

Scottish Democratic Alliance

Independence

Revised 17-01-2010

Q. What would Independence mean for the people of Scotland?

A. Independent Scotland will have effective control over all of our own resources, services and fiscal revenues. We will be able to decide on where and how best to utilise these assets to provide a balanced and equitable lifestyle for all of our peoples regardless of where they live in Scotland.

The people of self-governing Scotland can be empowered by means of a “Written Constitution” to select, vote for and hold accountable their democratically elected representatives [of proven commercial competency] at both national and local levels of government. The current system in Scotland has been shaped to benefit and empower political party elites [particracy not democracy] resulting in almost half of the eligible electorate no longer participating in the voting process – in reality a corrupt and undemocratic situation.

The sovereign state of Scotland would participate as a member of key international organisations such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OECD and others. We will be in a position to determine how to assist the international community in times of need.

We will be able to develop our own art and culture and take pride in standing up and being recognised and treated as a nation again!

Q. Can Scotland afford to be an Independent State?

A. Yes, Scotland currently possesses more resources per head of population than the rest of the UK! We currently have a net surplus balance of payments into the UK treasury every year – fact! In effect Scotland is subsidising the UK!

Scotland subsidised the UK by £10.763 billion in year 2006/7 – our share of Trident £146 millions, of MOD projects £642 millions, of EU contributions £532 millions and of prime tax revenues £9443 millions. Add to that figure our share of the Billions siphoned off for the London Olympics and the south-east of England. After Independence these combined Billions of Pounds would be retained for our [Scotland’s] own use to provide fit for purpose infrastructure, services, investment, research and development, all aimed at creating economic growth, wealth and jobs in Scotland.

Q. What would be the benefits to Scotland outwith the UK government?

A. We will manage our own resources to benefit the people of Scotland. Without the massive overheads we currently pay to the UK treasury we would have more money available to spend in Scotland to provide cost effective high quality public services as well as lowering the tax burden on individuals and business. We would be able to set out fiscal policies to enable our economy and commercial industries to grow – providing jobs so that we can retain our younger generations in careers at home in Scotland. We could also afford to provide a higher quality of health care for all and especially for our older generations.

Q. What would be the effect on Scotland after leaving the European Union?

A. We will be able to trade and compete on the world markets utilising our own innovative and entrepreneurial initiatives! Scotland would be able to join all the major trading organisations within Europe without having to comply with inappropriate and trade limiting EU regulations – just like Norway. We would regain control of our own laws, rebuild our fishing industry, re-motivate and positively assist our farming and agricultural industries. The current cost of the EU Common Agricultural Policy to each Scottish family of four is £22.68 per week in food costs – we would no longer have to pay this levy. We would not have to employ and pay for the hordes of civil servants currently necessary to control and apply the EU regulations, nor pay for the EU bureaucracy in Brussels.

Q. What does Scotland have to do to leave the European Union?

A. Absolutely nothing. It simply has to refrain from making an application for membership. Thereafter it can join Norway and the others as a member of the European Economic Area.

Q. Could we the people of Scotland protect our own territories?

A. Yes! We will have the money, the personnel and the motivation to protect what is ours and deter aggressors. In today's interactive global community security and defence also involve surveillance, intelligence sharing, counter terrorism, counter insurgency and aiding civil response to disease and natural disasters. The professional, all volunteer Scottish Defence Force would be equipped to protect Scotland's land, sea and air spaces and as a participant in NATO and the OSCE assist with a significant global capability for disaster response and humanitarian aid. The Scottish Defence Industry would create thousands of support jobs here in Scotland.

Q. Following Independence, what would be the status of the Scots who live in England should Scotland become a non EU country?

A. Expatriate Scots would have the right to apply for Scottish citizenship. Those who did not want to do so would retain their UK citizenship and their residence rights in Scotland as citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA) as well as their full social security rights in Scotland under the EEA.

Q. Following Independence, what will be the status of the English, Northern Irish and Welsh nationals CURRENTLY RESIDENT in Scotland?

A. The SDA envisages that they will continue as at present to be valued members of the Scottish community. Like other residents, they will be expected to pay Scottish civic contributions (taxes) and comply with Scottish laws and regulations. They will be eligible to vote in Scottish local elections, but the right to vote in Scottish national elections will be reserved to those who have become naturalised Scots. These are general indications, because citizenship will be a matter of decision by the Scottish Parliament and the courts after Independence.

Existing arrangements will apply during a transitional period while new laws are enacted by Parliament, on the advice of the Scottish Law Commission. **UK citizens permanently resident in Scotland will be treated in the same way as Scottish citizens.** Citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA) will also have the right of residence.

Q. Would the border with England become one with full customs and immigration control after Independence?

A. The border would have the same status as that between Norway (EEA) and Sweden (EU), i.e. open under normal circumstances. As with all open Schengen borders in Europe, spot controls can be made from time to time for security purposes.

Q. Would not any change in Scotland's east coast border with England have to be with England's agreement?

A. Nobody is suggesting any changes in Scotland's border with England. The terrestrial border from the Solway Firth to the Tweed Estuary has remained unchanged for nearly 800 years, and the marine border running along a line of latitude eastwards from Berwick has been accepted for centuries. The changes recently attempted by the Westminster parliament are illegal as they violate a never rescinded treaty.

Join the SDA now to read the in-depth analysis and reasoning for the above answers contained within the SDA policy documents. Should you have any further questions please contact us.

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