

4. Financial Review

INCOME

The SNP's total income for the year ended 31 December 2009 was £1,842,127, of which 78% came from members and supporters. So we make sure every penny we raise is used as effectively as it can be.

Where the money comes from

- 30p** in every £1 is donated by individual members and supporters who care about Scotland
- 21p** comes from membership subscriptions
- 15p** is sales of exhibition space, sponsorship and registration fees at SNP conference
- 14p** comes from our members and supporters who remember us in their wills
- 8p** comes from MSPs, MPs and MEPs to be invested in national campaigning
- 7p** is grants to assist the Party with its policy development
- 3p** is a levy on Party accounting units to help fund the Glasgow East by-election campaign
- 1p** is sales of merchandising and other trading
- 1p** is sales of support services from the national call centre

Where the money goes

- 28p** of every £1 spent is used to help local candidates and organisations win more seats and provide campaign support services like activate.snp.org
- 27p** goes on the permanent paid staff at SNP Headquarters
- 15p** is paid in tax, bank charges, legal and audit fees
- 12p** is used by the SNP to cover operating costs
- 10p** goes on hiring venues and running conferences
- 6p** is returned to local branches as a dividend of membership subscriptions
- 2p** goes on increasing income from membership subscriptions and fundraising

Inter-Party Talks: The Funding of Political Parties

Sir Hayden Phillips GCB, Chairman

Angus Robertson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

14 August 2007

RECEIVED 20 AUG 2007

Dear Mr Robertson

Further information on Inter-Party Talks on party funding

At our meeting of 25 July you requested further information from the Secretariat to the Inter-Party Talks on the effect of a cap on donations on the three largest parties, and modelling a pence-per-vote scheme with all the votes weighted at the same amount.

Annex A shows the effect of a cap on donations on the three largest parties, based on the donations each party declared to the Electoral Commission (i.e. donations over £1,000 to an accounting unit or £5,000 to the national party). Multiple donations from the same person in a calendar year have been aggregated for the purposes of the cap.

Annex B shows the calculations for public funding. The first example presents the current proposal for a 50p/25p pence-per-vote scheme, whereby votes at Westminster attract 50p of public funding and votes in elections for the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the European Parliament 25p. As voters in Scotland and Wales have two votes at the elections for their devolved administrations, one for a constituency representative and one for a regional representative, the actual figure used is 12.5p per vote, equivalent to 25p per voter. The second example gives the same weighting to all votes, and is based on 50p for all votes, again with each of the two votes cast by each elector for the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly counting for half that amount.

The pence-per-vote figures for parties in Northern Ireland are included for the sake of completeness. Sir Hayden stated in his report in March that in his opinion it is best to let convergence with the party funding system currently operating in Great Britain proceed further and to bed down before applying whatever agreement is reached to Northern Ireland.

It is important to note that, if legislation is ultimately brought forward along the lines recommended in Sir Hayden's report, the total public funding to political parties will also be affected by the ending of Policy Development Grants and the introduction of a matched funding scheme. These elements are not included in the calculations provided here.

I hope the figures presented here are helpful. If there are any further comments that you may wish to make about party funding please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below and I will ensure that they are seen by Sir Hayden on his return to the office.

I am copying this letter to Elfyn Llwyd from Plaid Cymru.



David Rowland
Secretary to the Talks

Annex A

This data is based on the Electoral Commission register of donations for 2001 – 2006. It records the sum totals of the donations reported each year as follows:

Total amount of reported donations since 2001

£m	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Conservative Party	13.51	4.53	4.39	10.40	15.11	24.16
Labour Party	12.20	11.07	14.98	15.76	21.79	11.88
Liberal Democrats	1.14	0.68	1.44	2.52	5.07	4.90
Other	1.34	0.86	1.75	3.38	1.94	3.28
Total	28.19	17.14	22.56	32.06	43.91	44.22

The first row of the Labour Party figures includes all payments from trade unions to the Labour Party without making a distinction between donations and affiliation fees. The second row gives the reduction in income from donations excluding affiliation fees, giving in effect the shortfall were affiliation fees to continue at the same level as at present.

