

# Your Scotland Your Future



# FOREWORD



SCOTLAND is a fortunate country. We're blessed with natural resources, a landscape of diverse and stunning beauty, a unique cultural heritage and a rich and colourful history. And, more importantly, with enormous potential for the future.

With the limited home rule we already have – devolution – we have made great strides forward. The political shape of our country has changed radically in little more than a decade. We can now take many decisions in Scotland, for Scotland. And those decisions mean we are protected from the damage now being caused to the NHS, for example, by the Tories down south.

I believe that it is now time to take the logical next step – to move Scotland on and grasp the opportunities offered by the independence other countries enjoy.

The more tools we have at our disposal, the more we can do to protect all that is important here in Scotland, and the more we can do to build a better future. With independence the social union with the rest of the UK will continue. However, we will speak with our own voice to the world, and make decisions based on our own values and priorities.

Independence will only happen when the people of Scotland decide. Together, it is our choice as a nation. That is why, within the lifetime of this parliament, the Scottish Government is committed to holding a referendum so we can hear your views.

Independence will allow us to create an exciting new Scotland – a Scotland fit for the 21st century. We will have the power and the responsibility to find our own solutions to the challenges we face, and to engineer fairness, confidence, innovation, opportunity and prosperity.

At the same time, it will mean a partnership of equals with other nations, protecting vital Scottish interests like our fishing industry by having a seat at the top table while playing our part in the global community through organisations such as the European Union and United Nations.

And, most importantly, decisions will no longer be imposed on Scotland. Devolution meant we could no longer have something as unpopular as the poll tax foisted on Scotland. Independence will mean we no longer face having our troops sent to fight in an illegal war like Iraq.

And the days when we have to implement policies forced on us by Tory governments in London we didn't choose will be over for good.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Salmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Alex Salmond  
SNP leader and First Minister



# INTRODUCTION

“SCOTLAND IS ON A JOURNEY AND THE PATH AHEAD IS A BRIGHT ONE IF WE TAKE CHARGE OF OUR OWN FUTURE.”

ANGELA CONSTANCE



## REALISING SCOTLAND'S POTENTIAL

SCOTLAND is a diverse and culturally rich country. At present, though, we aren't fulfilling our true potential. In order to fully prosper, we need the full powers and opportunities afforded by independence.

Over the past 12 years, devolution has shown how we can flourish when we are given the opportunity to make decisions for ourselves. Our Scottish Parliament has matured and our politicians at Holyrood have showed vision, imagination and commitment.

Devolution has allowed us to make choices in Scotland, for Scotland. But it has also served as a reminder of how much more we could do if we had the full power to determine our own future.

At present, we remain dependent on Westminster. We can't choose how much tax we raise, or what happens to our oil revenues, or to get rid of Trident, or deliver better childcare or pensions, or whether or not to send our servicemen and women to fight in foreign wars.

But it's in our gift to change all this. Independence would enable us to build a new Scotland – a Scotland that is fairer, better, wealthier, more confident and more outward looking than ever before.

It would allow us to reshape our country in our own best interests. We could decide on the partnerships we want to form with other nations, and the best way of protecting the environment and tackling poverty.

How we tax and how we invest; how we encourage business and address the blight of inequality, crime

and homelessness; how we advance our culture and protect our heritage – all these powers and many more would be ours.

Independence means running our own affairs in our own way. What it doesn't mean is losing our cherished links with the other nations of the United Kingdom.

We've forged strong ties and built trust with our neighbours on these islands in the 300-plus years since the Act of Union. That's an important and valued legacy, a social union, and it will continue.

Families, friendships and institutions are increasingly global and many common resources are shared. That's the case now, and it will be the case after independence.

A yes vote in a referendum would build on the process started by devolution. It's the natural next stage of our nation's journey.

Independence would be a confident, exciting step offering vision and promise. In many ways, an independent Scotland would be similar to the one we see today. We already have independent health, education and justice systems and pensions and benefits would be paid as now.

In many ways, the union has been good for Scotland and we've already made many popular changes through devolution. However, it no longer serves our needs or aspirations.

Devolution is our present. But our future lies with independence.

Let's make sure we seize it.

**“INDEPENDENCE WILL BE GOOD FOR SCOTLAND. IT GIVES US THE BEST CHANCE OF EMERGING FROM CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES INTO BETTER TIMES. AND ALL THE TOOLS WE NEED TO PROTECT THE VULNERABLE AND NURTURE THE YOUNG.”**

**JEAN URQUHART**



## **BUILDING PROSPERITY**

SCOTLAND is a well-resourced country. We are blessed with natural energy wealth from the wind, waves and tides which will meet our needs in the future and the oil and gas that lies off our shores.

Our food and drink is world famous, as are the skills of our people – scientists, engineers, artists, craftsmen and tradesmen. We built the ships and locomotives of the past and are already leading the biotechnology and digital needs of this new century.

We have natural and human riches, but that's not quite the same thing as prosperity. A prosperous nation relies on everyone pulling together – politicians, business leaders, managers, staff, the self-employed, volunteers, and consumers.

With independence, we'd have full responsibility for our economic growth and international competitiveness. That means putting in place a fair and attractive tax system.

And it means encouraging research and investment in areas where we're already among the world's leaders – energy, life sciences, financial services, creative industries, food and drink and sustainable tourism, for example.

Devolution has given us the opportunity to do some things better. But with independence we can achieve so much more. Wealth doesn't just happen automatically. It's the result of investment. We'll ensure our infrastructure is sound through construction and improvement projects such as the new Forth Road Bridge, and we'll work to build on our historic legacy of talent and productivity through world-class skills programmes.

At present, we have only very limited financial powers. That would all change with independence. We'll have the ability to create our own fiscal policy.

This is critical, as it will allow us to run our economy and finances in a way which meets our distinctive national needs. It will also mean that money raised in Scotland is spent in Scotland – that's not the case at present.

In four of the last five years Scotland has enjoyed a budget surplus, and in each of the last five years our financial position was stronger than the UK. That means we would have borrowed less and had lower debt.

Indeed, like Norway, we would have been able to save for a rainy day – giving our economy and society greater security during these difficult financial times.


With full financial powers we'll be able to choose a different economic path from the Tories in London. We'll have the power to invest more in jobs and economic growth.

Devolution means we've been able to take some steps to protect Scotland. As a result we have seen lower unemployment and higher employment than the UK.

