

1.

Mr John-Paul Marks  
Permanent Secretary  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Our Ref: JB27144  
5 April 2023

Dear John-Paul

[redacted]

I have been contacted by the above-noted constituent regarding the appointment of a Minister for Independence.

My constituent is concerned that there is no mandate to appoint a Minister for Independence as the policy area is wholly reserved and there is no such devolution of power within the Scotland Act.

[redacted] is concerned that to appoint a minister and pay their salary and associated costs of civil servants is an abuse of the Scotland Act and flies in the face of the recent Supreme Court judgement.

I would ask you to advise on the validity of such an appointment in relation to these concerns.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Baillie MSP  
Dumbarton Constituency

2.

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 April 2023 17:17  
**To:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Minister for Independence

Hi,

Although the SNP and Green parties hold the majority of seats at Holyrood, statistics show that SNP and Greens jointly received 49% of the constituency votes and 50% of the regional votes.

This being the case there would appear not to be a majority of votes for parties wanting independence.

This being the case what justification do you as First Minister have for appointing a Minister for Independence?

This appointment is being funded by tax payers, the majority of whom did not appear to support independence for Scotland in the 2021 elections.

Regards

[redacted]

3.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 05 April 2023 15:58  
To: First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
Subject: GOVERNMENT

Good Afternoon,

I am amazed that you have appointed a Minister for Independence at a salary of £98,000??? At a time when Scotland has many priorities - health, education, cost of living to name a few - do you really believe that Independence should be top of your agenda? Surely the salary of a Minister for Independence would be better spent towards SCOTLAND'S immediate priorities?

You say you will govern for all Scottish people but not all Scots want Independence - according to latest polls - whereas all Scots are suffering from our immediate priorities.

Please may I ask you to keep to your promise and govern for all the Scottish people.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

4.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 03 April 2023 21:53  
To: First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
Subject: Formal Complaint -Minister for Independence

Dear Mr Yousaf

As a taxpayer who is resident in Aberdeen, I write to lodge a formal complaint about your having appointed a Minister for Independence.

The role of the government and that of the SNP are legally and constitutionally quite separate. The Scottish Government's role is to govern according to the regulations and parameters as laid out in the constitutional legislation relating to devolution using taxpayers' money. The SNP's role is to promote its political ends at its own cost. It has not escaped the attention of the Scottish people that £600,000 raised for the purposes of furthering the cause of independence have disappeared from the party accounts.

The two roles have been confused. Independence is not a matter for which taxpayers' money may be spent. Only SNP funds may be expended for this cause. To appoint a Minister for Independence who is to be paid an annual salary of £98K is something which is not constitutionally allowed and which outrages all rational voters in Scotland.

You must remove this ministerial post from your cabinet without delay. It is neither lawful nor acceptable for taxpayers' money to be spent on the furtherance of party political ends.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

5.

**From:** [redacted]

Sent: 04 April 2023 03:46

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

**Subject:** A better future or sidelined by vanity projects

Dear Humza,

I was pleased to see you chosen to succeed Nicola Sturgeon as First Minister. There must have been times growing up in Scotland that you encountered racism and religious persecution so to turn instead towards public servant role is admirable.

In your short tenure as first minister therefore I am surprised at some of your first announcements.

- A statue of Nicola Sturgeon - this is premature. There are questions within the SNP and Scottish government on her actions currently- the missing SNP funds and the CalMac ferry scandal. Both make this announcement inappropriate. The cost of living crisis makes this a thoughtless announcement.
- An independence minister. If Scotland held a referendum (even if non binding) and independence was chosen the majority the having a minister with this portfolio would be understandable. Without this clear public choice I cannot

understand why this is acceptable when there are other areas needing money and ideas (health, education, finance and transport for example). If independence champion is something you wish, then this surely should be funded by the SNP and any of the other parties seeking Scottish independence. The cost of setting up an office or ministry and staffing it during a time when many families cannot afford to heat their homes or feed themselves makes many of us lose hope in the new first minister.

What you do in the first couple of weeks and months will show the Scottish people your ability to steer the country wisely or not. You have an opportunity to lead Scotland towards a fairer and better future, but not if you are distracted by vanity projects.

Yours sincerely  
[redacted]

6.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 02 April 2023 16:12  
To: First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
Subject: Independence Czar

Good Afternoon First Minister

I am contacting you with regard to the above post.

I am one of the 'people' of Scotland that you stated you wish to represent. I am extremely unhappy that you have appointed someone to this post, firstly, without any consultation of the 'people of Scotland'. You only have 70-75000 who are SNP supporters, but there are over 5,000,000 people in Scotland who also have a voice. Secondly, if you feel you need this post then this post should be paid for by the SNP party, not by the tax payer i.e. me and many others who do not support independence. To pay this person over £100,000 approx., is ridiculous when the UK Govt., is not supporting your quest for independence.

