

**The following items of information are emails received by the Scottish Government between 7 May 2021 and 16 September 2021 where the correspondent explicitly expresses a personal opinion on Scottish independence. The letters received by the Scottish Government on this matter within the same timescale are enclosed separately with this letter.**

**For Independence:**

**Item 1:**

From: [Website@firstminister.gov.scot]  
Sent: Wednesday, 09 June 2021 23:28:03 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London  
To: First Ministers Website Mailbox  
Subject: Economic Strategy

From: **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

Subject: Economic Strategy

Message Body:

Congratulations on the recent election and your re-appointment as FM.

As a long time, 50years, supporter of Independence I am very keen to see the country move down that road and not miss the opportunity we lost in 1979. But I am concerned that I do not hear a long term strategy being articulated by yourself and your ministers that will convince people that we can overcome the deficit and subsidies that are so frequently trotted out by the unionist press. I have read the latest manifesto and it points to a number of areas like moving to zero carbon and building on our energy expertise but I do not know of a co-ordinated plan building on our great universities, legacy industries, tourism, energy, tech jobs and green ambition that clearly lays out how we will transform our economy and hence our country. The absence of such a plan leaves the door open for the constant negative assessments of the press and will play to the fear of the huge change that Independence will be and therefore is a huge risk that we will once again fall short.

If the comprehensive plan exists accept my apology and point me to it, if it doesn't then please advise what is being done to pull it together. Thanks, **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Item 2:**

From: [Website@firstminister.gov.scot]  
Sent: Monday, 28 June 2021 13:32:05 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London  
To: First Ministers Website Mailbox  
Subject: Independence/security

From: **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

Subject: Independence/security

Message Body:

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** I have been intending to support you in your independence any way I can anyway as soon as I could get relocated, **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

### **Item 3:**

From: [Website@firstminister.gov.scot]  
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 19:51:01 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London  
To: First Ministers Website Mailbox  
Subject: Independence

From: **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

Subject: Independence

Message Body:

Dear first minister,

I would like to ask you a straight forward question why have you and your government fallen silent on independence I voted for snp in the last election because you promised us you would fight to get it for us I am **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** and last July that came to an end. I cannot see any future for myself and our country unless your government gets the finger out, all your mps down in Westminster talk a good game but that's all it seems to be,I just hope that all your promises about independence where not just an excuse to get re-elected ,I await your reply, Yours **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

### **Item 4:**

From: **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

Sent: 07 September 2021 19:16

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <[Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot)>

Subject: Independence and students who studied in Scotland

Dear ms Sturgeon,

I am an English citizen but I am pro-independence. **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** I was very impressed with the university's handling of the pandemic compared with those in England. It was also noticeable that advice about self-isolation and COVID tiers was far clearer in Scotland than when I went home for breaks in England. **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

I think that if you held another dependence referendum in 2023, it is likely that people will vote to leave, especially having witnessed the recent disorganisation at Westminster. However, I am very worried because I feel like I would be left behind. **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** and I vote labour, but I would vote SNP if I was from Scotland. Since the SNP has mopped up Labour voters in Scotland, I'm worried that left wing liberals like me will be abandoned in a sea of blue if you leave.

Having said this, is there any way I could claim Scottish citizenship if you leave? I feel more Scottish than English, **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** Alternatively, can you please absorb the North East into Scotland :)

Thanks,

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

### **Item 5:**

From: **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

Sent: 04 September 2021 10:40

To: Scottish Ministers <[Scottish\\_Ministers@gov.scot](mailto:Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot)>

Subject: Prep for independence

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

I am contacting you to express my concern over reports that there are no plans to make plans to prepare for independence at the upcoming SNP conference. I understand the need to get Covid put back in its box but the longer the SNP wait the more the idea of independence becomes little more than a pipe dream. As I write this message the Tories are even closer to cutting money from those in society that can little afford it. Their plans to increase NI to plug the gap for their care plan will not impact on the rich but will again be a burden to those of us on pensions and lower incomes. Don't even get me started on their plans to scrap the triple lock on pensions. There were also reports of school children queuing up at a soup kitchen in Glasgow.

Scotland is better than that, it's deplorable that in the 21st century under this present government that the less well off in society are being exploited once more and are being expected to continually bale out the Westminster parliament to make up for the blatant theft of public monies.

I have no doubt that Scotland will be a very successful independent nation when the time comes and we will continue to punch above our weight on the world stage. However, we need to know about the progress in setting up a central bank and to be assured about currency and pensions. The people of Scotland need these points and others to be addressed. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail. The whole country has been through so much over the last 18 months with so much negativity and despair, we need some positivity and to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

To sum up, unless the SNP wake up and read the room and begin to make preparations for independence, I fear that lots of independence supporters will switch their allegiance to other parties who will make independence a priority.

Kind regards

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Item 6:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Sent:** 10 September 2021 09:47

**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FAO Michael Matheson

Dear Mr Matheson,

With the current climate emergency so prevalent in the Scottish media with the upcoming COP26 in Glasgow, and **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**, I felt it was important to contact you on my views of any future developments in the North Sea. It is well past time to move away from a fossil fuel based economy.

I understand that it has been a long standing cornerstone of SNP independence policy that we have enough wealth tied up in the North Sea to exist as a financially independent nation. I am a staunch supporter of independence for Scotland and an SNP voter, but I must make my opinion clear.

Independence won at the expense of the planet and the lives of the most vulnerable, as well as the future of my own children and my students is not acceptable. We are a resourceful, powerful, socially minded people with an infinite capacity for resilience and strength.

We can build an independent economy as world leaders in the net zero revolution, with technology and expertise that will be the envy of the developed world! Let us invest in people rather than oil, in education and training for sustainable industry and humanitarian aid. This is going to be an ever increasingly valuable commodity and Scotland can be at the forefront of every important solution to the climate crisis rather than a major contributor to the problem.

COP26 is a chance for us, as a nation, to set ambitious targets that outstrip any of the glib promises that are bound to ooze from Westminster - a chance to truly start our path to independence.

I know that you will have long-standing SNP members who are so attached to their paradigm of oil being our ticket to 'freedom', that it will be difficult to cut ties with the North Sea. But not doing so is not an option for a responsible, forward thinking government. Without strong leadership, avoiding climatic catastrophe is not possible.

You will have the full support of the next generation of Scots if you make the difficult decisions that must be made this November - they are frightened and need to believe that they have a future.

Kind regards,

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Against Independence:**

**Item 1:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Sent:** 08 May 2021 11:30

**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** A possible solution to independence.

Dear Nicola Sturgeon.

I am **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

I would personally like to see the UK stick together but I can understand why some scots feel like they are being misrepresented in Westminster.

I think I have drafted up a possible solution for this problem, The United Kingdom is a country of countries. England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland are all countries in their own right, Taking this into account it seems undemocratic for Boris Johnson to block an independence referendum.

However, he said he would block an "independence referendum" not a different solution. My plan would give the scots, full sovereignty of their parliament, more economic control, and keep all the advantages of the united kingdom. This would transition the United kingdom into a structure more similar to the European Union.

What i propose is a complete separation of the Scottish and English governments. This would mean Scotland has full power over all its laws and legislation, Scotland's prime minister would have the same power that the United kingdom prime minister has, but just over Scotland. The prime minister of the UK would lose their power in Scotland.

You would also separate the elections, this means you are free to use the electoral system you want and hold Scottish general elections without asking Westminster. Scotland would function as a mostly independent country. This would work how the EU works, All the countries in it are sovereign in their own right, they share the euro ( or in our case the pound) and they share a centralized government (Brussels) for matters of foreign policy.

This would mean that instead of Westminster controlling Scotland the Scots control Scotland, We retain free trade, We retain our historical ties, it avoids complications with the monarchy , It safeguards the Scottish economy, In effect, this would effectively make Scotland independent but in a mutually beneficial economic, military and foreign policy union.

