

Planning to use your vote in the  
forthcoming

**INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM?**



**SOME HISTORICAL  
THINGS WORTH  
KNOWING BEFORE  
YOU DECIDE**

Particularly if you are under 30

A handy guide  
for the  
Don't Knows

## ***MONEY - Are the answers that important to you?***

Big arguments. Can we use the pound? What will happen to pensions? To the average man in the street, these questions are basically a total irrelevance.

Yes, the politicians argue, but that is grandstanding. Look behind the façade.

The pound sterling is an internationally tradeable currency, so no-one can stop us using it. To you, the man in the street, the arguments are about whether or not the Bank of England will be what is known as the lender of last resort.

Way above our heads and not a decision that any of us on the street can make. The financial services will not lose out, you can be sure of that. Note however that when Ireland became independent, Westminster stated that it was NOT to be treated as a foreign country, and it continued to use sterling for many years, as do the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, both dependencies of the Crown but independent of Westminster. Even the Falkland Islands peg their currency to sterling.

Why should Scotland be any different?

Businesses are naturally worried, but if they ignore the rhetoric, and look at the historical facts, their fears are groundless.

The Scottish Government wants to retain the pound. It also wants to go into the EU. It has a ban on nuclear commercial power generation.

So what? After independence we can vote in a government with different ideas. We may for example decide to set up our own currency. The important fact here is that unless we vote **YES**, we can't do anything. Nothing. Zilch. We will remain under the heel of the City of London jackboot for ever.

If you have any doubts about just how much the City of London abuses its position, or how financially beneficial for Scotland independence can be, I suggest that you obtain and read a copy of 'MOVING ON' by Andy Anderson and Ronnie Morrison. (Available on Amazon)

London financial centres versus the common weal. They are so incompatible. I would say that it is impossible to read that book and still vote NO. Try it!

## ***PENSIONS - what will really happen?***

Once again, the problem for the man in the street is not the same as the ones he hears about from the financial sector. As a pensioner myself, I certainly am not worried.

The State Pension is payable to me, by Westminster, for the rest of my life, regardless of independence. The argument is quite simple. I have paid into the Westminster pot all my life. The Westminster pot owes me.

If I decided to go to live in France or the Algarve or even the good ol' US of A, Westminster would continue to pay my pension. That is a fact. So living in an independent Scotland makes no difference.

There may be a difference to welfare 'add ons' such as pension credits, but that will not happen until the two governments have come to agreement over welfare funding and other associated aspects.

I personally believe that benefits in Scotland will improve in time, but there is certainly nothing for me to worry about.

For those coming up towards their pension, the same applies, until such times as there is agreement between the two countries.

Pension providers such as Standard Life do a lot of shouting, but what you are hearing is really personal preferences from fat cats who are afraid of losing their seats in City of London boardrooms. It will make no difference to their trading. Standard Life for example already trades in more than twenty countries, so work it out for yourself.

Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling warn that our pensions will be damaged.

First question.

Do you think that either of those people know more about financial matters than you do yourself?

They know how to line their own pockets, but their time in government shows that

- a) they can't count, and
- b) they don't actually care about you and me.

So vote **YES** and stop that pair getting a knighthood and £350 a day expenses from the taxpayer.

## ***But can Scotland afford to go it alone?***

Many years ago, in the 1970's, before devolution, Scotland's particular finances were worked out for the first time. They looked at the figures for the 1960's, a time when everyone believed that Germany and Japan were the world's largest exporters.

In terms of volume, they probably were, but per capita was a different story.

In the 1960's, the UK's exports per capita were still about ten times as much as Japan's, but the striking figure was that the value of Scotland's exports were five (yes 5) times greater than England's.

So what has happened since then.

Well we no longer build merchant ships, or dig very much coal, but our fish exports have risen to more than £500,000,000 per annum. Our food exports have risen by about the same amount.

