

Building a New Scotland

An independent Scotland's place in the world

Easy Read version



Independent Scotland's place in the world



This paper is about the Scottish Government's plans for an independent Scotland. As an independent country, we would build strong relationships with other countries around the world.



The paper also shows how an independent Scotland would defend and protect our country.



An independent Scotland would act according to our values, interests and principles. We would work with other countries to try and solve the world's problems.

Defence, peace and security in an independent Scotland



This paper sets out how an independent Scotland would provide for the defence and security of its people.



An independent Scotland would have its own armed forces. This means we could defend against threats that might affect us.



An independent Scotland would have a strong defence and security relationship with the UK and Ireland.



We would apply to join NATO and the European Union. We would work with them on security and defence, building relationships with other countries.



NATO is an international organisation which brings together the governments and armed forces of different countries to keep the peace and protect each other.



An independent Scotland would only take part in overseas military action if it follows the law. And it would have to be approved by Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament.



This Scottish Government believes that following independence, nuclear weapons should be removed from Scotland in the safest and fastest possible way.

An independent Scotland as a good global citizen



Scotland is already doing what it can to be a good global citizen. We are working with others to tackle poverty, climate change and threats to human rights and equality.



An independent Scotland could do even more to help the world's poorest countries including providing financial aid and sharing our expertise.



Scotland would also be able to do more to help solve the environmental crisis. And we could work with other countries to improve global access to vaccines and to fight poverty.



An independent Scotland could be part of international agreements that match our values and interests.

Networks for the future



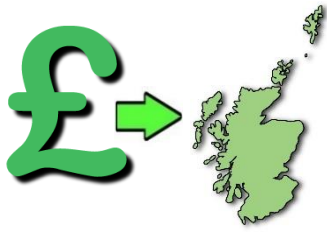
With independence, we would work with our partners around the world. We would also build new networks.



Independence would mean Scotland having its own Embassies and networks, helping Scots when they travel overseas and supporting Scottish businesses.



An independent Scotland would work to promote and protect Scottish values and interests around the world.



This would be good for travel, trade and people investing money in businesses in Scotland.

Conclusion



Independence would let Scotland strengthen its relationships with countries on these islands and around the world.



We would work with new partners for the security and success of the people of Scotland and to help solve world-wide problems.



Scotland already plays its part as a citizen of the world, as much as we can. With independence, we could do more as an equal partner with others in the world community.



© Crown copyright 2024



Copyright images © Photosymbols

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-83601-020-3 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, March 2024

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1407655 (03/24)

W W W . g o v . s c o t