

# THE PROSPECTUS FOR AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND

## LOOKING AHEAD

A Master Strategy  
implementable  
immediately  
following a  
successful vote  
for Independence



# **THE PROSPECTUS FOR AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND**

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

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*To Fellow Scots and our Friends  
who want to follow our Nation beyond Independence*



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*“The reawakening of the Scottish National conscience  
is vital to the endurance of Western Civilisation”* (Compton McKenzie 1929)

# Preface

*“The best way to predict the Future is to create it”* (Denis Gabor)

Since the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 it has been the constitutional principle in Scotland that the people are the supreme sovereign authority. This is quite different from England where the Parliament in Westminster has this power.

In 2019, against the wishes of some 62% of the Scottish population, we may be taken out of the European Union where we have had cultural, social and economic ties for centuries and, most importantly, peace at last for 70 years.

Like the 2013 White Paper and the Growth Report, five years later this Prospectus takes a detailed look at the future once independence has been achieved.

There the similarity ends – this synopsis is full of realistic and practical proposals whereas the above reports were largely defensive (retaining Sterling as Scotland’s currency and the oppressive burden of debt associated with it, doesn’t help our case).

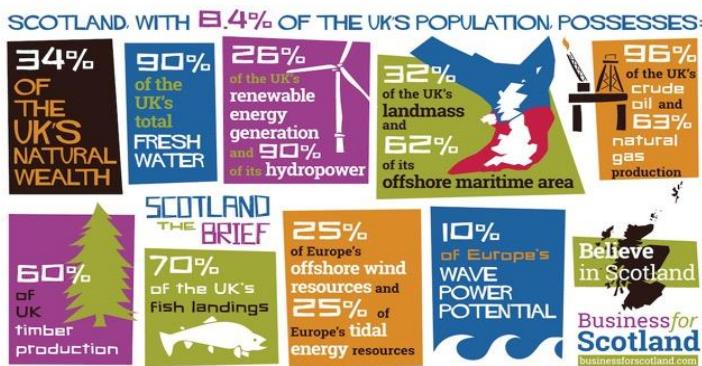
Some Scots today may see independence as being a seamless change from the UK status quo, but much grassroots support is based upon Scotland being a rather different, exciting place and with much higher, fairer social and economic ambitions.

That is what you will read about in this prospectus. However everything in it comes with a proviso – each proposal is subject to close analysis and secure voting on the platform of public consultation around a written Constitution.

If for no other reason than to acquaint yourself with the concept of participatory government [19] and how government can be done in the digital age of the Internet, this approach examines a number of key issues, which have aroused interest.

The Scottish Government is already making the sovereign decisions on over 60% of Scotland’s public services.

Scotland is rich in natural (22) and human resources, which are hugely underutilised; a future with full employment and with equal rights in employment, decent living wages, and with sufficient housing IS achievable under a managed economy, as they WERE achieved between 1955 and 1961.



Within a strategy for growth in the competitive global markets, Scotland, an importing and exporting trading nation, will require Government to maintain an environment necessary to attract new inward investment; to grow our economy, to create jobs, to expand exports and to assist businesses to achieve productivity levels comparable to our similar-sized neighbours. The establishment of Free Trade Zones (FTZs) should be given serious support.

Qualitative and innovative improvements in infrastructure and services are also required to develop Scotland as a desirable destination for our growing tourist industries.

