
Scotland : Devolution, or independence ?

❶ “SNP majority only way to secure second referendum”, says First Minister Swinney. BBC, 25 July 2025.

“We’ve got to put a priority on securing independence,” the first minister said. “We do that by electing a majority of SNP MSPs to the Scottish Parliament and then taking forward the democratic path to independence which will secure the future of our country.” Swinney said a second referendum would allow the SNP to make “Scotland’s energy wealth work for Scotland” and make “fair and equitable” changes to the welfare system. He said: “It only happens if we have that referendum and we only get that referendum if a majority of SNP MSPs are elected next May.”

The SNP won a majority at the 2011 Scottish Parliament elections, which led the way to the 2014 independence referendum. Swinney said a majority in 2026 would put similar pressure on the UK Government. He added: “There’s no UK prime minister that can sit around and essentially deny the democratic wishes of the people of Scotland.” [...]

Meanwhile, Ex-SNP health secretary Alex Neil has been critical of Swinney’s independence plan. He told BBC Scotland News that the SNP was not as popular as it was in 2011 and had “lost its reputation for good government”. He said the strategy was “more about trying to save the SNP’s bacon” than win independence. Labour and the Conservatives were also critical of Swinney’s comments. Scottish Labour deputy Leader Jackie Baillie said the SNP had “lost its way and ran out of ideas”. [...] Scottish Conservative deputy leader Rachael Hamilton said people were “sick and tired” with Swinney’s “obsession” with breaking up the UK.

❷ A cartoon by Steven Camley (9 December 2025) from *The Herald*, an apolitical mainstream newspaper from Glasgow, supporting devolution, not independence. From left to right, it represents Alex Salmond (1954-2024), Nicola Sturgeon (born 1970, First Minister from 2014 to 2023) and John Swinney, the current FM, all SNP leaders. The cartoon insists on the SNP’s dwindling ambitions in the field of energy policies.



Leccy : informal for electricity.

➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, explain the political situation in Scotland.