In the 1960's there was very little tourism, now it is big business. We may not build ships but our engineering design expertise is in demand everywhere. We have a brand new export IT games industry, and advances by universities/pharmaceutical companies which have also joined the ranks of exporters.

There are small businesses up and down the land now, and through the facility of the internet, exporting like mad, from unique beers to hand made chocolates.

So why are exports so important?

The basis for any economy is the ability to feed itself. If you cannot feed yourself you HAVE to import food. Unlike England, Scotland can feed itself. (Porridge may be boring, but you can survive on it). In financial terms this means a surplus which can be used to import the bananas we want without causing a financial imbalance. An independent Scotland would not have a balance of payments problem.

And of course our population size is about the same as it was then, so where is the argument?

Sorry, did I forget to mention oil and whisky?

Westminster currently receives all the taxes and benefits gained from these activities. To waste on Trident and illegal wars.

## *Subsidy Junkies?*

Too wee, too poor, too stupid, etc., etc. We have heard it all before. England supports us financially. Oh yeah?

Let us get something straight. **England DOES NOT subsidise us.**

England sends us money, through the Barnett Formula and other mechanisms, because England takes all the money in the first place.

Do you pay income tax? You pay it to Westminster

Do you pay Corporation tax? You pay it to Westminster

Do you pay VAT? You pay it to Westminster

Do you pay car tax? You pay it to Westminster

Had a speeding fine lately? You paid that to Westminster

Obtained a licence for your TV? You paid that to Westminster

See all those fish farms and oil rigs? They pay their licence fees to Westminster. And their taxes.

And then Westminster argues over how much you can get back. That's sick, but its the way it is.

The government publishes a document every year called the Government Expenditure and Review Scotland (or GERS for short) It shows how the money was raised and spent. (You can probably see a copy in your local library).

For the past few years it has unremittingly shown that Scotland is in surplus, and has paid over £10billion per annum into the Westminster coffers. That is:- £10billion more than it has received.

Some subsidy junkies, eh?

How long has that been going on. I don't know. Too long. But it has to stop. Why is the Scottish Government having to find the funding for the upgrading of the A9 (which 300 years of Westminster government have failed to do) while my taxes go to pay for the London Crossrail project?

Just another example of how we, the subsidy junkies, are being taken for mugs. You can of course vote **YES** and put a stop to this inequality.

## ***EDUCATION - That really is important, isn't it?***

Educating our young people so that they can earn their keep and be a credit to their family and community is perhaps one of our most basic ideals.

Many years ago the Scottish Education System was the envy of the world. There are many examples of this, but perhaps the easiest to describe would be the post-war recruiting posters for the armed services.

Become an officer in the Royal Air Force or Royal Navy. What kind of officer doesn't matter. It's the entry requirements which should be noted.

*"Must have 'A' levels in English, Maths, Physics and at least two 'O' levels in unrelated subjects, **or a Scottish Leaving Certificate.**"*

That says it all.

Left wing politicians did not like selectivism, which pushed the bright pupils up the ladder, although they were quite happy to take advantage of it, aka G. Brown, A. Darling, etc. Many miners and fishermen I knew had their 'highers'.

The English system however was in disarray, so Shirley Williams invented the 'Comprehensive System', which was in effect the reverse of the Scottish system, in that it forced the bright pupil down to the level of the class dunce. She, privately educated, did not like grammar schools, the nearest England had to the Scottish system, so she did her best to abolish them.

Labour and Lib Dems being in power in Westminster, we got a version of the English system. Before that we never had illiterate pupils leaving school.

I am not advocating change to the education system for the sake of change, although I am advocating stability, and I acknowledge that the Scottish education system is separate from that south of the border, but to believe it is not heavily influenced by Westminster politics is like living in la-la land, and this has to stop.

Politics must be taken out of education. It will be a long haul, but it is more likely to happen in a free and independent Scotland than one in which politicians with an eye on the Westminster gravy train are involved.

For the sake of your children, and your children's children's education, you must vote **YES**

## ***TRIDENT - Do we need it ?***

During the Cold War period Russia was a real and immediate threat. There is no doubt that the presence of a UK nuclear arsenal was one of the West's most effective deterrents, but it was never really independent.

