



# A REFERENDUM FOR RECOVERY

## YOUR RIGHT TO DECIDE HOW SCOTLAND RECOVERS

By Michael Russell



### **IN the Holyrood election in May people in Scotland elected a new Scottish Parliament.**

The result was clear: voters in Scotland delivered a substantial majority of MSPs who stood on a manifesto commitment to hold a fresh independence referendum – once the COVID crisis has passed.

This is now therefore an issue of basic democracy.

Because it seems Boris Johnson is seeking to block the democratic

right of the people of Scotland to decide our own future.

By doing so he is changing the whole foundation of the UK.

The UK is meant to be a voluntary union based on the idea of partnership.

But the Prime Minister has revealed that he, and his Tory government, don't believe the UK to be a partnership between its various nations – but as a way of asserting Westminster control over

Scotland.

This is actually quite new.

After the independence referendum of 2014 all parties, including the Tories, jointly published a report on Scotland's future which said:

"It is agreed that nothing in this report prevents Scotland becoming an independent country in the future should the people of Scotland so choose."

The Tory Westminster

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# YOUR RIGHT TO DECIDE WHO IS IN CHARGE OF OUR ECONOMY

With a highly-educated workforce and bountiful natural resources Scotland is a potential powerhouse

**EVEN those who want Westminster to decide Scotland's future admit Scotland has what it takes to be an independent country.**

The government of an independent Scotland will be able to use the full range of economic powers available to all other countries.

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**"Actually, I believe Scotland is big enough, rich enough and good enough to be an independent country."**

- Tory Baroness Ruth Davidson

How successful we are will, of course, depend on Scotland's efforts and the decisions made by Scotland's democratically elected Parliament and Government.

But looking at examples from throughout the world, our resources and talent demonstrate the potential we have to build a more prosperous, fairer country.

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**"It would be wrong to suggest that Scotland could not be another such successful, independent country."**

- Former Tory Prime Minister David Cameron

**We're the ideal size**

Of the world's wealthy, developed nations seven of the ten richest countries are of similar size or smaller than Scotland. If countries like Norway, Ireland and Denmark can do it then why not Scotland? And something else stands out too. Developed independent

countries our size also tend to be the fairest and happiest, according to international league tables.

**We're wealthy with a big economy**

Pre-pandemic our national income was £177bn.

On a per head basis that make us wealthier than rich countries like New Zealand, Japan and Italy.

As a member of the EU in our own right we would be part of the European Single Market, which is seven times the size of the UK.

**We're educated and talented**

Our universities are ranked among the very best in the world.

The number of people with college or university qualifications is among the highest in Europe.

**We have extraordinary energy resources**

Scotland has up to 25 per cent of Europe's tidal power potential and 25 per cent of Europe's offshore wind potential – over twenty times our population size within the EU.

**We export high quality produce and goods**

Our food and drink industry is an incredible success story, built on high quality produce.



Scotland's food and drink sector alone is worth around £15 billion – over £2,700 per person in Scotland. We export more manufactured goods to the EU and the rest of the world than we do to the rest of the UK.

**We are the cutting edge of the industries of the future**

Glasgow builds more satellites than anywhere else outside of Houston.

Our life sciences cluster is one of the biggest in Europe.

**... but Brexit is hurting**



## PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE



**WESTMINSTER isn't working for Scotland. We've been ignored too often. It's time for a fresh start – to choose a different and better path.**

As an independent country, Scotland's future will be in Scotland's hands. Together, we can make Scotland the country we all know it can be. Make your voice heard by joining over half a million other people who have pledged their support for Scottish independence at [www.yes.scot](http://www.yes.scot)

Scotland's economy is being hit hard by Boris Johnson's Brexit.

Our high quality, high value food and drink industry is being particularly badly hit. But this is only the start.

Brexit means the UK is going to become poorer and if we stay under Westminster control Scotland will go the same way.

So, the size of our economy, our educated workforce, natural resources, varied economy, with strengths in services and manufacturing demonstrate Scotland's got what it takes to build a thriving economy.