I hope this provides food for thought, I hope you find success in your endeavors and leading Scotland into the future.

Yours sincerely **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Item 2:**

From: **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

Sent: 10 May 2021 22:35

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Scottish Independence

Dear Nicola,

I am **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** and am absolutely devastated at your constant attempts to break up the United Kingdom. I also find it extremely distressing that you continue to ignore the opinions of those of us who want to remain as one country. The vote for independence was meant to be a once in a lifetime vote, that was what was promised, why are you breaking this promise.

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

I think before you press on with your Independence you need to think long and hard about how much funding is received from our English cousins and where on earth you are going to find this money. Where is the money for free prescriptions, hospitals, education, etc, etc, etc going to come from? Why when asked do you never give a straight answer? What if the European Union don't want Scotland? How are you going to police a hard border? The list goes on and on and there is never a convincing answer. If you are giving the vote to 16 year olds why are Scottish people living in England not permitted to vote?

My advice to you would be to think very, very carefully about this, after all do you want to go down in history as the woman who ruined the lives of the citizens of Scotland?

I await your response to where your funding to run this country will come from.

Regards

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Item 3:**

From: [Website@firstminister.gov.scot]

Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:45:23 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

To: First Ministers Website Mailbox

Subject: My vote in Scottish Independence Referendum

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Subject: My vote in Scottish Independence Referendum**

**Message Body:**

Dear Mrs Sturgeon, please can you state the SNP's position on giving expatriate Scots living in England a vote in any independence referendum you may choose to call in this Parliament. Whilst I have lived in London for my entire life, **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** A critical part of my identity is as a Scottish person and I am a passionate supporter of the Union. Whilst I understand and respect your view on independence, can I have your reassurance that you will respect and acknowledge mine through allowing me a vote in any referendum that may be held. May I also congratulate you on your handling of the Covid 19 pandemic in Scotland. Yours sincerely, **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Item 4:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Date: 7 May 2021 at 6:25:28 pm BST**

**To: [Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot)**

**Subject: Scottish independence**

Can you tell me why my previous vote didn't count? You had the opportunity to get ppls views & then subsequently receive the outcome, but you only seem set on ignoring the ppl who voted last time, either way, till you get your way. It really comes across as bully tactics. If the agenda wasn't constant independence, then you may find more SNP support, as I'd always voted SNP till the **constant** independence chat. If you serve the ppl of Scotland, that should count for all, not just those who support independence which were in the minority last vote. Seems to be just keep voting till independence is the outcome. Once in a generation I recall . . . .

Also you wish independence but want to be part of EU, imagine how the vaccine rollout would be in Scotland, if we were in that category . . . . that's a concern above all !

**Item 5:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Sent: 09 May 2021 18:16**

**To: First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>**

**Subject: Scottish independence**

Dear Madam

From the 1950's my Family have loved to visit Scotland on holiday, summer & Winter a vital part of the UK. We wish you & your party well, & like you we wanted to stay in Europe, where **[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** That's now in the past, & To be honest However I do not agree that Scotland should leave the union, we need you despite your consistent attempts to drain a higher proportion of the Uk budget. That is fine we can afford to support you & we should.

Question if SNP want independence why cannot the rest of the uk have a say? As I understand it James the 1st of England & 6th of Scotland formed the United Kingdom. So I'm with Boris no vote now. (To much going on) That is to say why a new vote unless we all have a say.

Further why does Scotland now get first weather reports? Why do we pay for free prescriptions in Scotland, why do students get university fees paid. Our nuclear deterrent in Submarines come from Scotland bases. Enough we should all have an opinion. Fair votes for all. Grow up & smell the coffee. We should sort out the world, carbon crisis, & health first. Then if no improvement & positive suggestion we might change our minds

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Item 6:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Sent: 23 August 2021 17:50**

**To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>**

**Cc: hannah.bardell.mp@parliament.uk**

**Subject: Scottish Independence**

Hi,

I would just like to get on the record that I am against Scottish Independence.

We had a democratic vote recently which should be adhered to, we cannot have a vote every few years and we cannot, of course, have a vote to return to the UK if people change their minds again.

My argument is not economic or standard of living based. Setting aside Covid and the whole economic situation, the world is going through a dangerous phase of instability resulting in insecurity where people are resorting to nationalism as an answer (such as Brexit). The opposite is required now, working as a whole nation (and world community) to solve problems, not withdrawing in on ones self.

Regards,

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Item 7:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Sent: 12 May 2021 14:12**

**To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>**

**Cc: Douglas ROSS <douglas.ross.mp@parliament.uk>; alex@alexsalmond.scot; boris.johnson**

**<boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk>; lorna.slater2021@scottishgreens.org.uk;**

**fiona.hyslop.msp@parliament.scot; Ian Blackford <ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk>;**

**kirsten.oswald.mp@parliament.uk; [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)] Jackson Carlaw MSP**

**<jackson@jacksoncarlaw.org.uk>**

**Subject: IndyRef2 -- A more sensible suggestion?**

Hi Nicola, you will no doubt be very pleased that the Election is over, and everything appears to have gone according to plan?

I trust however, you will have noted that our local Election results have clearly shown that Scottish votes have been split right down the middle, with voters who do not want another Independence Referendum on one side, and those wanting to split the Union by making Scotland independent, on the other side?

For the purpose of this exercise I have decided to call the voters who do not want Independence, "The Proud British Scots", and the voters demanding a second Referendum I propose to name the "EU Scots," .as I fully understand the strength of feeling felt by the Scots Voters who were not happy with the political decisions made during Brexit?. It would appear however, that these "EU Scot Voters", who want Independence, are predominantly members of the SNP, and they appear to have completely lost their pride in being British? They should therefore be reminded that Scotland has always been an integral part of the United Kingdom, for more than three Centuries, and I would suggest that "Great Britain" is a well known name, still being regarded by many, as always referring to the Best Country in the World, so I have no wish to change this in any way by breaking up the Union. I therefore have a suggestion to make which I hope may satisfy everybody concerned, and avoid us having a further referendum?

Now that the Election is over and we know who has been elected , we can take our time to plan which route to follow over the next few years, and as it would appear that it is only the "EU Scot Voters", ( or in other words " just 50% of the population of the UK 's Northern Territory"), who are causing trouble by demanding another Independence referendum, it should not be difficult to persuade our Prime Minister to negotiate a Special Deal with the EU Authorities for all EU Scot voters, wanting Independence, to hand over their British Passports in exchange for an EU Document which would provide them with joint Nationality, and allow them to enjoy living and working in the EU and at the same time be able to feel fully Independent!!

And just think what a difference that might make to the Scottish economy? SO LET'S FORGET INDY/REF 2.

**Item 8:**

**3rd September 2021**

**Nicola Sturgeon MSP**

**First Minister of Scotland**

**St Andrew's House**

**Regent Road**

**Edinburgh EH1 3DG**

**Dear Ms Sturgeon**

I am writing in continuation of my letter to you dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021. I will be most grateful for your response to my urgent plea to you.

[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, 24 Aug 2021 at 09:59

Subject: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

To: <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>

Cc: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

24<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Ms Sturgeon

I am writing in continuation of my letter to you dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, introducing this charity. I am grateful for the reply from the Scottish Government's Directorate of External Affairs [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)] dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021, affirming your governments commitment to Scotland acting as a good global citizen, supporting women in conflict zones and promoting human rights, democratic values, equality and good governance. These are all priorities for [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)], so we are glad to receive this affirmation.

However, I am still deeply concerned at your plans to seek independence for Scotland and to take it from the United Kingdom, working with the Green Party in Scotland. [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)] I do not for one moment expect that the division of the United Kingdom would bring the same level of violence, but I know from experience that it would create bitterness and division. It would create hardship and difficulties for Scots

living in England (or other parts of the United Kingdom) and for English and others living in Scotland.