Who regulates the First Minister in determining posts?

I will certainly be writing to the Audit Commission with regard to this and to the Head of the Civil Service as I do not want Civil Servants to be supporting the person appointed to this post, when at this time independence is not likely to happen.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards  
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

7.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 31 March 2023 17:59  
To: Central Enquiry Unit <[CEU@gov.scot](mailto:CEU@gov.scot)>  
Subject: Minister for Independence

Hi, I wonder if you can help. How can you spend public money on a Minister for Independence when half the country doesn't agree with this. Surely this money should be spent on something that benefits the whole country.

I look forward to your response  
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

8.

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 03 April 2023 13:48  
**To:** Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Ministerial Functions

Dear sir

I seek clarification on a recent ministerial appointment namely Minister for Independence.

My thoughts have always been that ministers of state and cabinet secretaries are appointed to head up the various departments delivering public services such as health, education, justice.

Independence is a political ideology and a goal for politicians and political parties seeking a separation from the UK.

Surely, the use of public funds and presumably civil service support to further a political ideology is at best wrong.

I seek your views as a person not governed by party views.

If you consider this an abuse of power will you refer the matter to the lord advocate.

With thanks

[redacted]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

9.

**From:** John Lamont MP <[john.lamont.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.lamont.mp@parliament.uk)>  
**Sent:** 03 April 2023 09:21  
**To:** Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** (Case Ref: JL37109)

FAO: John-Paul Marks  
Permanent Secretary

Scottish Government

Dear John-Paul

A number of my constituents have contacted me to raise their concerns about the appointment of a Minister for Independence.

One constituent writes, "I am very bemused that the new First Minister of Scotland has appointed Jamie Hepburn to the above new position. Can I ask if this is Legal ie does the FM have the right to start up a new Department? More than half the Nation do not want Independence so why should we as tax payers contribute to this Department. As a tax payer, I strongly object to this as it will only help the minority of Scottish voters. Surely the costs involved would be more beneficial to the Health Service or Education in Scotland which used to be the envy of most and which is now sadly lacking."

I would be grateful to receive a response for my constituents who have raised this matter.

With many thanks

Kind regards

John

**Follow me on:** **John Lamont MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh & Selkirk**  
**25 High Street | Hawick | TD9 9BU**  
**01450 375948 | [johnlamont.org](http://johnlamont.org)**

*The Office of John Lamont MP processes personal data in relation to casework, policy queries and communications. For further information about what the office does, the lawful basis for processing personal data, what we do with that data & what your rights are, please see [www.johnlamont.org/privacynotice](http://www.johnlamont.org/privacynotice)*

10.

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 03 April 2023 19:13  
**To:** Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** New Indy minister

Dear sir

I write to strongly object to public money being wasted on an Ind2 minister the SNP have went on about UK not giving then a democratic vote WELL I THOUGHT IN 2014 WE HAD A DEMOCRATIC vote which was a majority of 55% against 45% so the not a government but an assembly should adhere to this democratic vote and by all accounts not much has changed in much of the 55% minds

I hope I get areply from yourself.

Regards

[redacted] a Scottish tax payer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

11.

**From:** [redacted]

Sent: 02 April 2023 16:38

**To:** Central Enquiry Unit <[CEU@gov.scot](mailto:CEU@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Complaint/objection -FAO First Minister

I object to the creation of this role and would like to understand what funds are used to pay for the post holder. I would like a written response

My thanks in advance

[redacted]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

12.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 01 April 2023 09:44

To: Minister for Independence <[MinisterIndy@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterIndy@gov.scot)>

Subject: Misuse of Tax Monies

Jamie

On a personal note I congratulate you on your promotion to cabinet minister (you have worked hard for Cumbernauld) however I must raise my total objection to any of my tax money being used for the misguided ideology of Independence!

I do not and never will support Independence as quite frankly Scotland will never be able to afford it and I fear for the impact on our economy, infrastructure and total well being. Can the 55% of people who do not want Independence have their tax refunded?

Can you also tell me what plans are in place for elderly people with mobility issues who will now be expected to take part in the farcical recycling process? How do they (and probably the majority of people) get to recycling facilities surely driving is at odds with the fuel emissions policy? I did ask this of Green Party but have yet to get a coherent reply - no surprise there!

I look forward to your reply.

Regards

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

13.

**From:** [redacted]

Sent: 31 March 2023 13:50

**To:** [Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot); First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Appointment of "Minister for Independence"

Dear First Minister Humza Yousaf MSP,

I hereby make an official complaint that your appointment of a "Minister for Independence" funded from the public purse is unlawful and ultra vires as the constitutional issue of independence is beyond the powers and remit of the devolved Scottish Government and Parliament.

I call on you immediately to cancel this appointment or resign.

Yours sincerely,  
[redacted]

14.

