



# Why You Should Vote No

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# The Yes Campaign Vision

- A more *equal* Scotland; A *wealthier* Scotland.
- Who would argue against that?
- But what can best deliver it?
  1. An independent Scotland?
  2. Or Scotland within the United Kingdom?
- The evidence strongly supports option 2.

# A More Equal Scotland

- Judged by their actions, the SNP flunked it.
- **Soak the rich:** 50% tax band, Mansion tax, not varying tax rate, corporation tax 3% reduction, no bonus tax.
- **Universal benefits:** free university tuition, council tax freeze, free prescriptions.
  - These are *regressive* measures.
- Problem endemic due to oversized finance sector.
  - Needs international agreement to fix.

**Gordon Brown:** “One of the big drivers of inequality in Scotland is that we have, in Edinburgh, some of the highest-paid financial staff in the Western world. The SNP know that – and it is one of the reasons they’ve refused to commit an independent Scotland to Labour’s proposal for a 50p tax rate. Nor do they support a new top-rate band on council tax (...), or (when stamp duty is transferred to the Scottish Parliament) what is called a Mansion Tax, a higher rate of stamp duty for the most expensive house sales. They don’t even support a tax on banker’s bonuses. In fact, their main tax pledge is to cut corporation tax by up to 3 percent, a move that will reduce revenues for public services.”

*[My Scotland, Our Britain: A future worth sharing, p308]*

**Gordon Brown:** “The question is whether in pursuit of greater fairness governments pursue policies for ‘universalism’ – all receive the same benefit from services – or *progressive* universalism – where everyone can get something, but those most in need receive most.”

“The SNP has favoured the first approach, and while in an ideal world we would want to support everyone, it has meant fewer resources are available to target help where it is really needed”

[*My Scotland, Our Britain: A future worth sharing*, p311]

# A Wealthier Scotland

- Scotland has prospered within the UK.
  - Independence would put this at risk.
  - Increased prosperity: aspiration not reality.
- Currency: no currency union; Plan B, C & D unattractive.
- EU membership: will take time and is not certain.
- Many firms would move south.
- Oil income decreasing: top sliced for Sovereign Oil fund.
- New state start-up costs.
- More expensive borrowing.
- Small countries need to run a surplus economy.
- Pensions, Mortgages, Shopping, etc cost more.
- Rest UK get free university fees.

# Conclusion

- It will be easier to create a more equal Scotland within the UK.
  - Vested interests will find it more difficult to resist UK-wide equality actions.
  - Inequality is an international problem; we need allies.
- Scotland has become wealthy within the UK.
  - Leaving the UK would put this at risk.
  - There are huge additional costs for an independent Scotland.

# Question for Phil 1

- **Research Councils UK:** *“Should there be a vote for independence the current system could not continue.”*
- **Jose Manuel Barroso, when President of the European Commission:** *It would be “extremely difficult, if not impossible” for a separate Scotland to join the European Union.*
- **Question:** *Where will Scottish Universities go for research funding?*



# Question for Phil 2

- Have the Yes Campaign promised more than they can deliver?
  - Free university tuition for all.
  - Fund university research.
  - Free childcare.
  - Free prescriptions.
  - Higher pensions.
  - Higher minimum wage.
  - Reduce corporation tax by 3%.
  - Cut air passenger duty.
  - Put a lot of oil revenues in a Sovereign Oil Fund.
- “It is hard to escape the conclusion that the Scottish Government’s view is that independence would give Scotland full control over the laws of arithmetic.” [Professor J D Gallagher *The Economic Case for Union*]
- “A wish list with no price list” [Alistair Carmichael, Scottish Secretary]
- **Question:** *Could an Independent Scotland really afford all of these?*