Reduction in parties' income from donations if cap had been in place in previous years

£m	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Average
Labour Party	9.65	8.79	12.24	12.93	17.76	9.38	11.79
Labour Party excluding affiliation fees	5.44	4.67	7.36	7.18	11.35	n/a	7.20
Conservative Party	9.54	1.99	1.34	4.21	6.28	15.73	6.52
Liberal Democrats	0.21	0.08	0.52	0.82	3.01	2.92	1.26
Other	0.70	0.30	0.90	1.95	0.94	1.50	1.05
Total*	15.89	7.04	10.12	14.16	21.58	n/a	

* using Labour Party reported donations figures excluding affiliation fees

Annex B

Public funding calculations

50p/25p per vote

	<i>50p/25p current proposal</i>
Labour	5,936,850
Conservatives	5,622,558
Liberal Democrats	3,707,790
Plaid Cymru	180,376
SNP	426,213
DUP	216,799
Sinn Fein	168,544
SDLP	110,994
UUP	112,284
Greens	403,003
UKIP	976,270
Alliance	23,180
Scottish Greens	32,058
Total	17,916,919

50p per vote

	<i>50p per vote</i>
Labour	7,097,482
Conservatives	6,852,659
Liberal Democrats	4,422,854
Plaid Cymru	273,333
SNP	646,293
DUP	312,669
Sinn Fein	249,822
SDLP	159,175
UUP	160,862
Greens	664,299
UKIP	1,649,554
Alliance	32,215
Scottish Greens	64,116
Total	22,585,333

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

09 November 2007

This week's Queen's Speech highlighted the intention of your government to bring forward legislation covering the funding of political parties.

Shortly before the collapse of the Inter Party Talks chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips it emerged that the discussions by the three UK parties involved discriminatory plans regarding elections to the devolved institutions and European Parliament.

This information was provided by the Secretary to the Talks, David Rowlands, who forwarded public funding calculations which show that with equal value for votes in state funding: the Scottish National Party (SNP) would receive £646,293 per annum and Plaid Cymru £180,376 per annum. This would of course be part of a package including caps on donations and the ending of Policy Development Grants.

Amazingly however, apparently the favoured plans being discussed by the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties would value votes at UK Parliamentary elections twice as much as those for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh National Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly.

The net effect of this is that the SNP would lose £220,000 and Plaid Cymru £96,000, which amounts to a funding cut of one third.

Similar levels of discrimination apply to the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Sinn Fein, Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and Ulster Unionist Party (UUP).

Could you confirm whether it is the intention of the UK government to continue with this unacceptable discrimination? These plans are deeply flawed and are unacceptable in a modern democracy and I hope you can review them before the publication of legislation.

If you or one of your ministerial colleagues wishes to discuss this matter further I would be pleased to meet for talks.

Angus Robertson MP

Cc: Plaid Cymru, DUP, Sinn Fein, SDLP and UUP

Discrimination Against Voters in Scotland, Wales & N. Ireland

PRINT

Written by Angus Robertson
Tuesday, 30 October 2007



The Scottish National Party (SNP) and Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales - have cried foul over the Inter-Party Funding talks involving the three UK parties. As part of a scheme to reform the financing of political parties a state funding element will be calculated according to the number of votes received by all parties. However representatives of the three UK Parties are today discussing plans where votes for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh National Assembly and NI Assembly will be worth only half those cast in a UK General Election.

The Westminster leaders of both parties Angus Robertson MP and Elyn Llwyd MP have written to talks chairman Sir Hayden Phillips describing the plans as "discrimination" against all voters in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

According to statistics produced for the Inter Party Talks, and forwarded formally to the SNP and Plaid Cymru a drop is planned for all parties contesting elections in Scotland and Wales, and the Northern Irish parties.

This amounts to a decline of 34.1% or £220,000 for the SNP, 34.1% or £96,000 for Plaid Cymru. The Northern Irish Parties see the following declines: DUP -30.7%, Sinn Fein - 32.5%, SDLP -30.3% and UUP -30.2%.

