Scotland’s Future – Your Guide to an Independent Scotland sets out the case for independence and outlines the journey following a vote for independence on September 18th 2014.

Democracy, prosperity and fairness are the principles at the heart of the case for independence. This extract illustrates how independence will unleash new energy and opportunities for cultural and creative excellence to flourish.

Devolution has demonstrated the value we place on our culture, creative economy and historic environment for their intrinsic worth as well as for the wider benefits they bring. As most aspects of culture and heritage are already devolved we can be confident that it will continue to thrive. Scotland’s commitment to our culture and heritage is internationally recognised, notably by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and that will not change, whatever the outcome of the referendum.

Our national collections will continue to provide access to the very best of Scottish international arts, culture and history; while Scotland’s national performing companies will continue to bring first class performances to audiences across Scotland and to develop and showcase our talent on the world stage, with our ongoing direct support. A new, merged historic environment organisation will play a key role in delivering Scotland’s first ever historic environment strategy with partners.

Recognition for that which is distinctly Scottish, such as Gaelic and Scots, will continue to be encouraged along with the many diverse communities that now make up our modern Scotland. We will ensure that Scotland’s culture in its many forms are promoted nationally and internationally.

Our strong cultural delivery under devolution is well established; independence will provide a range of new opportunities, bringing new powers over broadcasting, the economy and international representation. We want Scotland to be increasingly recognised for its modern, creative and innovative industries and to be a nation whose culture enriches our lives, enhances our learning and strengthens both our society and our economy.

So in broadcasting we will increase production opportunities in Scotland through a new Scottish Broadcasting Service, to better reflect the nation to itself and the wider world, while ensuring that viewers and listeners continue to have access to all their current channels at no additional cost.
An independent Scotland will receive its fair share of Lottery funding and all decisions about the distribution of those funds will be made in Scotland, which will be more responsive to the needs of local communities.

With independence, Scotland will have new powers over the economy to encourage our culture and creative sectors. For example, with new powers over taxation, we can explore a VAT reduction on repairs and maintenance work, which would improve the condition of Scottish homes, protect our rich built heritage, and provide a stimulus to our building industry; and consider incentives to encourage screen production.

Scotland has a great opportunity to harness our people’s potential and energy towards the possibilities of creating and developing a new state. We have talented artists, innovative creative practitioners, expert conservators, dynamic performers and a variety of quality cultural and heritage activity. With independence we have the opportunity to see ourselves in different ways. Our culture and heritage can stimulate and inspire us to make a newly independent state which is an exciting place in which to be.

My strong belief is that culture and heritage are an intrinsic and public good that should be celebrated, nurtured and treasured. Independence means that important decisions for Scotland will be taken by the people who care most about Scotland: that is, by the people who live, work and create here. We have an opportunity on September 18th 2014 to build on Scotland’s existing creative prowess by harnessing new powers to develop our culture, heritage and creative industries.

Scotland’s Future – Your Guide to an Independent Scotland is available to view online at www.scotreferendum.com
Scotland's Future – Your Guide to an Independent Scotland

CHAPTER 9 – Culture (pages 307 – 321)

- Under independence, this Government will promote and support culture and heritage, both for their intrinsic value and for the benefits they contribute to Scotland.

- Under our proposals, a Scottish Broadcasting Service, providing TV, radio and online services, will be established as a publicly funded public service broadcaster, working with the BBC in a joint venture.

- On independence, the licence fee will be the same as in the rest of the UK, and all current licence fee payment exemptions and concessions will be retained.

- Existing licences for broadcasters in Scotland will be fully honoured.

- If this Government is re-elected in 2016, the Royal Mail will be brought back into public ownership in Scotland, with a commitment to existing service levels including the Universal Service Obligation.

- In telecommunications policy, our approach will give greater priority to improving geographic coverage, particularly in remote rural areas.

- Under our plans, the National Lottery will continue in Scotland, with Camelot retaining its licence as operator.
Why we need a new approach

Scotland’s strong and vibrant culture is one of our most enduring and powerful national assets. Our rich heritage gives Scotland its sense of place and underpins our understanding of our past, our present and our future. Scotland’s creative communities – our artists, writers, poets, dancers, directors, musicians and designers – provide new insights and drive forward new ideas. They help us see ourselves in new ways and present Scotland in its many dimensions to the wider world.