With independence we can do even more. It will give us all the tools we need to build a stronger recovery and create even more jobs.

# **ECONOMY**

**WE'LL HAVE THE POWER TO INVEST IN MORE JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH INDEPENDENCE.**

 John Swinney  
[twitter.com/JohnSwinney](https://twitter.com/JohnSwinney)



# HEALTH

**OUR NHS IS NOW RUN  
INDEPENDENTLY FROM THE REST  
OF THE UK BECAUSE OF THE  
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT.**

**“INDEPENDENCE MEANS PUTTING OUR VALUES INTO PRACTICE. WE WILL BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THE PRIORITIES OF PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND AND PROTECT THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER.”**

**GAIL ROSS**



## LIFELONG HEALTHCARE

FOR more than half a century, Scots have enjoyed high quality healthcare. The National Health Service is rightly seen as the flagship of welfare provision. Support for it is virtually universal.

The concept of cradle to grave health provision, free at the point of use, is now firmly embedded in Scottish society.

Our NHS has developed in a distinctively Scottish way. It is now run independently from the rest of the UK because of the Scottish Parliament. That means, for instance, that there is no competition or internal market in our National Health Service and provision is more integrated than it is in England.

The NHS is just one example of where Scottish responsibility is delivering for Scotland based on the values we hold dear. And if we can do it for healthcare, just think what we could achieve if we had responsibility for other policy areas.

Waiting times have been reduced, new services offered, and an ambitious hospital building and renewal programme carried out.

In addition, we have introduced positive health measures such as free personal care for the elderly, a ban on smoking in public places and free prescriptions. A minimum alcohol pricing policy is being introduced in a bid to curb the damage caused by excessive levels of drinking.

Independence will allow us to continue to maintain and develop the NHS as a priority service and to ensure it continues to provide world-class treatment. We will also continue to recognise and reward the dedication and commitment of staff working in healthcare and support services.

We will continue to maintain close links with the health service in the rest of the UK and throughout Europe, particularly when it comes to the provision of rare and specialist treatment.

Our membership of the EU means we will continue to gain access to local public healthcare under the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) scheme while visiting member states.

**“INDEPENDENCE, RESPONSIBILITY AND CONFIDENCE WILL REAP BENEFITS FOR ALL OF SCOTLAND, MAKING THE MOST OF OUR POTENTIAL”**

**DAVID LINDEN**



## LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

FOR centuries, Scotland has taken pride in having an independent education system. We have some of Europe's oldest and most respected universities, and we have always had a strong belief in the value of learning.

Our schools have their own distinctive curricula and ethos. Our pupils win Scottish qualifications. And our Further and Higher Education systems are noticeably different from those found across the rest of the UK.

From pre-school learning right through to doctorates, Scotland has the ability to shape its teaching in line with its own needs. This has been the case throughout history. The 1707 Act of Union gave us the ability to frame education as we saw fit.

We've never been frightened – not then, not now – to stand up for the absolute right of our people to have access to high quality learning. It's a system that has helped develop many of our students into some of the greatest scientists, engineers, artists, philanthropists and entrepreneurs on Earth.

We have seen the value of education and its place in society protected and will continue to defend it against attack. Recently, for instance, Scotland

has stood firmly against the idea of charging our students tuition fees. Learning should be free for all who live here – after all, it's an investment in the individual and in Scottish society. And you simply can't put a price on knowledge.

We've used the independence we've traditionally enjoyed in education to encourage schools, motivate students, and create and support some of the world's greatest universities. And with more independence, for example over our own finances, we could protect Scottish education from the damage being caused as a result of Westminster budget cuts and tuition fees.

In recent years Scotland has started, once again, to lead the world in our use of technology in our schools, the development of a new curriculum designed to equip young Scots for this new century and greater collaboration between our centres of academic excellence.

We have a past to be proud of and a future that holds great possibility. If we can score those sorts of successes by controlling our own education, just imagine the positive things we could do with full independence for our country.

# EDUCATION

**WE HAVE A PAST TO BE PROUD OF AND A FUTURE THAT HOLDS GREAT POSSIBILITY.**

# JUSTICE

**OUR LAWS ARE MADE HERE IN SCOTLAND  
WITH THE INTERESTS OF SCOTTISH  
PEOPLE AND SOCIETY PARAMOUNT.**



Kenny MacAskill  
[twitter.com/KennyMacAskill](https://twitter.com/KennyMacAskill)

**“THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND HAVE THE GREATEST STAKE IN OUR FUTURE.  
THAT IS WHY WE ARE BEST PLACED TO GOVERN OURSELVES.”**

**JOAN MCALPINE**



## KEEPING SCOTLAND SAFE

JUSTICE is one of the most important linchpins of every society. People have the right to human rights and liberties and to be protected from crime, hatred and discrimination.

Scotland has a proud tradition as a country that places huge emphasis on the rights of the individual.

Many of our laws are made here in Scotland, with the interests of Scottish people and society paramount. The judicial system continues to be essentially distinct and independent, as it has been throughout history.

We also run our police service independently, allowing us to employ 1,000 extra police officers and deliver the lowest crime levels in 35 years.

Yet there are still some gaps and anomalies that create complexity and mean that the law and accountability can't be fully integrated. For example, the current jurisdiction of the UK Supreme Court means there is not a level legal playing field for certain criminal cases. And, Scotland isn't able to speak with its own voice in Europe when decisions are being taken on cross-border co-operation.

Independence would solve these problems, bringing greater clarity and fairness. An already good framework here in Scotland could be made better.

Underpinning it all would be a confident, robust and independent judiciary, upholding the rights of all.

We could embed the rights of our citizens in a new constitution, act as a beacon for fairness and human rights, and learn and share best practice with other countries in Europe and beyond.

It's an exciting prospect. And with independence, it can happen.

**“IN ALL PARTS OF LIFE PEOPLE ASPIRE TO INDEPENDENCE. IT’S A NATURAL DESIRE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR OWN ACTIONS. OUR NATION IS NO DIFFERENT.”**

**CHIC BRODIE**



## **AIR, ROAD AND RAIL IN SCOTLAND**

HAVING good transport links is of huge importance. Our geographical position on the periphery of Europe means that we need to be able to move easily and freely not just within Scotland, but across the UK and to and from neighbouring countries.

We now have better international air links, with the number of passengers and destinations growing all the time. Rail services, both throughout Scotland and across the border, are fast and regular.