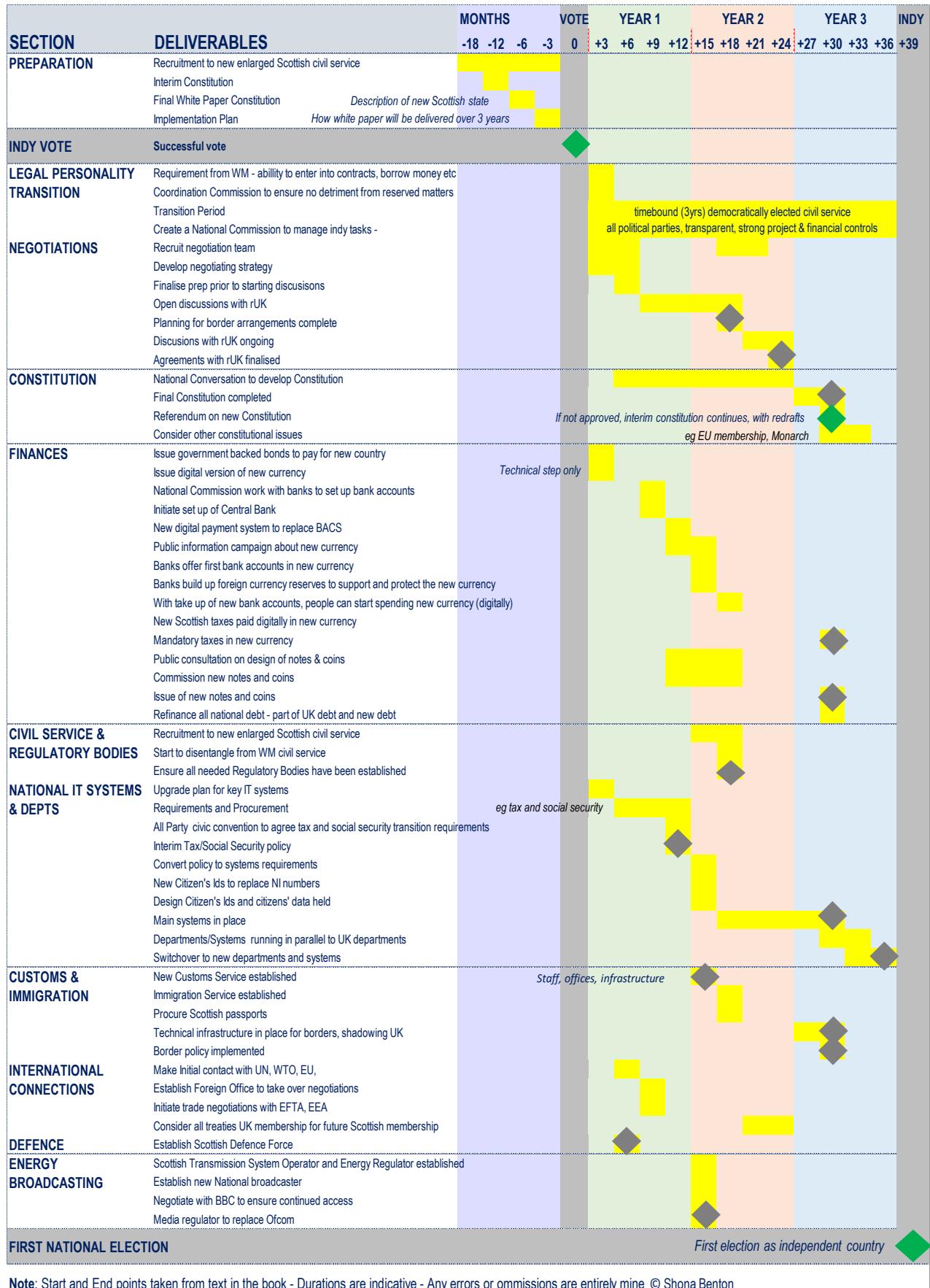
This could deliver the quality of social and economic benefits achieved by similar sized countries such as Denmark, the Scandinavian countries, and New Zealand.

Scotland requires a 25-year Strategic Development Plan – **SCOTLAND 2045** - that encompasses all regional and local infrastructure requirements - a plan to provide for our children and those who come after them

Alexander (the Great) asked Diogenes of Sinope, a famous cynic who lived in a pithos (a big wine vat) “*What can I do for you?*”.