The biggest deterrent factor was probably the fact that President Kennedy showed Russia that he was prepared to use it.

But the Cold War is over now, and it is pretty obvious that a UK independent (?), but Scottish based, nuclear deterrent has about as much deterrence effect on Iran, Pakistan, or North Korea from striving to gain nuclear weapons, as a chocolate teapot has on a motorbike. It certainly never stopped Israel and India who now have atomic weapons.

Putin does not seem particularly bothered either, with his antagonistic attitude towards Crimea and the Ukraine.

Regardless of history, Trident, and the UK submarine 'bomber' fleet, have now therefore reached the end of their useful life, and any further expenditure has become just a waste of money.

So why does Westminster want to keep it?

Power.

That is the short answer. The long answer is that politicians are politicians because they crave power. Some just to be known as important people, but some want to be known as *really* important people. A 'shrinking violet' would not last a week in politics, particularly the bear pit of Westminster.

Without Trident, England (read Westminster) will lose its position in the UN Security Council and other international bodies. Not immediately perhaps, but certainly soon. This is anathema to Cameron and his cohorts.

We all want to advance our lives, and improve the wellbeing of ourselves and our family, but when you are born with a silver spoon in your mouth, money is not much good to you.....but power!

That's why the Establishment wants to keep Trident. It's an aphrodisiac. Scotland does not need it. Scotland can't afford it, either financially or aesthetically.

Vote **YES** to get rid of Trident.



## ***If Britain does need Trident, why is it based in Scotland?***

It is assumed by many that Faslane was chosen for the UK's nuclear base because it offered the best options. But the best for whom? The nuclear fleet was based at Faslane and repaired at Rosyth.

But the MP for Plymouth (which already had a large naval base) complained that Scotland was getting all the work and Plymouth was getting left out.

So Westminster spent hundreds of millions kitting out Plymouth to handle the nuclear repair work. This despite being told by the experts that the sea bed there was unsuitable for large scale building works and that it would cost twice as much just to stabilise it.

They then looked into moving the actual naval nuclear base to Plymouth, but that didn't happen. The base remained at Faslane, with warhead storage at Coulport, and now the Unionists argue that it should always be there.

Would that by any chance be because a study conducted on behalf of Westminster reported that if there was a nuclear accident at Plymouth a large number of people within a fifty mile radius would be affected?

Glasgow is only twenty miles from Faslane, so its OK if they get nuked. Scottish people don't matter. Cornwall and Devon will be safe.

You may also have noticed that Rosyth is now just used for storing redundant and decommissioned nuclear boats. Just a handy nuclear dumping facility. There appears to be little or no concern about the safety of citizens in Fife in the event of a nuclear accident. Is this fair?

If you vote NO, the people of Scotland will continue to be at risk. That means you, and your children, and your grandchildren.

Think about it - please.

Just what does equality mean in the UK?

If you live in Scotland, Westminster will ensure that you have an equal opportunity to get nuked by an attacker, or irradiated from rusting hulks. They may even give you the opportunity to be irradiated while walking on a beach at Dounreay, or Dalgety Bay from material so kindly dumped for us by the MOD.

Who says we live in an unequal society?

## ***Employment Opportunities - Are they really equal?***

The MOD will not give Govan contracts - Scottish companies will flee south of the border.

Are these statements new, or do they add anything to the existing situation? Since we have been discussing Trident, let us continue along that theme.

Long before Faslane was upgraded to a submarine base, something happened which amply illustrates just how Westminster and the MOD view Scotland and the Scots.

After the settling down of the re-organisations required at the end of the war, there were two shipyards left in the UK which specialised in submarine building. One was Cammell-Laird of Birkenhead & Barrow, and the other was Scotts of Greenock.

The MOD had made a decision that they were going to build three nuclear submarines. Two would be built in England, and one in Scotland.