Further planned improvements such as the £1 billion Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP) will reduce journey times between Scotland’s two biggest cities to just 35 minutes. Plans are also in hand for improvements elsewhere in Scotland from the Highlands to the Borders.

Recent modernisation of Scotland’s road network includes the completion of the M74 extension within Glasgow. Work on a second Forth road crossing has started, the long-awaited Aberdeen by-pass is due to start soon and work is progressing on improvements to the A9.

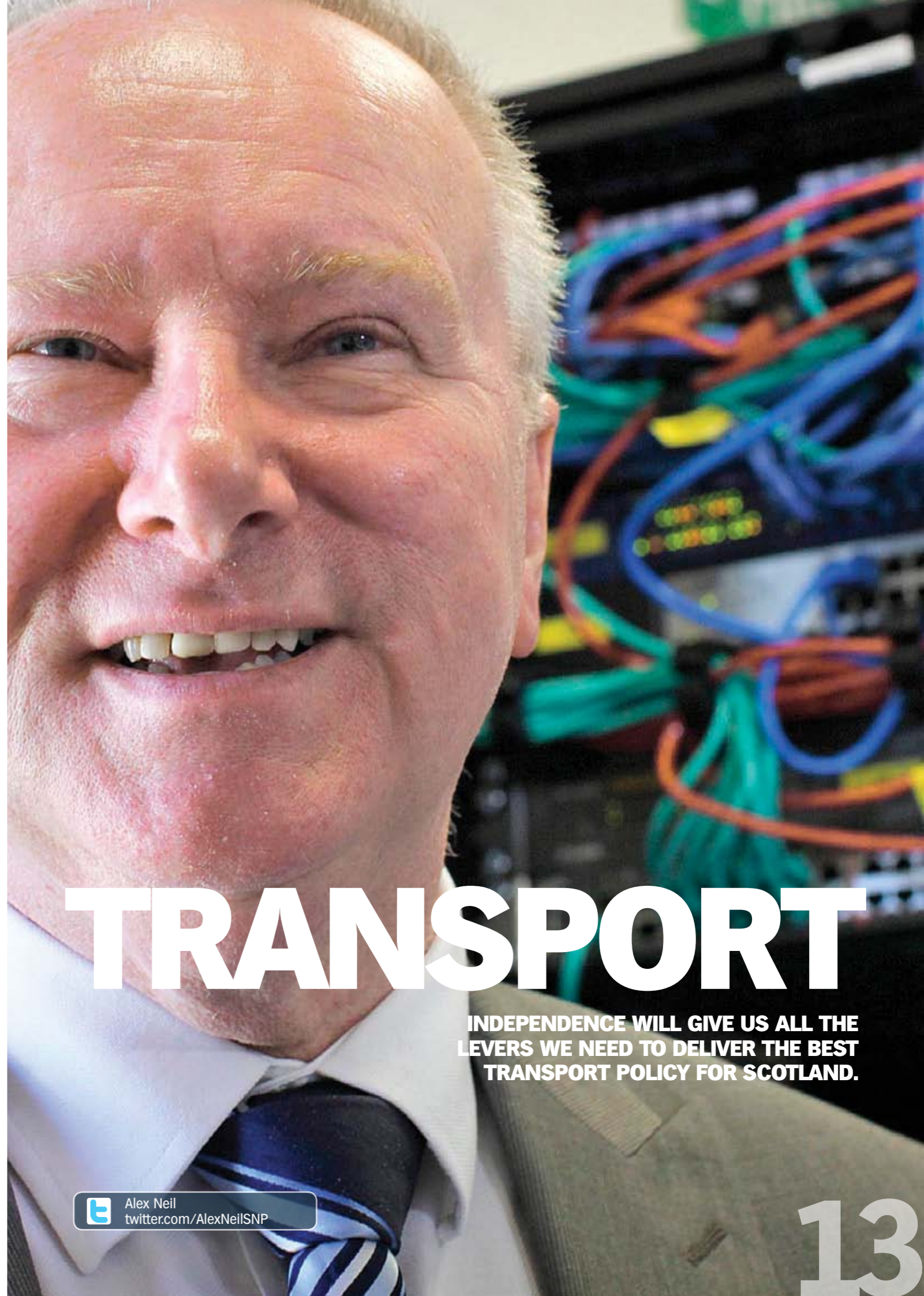
Work is underway and there is a case for improving other main route networks but budgetary constraints mean there is slower progress than if we were independent.

Independence will give us all the levers we need to deliver the best transport policy for Scotland. It will, for instance, allow us to adjust the rate and basis of Air Passenger Duty (APD), payable at present by every traveller taking a flight, to encourage more direct flights from Scotland.

The recent windfall increase in oil and gas revenues announced in the UK budget would have been enough to cut fuel duty in Scotland and the ability to borrow could speed up work on essential projects. These are the sort of decisions we can make if we have the powers of an independent nation.

We will continue to invest in transport in response to passenger needs, and will step up the pressure for the planned new HS2 high speed rail line from London to reach at least as far as Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Instead of waiting for it to start in the south and head north, with independence we could start high-speed rail from Scotland, giving us faster links and boosting our economy.