# Timeline to an Independent Scotland

Based on the Common Weal's 'a short guide to starting a new country'



Note: Start and End points taken from text in the book - Durations are indicative - Any errors or omissions are entirely mine © Shona Benton

# Powers of the Scottish Government (in 2019)

The Devolved Status of Scotland was established under The Scotland Act 1998 with additional powers added under the Scotland Acts 2012 and 2016.

The Scottish Parliament can pass laws on **DEVOLVED** matters – in general, those affecting most aspects of day-to-day life in Scotland.

The Westminster Parliament passes laws on **RESERVED** matters – in general, those with a UK-wide or international impact.

Devolved matters include:

- Taxation (some)
- Social Security (some)
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Education and training
- Environment
- Health and Social services
- Housing
- Law and order
- Local government
- Sport and the arts
- Tourism and economic development
- Some aspects of transport

Reserved matters include:

- Taxation (some)
- Benefits and social security
- Immigration
- Defence
- Foreign policy
- Employment
- Broadcasting
- Trade and industry
- Energy - nuclear, oil, coal, gas, electricity
- Consumer rights
- Data protection
- The Constitution



*“Scotland is a typical modern, advanced industrial nation, rich in natural resources and per capita will endow our citizens with the means to enjoy a quality of life far in excess of that facing them if we stick with an overpopulated UK.”*

# 1. The Constitution and Democracy

*“Changes and progress very rarely are gifts from above. They come out of struggles from below” (Prof. Noam Chomsky)*

*In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:*

A Constitution is the written fundamental law, at the apex of the legal and political systems, which is superior to ordinary Acts of Parliament.  
The UK does not possess one.



A written Constitution specifies the conditions under which the people consent to be governed. A credible majority in favour of such a constitution must therefore be agreed prior to the election of the first independent Parliament. [1].

A codified, written Constitution has

- \* The Supreme Authority of the People
  - \* The Rights of the People
  - \* The Institutions and Authorities of Government
  - \* The Financial Authorities of the State
  - \* The framework for compliance with internationally recognised constitutional standards.

Among the above will be found the circumstances qualifying recall of MPs, the proportional representation voting system, voter qualifications, referenda on international treaties.

The Scottish Youth Parliament and Scotland's Children's Parliament will continue to represent Scotland's young people in a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its young folk working with local, national and global networks for the realisation of their rights

*In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:*

On Independence, Scotland will hold a referendum within eighteen (18) months to decide whether we trade with Europe as a member of the European Union (EU) or of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or as an associate of the European Economic Area (EEA).

Establish a Citizen's Assembly to advise elected representatives on current issues.

*“We are the Scots and Scotland is our country”*

## 2. Governance, Judiciary and Civil Service

*“You never change things by fighting reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the old model obsolete” (Buckmaster Fuller)*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

Legislate for a written Constitution, agreed by a referendum, within the first year of Independence.

The constitution would enable an increase in numbers of Members of Parliament to process the increased workload that is currently dealt with by two parliaments.

Scotland’s Civil and Public Service Servants would be employed on performance-related terms and conditions with salaries based at the very least on current private sector equivalence. Salaries will not be the starting point in selection: character, motivation, commitment, selflessness, practical abilities, competence and proven performance will be the main attributes looked for.



The task of the elected representatives would be to harness Scotland’s resources to underpin; 1) Energy Security, 2) Food Security, and 3) Housing Security. All the other components for a well-balanced society flow from that.

Establish a Scottish Statistics Agency to provide factual-based data on the Scottish economy as soon as practical. [2]

Establish an independent Scottish Broadcasting TV service.

The Legal Aid System to be reviewed and amended to provide a fit-for-purpose, cost-effective system that will provide the service and the protection required by those in need of legal aid.

Establish a Scottish Customs and Revenue system within one year.

To administer taxation and social benefits, a Scottish system for a “Personal Account Number” (National Insurance Number) would be established immediately after Independence.