So I earnestly request you not to continue with this aim, which most certainly will not add to PEACE. I can only plead with you to reconsider your plans, for the sake of the greater good.

I have also written in my earlier letter about the rich opportunities for Scotland to continue to contribute and promote peace through the Commonwealth.

I am attaching a paper which [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)] Please consider this in your thinking and planning.

If we can be of service to you through [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)] please let us know.

[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

**Item 9:**

**From:** [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

**Date:** 16 May 2021 at 18:04:26 BST

**To:** [Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot)

**Subject:** Scottish independence

Good afternoon

[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

We would be very sad if Scotland left the union but if a significant majority of Scots wanted to leave we would not want to keep them where they do not want to be.

I do have one question which has puzzled me since the question was mooted as far back as the late 70s. As I understand it, under the Barnett formula, Scotland receives more in funding from Whitehall than it sends to Whitehall in taxes. If you get independence, Scotland won't send taxes to Whitehall and it won't send money to Scotland. How will Scotland make up that very significant funding gap please?

Thanks

Kind regards

[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

**Item 10:**

From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

To: Central Enquiry Unit

Subject: NHS (linked to possible independence)

[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)] You may initially think I should be talking to the NHS but the Scottish Government, in my opinion, is ultimately responsible. You scare me with all this talk of independence. Clearly there are many, many basic matters that need attention first & foremost. The SNP have had over a decade to sort out the 'big stuff' eg NHS, education, drug taking. Things have gotten worse. For an ambulance to take 2 hours for any type of call out, to me, is simply not good enough. I can see how Covid can be blamed as hospitalisations have reduced dramatically. If I or my husband ever need an ambulance I would be frantic with worry that myself or him might die waiting. Please, stop all your independence plans and sort out Scotland, in a way that puts all other politicians to shame. Show me that you can do it and maybe I might finally believe you've got what it takes to run a 1st class country. Your comments are expected & welcomed

[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)] Sent from BlueMail

#### Item 11:

From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

Sent: 09 September 2021 12:20

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>

Cc: Douglas Ross <Douglas.Ross@scottishconservatives.com>

Subject: COVID and independence

I am shocked and disgusted at The SNP's obsession with Independence while we are still in the middle of COVID the SNP have no moral right to spend taxpayers money on Independence whilst there are people on disgraceful NHS waiting lists, every spare penny should be spent on health and social care. Additionally Scotland is falling apart you only need to drive around the majority of the country to see the state of the roads and rubbish, this beautiful country is turning into a dump. If the SNP cannot focus on the recovery of COVID they should stand down. Another concern is that we live on an island and it makes no sense to split up an island where does the SNP think they will get the money to fund an independent Scotland apart from getting us into horrendous debt which will destroy Scotland. I was born in Scotland and have lived here all my life and I am immense proud of this country and it's wonderful kind people however I am ashamed of this SNP government as they are only looking at their own interests. Nicola Sturgeon will go down as the worst first minister as she is obsessed with independence and will go to any lengths to achieve this such as going into partnership with the Green Party. I hope as a citizen of Scotland that you have the courtesy to answer my question and concerns and not do as you usually do and direct me to website with your skewed policies.

#### Item 12:

From: [Website@firstminister.gov.scot]

Sent: Thursday, 09 September 2021 11:55:56 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

To: First Ministers Website Mailbox

Subject: Independence Funding

From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

Subject: Independence Funding

#### Message Body:

As your party and the Greens seem determined to push for an independent Scotland, I am concerned that funding and finance of such a move seems to receive little publicity. At present we are all aware that Scotland receives, compared to other home nations, disproportionately higher funding. This

funding will cease following separation and various elements which are provided in Scotland, NHS and education, will have to be funded by the Scottish people or will be removed. Can you provide explanations over funding? Also should Scotland eventually be allowed to join the EU, how will cross border travel and trade be managed? Separation will also cause many employers to leave Scotland which will cause further funding difficulties. If Scotland does not want to be part of the Home Unions, is it not dishonest to still take money from Westminster and there is a need for present funding looked into. I am firmly of the opinion that a level playing field needs be met now and independence is a short sighted incorrect choice

### **Item 13:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 12:11:58 AM

**To: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Subject:** Re: BBC News: Scottish government to restart work on case for independence

The people of Scotland made an "informed choice" 😊 on September 18th 2014 - get over it Scottish Irrational Party cronies as sour grapes only happens once every 34/40 years remember!

Time to move on now - you've had 17 months of your Party Political Broadcast's on the "daily briefings" during Covid-19 Pandemic crisis, far more excessive public exposure than any other political party - I'm sick of the sight of "wee Jimmy Krankie" and her fellow Scottish Irrational Party cronies talking the talk and not walking the walk , there are more important issues going on just now in the union of Scotland , none more so than Climate Change - once again the Scottish Irrational Party have lamentably been sleeping at the wheel on this crisis. Forming a lame duck coalition with the Greens is a recipe for disaster and will see Scotland's economic growth recovery go into decline, and Climate Change targets will again fail to deliver on time, too little too late as global warming is destroying not only Scotland, but globally as well.

Now is the time for Scotland to be united together and allied with the other home nations, can robustly rebuild a better and more prosperous future together to recover economically and environmentally in the interim period ahead.

Better Together Rossite

### **Item 14:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Sent:** 13 September 2021 16:40

**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Scottish Independence

Dear Ms Sturgeon

I would like to know why you feel only Scotland should have a vote regarding the breakup of the United Kingdom? You would like to see an independent Scotland but as this would result in the breakup of the UK, shouldn't everyone have the right to make that decision?

As an English citizen, I don't want to see the United Kingdom broken up and don't want the Scots making that important decision on behalf of everyone else.

After the last vote, it was stated that it would be the last vote for a generation, so why has it resurfaced merely 7 years later?

I'd be interested to hear your comments, thank you.

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Item 15:**

**From: [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]**

**Sent: 31 August 2021 16:09**

**To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery**

**<[DFMCSCR@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSCR@gov.scot)>**

**Subject: My Support and Enthusiasm for the SNP and Independence Waning due to the Covid Certification Debacle**

Dear Deputy First Minister,

“It can take many years to build a reputation but just moments to ruin it.”

I am writing to you in your office of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery to express my discontent over the Covid certification debacle here in Scotland.

I had been most impressed by Nicola the Scottish Government’s handling of Covid19 in the earlier days of the pandemic. Initially Nicola Sturgeon and her ministers appeared to be well ahead of the UK government’s responses and were acting in a far more mature, proactive and responsive manner. I had great respect and felt very confident in the Scottish government’s approach and management of Covid.

I was less impressed by the apparently slower start to vaccination in Scotland that seemed to lag availability in England by some weeks.

Now the disastrous way that the Scottish government has dealt with the issue of vaccination certificates both in the complete failure to get a digital version into operation, when England has had one available for months now. To top it all yesterday I found, quite by chance, that the vaccination certificates I downloaded some months ago for me and my wife are now being called into question to the extent that we now need to request paper letters which I did online last night. According to the website these take up to 14 days to arrive though why printing out a letter and popping it into an envelope takes such a long time is a total mystery to me and just smacks of poor performance management and a lack of care and respect for the public.

**[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]** are disappointed and extremely annoyed with the Scottish Government’s mismanagement of the whole vaccine certification process and apparent reluctance to bother to proactively inform people that their downloaded certificates are no longer acceptable (we do not read newspapers and only occasionally glance at the news). The questionable level of competence of the Scottish government in managing what should be a simple matter is making us seriously rethink our support for the SNP and for an independent Scotland. If such a simple issue is so unmanageable for the Scottish government, then how can it be trusted to deal properly and professionally with anything at all especially in the matter of governing an independent nation?