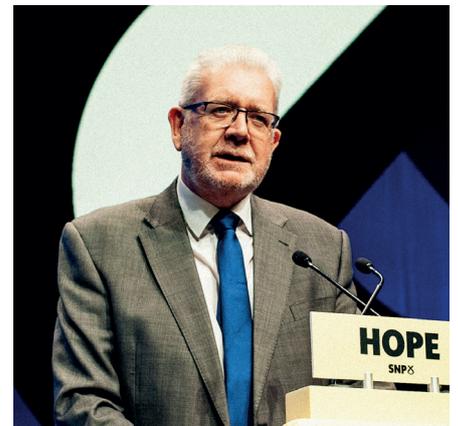
The question then is who should be in charge of Scotland's economic policy and resources – our economic future.

After the pandemic a major economic re-building job will be required. So who do you trust to undertake that re-building to ensure a fairer and more prosperous society?

**Should it be yet another Westminster government, like Boris Johnson's, that Scotland has rejected or a government in Scotland equipped with the full powers of independence?**

## Your right to decide how Scotland recovers

FROM PAGE 1



government – which has just six MPs in Scotland – is now turning its back on that commitment.

They are demonstrating that they believe the democratic rights of people in Scotland are subordinate to Westminster control.

And in doing so they are making the case for independence – because in an independent Scotland we will replace Westminster control with a genuine partnership of equals with our friends in the rest of the UK.

That's the best future for Scotland – a future in which we co-operate with our neighbours in the UK and across Europe on the basis of equality.

The people of Scotland voted in May for their right to choose between two futures – a future under Westminster control or a future as an equal, independent country.

And so, as a simple matter of democracy, our right to make that choice – once the current crisis has passed – must be respected.

# YOUR RIGHT TO REJECT WESTMINSTER TORY CUTS

..and build a fairer, happier, more prosperous Scotland

**WHEN the immediate public health crisis is over, decisions will be made about how Scotland recovers.**

Too many Scots know to their cost that, after the last financial crisis, the Tories imposed austerity cuts. And we know they want to do the same again.

Who then should be making the decisions on how we rebuild and recover – the people of Scotland or Boris Johnson?

Here are five reasons we'll be better off as an independent country because choosing independence means...

**1 Control of Scotland's economic policy will be in Scotland's hands – not Boris Johnson's**

The Boris Johnson who said "A pound spent in Croydon is far more of

value to the country than a pound spent in Strathclyde." So we know where his priority lies.

**2 EVIDENCE shows that compared to the UK, neighbouring independent countries of similar size to Scotland:**

- Have higher levels of productivity – a key driver of living standards.
- Have higher pensions, as a proportion of pre-retirement wages.
- Are more equal.
- Are wealthier per head.

In fact, the evidence shows that the UK tends to come bottom of the league table of north-west European countries in terms of economic performance.

**3 AS an independent member of the EU we'll be inside the huge European Single Market, which is seven times the size of the UK.**

**4 WE'LL be spending money on Scotland's priorities, not Westminster's.**

- The cost of Trident replacement has been estimated at £205 billion.

- The cost of refurbishing the House of Lords and Westminster has been predicted to be up to £20 billion.

**5 Brexit is hitting the Scottish economy hard and on top of that the UK is expected to pay the EU around £40 billion in a divorce bill.**

That's Scotland's future with Westminster control.

## FAIRER

OECD Data - Income inequality Gini coefficient, 0 = complete equality; 1 = complete inequality

COUNTRY	RATE	YEAR
ICELAND	0.250	2017
NORWAY	0.262	2018
DENMARK	0.264	2017
NORDIC		
Council average	0.264	
FINLAND	0.269	2018
SWEDEN	0.275	2018
UK	0.366	2018

## HAPPIER

World Happiness Report 2020  
10 = happiest, 1 = Unhappiest

COUNTRY	RATE
FINLAND	7.889
ICELAND	7.575
NORDIC	
Council average	7.517
DENMARK	7.515
SWEDEN	7.314
NORWAY	7.290
UK	6.798

## WE ARE THE IDEAL SIZE TO SUCCEED

**THE UK isn't keeping up with the Joneses, the Jensens, the Johansens, the Jacques or the Joyces.**

The happier, healthier and wealthier tables show how countries

similar to Scotland in the real equal partnership of the Nordic Council are thriving. In contrast, the national wealth and income inequality tables show how deeply unequal the UK is in

relation to our north west European neighbours – even before the pandemic hit. An independent Scotland in equal partnership with its neighbours can do so much better.