Equal pay for all, doing the same job, irrespective of gender would apply.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

The Scottish Cabinet does not currently represent a political cross section of our society. Government Cabinet Ministers could be elected to represent on a proportional basis the various political groups within the Scottish Parliament.

The provisional Constitution will provide opportunity for local government reform with consideration for implementing a tiered system of local government within three years of Independence; e.g. replacing the present 32 Local Authorities with 18 Regional Assemblies subdivided into multiple Community Councils, all with defined autonomous powers [4].

Excluding party-aligned politics from Regional Assemblies and Community Councils could eliminate much time-wasting, political posturing.

A political cross-section of constituents could set out an agreed work scope (manifesto) for each elected representative.

The current complex planning rules are stifling economic growth. An expert panel of stakeholders could study the system over two years, with a remit to bring efficiencies, better control and transparency, with speedier conclusions to both the approval and implementation processes. An appeals process could be treated similarly.

The Legal profession could be required to examine their present fee structure, with a view to a reduction in the cost of using their services, and report positively within one year.

### **3. Finance and the Currency**

*"Why is the UK Government so reluctant to get rid of what they say is a subsidised Scotland? Could they be hiding the truth?"*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

*"The change over to a Scottish Currency would be highly profitable for Scotland, generating foreign reserves as high as £70 billion". (Dr Timothy Rideout) (20)*

During the transition period [say 3 years] between achieving a Yes vote and Independence draft legislation for the following would be prepared:

- The Pound Scots comprising 100 pence, denominated similar to current notes and coins.
- International Currencies would be used for foreign trading, as is normal.
- A Scottish Central Bank to issue all currency [cash and credit] and regulate all banking.

- A Country Code, a lower cost Centralised Clearing system for banks and a Scottish Payments System to replace both BACS and Chaps systems.
- Systems to be changed over to New Currency would include bank accounts, standing orders, direct debits, pensions, and mortgages, cash ISAs, vending machines and ATMs.
- A Scottish Registered Company to supply all Currency and Legal Stationary.
- Legislation for a Scottish Stock Exchange, a Revenue System payable in New Currency and for Building Societies and Credit Unions to operate as Full Reserve Agencies.
- Government funding for new infrastructure (wages and materials only) to be issued solely by the Scottish Central Bank.

**With the above framework in place the change over to the New Scottish Currency would be achievable within a two-week period (16).**

In parallel to the Pound Scots, the Pound Sterling would remain an acceptable currency for a limited period of time till otherwise legislated.

The Lender of Last Resort would be the Scottish Central Bank.

Regulations would be developed within the first year of Independence to provide public control and oversight of finance in order to serve the people and the productive economy rather than the speculative interests of a minority.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

“People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full, miss the point – the glass is refillable”. (Simon Silek)

With the Government in control of the money supply, rather than commercial (private) banks, the Government could put in place the required public investment to develop the economy to what is termed full employment, as was achieved between 1955 and 1961 [3].



“Actually, I couldn't care less what they do about capital gains.”

With the Scottish Central Bank in control of the money supply the return to full reserve banking could terminate the current unlimited Fiat money supply from the banking system that continues to destabilise the monetary system.”

The Scottish Central Bank could regulate the commercial banks to reduce the risk of financial collapse.

The Government could legislate to ensure that high street commercial banks cannot misuse customer deposited funds for speculative financial trading.

Legislation to regulate bank lending to Small & Medium companies (SMEs) could be introduced within one year.

All companies and businesses trading in Scottish Territory would have a registered office in Scotland and directly employed personnel would pay taxes to Scotland.

Oil and gas companies could pay taxes on a similar basis to that paid in Norway, Denmark and New Zealand.

A Norwegian-style National Wealth Fund (NWF) could be established in the first year of Independence. Monies would be spent solely on the Nation's major infrastructure projects.

Regional Assemblies could be authorised with taxation and rent raising powers.