**From:** [redacted]

Sent: 02 April 2023 04:02

**To:** Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Appointment of "Minister for Independence"

Dear Permanent Secretary Mr John-Paul Marks,

Please see forwarded letter below. I hereby also make the same complaint to you about First Minister Humza Yousaf's appointment of a "Minister for Independence".

Yours sincerely,  
[redacted]  
(Address below).



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

From: [redacted]

Date: Fri, 31 Mar 2023, 13:49

Subject: Appointment of "Minister for Independence"

To: <[Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot)>, <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>

Dear First Minister Humza Yousaf MSP,

I hereby make an official complaint that your appointment of a "Minister for Independence" funded from the public purse is unlawful and ultra vires as the constitutional issue of independence is beyond the powers and remit of the devolved Scottish Government and Parliament.

I call on you immediately to cancel this appointment or resign.

Yours sincerely,  
[redacted]

15.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 30 March 2023 08:41

To: Hepburn J (Jamie), MSP <[Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot)>

Subject: Independence Minister?

Good morning Mr Hepburn

I see that you have been appointed Minister for Independence and it strikes me very odd that our taxes should be used for your office when there is no majority yet for independence. In the 2014 independence vote 55.3% said they wanted to stay in the UK.

At the last Scottish Parliament elections in 2021 the SNP and The Greens received 48.47% of the Constituency vote and 48.4% of the Regional vote so the Scottish Government does not have a majority of the popular vote which is what you would need in a referendum for independence.

Surely public funds like this should be spent on other priorities such as health, the cost of living crisis etc and not on a department that has no popular mandate from the electorate.

Please can you explain to me why the Scottish Government should fund your department when there is no popular vote to do so.

Please note that I am not a member of any political party.

I would appreciate your thoughts on this.

Thank you

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

16.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 02 April 2023 16:40

To: Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>

Subject: Minister for Independence Scottish Govt.,

Good Afternoon Permanent Secretary

I am writing with regard to the above post. I believe that someone one has been appointed to this post. I do not believe that this post is appropriate at this time as we are currently not able to support /challenge the UK Govt to gain Independence.

Also, I do not believe that Civil Servants should be redeployed from their current posts to support this post (he will require supporting staff to assist him).

I have written to the First Minister and Audit Scotland.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this issue.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

17.

**From:** [redacted]

Sent: 31 March 2023 10:13

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

**Subject:** Complaint about Minister for Independence

I am writing to complain about the tax payer funded role of Minister for Independence being created. The Scottish people have voted no to independence at this time and should not be made to pay for a role specific to trying to push through the independence mandate. Independence is a political aim restricted to the SNP thus should not be funded by the Scottish Government as a whole.

An SNP MSP should have this as part of their role, not made into a paid ministerial position.

18.

**From:** [redacted]

Sent: 01 April 2023 17:35

**To:** Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Appointment by FM of a Minister for Independence

Dear Permanent Secretary

I understand from the news today that Douglas Ross, leader of the Scottish Conservatives, has written to you asking for your judgement on the propriety of Humza Yousaf's appointment of a Minister for Independence in his cabinet, given that the Supreme Court has ruled that the Scottish Government has no competence to hold another referendum for independence.

As a member of the Scottish electorate, I fully endorse and support Mr Ross's position, as this is clearly a party political appointment, and as such should not be being paid for out of the public purse. I am sure my opinion is shared by the majority of the Scottish people who did not vote for the SNP, did not vote for independence, and do not feel represented by the SNP in government.

I should be very interested to hear your opinion on this matter, as I shall the opinions of all my elected representatives in parties other than the SNP, as I rather suspect that there will be no objections from the government party.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

19.

**From:** [redacted]

Sent: 01 April 2023 07:25

**To:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>; Ross D (Douglas), MSP <[douglas.ross.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:douglas.ross.msp@parliament.scot)>

**Subject:** Minister for independence

Good morning!

Can I ask how the new minister for independence will be paid? I am assuming it will be paid directly from SNP monies/funds and not from taxpayer! For the following reasons.

1. Scotland voted NO to independence 2014
2. The Supreme Court stated NO for independence 2
3. PM of the UK has stated yet again no S30

As a taxpayer, I am concerned how this salary will be paid!

Kind Regards

[redacted]

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

20.

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 30 March 2023 17:51

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

**Subject:** Complaint regarding appointment of Minister for Independence

Hi

I would like an explanation regarding your appointment of a Minister for Independence. This country did not vote for independence. You are using tax payer money to fund an SNP desire for independence with no vote for this. As a tax payer, I do not want my money used in this way.

I look forward to your explanation.

Thanks.

[redacted]

21.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 31 March 2023 13:26

**To:** Hepburn J (Jamie), MSP <[Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jamie.Hepburn.msp@parliament.scot)>

**Subject:** Minister for independence

A minister for independence. I take it this is a joke as we head towards the 1st April. Surely the Scottish public are not expected to bring spying for this nonsense. If the new First Minister wishes this then the SNP membership ought to be paying. Ridiculous waste of tax payers money.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

22.