When I was much younger, I used to vote Conservative but, [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)], I found the Conservatives, their policies and general behaviour and antics so distasteful and misaligned with my values and morals that I decided I must vote against them and choose to vote in a way that would count. Clearly a vote for Labour in [Redacted – S.38(i)(b)] at that time would be a wasted vote and anyway Labour was, at that time living in cloud cuckoo land, so mired in the Scargillian, donkey jacket politics of the 80's that they were unelectable. It was the first time I voted for the SNP and have continued to do so since then. I have even managed to influence many of my friends to such an extent that they too shifted their allegiances and started to vote for the SNP however I am now beginning to feel that perhaps I have misguided them and reckon my discontent may be a good topic to kick off our next discussion.

For me and many of my friends and colleagues, and I am sure much of the population in Scotland, the SNP and the Scottish government have lost much of, or all of the hard-won respect and trust built over many years, due to this Covid certification debacle. Until this point, I had become quite comfortable with voting for an independent Scotland but now my mind is turning away from such a possibility and it will take something extraordinary to turn it back.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted – S.38(i)(b)]

Redacted

First Secretary

Holyrood

Parliament

Edinburgh

EH9 1SP

27 April, 2021

Dear First Minister,

SNP-EU

Having voted Scottish Independence at the 2014 Referendum the SNP stance on the EU is fundamentally worrying. The SNP seek autonomy — freedom — ironically on the coattails of the EU megaflock — a vassal state? Scotland with a population of 5.1 million — not even the size of a mid-size city world scale, would risk being overlooked by the EU; the UK as a whole being the main prize. London alone, with 8.2 million would carry more clout. That Scotland has done well in the Davis is debatable; English demographic being the more complex. It is particularly short-sighted to equate the popularity of a short-term politician with the long-term National autonomy. The battle is for the soul of a Nation! Scots have been made largely unaware of their own history both by their own authorities as by the deliberate defaults of British History — too bad we did not begin to re-claim our birthrights perhaps by 50-100 years post Culloden. How refreshing at last to see an upsurge of Scottish history in the media!

Regarding fragmentation, each part of the UK would be weakened; also advantageous to the enemy. Some SNP wish a Republic played down.  
 Regarding disconnect, as to the potential break-up of Great Britain, and discontinuities of familial history (to be treasured given the frailty of the human condition) it is only when a thing is lost is it truly valued. Is it a necessity that Scots join a conglomerate of disparate Nations-of-fractions hemmed in borders—responsible for two of the most evil of World Wars; to become estranged from England, Wales, N.Ireland, most of which we have a long traditional kinship with. Also, to risk weakening the NHS—which puts the heart into Britain!

Royalty, it is which puts the Grand into Britain! GB and its enduring Monarchy garners respect world-wide, with its tolerance, and civilizing laws drawing rich and poor into its haven. There is mystique, colour, power, the living history, Christian charisma, Sacrificial service, intrinsic kingship. Also, the communal being organic, there is family, community, commonwealth; society being a construct of formality, mass-market, status. Family marriage, Kingship are sacrosanct; reflecting the 'Mystery of Faith'—the Profound Divine Supernatural; hence why the Monarch, at Coronation undertakes a sacred Rite with Vows. (The Divine Right of Kings was not so far wrong!) Unlike no other public event is the power of the Monarch to inspire, uplift, the crowd come together in natural, jubilant fellowship—here in a more cynical age. A Leader Civil Servant is unable to carry this gift—no 'CEO' mundanizing 'Chair Chief'! It should not be forgotten that Great Britain was built on a Christian foundation. When the centre is lost—soon may go the periphery!

The UK form of governance has historically evolved towards a triune balance of Crown, Commons and Lords with review, wise counsel, wide experience - no law-making. Why despoil the magic?

Regarding transparency, SNP Record in clauses, shift between MP, Government, Judiciary; clarity on Proposals re Finance, New currency, N. Sea Oil Revenues & Run-down, Emergency Environmental, Hard Borders, Weapons Procurement, the Nuclear Issue (SNP strong on this) and its recent proliferation proposal within the UK... Scotland - under cover of BREXIT/COVID. Locally, the twin ferry fiasco (lack of Government checks/timetable), Ardnish Fabrication (lack of robust negotiation); The loss of traditional crofts/homes to the highest outbid bid, the previous seizure of traditional crofts/homes of the aged to pay care-fees - in already-fragile indigenous communities - perhaps unlawfully carried out, with scant fair notice or checks. Also, nation-wide sparse treatment of the poor and incapacitated.

Regarding disconnect, the proposal to forego England, Wales, N.Ireland to re-join a foreign power - essential reason presently unclarified - is most unsettling - tearing the long and honourable story of Britain for why? It is not enough to vote for EU-wide: Multinationalism is potentially a growing evil world-wide, decimating all-too-fragile marginalised communities and environments. It is not enough to vote for EU grants - To be 'Bought and sold for (European) gold'?

4

At this watershed moment in British history - a seismic leap - that - ideally - Southern Ireland be able to rise above the injustices of its history - to once again, make Great Britain a united whole - if initially only on a loosely EU-type basis - also thereby regularising the border problem. 'A week is a long time in politics'! Presently, the tide appears out on INDYREF-2 - the cost in EU too high - with further clarity needed as to why SNP find an alliance with EU an necessity? Britain is in flux - BREXIT should be consolidated - with further devolution. On this (and Southern Ireland) it may be wiser concerning Voting, to sacrifice the lesser principle for the greater. I personally, do favour Scottish Independence - with The Crown. I personally, sadly shall not vote Independence whilst SNP advocate INDYREF-2.

Sincerely

Redacted

The First Minister  
Holyrood  
Edinburgh  
Scotland.

9/5/21

Dear Nicola Sturgeon,

In the recent local elections I voted for the Green Party. I did so because I considered the problems for our planet as existential; but if I was living in Scotland I would have felt disenfranchised knowing you would have used my vote as part of your strategy to achieve independence for Scotland. Now Scotland could not be closer to my heart. From

Redacted

these. I am Redacted

and I regularly visit to walk and climb in the Highlands. I actually wish I was Scottish.

Now I have already had Redacted

Redacted, very much against my wishes. The disappointment I would have if my

Redacted

would be even more hard to come to terms with.

May I put to you a number relevant propositions. I will make these in the form of questions.

What does constitute a mandate? In many cases it is judged that a simple majority

is not sufficient to overturn the status quo. I do not consider 52% to 48% to be a valid mandate to leave Europe.

How many elected politicians genuinely have a mandate when, because there are more than two candidates, they have less than half the votes cast?

How many people who voted Green actually voted for another referendum on independence? Yes we have our system of first past the post, but is it truly democratic?

Do we really know why people make the choices they do? I have never agreed with any party manifesto in entirety. The choice is usually some sort of fudge.

As a politician I believe you are without doubt the most able in the whole of the UK. Your grasp of detail is second only to my brilliant wife,

Redacted

but your judgement that Scotland would be better off as an independent country is not one I can agree with.

The UK was able to leave Europe because it had its own currency. Your currency is the pound. The Bank of England would feel under no obligation to give you the same terms (bank base rate) as for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This could cripple you financially. Joining the EU would involve a border between England and Scotland and we can already see the problems created for the UK and Ireland. We do not want to return

to the historic dysfunctional relationship that once existed between England and Scotland.

There are many areas in England, which like Scotland, wished to remain in Europe so the justification that BREXIT has weakened the "once in a generation" argument is of dubious validity. Our democratic system is based on collective nations and cannot function if its outcomes are unacceptable by those with different opinions.

I wish Scotland well. I wish Britain had a wiser political leader than Boris Johnson.

Please, when this terrible pandemic is over look to work with the UK parliament to make a better Britain. Boris will eventually be seen for what he is and his popularity will decline.