Land Value Tax legislation could be introduced within one year. Land Value Tax could replace much or all Council Taxes, Non-domestic Rates and Income Tax. This could provide increased revenues for public services, reduce tax evasion, and leave more in wage packets [5, 6 and 7]

Land is scarce in both urban and rural areas, yet it is as yet virtually tax-free and the government could raise enough from a new land value tax to fully fund local services. Historically, land rent was the main source of taxation, and it lasted for centuries.

A Land Value Tax could enable a lower rate of individual taxation with the following:

- \* VAT could be reduced from 20 to 0 per cent over five years,
- \* Corporation Tax could be progressively reduced as Land Value Tax revenues grow.
- \* Inheritance Tax could be replaced with a one percent annual Asset Tax within the first term as above;
- \* All taxes that cost more than 50 per cent of collected revenues could be eliminated.

Regional Assemblies could ring-fence all tourist-related taxes for local regional use, with the central Government funding nationwide tourist campaigns.

The default position for all new government infrastructure projects is to prioritise awards to local regional companies. All foreign companies should be required to joint venture with appropriately qualified local companies, unless it is in the National interest to do otherwise.

In order to promote Scottish companies all investment in new plant and machinery for companies, less handling costs, could be zero-rated when the plant and machinery is manufactured in Scotland.

*"Currently, the banks rather than the Government control our money supply. Our politicians don't appear to understand how the money supply actually works."*

## 4. Economy and Trade

*“You have got to ‘earn your lunch’ and ‘climb a mountain’ – what have you done today?” (Helen Russel after Henrik Kosen)*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

Establish a Trade Treaty between Scotland and England that includes an open border agreement. This is in both countries' interests, and a borderless free-trade agreement ought to be in place within three years.

To reduce the burden on society of the current complex taxation laws and eliminate the current loopholes conducive to tax evasion, a simplified system of taxation laws promoting a reduction in payee costs would be instituted. This would include a one-page tax return form for individuals [8].

An Export Growth Strategy would be developed to expand European and International trade comparable to that achieved by similar-sized European and Scandinavian countries.

Continued encouragement would be given to stimulate research and development all the way through to University and Research Facility level.

Establish within one year a 25-year plan for an Agricultural Policy to sustain working farmers and crofters and provide more opportunities for new resident entrants.

Following the liquidation of a company “A Letter of Comfort” (contract law) would be required from the liquidator ascribing degrees of responsibility.

Postal rates for letters and parcels would be standardised and be non-discriminatory throughout the territory of Scotland within 6 months.

Scotland is a trading nation with a proportion of all goods imported and exported transported by commercial vessels. The Scottish Merchant Navy would be the maritime register for Scottish registered commercial shipping that would primarily comprise a range of general cargo, ferry, offshore supply, tankers, container, fishing and other vessels.

Shipbuilding in Scotland would remain a key industry with the main yards located on the Clyde and at Rosyth. The revitalised Ferguson shipyard is an example of how a company expands as it secures orders for specialised new technology commercial vessels and pushing towards renewables. Huge opportunities exist in the area of oil platform construction, maintenance and dismantling.



Following Independence, the building and maintenance of Scottish Coastguard and Naval Vessels would provide work for many years, given that the future of rUK naval shipbuilding in Scotland will be uncertain.

Elsewhere in Scotland, such as Macduff, and Buckie there are viable fishing vessel, design, construction, repair and maintenance facilities to service and modernise the fishing industry. Independence would enable the Government to support future shipbuilding opportunities for specialised vessels including such as offshore support vessels and open-ocean fishing boats.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

Scotland could adopt an oil and gas exploration and extraction policy similar to Norway's. This would enable all revenues derived from such activities to be invested in a Scottish Sovereign Fund, investing across the World. The funds would be ring-fenced solely to be spent on Scottish infrastructure. This could be in place within one year.

