



The Scottish
Parliament

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Aileen Campbell MSP
South of Scotland Region

Our ref: PG

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Dear Peter

Thank you for your letter of 20th January 2009 regarding support for allotments in Party Manifestos.

In October of last year, I was delighted to speak in support of the following resolutions at the SNP Conference, which was passed unanimously:

ALLOTMENTS

Conference appreciates the significant social, health and environmental benefits of allotments; Conference also notes the growing demand across Scotland for allotments and the work of COSLA and the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) to increase their profile and status; Conference acknowledges however, that allotments have suffered historically from a lack of investment and promotion and that support is required to address this situation.

Conference therefore asks the Scottish Government to:

1. encourage Government departments, statutory agencies, local authorities, the voluntary sector, funding bodies and the private sector to acknowledge the value and potential of allotments to communities and explore ways to actively support and develop the allotment sector.
2. to include within the Government's "National Food Policy" an aim to develop the allotment sector across the country, matched with appropriate incentives.

As with all policy resolutions agreed through the SNP's democratic structures, this will help to inform the drafting of future party manifestos. I should of course stress that this is not binding on the Scottish Government, but I know as you do that the Government has shown its support for your work in a variety of ways since May 2007.

I would like once again to apologise for not being able to attend your annual conference this year due to my forthcoming wedding (as a keen gardener you'll be pleased to know that my Dad is desperate to know what flowers I want for my bouquet so he can start growing them!!) As ever, I remain happy to assist the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society in any way I can in the future and wish you and your colleagues well for the year ahead.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,


Aileen Campbell MSP

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