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 02 April 2023 18:25

**To:** Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Minister for Independence

Dear Mr Marks

Mr Yousaf has appointed a Minister for Independence. As no mandate has been given by the Scottish People for independence, how can this post be funded by Public money? At this stage it is still a Party matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[redacted]

23.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 01 April 2023 15:49  
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>  
Subject: Minister for Independence

Good afternoon

I wish to express my utter disbelief that a Minister of Independence has been appointed with a salary reported to be £98,000.

It has also been reported that the SNP are outwith their remit by appointing such a Minister and that the SNP should pay from their own funds for such a position and not use monies which the U.K. Government provided for the citizens of Scotland.

I now wish to add my name to the many who are so very angry at this ministerial appointment when the money could be used for the SNP major grievance with the U.K. Government of child poverty. However, if the SNP has used common sense, they could have eradicated child poverty in Scotland instead of squandering monies on failed attempts to gain votes over the past 14 years.

To my mind it should be very carefully looked at, that the SNP should be responsible from their own funds and not from monies for the benefit of the citizens of Scotland, for the expenses of having a Minister for Independence.

Regards  
[redacted]  
Citizen of Scotland

Sent from my iPad

24.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 31 March 2023 21:25  
To: First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
Subject: Minister for Independence

Mr Yousaf

I write to express my views on the creation of a Minister for Independence in your recently announced cabinet.

As a tax payer in Scotland I totally disagree with my taxes going towards the salary of James Hepburn Minister for Independence. If you wish to have a minister with this portfolio then it should be paid for by the SNP party and not by tax payers.

There are many things that require funding ahead of the SNP infatuation with independence.

Please confirm that this decision will be reviewed and reversed forthwith.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

25.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 31 March 2023 18:19

To: [redacted]

Subject: My tax payments

Dear Sir,

I wish my tax payments are not used to pay the salary of an ' independence minister'

I do not wish to pay for an SNP policy which has been declined by the Supreme

Court, This strange appointment should be paid by the SNP

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

26.

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 01 April 2023 18:51

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

**Subject:** Fwd: Minister for Independence

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [redacted]

**Date:** 1 April 2023 at 17:21:36 BST

**To:** [Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot)

**Subject:** **Minister for Independence**

I see that Humza Yousaf has appointed a Minister for Independence.

I strongly object to taxpayers money being used to fund this appointment as it would seem that less than 50% of the Scottish population supports this cause. At this time of austerity I am sure that a majority of the Scottish electorate would like money better spent or do the Government like mis-using other people's hard earned money?

Perhaps to balance things out a Minister for The Union should be appointed.

Regards,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

27.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 31 March 2023 07:35

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

Subject: New cabinet minister Jamie Hepburn

Sir, in your new cabinet you have created a new position of Minister for Independence.

As at the last referendum in 2014 where the people of Scotland rejected independence, it's not clear what this position is supposed to achieve now as SGOV is working for all the people of Scotland, not a minority group of snp members and supporters.

Is the new position , as subject, that you have created funded by Scottish tax payers money?

Appreciate a prompt response.

Regards,

[redacted]

31.03.23

Sent from my iPhone

28.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 31 March 2023 13:53

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

Subject: Independence minister

First Minister

I am writing to object to my taxes being used to create the above post. In 2014 the Majority of the people of Scotland voted to stay in the United Kingdom. The SNP is the party of Independence therefore if you want to plough ahead with a purely SNP policy it should be funded by your party and not the already overtaxed Scottish people.

The Majority of people are still not interested in independence, the priority of the Scottish People is for a strong economy, skilled workforce, lower taxes, much improved infrastructure and transport, boost to business, and a very much improved health service, and good working relations with our UK government.

I like very many people do not want more of the same last few years blaming Westminster for all the failings of the Scottish Government , time to take responsibility work for the people not the party, that is your and your cabinets job.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

29.

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 31 March 2023 13:26  
**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Independence Minister & Scotlands Future

As sent below:

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 30 March 2023 21:19  
**To:** [Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot); [contact@humzayousaf.scot](mailto:contact@humzayousaf.scot)  
**Cc:** [Alex.Cole-Hamilton.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alex.Cole-Hamilton.msp@parliament.scot); [Anas.Sarwar.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Anas.Sarwar.msp@parliament.scot); [Douglas.Ross.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Douglas.Ross.msp@parliament.scot)  
**Subject:** Independence Minister & Scotlands Future

Dear Mr Yousaf,

First of all congratulations for being appointed first minister. I hope you can do a better job than the last incumbent you replace and help unite Scotland as one nation.