Scottish limited partnerships, a form of [limited partnership](#) registered under Scots law in accordance with the UK Partnership Act 1890 (both *have features that give them advantages as investment vehicles and have been criticised for having inadequate anti-money laundering rules*) could be removed from the statute books within one year of independence.

An Arctic Zone Trade Treaty between Scotland and such countries as, but not limited to, Greenland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Ireland and Norway that includes a Fisheries Policy, could be established.

New start businesses could have zero direct tax liabilities on profits for, for example, the critical first two years, or other such incentives as are in the National interest.

In order to sustain the cash flow of micro, small and medium sized businesses [SMEs], legislation could mandate payment of invoices within 30 days of receipt.

Productivity, and consequently earnings at present in such as Norway and Switzerland, may be as much as twice that of Scotland today. The Nation could plan to increase productivity, spearheaded by targeted government investment in infrastructure projects, research and development, and with such funding following 'best practice' in Europe.

Free Trade Zones (FTZs) or such could be established at designated land, sea and air entry locations.

Encouraging the move away from fossil-fuels may take tax incentives for Scottish-based companies manufacturing component parts for electric (EV), hydrogen and future, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technology powered transportation, including such as shipping, trains and drones, all could be covered by new legislation.

It may take tax incentives to Scottish-based yards for the decommissioning of redundant oil and gas platforms to compete in a very competitive market place.

Tax incentives for companies setting up apprenticeships could be provided.

Until ownership is transferred back to Scotland, the rUK government could be charged Land Value Tax for military bases, munitions dumps, exercise areas and such like throughout Scotland and its territorial waters, based on the proposed new Land Tax, where such as “Right to Use” will be clearly defined. [see Chapter 7]

Charge the rUK government Land Value Tax plus a negotiated fee for the presence of decommissioned nuclear powered submarines and the storage of illegal Weapons of Mass Destruction on Scottish Territory – until they are all removed. This specific charge could be covered under the new proposed Land Tax Law.

*“Scotland -  
Big enough,  
Rich enough,  
Smart enough.”*

## 5. Planning and Infrastructure

*“The best way to predict the future is create it” (Denis Gabor)*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

“SCOTLAND 2045” - Independence would provide Scotland with the opportunity to put together an overall development strategy and the vehicle to coordinate short, medium and long-term development plans to meet Scotland’s specific needs. A Master Plan, titled - “SCOTLAND 2045” – would be carried out in five year phases, and most importantly, would not relate to, for instance, parliamentary election terms and cycles.

“SCOTLAND 2045” would cover decisions on everything from new settlements, roads, bridges, train lines, ferries, military establishments, education and health facilities, even sports stadia would be taken into the overall scope of the Plan.

All stakeholders, public, corporate and private, at national, regional and community levels would join in the process. All National, Regional and Community, 5, 10 and 15 year Development Plans would be subject to peer review and revision every 5 years.

The planning design process requires early involvement of all community stakeholders in the decision-making of the design and associated services. This would obviate the lengthy delays in the current approval process due to such as appeals, objections, requests for amendments and developers submitting plans in direct contravention of approved plans, thus reducing delays that too often are currently unfairly costly to the end user.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

“SCOTLAND 2045”, albeit schematic, could be prepared to be available for study within 1 year of Independence. The Scottish Government could ensure that this is carried out.

Internationally recognized Planning Consultants would normally be selected to prepare a ‘Draft Master Plan’, initially through a brain-storming ‘charrette’ process, when all stakeholders would have their say.

With the anticipated increase in population, the development of Edge Cities down to minor settlements around the whole country could be treated with considerable urgency. Basically, it would be a process where the lead was taken by Central Government in the form of providing the infrastructure and adequate incentives for job creation. Much of the remainder would be undertaken by the private sector with or without local government partnership.