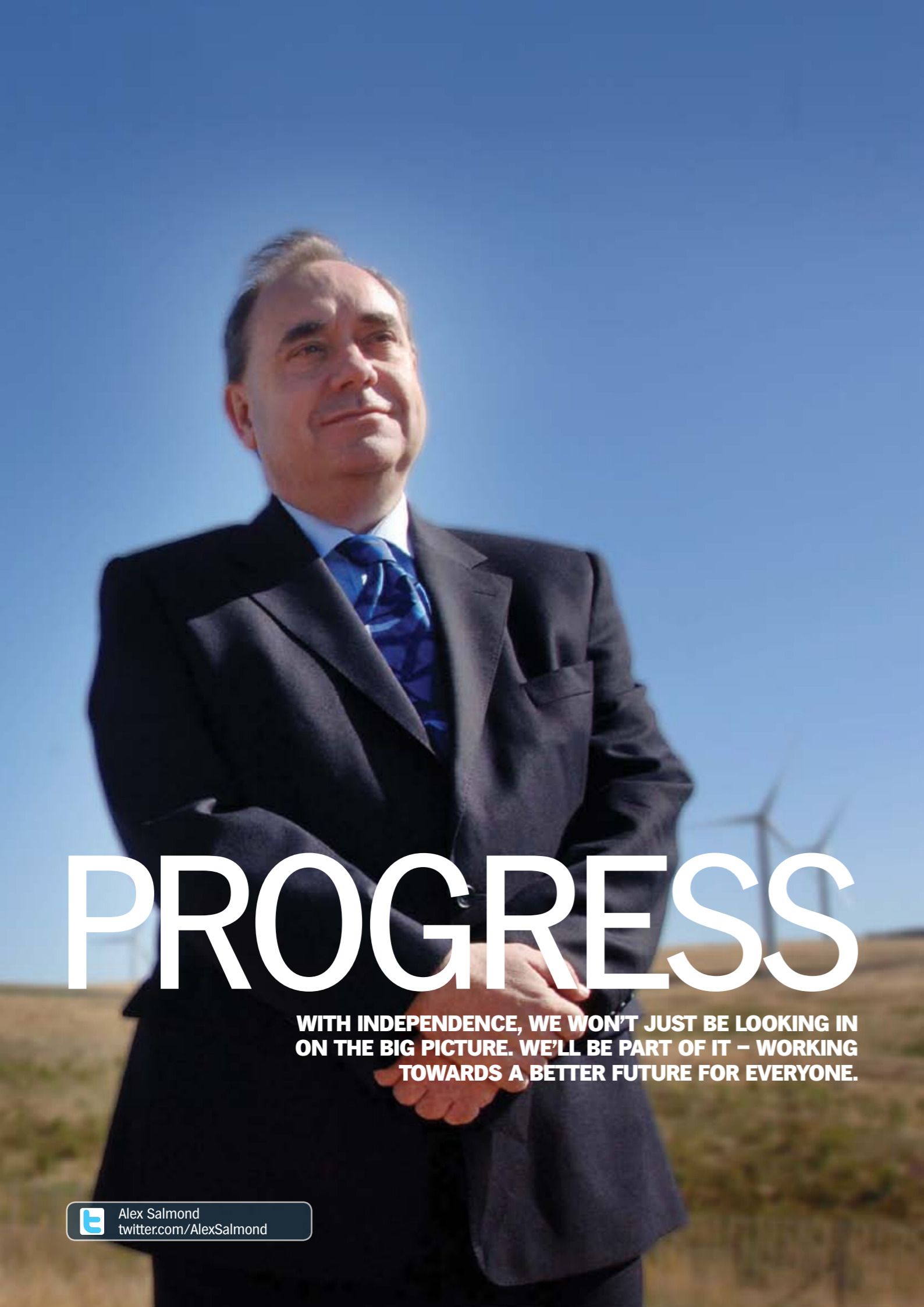


# **TRANSPORT**

**INDEPENDENCE WILL GIVE US ALL THE LEVERS WE NEED TO DELIVER THE BEST TRANSPORT POLICY FOR SCOTLAND.**

 Alex Neil  
[twitter.com/AlexNeilSNP](https://twitter.com/AlexNeilSNP)





# PROGRESS

**WITH INDEPENDENCE, WE WON'T JUST BE LOOKING IN ON THE BIG PICTURE. WE'LL BE PART OF IT – WORKING TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.**



Alex Salmond  
[twitter.com/AlexSalmond](https://twitter.com/AlexSalmond)

**“WITH INDEPENDENCE WE CAN DO THE RIGHT THING FOR SCOTLAND, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR FUTURE. LET’S BE THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE SCOTLAND BETTER.”**

**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**



## MAKING SCOTLAND STRONGER

INDEPENDENCE is, of course, about making decisions for ourselves. But it’s also about more than that. It means partnering with other nations – not just for our own good, but out of a genuine desire to try and make the world a better place.

It may sound like a cliché, but the planet really is getting smaller. Corporate business is now global, and the Internet has broken down national barriers. Success in combating issues such as climate change requires an international response.

As Scots, we fit comfortably into this new world of interdependency. A trading nation throughout our history, we have always sought practical partnerships with others where there is mutual benefit. We currently have key partnerships with the Maldives where we work together to tackle climate change and with Scottish organisations delivering aid, health and education in Malawi.

Independence will give us a voice on the world stage. As a member of the European Union and United Nations, we will be a fully-fledged partner in the international community. This will allow us to promote and protect our interests and provide an input into global issues and challenges.

We’ll also be members of other international bodies including the Commonwealth, the World Health Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Trade Organisation.

As an equal partner at these top tables, we will have a real say in fostering global co-operation and solving conflict – in big-ticket issues such as peace and war, reconciliation, breaking down barriers and action on saving the planet.

In addition, we will of course maintain our close and valued links with the rest of the United Kingdom. Social, cultural and historical bonds, as well as sharing institutions such as the monarchy, will help to maintain an important and cherished relationship that transcends politics.

Being a full member of the global community will mean having our own representation abroad, focused on growing Scotland’s economy and trade and promoting our culture and innovation internationally.

Today, too much of UK overseas representation is based on status and power and that’s not what Scotland needs. Like similar nations, we will establish a network which works best for us, for our economy and for our citizens. It will be more effective for Scotland than costly representation by London.

With independence, we won’t just be looking in on the big picture. We’ll be a part of it – working towards a better future for everyone.

**“WITH INDEPENDENCE WE WILL BE EQUAL PARTNERS IN EUROPE AND EQUAL PARTNERS ON THESE ISLES. AND SCOTLAND WILL STAND TALLER IN THE WORLD.”**

**HUMZA YOUSAF**



## A FAIR SOCIETY

FAIRNESS runs through Scotland like a vein. We have a strong tradition, maintained over centuries, of seeking to create an inclusive society which encourages hard work and excellence but also supports those most in need. That's one reason why we are so concerned about the way the Tories in Westminster are trying to change things.

We seek to target poverty and to protect those who suffer from disadvantage and discrimination. But without the powers of independence this is an uphill struggle. At present, about one Scot in six suffers from a level of poverty which risks excluding them from society.

Most of the powers we need to address this – social security benefits, employment support, tax credits and the minimum wage – are currently reserved to the United Kingdom government.

With independence, we will be able to tailor the system to Scottish needs, creating a fair, flexible and transparent structure that seeks to address both the symptoms and the causes of inequality.

Right now, UK government reforms to welfare risk punishing vulnerable people. The approach of a Scottish government will be more closely aligned with Scotland's social democratic values than the actions of the Westminster government.