I am writing to you on a couple of issues as outlined in the following:

First of all I am not impressed with your introduction of an Independence Minister at my expense. I am therefore firstly seeking an answer on how to seek a tax rebate on my portion of tax being wasted on your new minister. I'd like to ask you how you propose to allow the 55% or more who don't support independence to get a tax rebate as this is a matter for the SNP membership not the tax payer. Kindly therefore indicate how I can claim a rebate from the HMRC.

My second point is perhaps more on how you need to promote your utopian dream in the SNP of an independent Scotland if you truly believe in this. The SNP to date have missed the point by driving Scotland to the bowels of poverty in a race to the lowest of human behaviours and racist anti English hatred. If you or the rest of the SNP truly believed in a successful independent Scotland you need to make Scotland a better place to live than the rest of the UK and a place where people want to move to.



The SNP have the current taxation powers to cut tax like Liz Truss wanted to do, encourage business to move to Scotland, grow the economy to create high paid jobs and create the conditions that will allow people to see an economically prosperous Scotland that can stand on it's own feet independently. In much the same way Gordon Brown proposed our entry into Euro under Tony Blair and how Ireland has encouraged low corporation tax to attract business. Pursuing a low wage economy under an anti English agenda is nothing but a race to the bottom. The SNP have failed Scotland at every level from education to women's rights. All biological women are entitled to a safe space which has brought Nicola Sturgeon down among other things. As we have seen with the transgender debate Westminster performed the role of the second house which is lacking in Scotland. I can't remember a bill proposed by the SNP that hasn't been heavily criticized, withdrawn or required significant re write for being poorly thought through where a second chamber like the house of lords or Westminster would have rejected them for amendment before being passed. Even your hate crime bill was heavily criticized by Police Scotland as unworkable which is perhaps why Nicola Sturgeon or other members of the SNP have not been taken to court yet for spreading anti English hatred in Scotland. By the way I am Welsh just to clarify and even a Welsh person can see blatant racism against the English in Scotland.

Continuing the anti English hatred like Nicola Sturgeon pursued only divides Scotland and opens up the SNP to court action under your hate crime bill eventually. I do hope someone soon takes this up with Nicola Sturgeon for all the anti English hatred stirred up and anti Conservative hatred promoted. It must be awful to hold such anger for most of ones life.

To summarise. The SNP need to change direction, make Scotland a great and proud place to live and work for everyone including the English people, stop whinging about Westminster all the time as they are the check and balance needed on the Scottish parliament, drop tax to encourage business to move to Scotland and make it financially / economically independent. You have sufficient powers already to do this. Only then will people actually believe this is possible to stand alone and pay the bills. Please be reminded of Scotland's history also as it was King James of Scotland who first propose the union almost 100 years before the act of the union came into being after Scotland was bankrupted pursuing an independent empire trying to compete with England.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

30.

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 31 March 2023 10:20

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

**Subject:** Minister for Independence

Good Morning,

During the leadership debate, much was made of the pledge that the First Minister and Party would represent all people of Scotland regardless of their vote.

How can requiring all taxpayers, many of whom don't support independence in Scotland, to fund a Minister for Independence be justified?

I would appreciate a reply advising if any special arrangements are in place to fund this post or if indeed all taxpayers are contributing to its creation.

[redacted]

31.

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 01 April 2023 13:13

**To:** Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Minister for Independence

Dear Sir,

Is it not unconstitutional to appoint a minister for independence using taxpayers money? It must be. The Scottish government has no mandate whatsoever for independence, the Scottish people have not voted for it. If the present government wants to pursue this road, the SNP party must pay for its own 'minister for independence'. This is a very, very serious matter which you as the constitutional upholder in Scotland, must stop. It is an unlawful use of the public purse.

[redacted]

32.

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 29 March 2023 12:49

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

**Subject:** Minister for Independence

Dear Mr Yousaf,

Congratulations on your new role as First Minister, a position of great power.

I read with surprise that you are creating an appointment called "Minister of Independence".

As a tax payer and someone who does not want independence I write to ask that none of my taxes are used to pay for anything to do with independence. At a time where the world is Getting smaller and our geography plays a bigger position I urge you to consider our position in the uk as a good thing. Fix the things that don't work.

Great Britain is not the superpower it used to be but still has a lot of clout worldwide which we as a nation will never inherit. All our countries together are stronger.

As a country the UK needs to improve and division is not and will never be the correct way forward. It will be a very sad day if we break away from the UK. Please use your powers to build our United country and not destroy it.

And I'm serious about my taxes. Please confirm that no tax payer funding will be used to fund this ministerial role.

Regards

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

33.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 30 March 2023 09:14

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

Subject: Scottish Government Department for Independence

Good morning First Minister

Congratulations on your appointment as First Minister.

I see that you have appointed a Minister for Independence and it strikes me very odd that our taxes should be used for this office when there is no majority yet for independence. In the 2014 independence vote 55.3% said they wanted to stay in the UK.