At the time, Scotts were just finishing off some existing contracts, and there was a time lag between the end of the work in hand and the commencement of the new nuclear submarine contract.

Scotts, being conscientious employers, decided that it would make more sense to find work for as many of their staff as possible during the gap period, rather than lay people off and lose their skills, so they dipped into their own funds. They set their joiners to making sheds, their painters to helping in the community, etc. They tried to keep everyone in work.

Then, presumably having been given the drawings by the MOD, they started work on laying the keel of a new submarine, confident that the work was coming. Westminster had said so.

Then came the hammer blow. One of the submarines would be cancelled. Only two would be built.

Fairness and equality tells you that if there are only two, then you would share the work between the two yards, one each. Not a bit of it. Cammell-Laird got both boats.

So Camell-Laird built up their submarine business in Barrow-in-Furness, where it has to be admitted, they have created a centre of engineering excellence.

## *So how can anything be considered equal?*

Where is Scotts of Greenock now? Where are all the shipbuilding jobs? The whole of Ayrshire and Renfrewshire treated as second class citizens, and a nation so used to being the underdog, that no-one complained. Bute & North Ayrshire were represented by the Tories at that time, so no-one stood up to argue the case.

When my own sons left school, in common with thousands of others they also were in due course forced into going south to look for work. They shouldn't have had to. Any self respecting national government would have made sure that there were equal opportunities throughout the land. But we know they didn't.

Back in the late 60's and early 70's a company called Willam Press was working all over England installing pipelines for natural gas distribution, coming from the North Sea installations off Yarmouth and in Morecambe Bay. These pipelines did not at that time come into Scotland, and even now, fifty years on, only the main Scottish cities are connected into the 'grid'. Places like Caithness and Argyll rely on tanker deliveries. Meanwhile Scottish North Sea products are of course delivered direct into facilities in the Tyne/Tees area. A very equal distribution of assets!

But this is not a one-off. Over the last seventy years since the end of WW2, Scotland has been asset stripped. Big, strong, substantial Scottish businesses were bought over by English money and production moved south.

Examples?

Try Keiller's of Dundee, McDougall's Flour, Beattie's Biscuits, J P Coates Threads, Singer Sewing Machines, the Scottish Co-op's manufacturing facility at Shieldhall, Paterson's Oatcakes, Camp Coffee. The list goes on and the jobs went as well.

Even the media.

Scottish Daily Express. Scottish Daily Mail, etc. Titles which used to be printed and published in Glasgow, but now are printed in Manchester. Nothing to do with the modern digital set-ups. Computers had never been heard of when these moves happened.

Is this equality? Or Big Brother?

Even now we can put a stop to it. Vote **YES**

## ***And another thing***

The average Englishman thinks that he subsidises Scotland, and that Scotland is a millstone around England's neck. In that case you may ask why they are so determined to hold on to us.

Is it part of a desire by the MOD to keep the North of Scotland "*the nearest equivalent we have to a third world country*"? For those who have not heard this statement before, it is the reason which was given by the MOD for holding its annual massive NATO exercises which cover an area from Peterhead to Cape Wrath.

But there are many more subjects in which we are being diddled. For example, are you aware that back in the early sixties there was a fishing war between Scotland and England?

Fish were getting scarce in the English Channel and the South West Approaches. I do not know what caused the fish shortage. Perhaps over fishing. Perhaps environmental issues. But whatever, the cry went up from the English, "Those Jock boats are stealing our fish!"

Now deep sea trawlers apart, in general English boats in the south are quite small things which can be drawn up on the beach at night, and all they generally catch is 'tiddlers' to coin a phrase.

Further west at Brixham in Devon however there were what were called Brixham Trawlers, which were much bigger boats, but still small compared with Scottish boats, and still, in general, just inshore fishermen, going home every night. As any Scot knows however, Scottish boats, even just seine netters, are larger, more powerful, and are capable of spending days at sea.