Clearly, our objectives will have to be affordable, with a balance struck between reasonable levels of taxation and commitments which are as broad as possible. The aim of eradicating poverty will be at the heart of everything we do.

We'll inherit the same benefits arrangements as the rest of the UK and then be able to make them better. The aim will be to establish a sensible system that seeks to eliminate poverty traps and to make working, preparing for work or performing socially useful tasks worthwhile.


We will plan to forge a less cumbersome and bureaucratic welfare system that recognises the diversity of those who use it and the particular needs of groups such as unpaid carers. An early task will be to make it run more efficiently and ensure that it is easier to understand than the current UK arrangements.

Tax credits and state pensions will continue to be paid as they are now.



**WELFARE AND PENSIONS**

**WITH INDEPENDENCE, WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAILOR THE SYSTEM TO SCOTTISH NEEDS.**

 Nicola Sturgeon  
[twitter.com/NicolaSturgeon](https://twitter.com/NicolaSturgeon)

**“NO ONE CARES MORE ABOUT SCOTLAND’S SUCCESS THAN THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE AND THAT, ULTIMATELY, IS WHY INDEPENDENCE IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR OUR FUTURE.”**

**AILEEN CAMPBELL**



# HOUSING

HAVING a roof over your head is a fundamental human right. In so many ways Scotland’s housing policy is already independent and that has allowed us to deliver key improvements.

More affordable homes are being built in Scotland and we’ve got a fairer approach to the right-to-buy and we hope to see housing benefit devolved to Scotland Government to ensure the support is there for those who need it in our communities.

But there are still areas where the Westminster government has decision making powers.

Independence will allow us to tailor new solutions: we will be able to use stamp duty and inheritance tax to influence market trends, do more to help those on lower incomes onto the housing ladder and encourage investment.

Sadly, too much of our housing stock is still in poor condition, and improving this will be a priority. We will also aim to use the new powers of independence to enable us to build more low carbon, energy efficient new homes that meet high standards and provide high quality living.



## THE PEOPLE AND THE SKILLS

LIKE many countries, Scotland has a land border. When we cross to and from England, there are no checks or delays – no customs posts or immigration officers demanding passports.

That’s the way it has always been, because of the arrangements that exist here in the British Isles between the nations of the UK and Ireland. And that’s the way it will stay after independence. Crossing the border will be just as quick and easy as it is now.

Citizenship in an independent Scotland will be open and inclusive. Of course, as a member of the European Union, Scottish citizens will be able to enjoy all the benefits of free access across Europe, including the right to visit, live and work in other member states.

As a small country with an ageing population, Scotland needs a certain number of migrants. We recognise that new Scots can help to address skills shortages in our labour market. EU nationals have the same right to live and work here as we have in their countries.

Since independence will give us responsibility for our own borders, we will be able to tailor our immigration policy to suit Scottish needs and to help address the economic challenges of demographic change.

# CITIZENSHIP

**“FOR ME IT’S VERY SIMPLE. INDEPENDENCE WILL ALLOW US TO BALANCE OUR ECONOMY WITH OUR SOCIAL POLICIES – THAT’S HOW WE CAN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE’S LIVES.”**

**LINDA FABIANI**



## MANAGING OUR MONEY

INDEPENDENCE gives us the chance to create a stable and growing economy. We’ll be able to raise money through tax and borrowing, and to spend it according to our own needs and preferences.

Of course, we live in an increasingly globalised world. Being a member of the world’s largest free trade area, the European Union, will give us important advantages. But as an independent nation we will also be able to do more to build trade and opportunities worldwide.

As a member of the European Union, in our own right, we have to abide by the same set of rules as today. That means we will still have huge flexibility to make our own decisions and the ability to directly influence what is going on in the EU.

One important choice will be which currency we use. Upon independence, we believe Scotland should continue to use the same currency as now – the pound. We will operate within the Sterling currency area, providing us with continuity. Any decision to join the Euro would be taken by the people in a referendum and only when the economic conditions are right.

Freedom to choose our own economic priorities will also mean we can choose the right mix of taxes for Scotland. We can make our nation more competitive through different rates of corporation tax.

Or we can support key Scottish industries, through tax breaks or incentives to encourage research and development. At present, these issues are decided by the UK government and we can’t design the most effective financial arrangements to increase Scottish economic growth.

The evidence shows that lowering corporation tax by just three per cent would result in 27,000 new jobs and greater wealth in the years ahead.

We will also be able, within European rules, to choose our own levels of income tax and VAT, and to take control of other sources of revenue such as alcohol and tobacco duty, Air Passenger Duty and landfill tax. We will be able to remove the discriminatory excise duty on whisky that exists in the UK, something we can’t do as a devolved government. And we will enjoy the financial benefits of Scotland’s vast offshore energy wealth – oil and gas and wave, wind and tidal power.

Our aim is to introduce a simpler tax system that is right for Scotland, is transparent and acts in the interests of the majority.

You can’t say fairer than that.

# FINANCE

**INDEPENDENCE GIVES US THE CHANCE TO CREATE A STABLE AND GROWING ECONOMY.**





# BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE

WITH INDEPENDENCE, BUSINESS WILL ENJOY A NEW IMPETUS FOR GROWTH.



Michael Russell  
[twitter.com/feorlean](https://twitter.com/feorlean)

## CREATING NEW WEALTH FOR SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND has a long history of business vision and innovation. We are accustomed to selling our talent, goods and services abroad.

It works the other way too: foreign companies, attracted by our top class workforce and infrastructure and can-do attitude, have invested here, spending billions of pounds and creating thousands of jobs.

With independence, business will enjoy a new impetus for growth. We will have the tax levers we need to make Scotland more competitive in order to attract and keep international businesses, to grow our own companies and so create jobs.

This business-friendly environment would help to make our businesses, products and services more competitive globally. We will continue to trade with the rest of the UK – our biggest trading partner – and we will have access to markets throughout the European Union, the world's largest free trade zone.

An independent Scottish Government would continue our success in forging trade agreements to help our companies, large and small, to succeed globally.

**Renewables.** Scotland has huge generation potential for wind, wave and tidal power. The sector is expanding rapidly and should fulfil all of our energy requirements within the next decade. Our low carbon economy should generate 130,000 jobs by 2020.

