presents detailed insights about the issues that matter most to these young people, to amplify those voices and ensure they are heard by those in power. During the manifesto process, the SYP staff team and our Manifesto Ambassadors undertook a series of consultation activities that were quite different to the approach we would usually take, in response to the very different world that we are all living in.

This was a deliberate shift in our approach, based on our understanding of how significantly the pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our communities, and was all about supporting young people who might not otherwise have their voices heard, to be heard! The figures alone do not capture the real lived experiences of young people, and how exactly the proposed changes will benefit them. Therefore, we worked in partnership with a variety of organisations to run a second series of focus groups in autumn 2020 that enabled seldom heard young people to share with us, in their own words, what they think about the calls included within our manifesto.

The consultation process

Our consultation survey was launched on 15th May 2020 and ran until 16th October 2020. This gave all young people in Scotland aged 12-25 the opportunity to give us their views on the proposed calls for our 2021-26 manifesto.

MSYPs were supported to work with their local authority and/or national voluntary organisation team to ensure as many young people as possible in their area filled in the consultation through promotion on social media, virtual events and reaching out to schools, youth groups and local organisations. For more information on the consultation process, see page 4 of the key findings report, available to download [here](#).