Culture and heritage are already the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament, and this Scottish Government has focused on promoting Scotland’s culture, creative industries and historic environment at home and internationally. For example, we have sought to protect these sectors from the level of cuts made in England by Westminster. This Government does not measure the worth of culture and heritage solely in money – we value culture and heritage precisely because they embody our heart and soul, and our essence.

Under independence, Scotland’s cultural strengths will be extended to other areas currently reserved to Westminster, including broadcasting. The BBC is one of the few bodies explicitly reserved in the Scotland Act 1998. However, despite the professionalism of BBC Scotland staff and management, survey evidence suggests that Scottish viewers and listeners register – at less than 50 per cent - the lowest level of satisfaction with BBC services recorded anywhere in the UK. Evidence also suggests that people in Scotland want more Scottish programming alongside access to the best from the rest of the UK and the wider world.

Broadcasting is a critical part of our creative industries, a key economic sector that is growing rapidly. In 2012, UK television exports are estimated to have grown by 4 per cent compared to the previous year, to £1.224 billion. It is an industry that provides skilled, well-paid employment with indirect benefits felt widely across our economy. The Scottish Government believes that much more can be achieved to boost the creative economy of Scotland.

Scotland currently stands far behind countries and regions of similar size in terms of the hours of original television production and employment by our national broadcaster. The Scottish Government has successfully pressed for increased production in Scotland: in particular, the share of BBC network production made in Scotland rose from 3 per cent in 2007 to 9 per cent in 2011, slipping slightly to 7.6 per cent in 2012. However, the money we contribute in licence fees should be doing more to service Scottish audiences, and to deliver jobs and opportunities here in Scotland for those involved in our creative sector and creative industries.

In 2011/12, BBC Scotland’s total expenditure was just over £200 million on all of its activities, compared to a contribution to licence fee income of £320 million from Scotland. BBC spending in Scotland is likely to fall to around £175 million by 2016 through the ‘Delivering Quality First’ programme.

The creation of BBC Alba in 2008, and its availability on digital television since 2011, marked a step change in Gaelic broadcasting. Its weekly audience figures of 637,000 demonstrate an appeal considerably beyond the Gaelic-speaking community, showing the benefit of the Scottish Government’s investment in the service.
In 2008, the Scottish Broadcasting Commission recommended the establishment of a Scottish Digital Network funded from licence fee resources. A greater level of Scottish public sector broadcasting would increase production in Scotland, reflect Scotland to itself, and increase plurality in publicly-funded public service broadcasting. The Westminster Government has not agreed to this proposal, and within the current constitutional settlement the Scottish Government has not been able to enhance Scottish public sector broadcasting.

Communications – telecommunications and mail services – are currently the responsibility of Westminster. As a result, the Westminster Government has gone ahead with plans to privatisate the Royal Mail, despite the overwhelming opposition of Scotland’s MPs and calls by the Scottish Government to postpone any sell-off until after the people of Scotland have had their say in next year’s referendum. This Westminster decision poses a direct threat to postal services in Scotland.

We have also felt the impact of other decisions in communications policy that did not take account of Scotland’s circumstances. When 3G mobile licences were auctioned in 2000, an initial coverage target of 80 per cent of the UK population was set. This was increased to 90 per cent of the UK population in December 2010. Despite the efforts of the Scottish Government, a distinct Scottish target was not set. Currently, 3G coverage in Scotland is the lowest of the four UK nations, reaching only 96 per cent on the most optimistic estimates. Furthermore, there is a disparity between urban and rural Scotland. Coverage in rural Scotland drops to as low as 92 per cent343, demonstrating that there will always be poorer coverage in rural areas unless these areas are given priority in allocating licences.

An independent Scottish Government would have been able to do more to deliver improved coverage for people across Scotland.
The opportunities available to Scotland
Scotland’s beauty, historic attractions and hospitality are famed across the world, and Scotland’s commitment to our culture and heritage enjoys international recognition, notably from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)\(^{344}\).

The inspiration and significance we draw from our culture and heritage, including Gaelic and Scots, are fundamental to shaping our communities and the places in which we live. Culture and heritage make our communities attractive places to live, work, invest and visit. They are powerful forces for both renewal and regeneration. Through their contribution to our social fabric, community cohesion and economic wellbeing, culture and the arts support better outcomes for healthier, safer and more resilient communities.