**Oil and Gas.** With vast reserves still to be tapped in the North Sea and beyond, this will be a vital industry for Scotland for decades to come. We have over £1 trillion worth of oil and gas left in Scottish waters. Directly and indirectly, this industry supports 195,000 jobs throughout Scotland and the future remains bright.

**Financial Services.** Edinburgh is one of Europe's leading financial centres – a status it has retained despite the credit crunch. Many global players are represented in Scotland and firms continue to expand and invest. With independence we will be able to do more to keep and attract new business.

**Food and Drink** is vital to the Scottish economy. The export value of whisky was nearly £3.5 billion last year and other food and drink topped £1 billion for the first time – a 14 per cent increase on 2010. And our wider agriculture and fishing industries make a major economic contribution. Independence will enable us to do more to promote Scotland's food and drink internationally.

**Tourism** is another critical sector. Our history, culture and landscapes draw millions of visitors every year, providing jobs and investment in rural Scotland in particular and sustaining jobs in often fragile communities. Our green credentials mean we are well placed to cater for the fast-growing sustainable tourism market in particular. With independence, we can provide the industry with the tools it needs to grow.

**Creative Industries** are well established in Scotland. From art and film, through to fashion, music, digital design and computer gaming, we have a powerful and growing international reputation. At the moment Scotland can't provide the sorts of tax breaks that are available elsewhere. That will change with independence.

Our **Life Sciences** sector also has a reputation for global innovation and excellence. Made world famous by the cloning of Dolly the Sheep, it now ranges right across the medical spectrum, from biotechnology to diagnostics. These emerging technologies, in which Scotland excels, will help change the lives of people the world over.

# SCOTLAND'S GREEN CREDENTIALS

SCOTLAND isn't just one of the most beautiful countries in the world – it's also one of the greenest.

Our clean air, remote and open landscapes, diversity of wildlife and commitment to a low carbon future give us a world class reputation for environmental sustainability.

Of course, protection of the environment crosses national boundaries. Real success in countering threats to the planet only comes from working internationally with partners, as we already do with the rest of the EU. But there is a real determination that Scotland should be a global leader in this area. Already we have the most ambitious climate change legislation in the world.

Promoting our green credentials doesn't just help the environment: it boosts our economy, too. Our tourism, agriculture, fishing and food and drink industries all benefit from our commitment to being clean and green.

With independence, we could do even more to promote ourselves globally and to work in partnership with others. At present, we don't have our own representation within the European Union – everything is done through the UK government.

When we are independent, we will be able to make a full contribution, feeding in our own experiences on the environment and sharing expertise. This will help to give us with a stronger international negotiating position.

Linked directly with environmental sustainability is our role as one of Europe's leading energy providers. We remain a leading oil and gas producer and will be so for decades to come. In addition, we are now a world centre of excellence in offshore techniques and technology and our scientists have developed a significant advantage in cutting edge technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS).

We also have huge future potential in renewables. Scotland is estimated to have 25 per cent of Europe's wind resource, 10 per cent of its waves and 25 per cent of its tidal potential. At the moment we have to wait for Westminster to take key decisions on energy policy. They won't necessarily do what is right for Scotland. But with independence we will be able to maximise the benefit for Scotland from our vast offshore energy wealth.

We aim to generate the equivalent of 100% of our electricity needs from renewable energy by 2020 and to have a low carbon economy that supports over 130,000 jobs.

We are already developing world-beating technologies in green energy – indeed, some of our wave and tidal innovations are expected to be commercially viable by 2015.

With independence, we will be able to play a full part in EU energy policy and to establish a fund for oil and gas revenues – just like Norway's National Pension Fund, which sees the fruits of its energy wealth invested for the future.

Instead of this money flowing to Westminster, as at present, independence will enable us to invest it for the long-term benefit of the Scottish people. In time, it could accrue to be worth tens, if not hundreds, of billions of pounds.



# ENERGY

**WITH INDEPENDENCE WE WILL BE ABLE  
TO MAXIMISE THE BENEFIT FOR SCOTLAND  
FROM OUR VAST ENERGY WEALTH.**

25



# BROADCASTING

**INDEPENDENCE WILL MEAN EVEN MORE CHOICE FOR SCOTTISH VIEWERS.**



Fiona Hyslop  
[twitter.com/FionaHyslop](https://twitter.com/FionaHyslop)

**“SCOTLAND HAS THE PEOPLE, THE RESOURCES AND THE CONFIDENCE TO PROSPER AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. IT IS THE RIGHT CHOICE TODAY, SO WE CAN BUILD A BETTER, FAIRER TOMORROW.”**

**ANNABELLE EWING**



## SCOTLAND'S AIRWAVES FOR SCOTLAND

TELEVISION and radio provide a vital role in Scottish society. They inform and offer everything from traffic reports to in-depth analysis of news and current affairs.

There's live sports coverage, education programmes, high quality drama and all forms of music and entertainment. Broadcast output expresses our identity here at home and offers a window onto the world beyond.

Unfortunately, the current arrangements do not adequately reflect Scotland's culture or sport. Despite having a state-of-the-art production centre in Glasgow, BBC Scotland wins a disproportionately small share of commissions from the UK network.

The ITV network also fails to adequately serve Scottish needs. A large part of the country, from the Borders to Ayrshire doesn't receive a Scottish news bulletin and receives its so-called local news from Gateshead in England.

At present, decisions over broadcasting policy are taken in London. So things like Scotland's international football matches don't get the same priority. With independence, this would change. BBC Scotland's services would continue with the same staff and assets, but with a management that would be charged with responsibility for reflecting Scottish life, culture and interests.

All Scottish broadcasters would have a duty to be impartial and politically independent and provide a view of Scotland to the world beyond.

But it wouldn't operate in a vacuum – far from it, in fact. We will be able to access programmes from around the globe, just as we do now, including the BBC, ITV and the many cable and satellite channels, meaning Scottish viewers will continue to receive popular programmes such as EastEnders, the X-Factor and Strictly Come Dancing. These programmes are all available in Ireland, for example.

Independence will mean more choice, not less, with more of the money we raise here in Scotland through the licence fee being spent in Scotland, helping create new jobs and opportunities.