**WATCH: BRIAN COX EXPLAINS WHY SCOTLAND HAS WHAT IT TAKES AT [WWW.YES.SCOT/SCOTLANDCAN](http://WWW.YES.SCOT/SCOTLANDCAN)**



## WEALTHIER

OECD Data  
Gross domestic product per capita (\$) 2019 & 2020

COUNTRY	2019	2020
NORWAY	\$68,344	\$63,293
DENMARK	\$60,308	\$60,413
<b>NORDIC Council average</b>	<b>\$58,240</b>	<b>\$56,937</b>
ICELAND	\$60,076	\$55,492
SWEDEN	\$55,338	\$54,848
FINLAND	\$51,557	\$51,096
<b>UK</b>	<b>\$48,542</b>	<b>\$44,929</b>

## GDP

OECD Data - Gross domestic product per capita (\$) 2019

COUNTRY	\$ PER HEAD		% MORE THAN UK
	2019	2020	
LUXEMBOURG	\$120,671	\$118,582	+163.9%
IRELAND	\$89,562	\$93,883	+109.0%
SWITZERLAND	\$73,115	\$71,298	+58.7%
NORWAY	\$68,344	\$63,293	+40.9%
DENMARK	\$60,308	\$60,413	+34.5%
NETHERLANDS	\$59,675	\$59,335	+32.1%
ICELAND	\$60,076	\$55,492	+23.5%
AUSTRIA	\$58,665	\$55,340	+23.2%
SWEDEN	\$55,338	\$54,848	+22.1%
N.W EUROPE Average (Ex. UK)	\$56,158	\$54,138	+20.5%
GERMANY	\$55,891	\$53,812	+19.8%
BELGIUM	\$54,709	\$52,063	+15.9%
FINLAND	\$51,557	\$51,096	+13.7%
FRANCE	\$49,468	\$46,537	+3.6%
<b>UK</b>	<b>\$48,542</b>	<b>\$44,929</b>	

## INCOME EQUALITY

Gini coefficient, 0 = complete equality; 1 = complete inequality

COUNTRY	RATE	YEAR
ICELAND	0.250	2017
BELGIUM	0.258	2018
NORWAY	0.262	2018
DENMARK	0.264	2017
FINLAND	0.269	2018
SWEDEN	0.275	2018
AUSTRIA	0.280	2018
N.W EUROPE Average (EX. UK)	0.280	2017*
NETHERLANDS	0.285	2016
GERMANY	0.289	2017
IRELAND	0.295	2017
SWITZERLAND	0.299	2017
FRANCE	0.301	2018
LUXEMBOURG	0.318	2018
<b>UK</b>	<b>0.366</b>	<b>2018</b>

\* National Average Year

# YOUR RIGHT TO PROTECT SCOTLAND'S VITAL NHS

You can't trust the Tories at Westminster to keep their hands off Scotland's NHS

**IN an independent Scotland we can be certain Westminster will not be able to threaten our NHS.**

That threat is growing and real.

## **Tory Trade deal privatisation threat**

The likes of Boris Johnson and the Westminster Tories can put the NHS on the table in future post-Brexit trade deals – particularly with the US.

The Tory Government could have allowed a law to protect the NHS.

But they did the opposite.

They voted to scrap an amendment in their Trade Bill which would have prevented any future trade deal from undermining or restricting the UK's ability to provide "a comprehensive, publicly-funded health service free at the point of delivery".

They say they won't open up the NHS but, if that were the

case, why vote against such a law that would guarantee that?

It's just like Boris Johnson's promise that the NHS would get £350m a week if we left the EU.

## **Westminster power grab on the Scottish Parliament**

The British Medical Association has said, "the NHS in England has been forced down a route of increased marketisation and privatisation."

In Scotland, because of the Scottish Parliament, we've been able to resist this creeping privatisation – a parliament over 74% of Scotland voted for in 1997. But Boris Johnson has called devolution "a disaster" and his Tory minister Jacob Rees-Mogg wants to "undo" devolution.

Now they've passed a new law that gives Tory ministers the power to open up "healthcare services provided in hospitals, other healthcare facilities or at other places" in Scotland to what they call "market access principles".

And their law says there's nothing Holyrood can do about it.

## **Tory threats to Scotland's NHS funding**

From Boris Johnson down, the most senior Tory ministers have made it clear they want to see Scotland's funding for public services cut.

The Prime Minister said that in Scotland we are "free-riding on English taxpayers" and called Scotland's share of UK public spending "unjust" – despite the fact these levels of spending are because of decisions by the Scottish Parliament not Westminster.