Scotland hosts more than 200 cultural festivals a year. The 2012 Global Culture Summit, held in Edinburgh and attended by 33 nations from across the world, demonstrated that Scotland can facilitate and shape international cultural dialogue. Scotland is home to five internationally celebrated World Heritage Sites. Sixty per cent of visitors to our best known attractions are from outside the UK. The Forth Bridge has been nominated as Scotland’s sixth World Heritage Site, a tribute to Scotland’s engineering and industrial legacy which is renowned around the world. Historic Scotland’s “Scottish Ten” laser-scanning project\(^{345}\) is promoting present-day Scottish heritage and technology on an international stage.

In 2014 Scotland will welcome the world for the Commonwealth Games, the Ryder Cup and the second year of Homecoming Scotland. Staging these major events demonstrates that Scotland is an international cultural and sporting centre and promotes our world-class facilities and attractions.

Scotland’s culture and heritage also make a valuable contribution to our economic and social wellbeing. For example, in 2011 creative industries generated £2.8 billion in gross value added for Scotland’s economy\(^ {346}\).

Our historic environment has been estimated to contribute £2.3 billion to our economy, supporting 60,000 jobs in the tourism and construction industries\(^ {347}\).

Scotland’s 360 museums and galleries attract approximately 25 million visitors a year and generate approximately £80 million for our economy whilst sustaining more than 4,400 jobs\(^ {348}\). A study of Edinburgh’s festivals in 2011 showed that they contributed over a quarter of a billion pounds to Scotland’s economy, supporting more than 5,000 jobs\(^ {349}\).

An independent Scotland will enable culture and heritage to flourish as a driver in our continued development and as an aspect of our everyday lives. The expression, celebration and development of our traditional and distinct Scottish culture will be given further impetus with independence. These strengths will also provide an independent Scotland with unique selling points as we look to promote Scotland internationally.

The Scotland we can create
The present Scottish Government has produced an ambitious cultural programme. We know that public funding of the arts is a fundamental good, and independence will provide the opportunity to take this to new heights. And with independence our cultural and creative life will flourish.
Culture and heritage can enrich and empower our communities, transforming places and lives, through projects like Sistema Scotland. Our national collections – the National Galleries of Scotland, the National Museum of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland – provide access to the best of Scottish and international arts, culture, and history. We have also created the first ever overarching Historic Environment Strategy to ensure that the people of Scotland gain the full benefit from our rich historic environment. We are establishing a new lead body to work collaboratively with local government, the third sector and private interests to place our historic environment at the heart of a flourishing and sustainable Scotland.

Culture, heritage and creativity also contribute significantly to our engagement with the world. We have maintained funding for orchestras, the National Theatre of Scotland, Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet, which all develop and showcase Scottish talent on a world stage. We support the outreach and educational work undertaken by our national companies and collections, and the development of our new National Conservation Centre which will revitalise and sustain traditional building skills.

We plan to create a secure future for Gaelic in Scotland by increasing the numbers learning, speaking and using Gaelic, through Gaelic education in all sectors and all stages such as early years, primary and secondary education. We will continue our support for the work of Bòrd na Gàidhlig in promoting the use of Gaelic in Scottish public, cultural and community life. In addition, we will maintain our support for MG ALBA, which has brought significant benefits for Gaelic.

Independence, bringing new powers over broadcasting, the economy and international representation, will provide a range of new opportunities. The process of becoming independent will in itself stimulate new creativity and energy in Scotland. We will have the eyes of the world upon us and there will be greater international interest in Scotland as we emerge as a state in our own right.

**Culture and broadcasting**

**The choices open to us**

In an independent Scotland we will build on our cultural ambitions for Scotland. Our approach has been, and will continue to be, distinct from that of Westminster in that we recognise the intrinsic value of culture and heritage in and of themselves. Our ambition is to build an independent nation where they can continue to flourish.

With independence Scotland will have new powers over the economy to encourage our culture and creative sectors. For example, with new powers over taxation, we can explore a VAT reduction on repairs and maintenance work.