Scotland is uniquely well positioned on the northern flank of Europe and offers the potential for the development of Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands as a deep-water, container-interchange port in association with the potential in the Clyde estuary of Scotland’s second deep-water port at Hunterston. Both areas are well placed to handle the future expansion in trade with Europe, rUK, the Baltic and with Asia and China [via the opening up of the Arctic Ocean] and provide substantial development potential for International trade.

Free Trade Zones with road, rail and air connectivity, could be set up in proximity to Prestwick on the Clyde Estuary, a Ferry Port to Europe on the Forth Estuary, at Scapa Flow and another on the border to interact with the rUK. All serviced with road, rail and air links.

The “**SCOTLAND 2045**” plan could include the investment in and completion of a high-speed rail from the Orkneys to the Scottish Border (and thence to Europe) within 10 years following Independence.

In the interests of community connectivity, the “**Scotland 2045**” plan could include the connection to Ireland and Scotland’s principal islands by bridge and/or tunnel connections. Islands within the plan would initially include such as Arran, Bute, Islay and Jura, Mull, Harris and the Orkneys.

**[Denmark, Norway, Japan and the Faroe Islands all have or are in the process of connecting all their major islands to provide connectivity, economic benefit and national identity for their citizens].**

For the links to Europe the use of high-speed multi-hulled craft, such as Fred Olsen’s “Benchijigua” (Canary Islands Ferry) could be considered.

Solving the problems of urban traffic congestion, safety and pollution will be a priority. Encouraging the development of such as EV (electric vehicles) and AV (automatic pilotless) modes of transport for both private and increased public usage will continue apace, but the development of public transportation modes will be given priority.

“If you want to go quickly … go alone  
If you want to go fast … go together”      (African proverb)

## 6. Energy and Public Utilities

*“Electrical energy will double by 2050 to meet 45% of world energy demand, and to meet this more than 66% of this supply will be generated by solar and wind; and it will be cheaper.”*  
(Greg Russell)

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

A publicly-owned, Scottish National Energy Company (NEC) operating both as a Government Agency and as an arms-length company should be established, along the Danish Energy model (17, 18)

The work of the NEC would involve matters relating to energy supply and consumption, as well as efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

The NEC would seek to enable and lead, rather than compete with, other non-profit and community-controlled energy companies. It would provide a level playing field for energy pricing and investment.

Consumer consumption charges will be non-discriminatory due to geographical location, except that specifically across the Islands and remote West Coast Communities, fuel and electric prices will be discounted to below national average prices through a form of cross-subsidy.

Government to provide financial incentives to encourage further investment and research in alternative energy sources, including biomass, mini-hydro, hydrogen fuel, geothermal, wind, wave and tidal power as well as other technologies.

Scotland’s water resources, providing drinking water and wastewater treatment would remain as at present, largely publicly owned. The Scottish Water Authority will prepare a budget annually, plus proposals for extension, improvement and maintenance of the service, including the income generated from exported industrial and potable water.

Government would continue to provide financial incentives for investing in more innovative usage and handling capacity for both biodegradable and recyclable waste, capturing plastic as a particular priority.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

The Scottish National Energy Company (NEC) could develop a 25-year development plan to coordinate long-term energy security with its major aims being to reduce costs to customers and tackle waste.

A Scottish Energy Development Agency (SEDA) could be established alongside the NEC to realise the Government’s ambitious targets to decarbonize Scotland and tackle fuel poverty by coordinating the distribution of R&D funding and the training in new technologies such as district heating.

The future of Scotland's oil and gas industry is based on world demands for its products. The question is not whether there are supplies through to 2045 (there are), but whether economically Scotland can balance its moral responsibilities to reduce the production of fossil fuel pollution with the undeniable need for revenue funds.

*"A combination of more energy efficiency, more renewables and more carbon capture and storage (CCS) will be needed to meet the ambitions of the Paris agreement"*  
*(Remi Eriksen)*

To continue with oil and gas extraction, the construction of CCS installations would be required or we could find an alternative less polluting fuel while keeping much of it where it lies.