At the last Scottish Parliament elections in 2021 the SNP and The Greens received 48.47% of the Constituency vote and 48.4% of the Regional vote so the Scottish Government does not have a majority of the popular vote which is what you would need in a referendum for independence.

Surely public funds like this should be spent on other priorities such as health, the cost of living crisis etc and not on a department that has no popular mandate from the electorate.

Please can you explain to me why the Scottish Government should fund this department when there is no popular vote to do so.

Please note that I am not a member of any political party.

I would appreciate your thoughts on this.

Thank you

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

34.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 30 March 2023 15:08

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

Subject: Cabinet

Dear Mr Yousaf,

I am bewildered to hear that you are using Tax payers money to fund an independence cabinet minister. The opinion polls for independence are not in the majority and I am a tax payer and do not wish my tax funds to be spend funding a cabinet minister which does not represent what I, as a person of Scotland, want. Whilst I understand that this is the aim of the SNP government and you are fully entitled to campaign for this, I do not understand why this is should be funded by the tax payer?

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

35.

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 30 March 2023 16:30

**To:** Central Enquiry Unit <[CEU@gov.scot](mailto:CEU@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Minister for Independence

I am utterly appalled that the new First Minister deems it acceptable to appoint a Minister for Independence using tax payers money.

It is only a couple of days ago that he stood up and said he would work for all the people of Scotland, not just supporters of his own party.

It hasnt taken him long to go back on that pledge!

As a tax payer myself, I am absolutely livid that any of my hard earned cash could be used in this way.

It is quite obvious after only a couple of days into the job this man will do nothing for the majority of Scots who, like myself, want to remain part of the United Kingdom.

[redacted]

36.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 30 March 2023 16:13  
To: SG Complaints <[SGComplaints@gov.scot](mailto:SGComplaints@gov.scot)>  
Subject: Minister for Independence

To whom it may concern

I am writing to complain about the appointment of a Minister for Independence. I believe this to be a misuse by the Scottish National Party of public funds in order to further their own, biased political agenda.

Please advise me of the regulations which would permit or prohibit such a blatant misuse.

Regards  
[redacted]

37.

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 30 March 2023 12:40  
**To:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Independence Minister

I write to object to the creation of the Minister for Independence position, this is not in my name and must surely be an illegal use of Scottish tax payers money. What right does this government have to use funds to further a political party's agenda? The Scottish electorate is split almost 50/50, almost half of the population do NOT want and did not vote for independence. What legislation covers the legality of this new position, while dissolving existing ministerial roles in Tourism and Social Security. The Scottish government is appointed to represent and work for the people of Scotland not the Scottish Nationalist Party. By creating this new Ministerial role, the government are demonstrating a misuse of tax payers money. The creation and salary for this new role is biased towards the SNP.

I challenge the Scottish Government's right to create this role and demand the Minister for Independent role be abolished immediately, and funds redirected to important social issues.

I demand an immediate response, and will take this challenge to the UK government and beyond as a misuse of government funds.

[redacted]

--

Regards  
[redacted]

38.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 30 March 2023 15:29  
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>  
Subject: Taxpayer funding

Dear First Minister,

I am appalled (as are many other Scots) that you believe you can use taxpayers contributions to fund a high paid minister with an independence remit. Regardless of how you and your predecessors try to manipulate the figures please remember that the only true measure of the Scottish peoples wishes with respect to separation from the Union was the referendum.

You do not have a remit from the Scottish people for separation from the Union and therefore I would request that you stop using my taxes to pay for your political agenda.

You ought to consider using all government revenue on the vast improvements required in the NHS, Poverty, Education and finishing ferries rather than lining the pockets of a nationalist zealot.

Born and bread Scottish taxpayer

[redacted]

39.

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 30 March 2023 18:16  
**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Independence minister

Hi

I am writing in protest at the appointment of an Independence Minister.

It's not right that we should be paying for this position.

Please abolish this position and restore the Social Security Minister.

This country is in a terrible mess. Please sort the NHS, housing, education, the police service and social care.

Prove to the people of this country that you are worthy of our confidence in future because for the past number of years you certainly don't have mine.

[redacted]  
[Sent from Sky Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

40.

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 19 April 2023 14:43

**To:** Minister for Independence <[MinisterforIndy@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforIndy@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** opposite number

Please can you confirm who has been appointed as your opposite number. I'm assuming that your role is solely to represent those wishing independence. Who is representing those who don't want independence.

I would have no issue with your appointment if the SNP were funding your position but if the role is being funded by the Scottish tax payer of whom I am one then I wish to know who is representing my interests

I shall be asking the first minister the same question but given the issues the SNP currently has I don't expect a speedy answer.

Regards

[redacted]

41.

**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** <[Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot)>  
**Date:** 30/03/2023 15:27  
**Subject:** Misuse of Taxpayers Money

Dear Mr Yousaf,

Today I learned of Jamie Hepburn's appointment as Minister for Independence.