And he's also said: "A pound spent in Croydon is far more of value to the country than a pound spent in Strathclyde."

His Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, has said Scotland's share of UK spending is "massively prejudicial" to other parts of the UK. And he singled out spending decisions on health in Scotland, complaining that we have too many ambulance staff and nurses.

The Home Secretary Priti Patel has said: "I would rather they [people in Scotland] remain in the UK, but we have a funding imbalance that has to be addressed."

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**"The NHS is about as safe with them as a pet hamster would be with a hungry python."**

Former Tory Prime Minister John Major giving his view of the then Tory leaders in June 2016



“

People think, and by the way I think most people are right, that ‘the Tory party is run by people who basically don’t care about people like me’. The public is basically correct. Tory MPs largely do not care about these poorer people. They don’t care about the NHS.

Boris Johnson’s former senior advisor  
Dominic Cummings,  
2017

These aren’t any old politicians – they are the most senior UK Ministers and we need to take what they say seriously.

### **Charging the NHS more for medicines - reducing funding for patient care**

Drugs companies in America believe the NHS pays too little for medicines, which reduces their profits, and have made it clear they want that to change as part of any trade deal.

The former UK ambassador to the US has said: “Do they want us to pay more for their pharmaceuticals? Do the pharmaceutical companies want to use this leverage? Of course they do.”

Paying more money out of the NHS budget to US drugs firms will clearly cut the amount of money available for care.

### **You can’t trust the Tories at Westminster with Scotland’s NHS**

Boris Johnson and the Tories claim they have no intention to let US-style private healthcare into the UK – but they blocked a law that would have prevented this.

They’re now applying to join a Trans-Pacific trade treaty which threatens higher health costs.

Remember in the last independence referendum campaign they promised they wouldn’t take us out of Europe – but they did.

They also pledged they would never sell-out the Scottish fishing industry – but they did.

They gave their word that they would not strip the Scottish Parliament of its powers – but they have.

### **Why should Scotland trust what they the Tories say on the NHS?**

**The only guaranteed way for Scotland to choose how it runs the NHS is with independence from Tory dominated Westminster.**

# YOUR RIGHT TO ESCAPE THIS CATASTROPHIC TORY BREXIT

**IN the 2014 referendum the 'No' campaign promised that voting 'No' meant Scotland would remain in the EU.**

But those same politicians have now taken Scotland out.

In the 2016 Brexit referendum the 'Leave' campaign promised that Brexit would mean more powers for the Scottish Parliament and a better deal for our fishing communities. But they

have stripped the Scottish Parliament of powers and broken their promises on fishing.

The European Union is a partnership of equal independent nations – unlike the UK.

If Scotland was a member of the EU, then for the first time in our history we would have a seat at the top table in our own right.

We would be a member of the huge European Single Market, which at around 450 million people is seven times the size of the UK.

That vast economic opportunity is one of the reasons why so many European countries of our size find the EU so beneficial.



**"Voting no means we stay in, we are members of the European Union."**

Baroness Ruth Davidson, STV referendum debate, 2014



**"Brexit gives us the opportunity ... to finish the job that Margaret Thatcher started."**

Margaret Thatcher's former Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer Lord Lawson



Before EU membership, Ireland was both heavily dependent on the UK and was also a lot poorer.

Now its trade with the UK is just a fraction of the trade it does with the EU and the rest of the world and Ireland is substantially wealthier.

**If Ireland can do it, why not Scotland?**

Scotland overwhelmingly voted to remain in the EU in the Brexit referendum.

But the Westminster Government ignored Scotland's opinion and took us out of the EU against our will and despite calls for a compromise that recognised Scotland's position.

And Westminster has gone even further. It's not just taken Scotland out of the EU, it's gone for one of the hardest Brexits possible.

And all this in the middle of a pandemic and

economic recession.

The cost will not just be in the short-term: it will be long-term and permanent.

There is a better way – and we have the right to choose it.

As a European Union member, we can act as a bridge between the UK and the EU.

With our extraordinary renewable energy resources, our world-class universities, and our reputation for innovation and quality produce we will be well-placed to prosper.

Your and Scotland's voice can be heard.

We be able to escape the costs of Brexit.

And unlike Boris Johnson's Brexit Britain, Scotland will be treated as an equal partner.