Yours most sincerely

Redacted



—

P.S. Voltaire once replied to a letter from Rousseau by saying "No one has ever used so much intelligence to persuade as to be stupid"

Does this have any relevance?

I know this applies to Michael Gove  
but does it also apply to Scottish Independence?

9/4/2024

Redacted

DEAR NICOLA STURGEON

my name is Redacted

I am writing Letter to you and  
to ask you to STOP going on about  
taking Scotland out OFF THE UK  
I visit the last time to take Scotland  
out off the UK I voice no I would  
like Scotland to stay in the UK  
I did not vote FOR THE SNP begas  
what you say FOR in Scotland

Redacted

why did your part bill new  
council housing in Redacted

council I am so unhappy in  
terrible accommodation  
I hope that you will send back  
a letter back TO me

yours sincerely

Redacted

Redacted

28 May 2021

Nicola Sturgeon  
First Minister  
Bute House  
6 Charlotte Square  
Edinburgh  
EH2 4DR

An Open Letter

First Minister, I am writing this letter to you in response to the recent election and your subsequent comments regarding a second independence referendum. I am aware that you have serious memory issues which became apparent during the Alex Salmond Inquiry therefore may I remind you that you signed the Edinburgh Agreement on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in which you agreed to honour the result of the 2014 referendum and that you have clearly failed to adhere to that promise since 19th September 2014. I would also remind you that on numerous occasions prior to that referendum you advised the Scottish public that the referendum would be "once in a generation" and "once in a lifetime". Clearly those statements were simply lies. You would only have honoured the result had it been in your favour. Your claim that leaving the EU was a material change which necessitates another referendum holds no water as independence would see Scotland out of the EU in any case. Everyone is aware that Brexit was merely a smokescreen for something you would continue no matter what.

I recall reading that at an SNP conference in Glasgow in 2018 at which you apparently "offered" the electorate "hope and optimism" via you and your Party's policies. First Minister, I must vehemently disagree with your assertion that your policies ever offer "hope and optimism" when for the majority of the population like myself we find that our view of said SNP policies would be of despair, division and pessimism. Where is the optimism and hope for Unionists in an independent Scotland? If Scotland were to be independent then, as a British citizen, I would be a foreigner in the land of my birth. Where would I see hope and optimism in that scenario, First Minister? Many family members and friends live south of Hadrian's Wall which would put them in a different country. Independence for Scotland would most likely force me to leave the area where I have lived since birth and probably force me to move south to Cumbria. The thought of living in a parochial, bitter and anti-English racist independent Scotland would be just too much for me to bear. I would not be the only one with that frame of mind.

The separatist aims of you and the SNP have created huge division in our population which has led to great anger, hatred and anti-British, anti-English racism where almost none existed prior to the rise of nationalism brought about by the false promises, propaganda and lies of you and your predecessor over the last 20 years or so. The SNP White Paper prior to 2014 was a work of near fiction. The North Sea Oil revenue was not "just a bonus". First

Minister, the signing by both you and your predecessor of the Edinburgh Agreement in which you promised to honour the result has proven to have been simply an act of utter mendacity.

These have not been the only untruths from the SNP. The public were told lies about legal advice concerning post-independence EU membership. We were also told abject falsehoods concerning the financial cost of independence. Your duplicity over the EU situation is obvious for all but the most blinkered to see. With the current Brexit issue you have shown yourself to be the epitome of hypocrisy with your public show of decrying the UK leaving the EU whilst at the same time you have failed to publicly acknowledge that an independent Scotland would have been out of both the UK and EU in March 2016. That would also be true were you ever to win any future independence referendum. With that in mind, any hope and optimism is lost and is accompanied by any shred of honesty you have ever shown the electorate in Scotland. Candidly First Minister, we cannot take you at your word.

Scotland has had fourteen years of an SNP-led administration which has resulted in failings in the three most important devolved areas of health, education and emergency services. You should also be in charge of all Benefits but deferred taking on the full responsibility because your party's representatives were incapable of operating that function. If that doesn't trigger alarm bells in the electorate then we are truly in a seriously bad place.

The catalogue of SNP failures is a disgracefully long one and below I list just some of them.

**Health:**

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital infections and deaths due to water quality and poor ventilation.

Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital 2 years late and an additional £120 million cost.

NHS 24 Helpline years late and cost at least £55 million over budget.

NHS waiting times for surgery have never been attained.

Shortage of thousands of nurses.

Mental health waiting times are scandalous.

Highest rate of drug deaths in Europe by at least 300%.

Spent tens of millions on sending patients to private hospitals (eg £38 million in 2015).

Bed blocking on patients remaining in hospital has cost well in excess of £100 million.

**Education:**

Educational standards have plummeted with numeracy and literacy levels plummeting.

Ratings in Maths, English and Sciences have seen Scotland fall far down the list compared to other European countries.

Promises to reduce class sizes never came to fruition.

Promises to maintain teacher numbers never came to fruition.

Curriculum for Excellence has been an unmitigated disaster and discredited by teachers and cost circa £110 million to develop.

140,000 college places lost due to SNP cuts.

## **Emergency Services**

Police IT system shambles cost £46 million plus.

Morale is low within Police Scotland and two previous Chief Constables had to resign. We are now on a third chief constable in only 8 years.

Violent crime is increasing and sex crimes have more than doubled over the last 10 years.

Fire Service morale is low and the number of officers is down more than 500 since 2014.

Scottish Ambulance Service morale is very low due to workload and stress.

## **Miscellaneous:**

CAP IT system cost £76 million over budget.

Glasgow Airport rail link cost

Writing off Poll Tax arrears cost £425 million

Queensferry Crossing Bridge was rushed through and used Chinese steel but has to close when ice forms. The old Forth Road Bridge had to totally close for critical repairs because SNP administration cut the maintenance budget.

Ferguson Marine: 2 ferries due to cost £97 million will now cost somewhere approaching £250 million and be 4 years late.

Prestwick Airport cost at least £38 million plus.

Bifab shambles cost £52 million

Rangers PLC administrators and others maliciously accused by Police Scotland and Crown Office leading to compensation claims which total more than £100 million.

Business investment failures via Scottish Enterprise (including Aquamarine Wavepower, Pelamis and others) costing circa £80 million..

The SNP deal with GFG for the Dalzell and Clydebridge steelworks and the aluminium smelter at Lochaber could possibly cost £575 million.

Gaelic TV wasted £117 Million

Gaelic signage costs of circa £26 million.

Gaelic dictionary estimated to cost £15 million and take years to complete.

Gaelic Facebook page cost of £250,000

The Baby Box gimmick which costs an estimated £27 million per annum.

## **Covid:**

Now looking at the Covid pandemic situation, during your daily Party Political Broadcasts which were thinly disguised as Coronavirus updates, you have somehow managed to give the perception to the gullible of the electorate that you have managed the situation better than the rest of the UK. That is despite the fact that percentage Covid deaths in Scottish care homes are approximately double those in English care homes. Despite the fact that the SNP administration decided to move hospital patients with Covid into care homes. Despite the fact that the SNP administration failed to act on the Nike conference Covid outbreak. Despite the fact that the SNP appointed chief medical officer took not one but two weekend jollies to her holiday home in Fife whilst the country was in lockdown. Despite the fact that an SNP MP took a trip on public transport to London and back breaking all the Covid rules whilst being Covid positive. During your daily PPBs / updates you initially made it sound like a competition but that soon ceased when Covid figures for cases in Scotland were no better than those in England.

