

# **Building a new Scotland**

## **A stronger economy with independence**

**Easy Read version**

The Scottish Government believes Scotland can be better if it becomes independent.



This paper is a short easy read version of the plans for a stronger **economy** with independence. You can view the full paper and supporting evidence here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-stronger-economy-independence/>



**Bold**

At the back of this paper there is a list of words and what they mean.

When the words appear in the paper you will see them in **bold**.



The Scottish Government believes that the way the United Kingdom (UK) Government manages the economy is not working for Scotland.

The UK economy has not created wealth as well as many other independent European countries.



The UK **economy** has concentrated wealth in London and the South-East of England.



The Scottish Government believes this means other parts of the UK are not as wealthy as they could be. This includes Scotland.



The Scottish Government wants to use the powers of independence to build a fairer and better **economy**.

Most voters in Scotland wanted to stay in the European Union (EU).



The Scottish Government could not stop **Brexit**.

**Brexit** has made it harder to trade and for people to come to work in Scotland.



In the future, Brexit could keep having a negative impact on Scotland.



There is evidence that many other independent European countries – comparable to Scotland - are happier, richer and fairer than the UK.

These countries are similar to Scotland and are very successful.



Scotland has the skills, people, resources and businesses to be as successful as them.



Scotland's **economy** has many strengths to build on.



Scotland has a lot of **natural resources**, including a lot of potential for producing renewable energy.



Scotland has a lot of people who are highly educated and skilled.



Scotland's **economy** is strong, partly because:

- food and drink, like whisky and salmon, are very popular across the world
- we have lots of renewable energy potential from things like wind power
- lots of tourists come to Scotland for holidays





The Scottish Government believes our economy would do better if we were independent.



The Scottish Government has a plan for Scotland becoming independent.



When it is the right time, Scotland would have an independent **currency**, the Scottish pound.



Until then we would keep using **sterling** for:

- buying things
- getting paid
- pensions

Scotland would have a new independent Scottish Central Bank.



The Scottish Central Bank would advise the Scottish Parliament on the right time to start using the Scottish pound.

The Scottish Parliament would take the final decision to do this.



The Scottish Central Bank would manage the new **currency**.



An independent Scotland would take a responsible approach to managing Scotland's public finances.



Scotland would agree to pay a share of the **UK** debt.



If Scotland becomes independent, the Scottish Government would build a new fund of up to £20 billion.



It would be built up with money from different sources, including oil and gas.

The fund would be used in the first 10 years of independence on building things to keep the country running well.



These include projects that:

- help to reduce climate change
- help our **economy** to grow in a fairer way
- build houses that more people can afford



The Scottish Government wants to apply to re-join the European Union (EU).



EU membership would mean people could work live and travel freely in the EU again.



Scotland would also continue to be part of something called the **Common Travel Area**. This would mean people in Scotland could move freely in:

- The UK
- Ireland
- The Channel Islands
- The Isle of Man



Being part of the EU again would make it easier for Scottish businesses to trade with Europe. It would also help to create jobs and wealth.

Being a member means we could be involved in existing and new trade deals.

Checks on some goods would happen between Scotland and the UK.



Checks would not happen between Scotland and the other 27 member countries.



Because of **Brexit** there are already some checks on goods going between the UK and Northern Ireland.

Being part of the EU again would mean we would not need as many checks on goods going between Scotland and Northern Ireland.



The Scottish Government would take action to make sure this works smoothly.



Scotland's renewable energy is important to our future **economy**.



If managed well, we would have low-cost energy produced from our natural resources for our homes and businesses.



Energy from our offshore windfarms could supply energy for Scotland.

It could also be sold to the UK and Europe.



An independent Scotland would be able to have a new **immigration** system. It would be based on Scotland's needs.



We could attract families to live and work here.



This would help our businesses to find the right people for the jobs.



This would also help parts of Scotland where there are fewer people living now.



The Scottish Government wants to have 1 single rate for the **national minimum wage**.

Unlike in the UK there would be no lower rate for young workers



There would be better and stronger workplace rights. Unfair work laws would be changed.



The Scottish Government believes that Scotland's economy has many strengths and huge potential.



Independence and membership of the EU can together make the most of our strengths and potential.



The Scottish Government believes that independence would help us build a stronger economy and a fairer society, both now and in the future.

## What the words mean.

<b>Brexit</b>	<b>The word used to describe the UK leaving the European Union.</b>
<b>The Common Travel area</b>	<b>The open borders for movement of people between the UK, Ireland, The Channel Islands and The Isle of Man.</b>
<b>Cost of living</b>	<b>The money we need to pay our bills and buy our food, clothes and other things we need.</b>
<b>Cyber security</b>	<b>How computers are protected from being attacked.</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>The type of money a country uses.</b>
<b>Economy</b>	<b>All of the activities involved in making, buying and selling of things in a country.</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Another word for money.</b>
<b>Immigration</b>	<b>People moving to live in another country.</b>
<b>Inflation</b>	<b>How we measure the price of things over time.</b>

<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>A system that makes a country work. This can be things like transport, communication, schools, hospitals.</b>
<b>National minimum wage</b>	<b>The amount of money set by government that employers must at least pay their employees.</b>
<b>Natural resources</b>	<b>Things like wind, sun and the sea that can be used to make power.</b>
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Plans that a government makes to run the country.</b>
<b>Social justice</b>	<b>Where everyone is treated equally and fairly and has the same rights as everyone else.</b>
<b>Sterling</b>	<b>The type of money that is used in the UK.</b>
<b>Trade deals</b>	<b>Agreements between countries. They set the rules for things like buying and selling goods and services. These help to make trade easier.</b>
<b>UK Debt</b>	<b>The total amount of money that the UK has borrowed to fund things like public services.</b>



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The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
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ISBN: 978-1-83521-207-3 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, July 2023

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS1336022 (07/23)

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