An independent Scotland will enjoy increased opportunities to build our international reputation for culture, heritage and creativity. The development of a Scottish overseas diplomatic and trade network will provide Scotland with the opportunity to promote and share our culture and traditions with nations across the world. The winter festivals either side of Christmas – St Andrew’s Day, Hogmanay and Burns Night – are already internationally recognised, celebrated by the Scottish diaspora, and provide ideal platforms to develop Scotland’s public diplomacy abroad, whilst showcasing Scotland’s customs and produce to new audiences.
Independence will directly affect broadcasting, which is currently reserved to Westminster. The BBC’s current charter runs to 31 December 2016, after the planned date for independence in March 2016. Channel 3 and Channel 5 licences are being renewed to 2025. The Channel 4 licence is also likely to be renewed to 2025 in the near future. As part of the Channel 4 renewal process, the Scottish Government is pressing for increased production from Scotland more in line with our population share.

Scotland’s cultural life and heritage take many different forms, as diverse as the land, peoples and places of our country. Already they are being stimulated by the prospect of independence. As a nation we have the unique opportunity to build a society that nurtures and is nourished by songs, poems, stories, drama, dance, paintings and sculpture, and that welcomes people from all over the world to come, to inspire and to be inspired, to innovate and to create.

**Our priorities for action**

This Government’s immediate priority for broadcasting on independence will be to develop a broadcasting policy for Scotland based on three principles:

- there should be an increase in production opportunities for Scottish producers, and an increase in productions that reflect life in Scotland and of Scots
- Scottish viewers and listeners should continue to have access to all their current channels
- there should be no additional cost to viewers and listeners as a consequence of independence
Existing arrangements will therefore form the starting point for broadcasting services in Scotland. The licence fee payable in Scotland at the point of independence will be the same as the licence fee payable in the rest of the UK. All current licence fee payment exemptions and concessions, including those for people aged over 75 and for people who are sight-impaired, will be retained.

This Government will also respect existing charters and licences to broadcast when Scotland becomes independent.

We believe that Scotland’s publicly-funded public service broadcaster should strengthen our democracy and foster cultural production and participation. It should be a trusted, reliable, impartial source of information. It should reflect the diversity of the nation and our world to the people of Scotland, and should seek opportunities to collaborate beyond our borders to pioneer innovation in entertainment, education and journalism.

To deliver on these ambitions under independence, we plan to create a new public service broadcaster, the Scottish Broadcasting Service (SBS). The new broadcaster will initially be founded on the staff and assets of BBC Scotland, and will broadcast on TV, radio and online.

The SBS will offer a wide range of programming and content on TV, radio and online. It will reflect the variety of our nation in terms of geography, ethnicity, language, belief, lifestyle and taste. The SBS will be independent of government, impartial in its editorial view and given creative freedom in production. An expert panel will devise the SBS charter and propose governance arrangements to ensure that the SBS focuses on quality, serves the interests of the people of Scotland, and works in partnership with staff. These principles will subsequently be enshrined in legislation.

The SBS will inherit a proportionate share of the BBC’s commercial ventures, including BBC Worldwide Ltd, BBC Studios and Productions Ltd and BBC News Ltd,
and of their associated ongoing profits. Scotland’s population share of those profits ranges from around £13 million to £19 million per year.

The SBS will receive licence fee revenue from Scotland, which is of the order of £320 million; £13 million from BBC commercial profits; and around £12 million from the Scottish Government for Gaelic broadcasting – a combined total for publicly-funded public service broadcasting in Scotland of £345 million. By comparison RTÉ in Ireland spends approximately £286 million on providing full TV, radio and online services. The level of funding for public service broadcasting in Scotland means that there will be no necessity for the SBS to raise revenue from advertising. In addition, as the BBC’s spend in Scotland in 2016/17 is estimated to be only around £175 million, independence will mean almost doubling the level of public spending on public service broadcasting and production in Scotland.

The SBS will start broadcasting when the current BBC charter comes to an end on 31 December 2016. On TV, the SBS will begin with a new TV channel and take on the responsibility for BBC Alba. On radio, the SBS will begin with a new radio station in addition to taking on responsibility for Radio Scotland and Radio nan Gàidheal. The SBS will also provide online services, including a catch-up player and news website. Over time, the SBS will develop its services to reflect the broad interests and outlook of the people of Scotland.

Currently, BBC Scotland delivers a range of original programming for the BBC network. We propose that the SBS should enter into a new formal relationship with the BBC as a joint venture, where the SBS will continue to supply the BBC network with the same level of programming, in return for ongoing access to BBC services in Scotland. Through this new relationship between the SBS and the BBC, existing BBC services will continue, with the SBS having the right to opt-out of BBC 1 and BBC 2 – when appropriate – as BBC Scotland can already. Current programming like EastEnders, Doctor Who, and Strictly Come Dancing and channels like CBeebies, will still be available in Scotland.