During this pandemic we have occasionally heard from (or more often, about) the SNP Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport, and her failings, one Jeane Freeman who apparently

earned £112,919 per year at our expense. Being responsible for Health in Scotland, at least we have heard of Ms Freeman. However, there is also a Minister for Public Health, Sport and Well-being of whom we heard nothing (Joe Fitzpatrick) and I'll wager most people didn't know we had such a minister who received a salary of only £94,821 from the public purse. Most voters will also be unaware that we had a Minister for Mental Health (Clare Haughey) who picked up £94,821 from the taxpayers. Let's not forget (if any of us knew we had one) a Minister for Older People & Equalities (Christina McKelvie) who also happened to pocket £94,821 of our hard-earned cash. Finally, the last one of the not-so-famous five, we had the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security & Older People (Shirley-Anne Somerville) whose annual salary came in at £112,919 from Joe Public's contributions. All five received sums of which the general public can only dream and I doubt many people think it money well spent. Many consider Jeane Freeman to have failed miserably in her post but the other four highly-paid positions were held by people who have basically remained anonymous throughout this health crisis. Surely the Minister for Public Health, Sport & Well-being should have had something to say to the Scottish population relative to the Coronavirus situation? Any reasonable person would have expected that a salary of almost £95,000 must merit some input to the Covid fight. The Minister for Mental Health has been similarly virtually silent somewhere in the background. Perhaps Ms Haughey has saved her near £95,000 pay packet for when this virus has gone away without any meaningful contribution to the public on her part. Voters won't be surprised to note that the Minister for Older People & Equalities and also the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security & Older People have managed to remain hidden in the background during this Covid crisis.

The Westminster Government gave your administration some additional £10.6 billion to help deal with the situation. At this time you have failed to account for almost £3 billion of that sum which could and should have been assisting with businesses still badly affected by lengthy closure.

#### **The cost of independence:**

With your post-election push for a second independence referendum you have failed to provide any information whatsoever on the impact of independence. Public spending is 30% higher in Scotland (IFS). The pre-Covid deficit was £15 billion (that deficit is now much higher). Scottish GDP is already lower than that of the UK and independence would lead to the deficit increasing by some £11 billion. Tax revenue from North Sea oil is now no more than £1 billion. There is still no clarity from you or your party on which currency an independent Scotland would use. The population in Scotland needs to know what effect a change in currency after independence, would have on their income and how it would affect mortgages, pensions, interest rates, etc. No clarity on how the Barnett money would be replaced. It is not credible to suggest that you and your party have no idea of the impact on jobs, taxation, deficit, income, etc. but rather than confirm to the public the detrimental effect of independence you simply avoid providing any data no matter how provisional.

Within the last 13 years there have been three different events which would have finically and economically crippled an independent Scotland. These were the Banking crisis of 2008, the oil price crash of 2014 and the current Covid 19 pandemic. The only reason that we survived these three crises has been due to Scotland being part of the United Kingdom. The current pandemic has shown that thanks to the UK Government furlough scheme, 930,000

jobs in Scotland were covered. An independent Scottish government could not have done that nor could it have organised the vaccines without Westminster assistance.

If there ever were to be another referendum would you guarantee that you would accept the result if the pro-UK side won? If the pro-independence side were to win, would we have a third and deciding referendum at least 8 years later? If a majority of the electorate in Orkney, Shetland and the Borders constituencies were to be pro-UK would they be allowed to remain as part of the rest of the UK?

You often profess to speak for all of Scotland when the reality is that you only speak for the nationalists and you totally ignore the majority of the population who favour the Union. Your personal obsession (some may say mania) for an independent Scotland is not based on any guaranteed benefit for the population as a whole. This teenage-era fixation of yours has only brought division and disharmony. I can think of no guaranteed personal benefit for myself or my family or for any of my friends were Scotland to leave the United Kingdom. In fact, the opposite would be true.

Brexit has shown how difficult it is for the UK to separate from an EU membership agreement and you clamour to have Scotland remain bound by that organisation's rules and regulations. You then show staggering hypocrisy by pushing for Scotland to leave the UK whilst failing to alert the Scottish electorate to the far greater problems which we would all encounter were that situation to occur. I'd like to jog your poor memory once again with your own words of 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 which were "It's reckless for a country to secede from a longstanding political and economic union without giving proper thought to the consequences." Other lies which spring to mind are your earlier promises to scrap the Council Tax and to cancel student debt. It would appear First Minister that honesty and transparency would be the first casualties in your war for independence.

First Minister, how can we possibly have optimism and hope when the country is being led by someone who had the impertinence to refer to herself as "chief corporate parent or chief mammy"? The same leader who disgraced Scotland in October 2018 by having a photo opportunity at Auschwitz concentration camp. That grossly insensitive act was simply incomprehensible to most normal people. Let us also not forget the numerous regular visits you make to primary schools in a blatant move to influence very young minds, one might say indoctrinate. Education should teach children to think for themselves it should not be a means to teach them what to think.

Frankly, First Minister, with such leadership within the SNP, how on Earth can any normal person in Scotland have hope and optimism?

Redacted

2nd July 2021

Redacted

Redacted

Redacted

Dear

I received your e-mail a long time ago (late May 2021) and did prepare a letter of reply, but have been ill since, and failed to send it. Please accept my apology for the delay in communication. I have added copy of my letters etc to both.

Redacted

Best wishes,

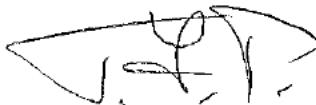
Yours sincerely

Redacted

P.T.J.

Redacted

P.S. I am in my  
year of life and have very  
significant health issues  
necessitating visits to hospital  
(Redacted) for treatment.  
However, I can still soldier  
on. Thank you for your e-mailed  
communications.

A handwritten signature consisting of stylized initials "J.H.P." followed by a surname.A long, thin, slightly curved line, likely a signature or a flourish.

Ref – QuerySRobisonLt26052021

26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Ms S Robison MSP  
C/o Scottish Parliament  
Holyrood  
Edinburgh  
~~EH99 1SP~~ v 995P

Dear Ms Robison

I note that you have sent me an e-mail on the subject of “The Social Justice and Fairness Commission”. You have sent it via my e-mail address but without yourself indicating your own e-mail address for reply – hence necessity to type this letter in response. You should have given me that information in order for me to respond in like manner.

Regarding the subject of your concern, which you present for my attention, I have no hesitation in supporting the concept of Scotland having the independent status within the British Isles to be able to deal with the promotion of such aims, without being shackled by the tendency in the so-called United Kingdom Parliament in the south to promote Tory/Labour/Liberal Democrat Unionism, vetoing promotion of social change and independent rule in the interest of the people of Scotland. Westminster’s constant saying of “No” to the legitimate aspirations of the people of Scotland, a separate and distinct nation; and indeed their apparent wish under the Tories to retain their controlling hold on devolved issues, even more so than was experienced within the European Union, is unacceptable; and the seeking of the establishment of that independence has my full support (and has had it since 1979 when Callaghan’s Labour government was prevented, by the Cunningham 40 percent Amendment requirement, to move towards moderate devolution of self-governing powers to Scotland. Unionism is out-of-date and based on past historical pressure from the government of England in 1707.

I enclose copies of two letters which I sent recently to the Prime Minister and to the Leader of the Labour Party at Westminster. Thereby I sought to make the case for independence. I am however in my Redacted

Redact. I can no longer be active in the physical sense politically. I therefore rely on my knowledge and the facts - that the Prime Minister did not respond except by a bland acknowledgement of receipt by a Downing Street civil servant, and that Mr Starmer did not even acknowledge receipt - say it all. I support also by donation of what I can afford to the local elections’ effort and to Edinburgh.

Yours sincerely

Redacted

27<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Sir Keir Starmer MP  
Leader of Labour Party  
House of Commons  
Westminster, London  
SW1A 1AA

Dear Sir,

Redacted

I have always been interested and concerned by UK political life. Born in Redacted within a working class family (Redacted)

Redacted

), we were Labour voters. I did not qualify to vote until 21 years old, Redacted the only time that the Scottish electorate marginally voted a Tory majority in 1959 ("You've never had it so good - MacMillan; post Suez debacle by Eden). It was very clear that England determined the electoral outcome each time with a far larger electorate than each of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (current populations - England c55m; Wales - c2.5m; Scotland - c6.5m; Northern Ireland - c1.5m). After qualifying for electoral vote, I voted Labour principally, but sometimes Liberal in constituencies where that party was second to the Tories in established voting pattern; my vote was always anti-Tory and still remains so.

