

X AUSTERITY

In real terms, Scotland's budget is being slashed by:

£6 billion



60%

of cuts have still to come



50,000

Public service jobs have already been lost across Scotland



60,000

Further public services jobs are expected to go

What is it?

The UK government has embarked on a widespread programme of cuts to the welfare state in an effort to drive down to the UK's £114bn annual public spending deficit.

Why is it controversial?

- Scottish **welfare spending will fall by about £6 billion** over the six years to 2015-16.
- The majority of the total reduction in welfare expenditure in Scotland, **nearly 70 per cent, is expected to be in 2014-15** and 2015-16.
- The Scottish welfare bill in 2015-16 alone will have been reduced by almost £2.5bn.
- **More than 73,000** people in Scotland are **relying on food banks to survive**. By April 2015 the figure is **projected to rise in excess of 90,000 people**.

What is the SNP's position?

A team of SNP MPs elected on 7th May would demand Westminster Budgets and welfare policy to meet more robust standards of equality assessment in respect of disability, gender and racial equality.