The SBS will continue to co-commission, co-produce and co-operate with the BBC network. The SBS will commission or produce a share of BBC network original productions reflecting the Scottish population share, in terms of both hours and spending. These arrangements will shift commissioning power and resources from the BBC to Scotland, while providing continuity for the BBC, consistent with its recent moves to decentralise from London.

The SBS will be encouraged to explore the opportunities with other broadcasters for co-production and co-commissioning, beyond the joint venture agreement with the BBC, to build on the strengths that the Scottish production sector has in comedy, drama, natural history and factual entertainment programming.

BBC charters are generally set for 10 years, with the new charter due to begin on 1 January 2017. SBS co-operation on this basis with the BBC will be predicated upon there being a Westminster government that shares our commitment to publicly-funded public service broadcasting. Should it become clear in the future, potentially after the 2015 UK General Election, that there is a risk to the licence fee at Westminster, then the Scottish Government would establish a contractual agreement with BBC Worldwide Ltd to secure continued access to BBC Services for the people of Scotland. BBC channels are already broadcast live in Ireland, the Netherlands and Switzerland through contractual arrangements with BBC Worldwide.
Channel 4 is also a public service broadcaster, similar to the BBC although on a much smaller scale, but it is funded from privately raised funds from commercial exploitation of assets, as well as from advertising and sponsorship. Channel 4 currently commissions around 3 per cent of its original output from Scotland\textsuperscript{355}. Ofcom is currently consulting on Channel 4’s quota of programmes produced outside England, with a proposal that the volume could increase over time to a minimum of 9 per cent of original production by 2020\textsuperscript{356}.

Although on independence Channel 4 will have a licence extending to the end of 2024, this Government will work to ensure that a structure is in place by 2016 that recognises the need for an appropriate minimum level of original production, in terms of both value and hours, that reflects Scotland’s population size.

In Europe, there are examples of channels that operate across different countries, including those with public service obligations. For example, ARTE operates in Germany and France, with two shareholders, ARTE Deutschland and ARTE France, who each have a 50 per cent share of the group and provide 50 per cent of the content. One possible long-term model for Channel 4 might be a company part-owned by a Channel 4 Scotland which controls a shareholding proportion matching Scotland’s population share, with the number of hours and proportion of spend also matching this level.

We will also encourage inward investment in film and television production in Scotland, and use our new overseas network to promote Scotland as a location for film and television production. We plan to continue the existing fiscal incentives for such production, and, within the first term of an independent Scottish parliament, we propose to look at ways to encourage further development in the sector, through incentives, infrastructural investment and support for development, skills and training.

Regulation of broadcasting is currently carried out by Ofcom, which also regulates telecommunications and postal services. The Scottish Government proposes that the economic regulatory functions of Ofcom should be included in a combined economic regulator\textsuperscript{357}. Appropriate measures would also be put in place to recognise the cultural significance of broadcasting within Scotland’s new regulatory arrangements. An independent Scotland will also co-operate with the rest of the UK on managing the spectrum, just as Ofcom and Ireland’s ComReg co-operate at present.

**The National Lottery**

On independence the National Lottery will continue to operate in Scotland. People will still be able to play National Lottery games, and the infrastructure enabling them to do so will remain in place. At present the licence to run the National Lottery is held by Camelot Group plc, and is in place until 2023.

We will ensure that Scotland continues to receive our fair share of funding from the National Lottery. At present the Big Lottery Fund, sport\textsuperscript{scotland}, Creative Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund distribute good cause money across Scotland. However, many decisions are still made at a UK-wide level. In an independent Scotland, all decisions about the distribution of good cause money will be made in Scotland to ensure that the needs of local communities are met.
Questions and Answers

Culture and Broadcasting (pages 529 – 527)

462. What will happen to the BBC following independence?
The current Scottish Government proposes that BBC Scotland will become the foundation for the establishment of a publicly-funded, public service broadcaster – the Scottish Broadcasting Service (SBS). The existing BBC charter expires on 31 December 2016, and the SBS will begin broadcasting on TV, radio and online on 1 January 2017.

The SBS would replace the BBC in Scotland in joint ventures, including those related to Freeview and Freesat. The SBS would also take on the BBC’s role in the operation of relevant digital terrestrial television multiplexes in Scotland.