I believe his salary etc., is to be paid from Taxpayer funding.

In 2014 an Independence referendum was held, at which a total of 55% of Scotland's Electorate voted against the matter.

Although no expert on matters politic, it is my understanding that only the SNP political Party, and not the Scottish Government, seek the pursuit of Independence.

It is also my belief that the Supreme Court of the UK Government has already ruled against Scotland unilaterally holding a second referendum on independence.

I find it strange that a largely unsupported and judicially rejected activity, which is the exclusive project of a single political party's ideology, can be so funded.

Your advice on this would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

42.



John-Paul Marks  
Permanent Secretary  
Scottish Government

By Email to [PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Permanent Secretary,

On Wednesday this week, the new First Minister Humza Yousaf announced the appointment of a Minister for Independence, with the role being filled by Jamie Hepburn MSP.

Mr Yousaf said during his leadership campaign that he will restart work on the independence campaign on day one of his premiership and he specifically committed to this by saying 'why on Earth would you not use the machinery of government to fund the cause?'

On 19 November 2022 the Supreme Court explicitly ruled that the Scottish Government does not have powers to hold even an advisory referendum on Scottish independence, let alone a legally binding one.

It is therefore clear that the Scottish Government should not now be spending money on independence. This is not an appropriate use of taxpayer funding as it is not an area where the Scottish Government can action any policy that it has the power to deliver.

UK Government guidance on handling of public money notes: 'It is improper for a public sector organisation to spend or make commitments outside the agreed delegations.' It is therefore reasonable to conclude that spending on independence which is demonstrably not an agreed delegation of the Scottish Government falls into this category.

The Scottish Government's Public Finance manual makes clear: 'Ministers cannot undertake any activities giving rise to expenditure for which there are no powers'. There are no powers the Scottish Government possesses to be able to spend on independence.

In accordance with this guidance, it is my view that it would be reasonable for the Permanent Secretary to consider formally objecting to such a spending proposal.

I would therefore appreciate a response on the following questions.

Firstly, did you object to Mr Yousaf's decision to appoint a minister for independence? And, if so, did the First Minister issue a formal ministerial direction to instruct you to facilitate that spending?



Given the appointment has now proceeded, it is my understanding that such a direction may already have occurred. If it has, can I further request that you provide the justification given by Mr Yousaf for spending public money on an area which is not within the competency of the Scottish Government?

I consider this matter to be of significant public interest, not least in light of the taxpayers' money being spent on this appointment.

I hope you agree, and that you are able to provide clarity on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cameron MSP  
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

43. -----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 April 2023 20:48

To: Yousaf H (Humza), MSP <[Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot)>

Subject: Taxpayers' money

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Yousaf,

I write to express my deep annoyance at the appointment of Jamie Hepburn as Minister for Independence. What can he possibly do as the matter is totally reserved to the Westminster Government?

As you are no doubt well aware, until a Section 30 order under the Scotland Act 1998 is granted there is absolutely nothing that Jamie Hepburn nor the Scottish Government can do.

Therefore, this is definitely a non-job and at £93,000 a year a serious waste of taxpayers' money and as such the post should be abolished forthwith.

For years, the SNP government has shown scant regard for taxpayers' money and this is just another example in a long list. From Prestwick Airport to a Fabrication yard in Fife right up to the spectacular shambles of the Ferguson Marine ferries with pretendy windows and a launch that should never have taken place vast sums of money have swirled down the drain.

On a different matter, are you still a big fan of Peter Murrell? In an interview on STV a month ago you spoke of him in glowing terms. A "proven winner" in your words but what have all those victories given Scotland except 16 years of SNP waste and incompetence. Instead, the SNP could have proved over that time that it could run a country efficiently and openly which, in turn, could have built support for independence

Finally, if you go ahead with a legal challenge on the gender bill veto against legal advice I, and many others will hope you have the good grace to pick up the bill. According to a recent poll, only 18 per cent of Scots back your plan. So, stop behaving like Donald Trump appealing to his base and save Scots from the financial implications of such a move and enter into negotiations with the Westminster Government.

Give up on the grievance politics as it's wearing thin and becoming extremely boring.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

44. **From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 02 April 2023 19:14

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

**Subject:** Minister for Independence

Dear Mr Yousaf

As a Scottish taxpayer and voter I am writing to complain about the recent appointment of a Minister for Independence. The role of the government is to govern Scotland effectively not to promote independence which a majority of the Scottish electorate voted against. Promotion of independence should be paid for by the SNP and their followers not by the Scottish taxpayers. I suggest that this post should be deleted immediately and a minister for tourism appointed instead as this would make a real difference to the Scottish economy.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

45.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 06 April 2023 15:08  
To: First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
Subject: Cabinet

Can you please explain why I am paying taxes for a minister for independence when independence is an aim of the snp not what the Scottish government is voted in for thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

46.