However, in the 1970's, when Callaghan was Premier and there was a referendum in 1977/8 on the subject of proposed devolution of certain governing powers to Scotland, the Labour government allowed a Unionist-inspired legal amendment (Cunningham, MP for some south-east English constituency) which required that at least 40% of the Scottish electorate would have to vote in favour of this proposed devolution change. The "Yes" vote won, but by only 37.6% of the Scottish electorate of that time, the Cunningham Amendment came into operation and thereby the proposed limited devolution of governing powers to Scotland (my particular interest) was pushed aside by an English MP's amendment of the process; and thence delayed devolution of such powers (as Westminster decreed) until 1998/99 under Blair as Premier. Politically it is inherent in the United Kingdom political set-up that what England and English MP's want is put into effect, whatever the other people of parts of the Union consider of benefit to their area .In consequence,, since then I have voted for the Scottish National Party as many radical Scottish voters have.. I would add also that one of the significant early Labour activists in Scotland and the UK, Keir Hardie, of the so-named Independent Labour Party then, would have probably approved of the concept of Scottish independence.

I am sure that many of the electorate in Scotland, like me, changed allegiance to the SNP at that point in time. I have supported that independence party ever since and will not rest content until Scotland is free of determinant English representational control in Westminster. It is however likely that, once Scotland is independent, the former internal political allegiance might be restored under the banner of Scotland's Independent Labour Party. That however is putative and for the possible future but I can assure you that Unionist control from London, whether Tory or Liberal Democrat or Labour, is now totally unacceptable.

Yours faithfully

Redacted

Redacted

My Ref - BJohnsonPMLt3.26052020

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Rt Hon B Johnson MP

Prime Minister

10 Downing Street

London SW1A 2AA

Dear Sir

Regarding your expressed attitude to the 260 miles apparent break-down of the implications and spirit of lock-down by your personal Aide, Mr Cummings (and his family), as discussed thoroughly on BBC TV yesterday, it is obvious you seek “exceptionalism” for your staff who, presumably along with yourself and others on your staff, seemingly do not need to act in the spirit of that policy of lock-down (Stay at Home; Protect the NHS; Save Lives) but may act in their own varying, non-lock-down interests with impunity and your blessing. I heartily agree with the resignation action of your Minister within the Department of State for Scotland, Mr Ross MP, who by his action has exposed the unacceptable assumption of privilege (within your office) of your staff’s wider scope for action than the generality within the UK.

Personally, I have been isolated within my home since 9<sup>th</sup> March last, and have been helped because of my age Redacted Redacted by kind younger neighbours in terms of necessary shopping etc. That is what most in the whole of the UK deem to be what lock-down implies, not what your Aide has arrogantly assumed to be able to do in violation of lock-down. Your leadership’s validity during this crisis is in very obvious question.

Yours faithfully

Redacted

cc P Wishart MP; J Swinney MSP

My Ref – BJohnsonPMLt10042020  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Rt Hon B Johnson MP  
UK Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London

Dear Sir,

Firstly, I hope that you will recover normal good health after your joust with Covid19. It is a serious illness, a consequence of viral infection, the more years one has under one's belt. Redacted currently living alone with no family nearby, and in self-isolation but with the very kind help of younger neighbours for shopping etc. I dread the next two to three months of this isolation ("stir-crazy"!) but I deem it necessary for all to observe the anti-pandemic action of "stay at home; protect the NHS; and save lives".

I do however wish to criticise the Tory Party's political attitude towards the natural tendency for a long-established nation like Scotland to want independence, even after c300 years of a so-called Union. My forebears tended to be mildly Unionist but I reached a different conclusion on the subject (post-1979), in the aftermath of the Cunningham (40%) Bill Amendment at Westminster (re the electoral referendum in Scotland on the proposed Devolution of Governing Powers) under the premiership of J Callaghan. The pro-devolution result by 37.6% of Scottish electors was thereby thwarted and the issues of fairness and promoting some internal governing powers to Scotland were delayed for 20 years, until 1999 (Mr Blair PM).

When current Unionist Parties in Westminster refer to "the nation", they clearly and usually mean England, with possibly Wales added as a kind of after-thought. Scotland was a comparatively united country under one ruler by the ninth century AD. Indeed the whole of the British Isles had been, before and up to the collapse of the Roman Empire, a Keltic territory (Gaelic and later Brythonic from *circa* 900BC). The English (ie Angles, Saxons, and Jutes) arrived in Britain as part of the barbarian invasions of that Empire in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. It is also notable that the "English" peoples were unified, out of their heptarchic state (ie Wessex; Essex; Sussex; Kent, Mercia, East Anglia and Northumbria), only after the Norman Conquest, post-Senlac-Hill defeat of Harold of Wessex by William, Duke of Normandy. The rulers of "England" thereafter used castle-building significantly, in England and Wales, to strengthen their control, along with land-holding as a basis, the so-called Feudal System. King Edward I was a very aggressive descendant of the post-heptarchic Anglo-Norman line; and it was his invading son Edward II who was soundly defeated in the upper River Forth valley near Stirling (at the Battle of Bannockburn (1314)) by King Robert of Scotland (a location where the William Wallace Monument still dominates the surrounding landscape).

Demographically, there is imbalance and an innate tendency toward English political domination in UK governance at Westminster within the current UK set-up (excluding currently the Irish Free State, Eire, created after 1922, which remains part of the European Union) – ie England c55m; Scotland c6.5m; Wales c2.5m; Northern Ireland c1.5m (ie Ulster, a remnant of post-Reformation policy of deliberate Protestant Settlements there from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards). It is not an innate, healthy political situation; the interests and needs of Scotland neither figure much *vis-*

## COMMENTS ON SCOTLAND BY TORY PARTY

Name	Some Leading Inventors of Scotland
<b>B Johnson MP &amp; now PM</b> (Spectator Editor 2014) “The Scotch – what a verminous race!” “It’s time Hadrian’s Wall was refortified to pen them in a ghetto on the other side” “I would go further – the nation deserves not mere Isolation but Comprehensive Extermination” “We must not flinch from a solution” Mr Johnson, despite the 1707 Act of Union being a Treaty between two Independent Nations (secured by threat of English Invasion and Bribery (cf 400k) during England’s War of Spanish Succession with France and Spain, 1701-13) says “No” re Scottish Independence Referendum rerun. Also – “a pound spent in Croydon..... will generate far more for the rest of the economy than a pound spent in Strathclyde”	<b>Adam Smith</b> – The Wealth of Nations First description of how Capitalism works – Kirkcaldy, Fife (1723-90)
<b>Sajid Javid MP, former Chancellor-</b> Describing devolution of power to Scotland as “ nothing short of constitutional vandalism”	<b>James Watt</b> – Condensing Steam Engine Greenock, Renfrewshire (1736-1819)
	<b>John Loudon McAdam</b> – Roadbuilding Surfacing – Ayr (1756-1836)
	<b>Kirkpatrick MacMillan</b> - Pedal Cycle Keir, Dumfriesshire (1812-78)
	<b>James Harrison</b> - Refrigeration Renton, Dunbartonshire (1816-93)
	<b>Joseph Lister</b> – Antiseptic Surgery while working in Glasgow (1827-1912)
	<b>James C Maxwell</b> – Electromagnetism Edinburgh (1831-79)
	<b>Alexander Graham Bell</b> – Telephone Edinburgh (1847-1922)
	<b>John Boyd Dunlop</b> – Pneumatic Tyres Dreghorn, Ayrshire (1846-1921)
	<b>Alexander Fleming</b> – Antibiotics Lochfield, Ayrshire (1881-1946)
	<b>John Logie Baird</b> – Television Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire (1888-1946)
	<b>Robert Watson-Watt</b> , Radar Systems Brechin, Angus (1882-1973)

### Comments in Scots Independent or other, by Tory candidates-

**Esther McVey MP** – describing the rising use of food-banks in the UK as “positive” and “expected”.

**Mark Harper MP** – resigning as Immigration Minister after it emerged that his own cleaner did not have the right to work in the UK.