The SBS would also inherit a proportionate share of the BBC’s commercial ventures, including BBC Worldwide Ltd, and their associated ongoing profits.

463. Would the Scottish Broadcasting Service work with the BBC?
In addition to its own TV, radio, and online services, the SBS would seek to co-operate, co-produce and co-commission with the remaining BBC network where appropriate. Currently, BBC Scotland delivers a range of programming for the BBC network: the BBC aims for 8.6 per cent of its eligible original programming to come from BBC Scotland. We propose that the SBS enter into a new formal relationship with the BBC as a joint venture, where the SBS would continue to supply the BBC network with the same level of original programming, in return for ongoing access to BBC services in Scotland.

The new joint venture relationship with the BBC would allow the SBS to continue to have the right to opt out of BBC 1 and BBC 2, as BBC Scotland can currently. The maintenance of access to the BBC will ensure that the people of Scotland will still have access to current programming such as EastEnders, Doctor Who, and Strictly Come Dancing, and to channels like CBeebies.

464. Will I still get access to BBC channels following independence?
Yes. Under our proposals, a joint venture agreement between the SBS and the BBC would see all current BBC services available in Scotland continue, in addition to the TV, radio and online services provided by the SBS.

If it became clear in future that Westminster did not share our commitment to publicly-funded public service broadcasting, the Scottish Government would establish a contractual arrangement with BBC Worldwide Ltd to secure continued availability of BBC services in Scotland.

BBC channels that are available in the UK currently are also already available through different live transmission agreements in the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

465. Can Scotland afford a quality publicly-financed public service broadcaster after independence? Would advertising be necessary as in Ireland?
£320 million is raised annually in Scotland from licence fees alone, but, following the implementation of the BBC’s ‘Delivering Quality First’ initiative, the level of spend by the BBC in Scotland could be as low as £175 million in 2016/17. As a comparison the total annual cost of Ireland’s RTÉ is around £286 million.
In addition to the £320 million raised in licence fees in Scotland, around £12 million per year is made available by the Scottish Government for Gaelic broadcasting, and the Scottish proportionate share of profits of ongoing BBC commercial ventures is around £13 million to £19 million – approximately £345 million per year in total.

On this basis, SBS would be in a position to provide a high-quality publicly-funded public service broadcaster within the resources available, without seeking revenue from advertising.

466. **Would the TV licence fee have to rise in an independent Scotland?**
No. The existing licence fee would be inherited on independence and is sufficient to allow a high-quality SBS service on TV, radio and online.

In future, the funding of the SBS will be determined by the government of an independent Scotland in negotiation with the broadcaster.

467. **What would happen to STV in an independent Scotland?**
STV’s licence has been extended to 2025, and the current Scottish Government has been clear that existing licences will be honoured at the point of independence. Viewers in the south of Scotland will continue to be served by ITV’s Borders franchise, but as part of the conditions of the renewal of that licence, ITV will now be obliged to transmit different programming to the south of Scotland and the north of England so that viewers in the south of Scotland have the same access to news and current affairs coverage about Scotland as the rest of Scotland.

These arrangements will ensure that Scottish audiences can continue to access programming such as *Coronation Street* and *X-Factor*.

468. **What would happen to Channel 4 in an independent Scotland?**
At the point of independence, it is expected that Channel 4’s licence will have been extended to the end of 2024, and the established licence will be honoured. The current Scottish Government proposes to establish ownership arrangements of this public corporation which ensure that a Scottish population share of Channel 4 network original productions, by hours and by value, comes from Scotland.

469. **What would happen to Channel 5 in an independent Scotland?**
By the time Scotland becomes independent in March 2016, Channel 5’s licence will have been extended to 2025. The Scottish Government intends that following independence the existing licence will be honoured.

470. **What would happen to BSkyB and other private sector cable and satellite broadcasters in an independent Scotland?**
Our intention is that existing licences will be honoured until expiry. Because of the nature of satellite technology, broadcasting over that platform will remain identical in Scotland to that in the rest of the UK, just as is the case today across the UK and Ireland.

471. **What would happen to Gaelic broadcasting in an independent Scotland?**
The Scottish Government is committed to the continuation of the BBC Alba channel and Radio nan Gàidheal, under the auspices of the Scottish Broadcasting Service.