Now if we are a United Kingdom, we are all subjects of Her Majesty the Queen and even if subjectively there are differences in rank between us, we are all equal citizens. We are therefore all entitled to sail, and therefore fish in the same places, and cannot steal what is rightfully ours.

But that is not the way Westminster saw it. They drew a line on the map from roughly the mouth of the Tweed out towards Denmark and said, "South of this line are English waters. North of it are Scottish waters. Scottish boats are banned from English waters."

And then we struck oil....

And the line was rubbed out.

## ***But that's not all.***

How about this?

In 1999 Tony Blair **secretly** made 6,000 sq miles of Scotland's seas into English seas by moving Scotland's marine boundaries (remember the line they drew and rubbed out) from Berwick-upon-Tweed up to Carnoustie.

Go fishing about ten miles offshore from North Berwick or Eyemouth and you are fishing in England. Sail from the Firth of Forth and a few miles out you are in England! (And of course subject to English law).

The shocking thing about this secret order is that it was not openly discussed in the House of Commons. It went on through the House of Lords, and was then passed by a very select Labour and Lib-Dem committee in the Scottish Office.

Who cares about an old 1707 Treaty of Union? Just ignore it.

This unjust act, secretly passed, without the consent of the Scottish people, took 15% of oil and gas revenues out of the Scottish sector of the North Sea and £2.2 billion out of the Scottish economy.

This lost revenue is more than the proposed £35 Billion Scottish budget cuts for the next 15 years (£2.16 Billion per year)

And Elizabeth, head of the House of Windsor, signed it off! Queen of Scots? David Steele should even now be apologising to us for his faux pas in addressing her as such at the opening of Holyrood, but he won't be, because he is a Liberal - i.e the Party of Home Rule (something else the Anglophiles have forgotten). I'm generally a monarchist, but I find that one hard to thole.

Would they have done that to the English? Or do they only do it to second class idiots?

And then there is the McCrone report.

Do you really want this thievery and inequality to continue, or will you stand up and be counted with the rest of us who will be voting the only way sensible people can by voting

**YES**

## ***So who are the nay-sayers?***



***Chief hypocrite of the No campaign, this lawyer proved that he was absolutely useless as an accountant, left us deep in debt, yet continues to tell us that an independent Scotland would struggle financially. As if he would know!***



***This politico, possibly the worst prime minister the UK has ever had, was happy to take us into illegal wars, happy to oversee the rise of irresponsible bankers, happy to raise taxes for working people. Can you trust him or his arguments? I can't.***



***Great publicity made over this man's visits to Glasgow, particularly Easterhouse where he "learned a lot" which he used to formulate the bedroom tax. Worth listening to? I don't think so.***



***Do you even know who he is? Don't worry, most people wouldn't recognise the Shadow Scottish Secretary. Known best for claiming more than £3,000 on MPs' expenses for cameras, photographers and photo-editing computer software to take hundreds of pictures of himself. Nuff said!***

There are others. They all have skeletons in their cupboards. If all their brains were put in a bucket there wouldn't be enough for a half-wit. Imagine buying a second hand car from any of them!

# Still Don't Know?

## Then look about you

Westminster does not give a toss about Scotland. Our only use over the past 300 years has been to supply cannon fodder and a place for the toffs to go grouse shooting. (Oh! And oil).

Boris and Farage have both stated publicly that they will not honour the pledges for more devolved powers currently being given out by the Unionists. Even the "respected" Sir Ian Wood has now been shown to be a member of the Department of Dirty Tricks (Newsnet.com 22/8/14).

So

You can vote NO and continue to be a second class citizen, or you can be sensible, stand up for yourself, and the rest of us. Use your vote, and use it wisely.

For Scotland, and our children's children, vote YES. Please.

This document is produced and distributed privately and does not necessarily reflect the statements or position of the official YES campaign

**Agree? Disagree?**

**Just want to know more?**

**To continue any of these argument(s), or ask  
me any further questions**

**I can be contacted on**

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**all *sensible* questions answered**



*Alba gú Brath*