**Rory Stewart MP** – falsely claiming that “ 80% of the British public” supported Theresa May’s Brexit plans.

**Andrea Leadsom MP** – claiming that plans to raise the minimum wage would be a “magnet” for migrants to the UK.

**Kit Malthouse MP** – his sacking as a Multiple Sclerosis Society patron after voting in support of disability cuts.

**Jeremy Hunt MP and former Foreign Secretary** – being forced to apologise for suggesting that “hooliganism” played a part in the Hillsborough disaster.

**Michael Gove MP and currently a leading light in Mr Johnson’s cabinet** – claiming thousands to fit his home with furniture from a high-end company owned by David Cameron’s mother-in-law.

**Dominic Raab MP and now Foreign Secretary** – membership of a Facebook group that called for a return of workhouses for the poor, an end to council housing and the Privatisation of the NHS.

## **Published words by Boris Johnson MP, Candidate for UK Premiership**

### **On the political subject of Scotland and its people –**

“The Scotch - what a verminous race! It’s time Hadrian’s Wall was refortified, to pen them in a ghetto on the other side. I would go further. The nation deserves not mere isolation but comprehensive extermination. We must not flinch from a solution. (I await legal prosecution)”

**In Spectator Magazine, Editor, 2014.**

“ Excellencies. I understand my plans for a series of tax cuts, in the event of becoming your Dear Leader, have been rattling the chandeliers.

Some of you have even suggested that I haven’t thought through the implications of such measures. Once my advisers remind me again what the truth is, I’m sure you’ll agree that nothing could be further from it. In the land of calumny, infamy, and general all-round disreputableness, this is a vile scurrility.

And might I also add that my tax proposals have actually been watered down from what I had originally proposed. I wanted to raise the 40p tax threshold to £150k...” (ie £150,000 pounds) .The initial cost of this could have been met by applying a series of stealth bombs on working class types seeking to make home improvements, like installing inside bathrooms and those padded cocktail bars they all seem to like in their bought council houses.

Many northerners have been accustomed to cramming - ten of them at a time – inside a room and kitchen. If they want to live in a place with two bedrooms, or even three, we could have applied my version of the spare bedroom tax. If the hoi-polloi want to climb the social ladder, then they need to pay the going rate (unless, of course, you’re Michael Gove, in which case you just need to know the cheapest local dealer). I know of what I speak here, as I have the full set of ‘Shameless’ and the ‘Royle Family’. Indeed, at Hallowe’en, my families get to dress up as some of these characters.

I digress. Today I’d like to elaborate further on my tax plans. I’ve thought about this long and sometimes hard, and I think the answer to stimulating our economy has been sitting underneath our noses all of this time.

It all started with Rees-Mogg and, once I have rolled out the entirety of my enlightened tax regime, this might come to be known as Jacob’s Ladder. There we were, discussing our respective personal tax defeasance plans over brandies at the Carlton Club.

Jacob suddenly turned to me and said, ‘Do you know Boris, I’ve often wondered why we use such foreign fiefdoms as Panama, Belize and Lichtenstein, to bury our hard-earned poppy’.

‘Yes.’ I replied, ‘I’ve often thought, here we are preaching patriotism and supporting British industry, yet we choose to bury our loot in bloody pirate republics. By Jove, I’ve got it. What if we were to create our own pirate republics in the United Kingdom?’

So this is what I’m proposing. We will turn most of the north into a tax haven. Yes, that’s right – places like Sunderland, Middlesbrough, and Uddersfield. They’re always banging on about investment and powering up the North. We cancel all tax north of Birmingham and get the Saudis and the Russians to stick all their money into construction and infrastructure projects.

They get to own all of these new apartment and office blocks absolutely tax-free. What’s more, we also use their money to build those sprawling big pubs that the northerners like to go to, with soft play-areas and large outside smoking spaces. We’d

## **Published words by Boris Johnson MP, Candidate for UK Premiership**

also build gazillions of amusement arcades, pigeon lofts and greyhound tracks. In fact, we create massive northern theme parks, with all of these going on at the same time from dusk until dawn; and all of it, absolutely free.

Who pays for this? - I hear you ask. Well the indolent northerners do, of course. We tax them until the Maraschino cherries begin to squeak on top of their lager cocktails. But, after we've built them their massive 24-hour play areas, they won't mind not having anything left in their pay packets to spend on booze and gambling because we will have provided these free.

Thus the north gets powered up until it's sparkling; our Russian and Arab friends invest in it; the pound gets stronger; we all get to bury our profits closer to home; and the northerners won't mind paying for it because we're providing everything that's close to their heart for absolutely sod-all.

Bob's your uncle and Fanny's your auntie (and probably your mum too, as they say in the best aristocratic circles, what-ho!).

Already I hear the usual grievance-monkeys in Scotland moaning that they're effectively financing my tax cuts... But, does anyone care? I mean really! Has any seat in Scotland made the slightest measure of difference to a Tory election win? Margaret Thatcher won three bloody majorities when the Scots were under her heel. It seems the worse you treat them, the less difference it makes.

We've been siphoning off all of their oil underneath their drink-sodden noses for 30 years without their noticing. And, even when they did find out, they still voted to stay in the Union. So I'll have no more of this fear-mongering about my tax proposals threatening the Union. We all know we could turn Loch Lomond into a sewage facility and clear the Highlands again; and they'd still want to keep hold of our coat-tails.

Indeed, I've got further plans for the old sweaties up in Jockoland. Most of them don't know their living. Here we are in the over-crowded south-east, creating wealth, working our socks off and living on top of one another. Yet in Scotland they have all those mountains and lochs all to themselves. You can go hundreds of miles without seeing another living soul. I never thought I'd say this, but the problem with the jocks isn't that there's too many of them but there's too few.

As such, they're a luxury and get to live in luxury surroundings and should thus be taxed. So, I propose we tax the living, sodding daylights out of their wee bit hill and glen. Why should they get these spaces disproportionately to themselves without paying for it? I propose that we tax the space that they live in and the very air that they breathe. And we'll tax all of those wretched Munros they keep insisting on bagging.

That way, we might even keep a lot of the unwashed blighters away from them, and prevent them traipsing through some of our precious grice-moors.

We'll call it the Jock Tax. They keep telling us how their country is the most beautiful in the whole world; well, it's about time they were made to put their money where their mouths are."

**Boris Johnson, June 2019 (leaked transcript of speech to the 1922 Committee)**

## Reasons for not providing information

### **Section 32(i)(a) - International Relations**

An exemption under section 32(i)(a) of FOISA (international relations) applies to some of the information requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially relations between the United Kingdom and Spain. The effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between the UK Government and other states. In this case, the correspondence was given to the Scottish Government on the understanding that it would be treated as being in confidence. If the Scottish Government does not respect this confidence, the UK Government's relations with other states and its ability to protect and promote UK interests will be substantially prejudiced. States such as Spain, are likely to be more reluctant to share sensitive information, such as correspondence with Scotland or other parts of the United Kingdom in future, which would reduce both the frequency and openness of communications with the UK.

### **Section 38(i)(b) - Personal Information**

An exemption under section s.38(i)(b) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested because it is the personal data of a third party, i.e. names and contact details of individuals, and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.