472. **What would happen to radio in an independent Scotland?**
Our intention is that existing licences for radio stations would be honoured until expiry.
473. Would the Scottish Broadcasting Service participate in charity fundraising drives such as Comic Relief and Children in Need?
Yes. The SBS will seek to co-operate with the BBC and the relevant charities to continue to involve the people of Scotland in these, and similar, established telethons.

474. Would the Scottish Broadcasting Service join the European Broadcasting Union (EBU)?
Yes. The SBS would seek membership of the EBU and would be an active and constructive partner in the organisation. As part of this participation, we would envisage the SBS engaging with some of the EBU competitions, including Scottish entries in the Eurovision Song Contest.

475. What will happen to cultural items related to Scotland and held in UK national collections in an independent Scotland?
Scotland currently owns a share of all UK national collections. The national museums and galleries in both London and Scotland all hold items from different parts of the UK and collections assembled from across the world. They have long-established arrangements for loans, exchanges and partnerships, which will be able to continue when Scotland becomes independent.

476. What will happen to Historic Scotland in an independent Scotland?
The Scottish Government intends that, following independence, Historic Scotland, or its successor body, will continue to provide the skills, services and visitor operations that it does at present. The merger between Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland is intended to ensure the sustainability of the functions of both organisations.

477. Will the historic environment be managed differently in an independent Scotland?
Management of the historic environment is already within the control of the Scottish Parliament.

478. What will happen to World Heritage Sites in an independent Scotland?
World Heritage Sites are recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as places of internationally significant cultural or natural heritage. There are currently five World Heritage Sites in Scotland – the Antonine Wall, Heart of Neolithic Orkney, New Lanark, the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh, and St Kilda, with a nomination for the Forth Bridge currently being developed. Their status will not change as a result of independence.

Future Scottish governments will continue to be able to nominate Scottish sites for world heritage status in an independent Scotland, and Historic Scotland, or its successor body, will continue to monitor the management of existing sites.

479. Will tax incentives for cultural donations continue in an independent Scotland?
The tax system in place immediately before independence will be inherited at that time. After that, decisions on the tax system and all specific taxes – including tax rates, allowances and credits – will be made by the parliament and government of an independent Scotland.
480. **What will happen to grants awarded under the Department of Culture, Media and Sport’s Listed Places of Worship Scheme in an independent Scotland?**
The Listed Places of Worship Scheme, which is administered by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, provides grants in respect of VAT costs incurred for eligible repairs, maintenance and alterations to places of worship across the UK. The current Scottish Government proposes that a similar scheme should operate in an independent Scotland, and will consider extending the scheme to benefit the repair and maintenance of all listed buildings.

481. **Will an independent Scotland honour existing international treaties, agreements and conventions around culture and heritage?**
Yes. The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that, as an independent nation, Scotland will continue to meet all legal obligations that flow from its membership of international organisations and that it will continue with treaty rights and obligations. Where the UK has not signed or ratified international treaties, there will be opportunities to explore whether an independent Scotland would ratify these. The current Scottish Government is in favour, for example, of ratifying the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as Scotland’s songs, dance and stories are as important as our castles, palaces and monuments.

482. **What role will culture and heritage play in an independent Scotland?**
Culture and heritage will continue to be valued in and of itself as the heart, soul and essence of a flourishing Scotland, as well as for the wider social and economic benefits that it brings to individuals, communities and the nation.

An independent Scotland will continue to nurture and promote our culture and heritage sector, so that it can inspire and enrich lives both here and internationally.

483. **Will we have the power to reduce VAT on repair and maintenance work to dwellings in an independent Scotland?**
Independence will enable the Scottish Parliament to explore a reduction in VAT on repairs and maintenance work to homes as part of wider taxation priorities.

Powers over VAT, currently exercised by the Westminster Government, will transfer to the Scottish Parliament as a result of independence. The tax system in place immediately before independence will be inherited at that time. Thereafter decisions on the tax system and all specific taxes – including tax rates, allowances and credits for VAT and other taxes – will be made by the parliament and government of an independent Scotland.

484. **Will we need to give up specific Scottish cultural and heritage archival documents or acquire them from the UK National Archives?**
Archives across the world hold all sorts of material relating to other countries. Cross-UK advisory bodies on archives — such as the National Archives – have in practice only a limited role in Scottish terms.