**“INSTEAD OF ONLY DECIDING SOME ISSUES, INDEPENDENCE WILL ALLOW SCOTLAND TO TAKE DECISIONS ON ALL THE MAJOR ISSUES. THAT’S THE REALITY OF INDEPENDENCE IN THIS INTERDEPENDENT WORLD.”**

**CHRISTINA MCKELVIE**



## SCOTLAND IN EUROPE

SCOTLAND is, and always has been, a European nation. Our links with the continent go back virtually to the dawn of time. From long-valued trade links through to modern low cost flights, influences from the continent have been formative in the shaping of our character.

Membership of the European Union is hugely important – not just to us, but to the rest of the EU too. We own much of its oil and gas reserves, and will soon be a major player in renewables. And our fishing waters are also a vital resource.

With independence we will remain part of the EU. But we will have much more of an input into policy. At present our interests in Europe are generally represented by the UK. An independent Scotland will be able to speak for itself.

With full participation, we will be enthusiastic and active Europeans, though we will always make sure Scottish interests are fully and firmly represented.

We will also be able to communicate our often distinctive circumstances and needs, particularly in areas such as fishing, at the top table. We will, for instance, argue for the replacement of the current Common Fisheries Policy.

We will have a seat at the top table in Europe and will take our turn in holding the Presidency of the Union. All these things will ensure that an independent Scotland has a strong voice right at the heart of Europe, and that our ideas and concerns will be heard.

Independence will, of course, mean a new, more modern relationship with the rest of the UK. We will become equal partners. This will allow us to develop a strong and harmonious partnership that is fit for the 21st century.


We'll be able to work together on areas of common interest, especially in relation to the EU. Where now decisions are taken in London alone, with independence we will be able to take them together.

This should actually improve relations between us and the rest of the UK. Our closest neighbour will be one of our most important allies and friends. And that's good for everyone.



# INTERNATIONAL

**AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF AND PROTECT SCOTTISH INTERESTS.**

 Richard Lochhead  
[twitter.com/RichardLochhead](https://twitter.com/RichardLochhead)





# DEFENCE

**“IT IS WITH INDEPENDENCE THAT WE WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO DETERMINE OUR OWN DESTINY AND BUILD THE BEST FUTURE FOR OUR COUNTRY, OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.”**

**YVONNE MURGATROYD**



## SCOTLAND'S SECURITY

SCOTLAND has its own parliament and political system as well as a strong and growing sense of identity. But there is still one huge area where it has no influence over what happens within its own borders: defence and national security.

We can't, for example, decide whether or not our young men and women are sent to fight in wars abroad ... legal or illegal, or volunteer for peace keeping or humanitarian duties.

We don't even have the ability to say yes or no to the siting of nuclear weapons on our soil and their deployment on submarines that cruise our waters. All these decisions are taken in Whitehall, not here in Scotland. We don't have to be consulted – or even informed.

Scotland sees too little of the benefit of the money we contribute for defence. There is a massive underspend in this area in Scotland and that is bad news for our economy.

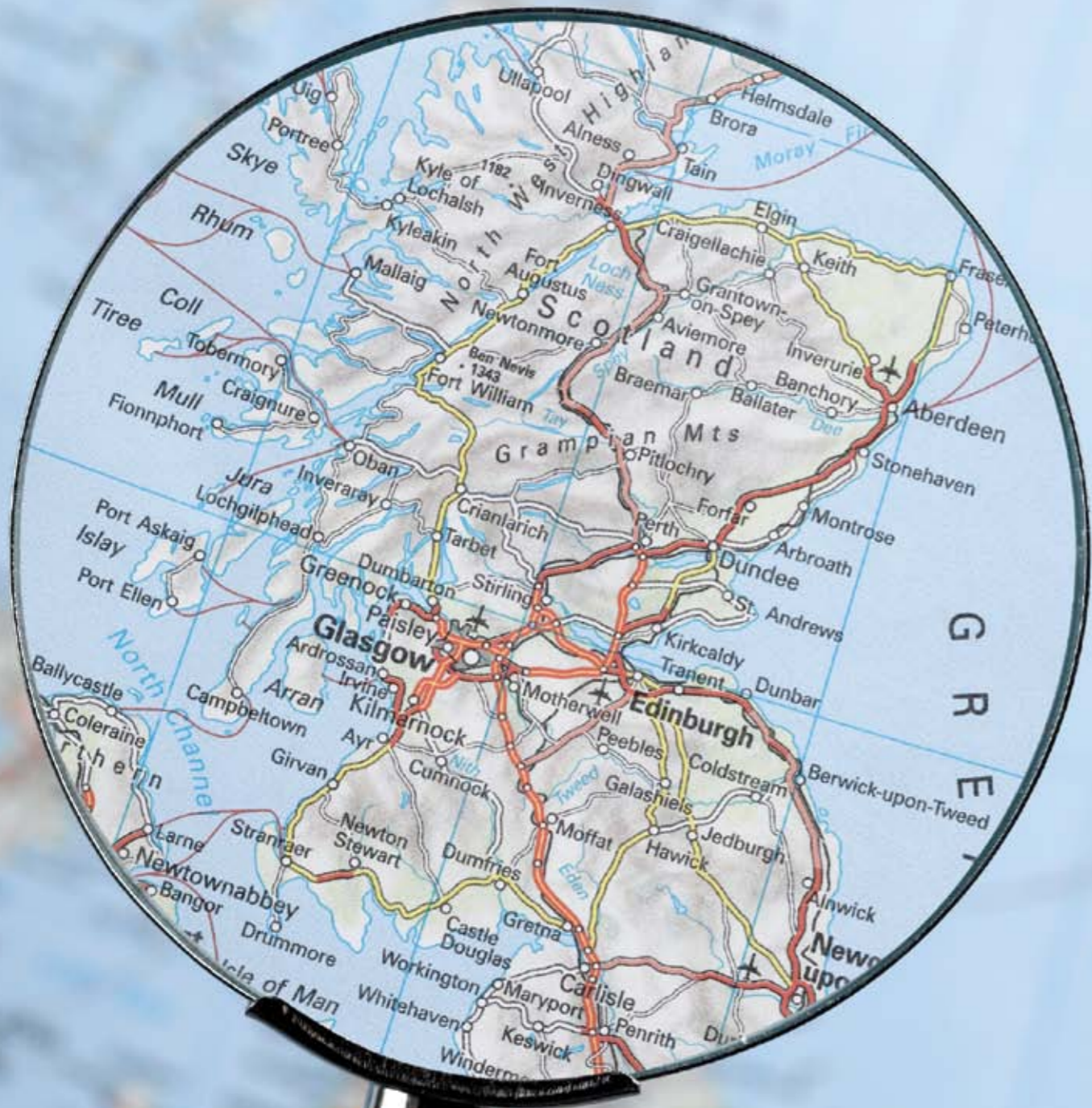
This isn't normal. Every member state of the European Union is able to ensure the security of its own citizens and to decide on how best to combat internal and external threats.