Westminster SNP leader Angus Robertson MP said:

"It is extraordinary that the three UK parties are meeting and discussing plans which discriminate against voters in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"Within a week of UK government ministers being found responsible for the Scottish Parliament election fiasco we now see Westminster pursuing partisan interests to the detriment of voters in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"Reform of party funding is necessary and is supported by the SNP, however not when it discriminates against all voters in Scotland.

Plaid Cymru Westminster leader Elyn Llwyd MP said:

"It is scandalous that the UK parties are taking part in talks which exclude governing parties from all three parts of the UK, and appear prepared to value the votes of Scots, Welsh and the Northern Irish as half as important as votes in Westminster elections.

"The irony will not be lost on many, that at the same time the Labour Party seeks to retain Trade Union affiliation fees paid in Wales in large part by Plaid Cymru voters and in Scotland by SNP voters.

"Instead of putting the interest of the voters first the UK parties are pursuing narrow partisan interests. They seem to think it is acceptable to treat Welsh, Scots and Northern Irish voters with contempt. It is not."

ENDS

Background:

Message sent to Sir Hayden Phillips 'CB, Chairman of the Inter Party Talks: Funding of Political Parties on Monday 29th October 2007:

Dear Sir Hayden,

We undertook to update you on our views following our meeting on 25th July 2007, which we found very useful.

The Secretary to the Talks, David Rowlands, kindly forwarded your own public funding calculations which show that with equal value for votes in state funding: the Scottish National Party (SNP) would receive £646,293 per annum and Plaid Cymru £180,376 per annum. This would of course be part of a package including caps on donations and the ending of Policy Development 'rants.

We are frankly shocked that the Inter-Party Talks, which exclude governing parties from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are continuing to favour a discriminatory calculation which values votes at UK Parliamentary elections twice as much as those for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh National Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly.



Angus Robertson MP

The net effect of this is that the SNP would lose £220,000 and Plaid Cymru £96,000, which amounts to a funding cut of one third.

Similar levels of discrimination apply to the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Sinn Fein, Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and Ulster Unionist Party (UUP).

The irony of this discrimination will not be lost on anybody as you discuss continuing the affiliation fees to the Labour Party, which in Scotland and Wales are paid in large part by voters of the SNP and Plaid Cymru.

Please would you take these concerns on board as you discuss these matters tomorrow, exclusively with the UK parties?

Yours sincerely,

Angus Robertson MP
Ellyn Llwyd MP
Joint Leaders-SNP/Plaid Cymru Westminster Group

Last Updated (Tuesday, 30 October 2007)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

12 December 2007

Dear Prime Minister,

Noting your intention to restart inter-party talks on the funding of political parties we wanted to signal our expectation of full participation in the discussions, with representation at every meeting involving the UK parties.

As parties of government in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland it would be unacceptable to exclude us from the discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Angus Robertson MP
Scottish National Party

Elfyn Llwyd MP
Plaid Cymru

Gregory Campbell MP MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Mark Durkin MP MLA
Social Democratic and Labour Party

Cc: David Cameron MP
Vince Cable MP



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Angus Robertson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MCO7/4655/180539
Your ref: MR/MOJ/NH

13 December 2007

Dear Angus

Funding of political parties

Thank you for your letter of 9 November to Gordon Brown about the funding of political parties, which has been passed onto me for reply as the Minister responsible for Party Funding. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

You mention in your letter the talks on party funding between the three main political parties chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips and the possibility of extending public funding to political parties across the UK. As you will be aware, it was announced in the Queen's Speech on 6 November that the Government would bring forward proposals on the regulation of party funding and expenditure. Further to this, Jack Straw told the House of Commons on 4 December that a White paper will be published as soon as possible. Sir Hayden's proposals published this autumn represent a comprehensive framework for reform. In taking these matters forward the Government will of course take into consideration views of others so that there can be no question of disadvantaging any one party.

Kind regards
Bridget

BRIDGET PRENTICE