**National Lottery**

485. **Will the National Lottery continue to operate in an independent Scotland?**
Yes, that is the current Scottish Government’s intention. People will still be able to play National Lottery games, and the infrastructure enabling them to do so will remain in place.
Scotland will continue to receive a fair share of ticket sales to support good causes. Following independence, all decisions about the allocation of Scotland’s share of funds will be taken in Scotland, ensuring that money raised from lottery ticket sales is used to respond to the needs of Scotland’s local communities.

486. **Will I still be able to play the National Lottery?**
Yes. This Government proposes that people will still be able to play National Lottery games, and the infrastructure enabling them to do so will remain in place.

487. **Who will operate the National Lottery in Scotland?**
At present, the licence to run the National Lottery is held by Camelot Group plc, and is in place until 2023. The Scottish Government does not intend to change this arrangement.

488. **Will there be a Scottish Lottery? If so how will it operate?**
There are no current plans to establish a distinct Scottish Lottery. Any decisions to do so will be the responsibility of a future Scottish government, and will be subject to the usual processes of consultation and consideration. Future Scottish governments would have the powers to establish a Scottish Lottery if there was a demand for it or in support of specific events.

489. **In an independent Scotland, what arrangements will be in place to distribute funds to Scottish good causes?**
The present Scottish Government’s approach would be to ensure that Scotland receives its fair share of lottery funding and to ensure that all decisions about how good cause funds are distributed and allocated will be taken in Scotland.

490. **Will being independent enable the same amount of money to be generated for good causes?**
There is no reason to anticipate that this would differ because of independence. The level of available funds depends on a number of factors, including the number of ticket sales and the price of those tickets.

However, there are currently no rules in place guaranteeing Scotland any fixed proportion of National Lottery funds and the lottery operator does not publish information on ticket sales in Scotland. Independence would mean that future Scottish governments will be in a position to work with the lottery operator to ensure Scotland continues to receive a fair share of funding.

491. **What will happen to the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland?**
The Big Lottery Fund is the largest distributor of Lottery good cause money in Scotland and we propose that it will continue this role after independence.

492. **How will Lottery funding for heritage be distributed?**
The Scottish Government’s proposal is to build upon the good work of the Heritage Lottery Fund team based in Scotland and to give them full responsibility for the allocation and distribution of the Scottish share of lottery funding for heritage good causes. They will initially operate under a suitable shared governance system, building on the work of the current Scottish Regional Committee.
493. What will happen to Scotland’s share of Lottery funding for the arts and film and for sport in Scotland?
Under the arrangements we propose, Scotland’s share of Lottery funding for the arts and film will be distributed by Creative Scotland and for sport by sportscotland, as they are now.

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232. What will independence mean for Gaelic?
Gaelic has been a continuing element in Scottish heritage, identity and history for many centuries. Gaelic has official recognition and it is an increasingly visible part of Scottish public life reaching into education, the arts, media and broadcasting. In an independent Scotland, Gaelic will have a central place in Scottish public life.

233. What would the priorities be for Gaelic in an independent Scotland?
Our aim as a government would be to continue to reverse the decline of Gaelic in Scotland. The most recent Census has demonstrated that initiatives in support of Gaelic have significantly slowed down the decline of the language. Policy and resources would continue to be directed to the priority of increasing the numbers speaking, learning and using the language.

234. Will Gaelic be recognised as an official language in an independent Scotland?
In Scotland, Gaelic has a significant level of official support from the Scottish Government. Official recognition for Gaelic is also provided by the 2005 Gaelic Act. In an independent Scotland this official recognition would be confirmed and maintained.

235. Will there be more support for the Scots Language in an independent Scotland?
The 2011 Census, for the first time, provided information on the numbers of Scots speakers. This information, in an independent Scotland, will assist in developing policy and promoting the use and status of the Scots language and supporting communities that speak Scots.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE DEBATE
You can access Scotland’s Future – Your Guide to an Independent Scotland and keep up to date with the Scottish Independence Referendum and all the latest news through our Referendum website at www.scotreferendum.com
Endnotes


344. Glasgow is a UNESCO City of Music, Edinburgh is the world’s first designated UNESCO City of Literature, and Scotland is home to five UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with the Forth Bridge due to be nominated as a sixth in 2014.


351. http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/05/1373/0


354. The arrangement could be similar to STV and ITV or that between the German broadcaster Arbeitsgemeinschaft der öffentlich-rechtlichen Rundfunkanstalten der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (ARD) and regional public service broadcasters in Germany.