With independence, we will be just like these other nations. We will be able to shape our own armed forces and policy to suit our own national interests.

We'll get rid of nuclear weapons here in Scotland as part of our commitment to a world free of the nuclear threat. We'll also restore the historic Scottish regiments and decide how and where our young men and women in the armed services should be deployed.

We might agree not to focus on overseas wars, but on securing our own territory and on making a contribution to international peace and security – for instance, by involvement in disaster relief and involvement in UN peacekeeping missions.

Partnership programmes will include continuing to cooperate with the rest of the United Kingdom, just as the UK works with France and France and Germany work together or in the same way that the Nordic countries co-operate in areas such as procurement and training, where there are benefits for all concerned.



# FORWARD

**“INDEPENDENCE MEANS MAKING THE MOST OF SCOTLAND’S POTENTIAL NOW IS A TIME FOR US TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD AND, IF WE DO, PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITY WILL COME.”**

**MHAIRI HUNTER**



FOR more than 70 years, the SNP has been working to secure the best future for Scotland and the people who live here.

We believe passionately that together the people of Scotland can and will do the best job of governing our own country. Over decades, the party has consistently campaigned for progress and for independence.

The forthcoming referendum gives us the opportunity to turn this long-cherished aspiration into reality. Scotland has all the resources, talent and ambition it needs to prosper with independence.

This is our moment. These are the days when we will build a new and better nation.

Our Scottish Government, re-elected with a majority last May, is committed to bringing forward the bill to give Scots their say on independence. This will happen during the lifetime of this parliament.

Like the party, the government’s favoured policy is independence. What, though, will this mean in reality?

For a start, we will build on those areas where we are already effectively independent. Devolution means we run our health service, justice system and schools. Independence means we will also have responsibility for the economy – for things like how much tax individuals and businesses pay, alcohol and fuel duties and the revenues from our vast natural resources.

Scotland is in a stronger financial position than the UK. That means, with independence, we’ll be able to invest more in our people through schools, universities, training and hospitals, and to do more to grow the economy.

We’ll have full control of energy policy and the environment and work with others in combatting climate change.

We’ll fund and supervise the full range of public services, preserve and develop equality and human rights, and be responsible for our own foreign affairs, defence and security. That means we can remove nuclear weapons from our shores and ensure Scotland’s proud regiments are never again sent into illegal wars.

We’ll also be able to shape our government, parliament, courts and councils to best suit our needs.

With these decisions taken in Edinburgh by a Scottish government we will no longer have them taken by a Tory government in London. We’ll get the government we choose.

In other words, we will be similar to other nations around the world, including more than 120 that have gained their independence since World War II.

Of all the nations that have become independent from UK, not a single one, in good times or bad, has ever wanted to go back to Westminster rule.

Regaining their sovereignty has worked for them. It will work for us, too.

**“INDEPENDENCE WILL PUT THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND IN CHARGE. WE’LL SPEAK WITH OUR OWN VOICE AND EMERGE INTO THE FAMILY OF NATIONS AS A FULL AND EQUAL INDEPENDENT STATE.”**

**BEN MACPHERSON**



# OVER TO YOU

IN many ways, Scotland is now a modern European democracy. Devolution has given us back a voice, the ability to make our own decisions, and a sense of pride and place.

We now have our own parliament – open, proportionate, accountable and genuinely accessible. Legislation has been well thought through and sensible. Minority government has encouraged co-operation and consensus across political parties.

Scots now look to their MSPs in Holyrood and to Scottish ministers in Edinburgh, and see them as more important and relevant than Whitehall and Westminster. Each of us is encouraged to take part in the political process and so we feel a sense of ownership.

Given that we have only enjoyed devolution for little more than a decade, this is a remarkable and welcome achievement. It is popular and it works.

The concept of self-determination has been proved. Our new political settlement has been a huge success, qualified only by the fact that the powers of our politicians and parliament remain limited.

We still cannot control or shape our economy, invest our oil revenues, decide on pension or benefits levels, stay out of illegal wars declared by the UK government, join international bodies such as the EU or UN in our own right, or be treated as an equal by the world community of nations.

With independence, we will have the power to make decisions on all these things. We will be fully able to determine our own destiny. That will be good for Scotland because no one cares more about our nation’s future than the people who live here.

Historically, sovereignty in Scotland has always rested with the Scottish people. Independence would bring this to life and give us the right governance for this 21st century.

Since its formation more than 70 years ago, the SNP has campaigned for more powers for Scotland. We believe that independence offers the best way forward for our country.

The recent Scottish Parliament elections returned an SNP majority government. This showed that we are earning the trust and confidence of the voters – and we will work hard to keep that trust and support.

We recognise, though, that while independence is the next step on our nation’s journey, it is a step that only the people, together, can take.

For this reason, the government proposes a referendum to get your view on the issue.

That is the fair and democratic way. We will ask you for your opinion on the best future for our nation. The result of the referendum will determine the additional powers we seek for the Scottish Parliament.

The SNP, in conjunction with others, will be campaigning for a yes vote for independence. We hope you will join us.

Together, we can forge a fairer, better, more prosperous Scotland. A nation worthy of its history, and properly equipped for the challenges of the future.

A Scotland for us all to participate in and be proud of.

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**“MY PASSION IS NOT TO CROSS SOME IMAGINARY CONSTITUTIONAL FINISHING LINE AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, AND THINK – THE RACE IS WON. BECAUSE THE CHALLENGE THAT DRIVES ME IS NOT THE CONSTITUTION, BUT THE PEOPLE. MY AIM IS NOW, HAS BEEN IN THE PAST, AND ALWAYS WILL BE: TO DELIVER A BETTER SOCIETY FOR THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND. IT HAPPENS THAT WE NEED FULL POWERS TO DO THIS BUT THE PEOPLE COME BEFORE THE POWERS, THE COMMUNITY BEFORE THE CONSTITUTION, THE CHILDREN BEFORE THE STATE.”**

**ALEX SALMOND  
26 MAY 2011**



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