From: [redacted]  
Date: 31/03/2023 17:05 (GMT+00:00)  
To: [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)  
Subject: Cabinet Minister Appointments

Dear Mr Yousaf,

It is with much regret that I feel so strongly that I am writing to you following your very recent appointment by your peers to the post of First Minister. The purpose of my email is to express my disappointment and disgust that you have almost immediately abolished the important posts of Social Security Minister and Tourism Minister, posts in my opinion which are very relevant to everyone in Scotland.

In addition, you have created a post of "Independence Minister" with a salary of £98k, which I would remind you is taxpayers money. You stated in FMQ's that "you made no apology for a minister focused on independence, saying it was now more important than ever for Scotland to leave the UK". As far as I am aware we still live in a democracy and this to me very much sounds like your own personal opinion, as in 2014, the majority of people in Scotland voted to remain in the UK, a fact that the SNP have never been able to accept. I note in your recent speech you said if elected "I would be a First Minister for all of Scotland" well I am afraid you have fallen at the first hurdle as it may surprise you to learn that not everyone in Scotland and not every SNP supporter wants Independence. Therefore, you are wasting tax payers money that could most certainly be put to better use, the NHS being just one area in need of a financial boost.

Furthermore, you are continuing to have a coalition with the Greens, obviously to keep you in a position of power, the Greens a party that had less than 7% of the votes at the last election and should have no say in how this Country is run, the public did not vote them into power, they want to cause people more misery and money, changing heating systems, LEZ zones, buying electric cars (people cannot afford to buy new cars or even charge them and the grid could not cope if we were all to increase our electric output) which at this present time no-one can afford as gas/electric is not affordable for so many people.

The reduction in our producing of CO2 will have no effect globally until Countries such as China, America, India, Russia and Japan, the biggest producers, reach net zero . It would be more fitting in this economic climate trying to help people to eat (not rely on foodbanks), heat their homes, stop the bottle return scheme to name but a few.

It is time to get rid of the Greens and start running the country and dealing with the important issues that matter to ALL of Scotland. Rather than pushing Independence you should be first and foremost concentrating on issues such as the NHS (Hospitals, waiting lists, cancer treatments, vacancies, GPs, Dentists) Education, Police Scotland, Drug Deaths, Housing, the Ferry disaster, Transport the list is endless!

In this current economic crisis, Scotland is a laughing stock of the UK as the only thing that the Scottish Government appear to be focused on is Independence and your speech at FMQs reinforced that loud and clear. Time to start dealing with the real day to day issues that people are living with on a daily basis.

I look forward to receiving your response on my points as detailed above.

[redacted]

47.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:07 AM  
To: SG Complaints <SGComplaints@gov.scot>  
Subject: Formal complaint against the first minister Humza Yousaf

To whom it may concern

I wish to raise a complaint against the first minister Humza Yousaf on the grounds that by appointing a minister for independence he has breached the ministerial code of conduct as follows:

1 Section 1.3(i) Ministers must not use public resources for party political purposes. Independence has long been the party political mantra of the SNP and it seems that since the SNP is apparently unlikely to be able to successfully crowd fund in the future Mr Yousaf seeks to find alternative funding from the public purse. This is an abuse of authority and may also breach section 1.3(h) of the code.

2 Section 1.3 (j) states that ministers must uphold the political impartiality of the civil service. It is difficult to see how appointing a minister for independence can facilitate that, given that independence is a party political matter and divisive by nature.

3 Section 5.1 states that “Ministers have a duty to ensure that influence over Civil Service and public appointments is not abused for partisan purposes.” Independence is a partisan purpose for Mr Yousaf and he has apparently abused his position as first minister in order to facilitate the SNP agenda for independence at a cost to the

public purse. In my opinion, this is a blatant misuse of public funds to further Mr Yousaf's prejudiced campaign for independence.

4 Section 7.3 states that "official facilities and resources may not be used for the dissemination of material which is essentially party political". Once again, independence is a party political matter therefore in my opinion Mr Yousaf has directly breached this section by the creation of the post of minister for independence and also section 10.1.

In addition, he has, in my opinion, breached the following two principles of public life:

1 Selflessness.

The decision to appoint a minister for independence appears to be more in the interests of the SNP than the interests of the public and is biased because of his political affiliation to the SNP.

2 Objectivity. Mr Yousaf has made the decision to appoint a minister for independence without due regard to the majority decision of the independence referendum and is acting as though independence has been agreed by the nation whereas it is by no means a fait accompli. His decision is biased by his political affiliation, independence being a party political matter for the SNP.

What do I want from this?

I want the post of minister for independence to be deleted. The SNP should not have carte blanche to utilise public funds to disseminate SNP propaganda.

Regards  
[redacted]