Expecting a doubling of data use within 5 years, a Government telecommunications company will set up 5G Internet over the whole of Scotland in this period. This will increase the average speed of the mobile Internet to 100 megabit/ second. This is similar to S Korea's and the Faroe Islands' at this time.

## 7. Land, Sea and Air Titles, Husbandry, and Tenancies

*"Every generation shall have an equal right to the enjoyment of natural wealth"*  
*(George Monbiot)*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

All sea, land, mineral, river, loch and water bodies, and air space ownership details would be required to be registered by the end of the first year following independence, failing which, these will be reassigned as Common Good Estate.

The Planning Act should be amended to require planning permission for change of approved land-use, for example switching of agricultural land to woodland (through afforestation and reforestation).

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

Individual private land ownership could be restricted to say 20,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

Corporate, private and public landowners could be subject to public interest tests to stop owners having excessive powers. Management plans involving local communities' aspirations, wildlife and environment strategies, all in the best interests of the Nation will be required; abuse of their power could lead to community buy-outs or compulsory purchase.

Stronger legislation could be used to promote new ways to increase the number of small and privately owned estates, forests and farms and reduce Scotland's excessively large landholdings (i.e. those in excess of say, 5,000 hectares).

Freehold Title to all sea, water, land, mineral and air estate could be restricted solely to Scottish citizens. [see Chapter 18]

Non-citizen, legal residents could acquire such as a "Right to Use" title, on which all rent and taxes will be due. [see Chapter 18]

Scottish Land Act could be amended such that the price of land for sale reflects the use value of the land as described in a Government-approved Master Plan.

Ownership of land under Limited Partnerships could be transferred to tenants.

Tenancy agreements for farms and crofts could only be terminated with the agreement of the tenants.

## 8. Agriculture, Afforestation & Aquaculture

*"Scotland is a country rich in natural products, ... with whisky, agricultural produce and fish – and of course oil and gas. Though important, in truth, 'Services' contribute much more to the Scottish economy. But nevertheless big decisions will have to be taken to protect and nurture our agriculture, forestry and fishing industries immediately on Independence".*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

Scotland's establishes rights over an Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ] extending over 420,000 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean.

Generate 25-year plans for Rural Affairs, Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform within one year of Independence. All should be included within an overall Master Plan for Scotland.

Scotland has the resources that could feed double its current population.

All resources in and from the seas within Scotland's EEZ, as well as from fresh water sources, would be managed as strategic, sustainable and renewable assets through an enforcement panel consisting of representatives of all stakeholders.

With 90% of the World's fish stocks fully exploited, over-exploited or depleted (Peter Thomson, WEF), Scotland would act responsibly. Small-scale fisheries employ 90% of the industry's workers and are responsible for 30% of the catches.

Government should work with the European Union to maintain the intent of EU regulation No.1151/2012 to protect Scottish quality agricultural products and foodstuffs.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

Establish a Rural University to drive innovation and economic growth to generate higher productivity and encourage research and development on a par as that achieved in Norway, the Nederland and New Zealand. (21)

A 10-year programme, following such as New Zealand's, to convert from a subsidised agricultural environment to an unsubsidised one could be in place within 2 years of independence (23).

Land owners could be required to restore the health of the biome under their care, with particular attention being paid to the restoration of wetlands, peat, tree, scrub and meadow land, plus water bodies to provide a natural environment, sustaining flora and fauna wildlife, recharging the aquifer and thus minimizing flooding damage and expensive repair downstream.

The three-mile limit ban on commercial fishing could be re-introduced in order to protect young breeding stock and their habitats. Inshore fishing, including for such as shellfish, could be permitted.

Radical fish farming techniques in the salmon industry could be introduced, following Norway's successful strategies, to counter challenges in sea lice, fish escapes, pollution of the sea bed and the need for chemical treatments.

*“Today’s rain is tomorrow’s whisky” (old Scottish proverb)*

## 9. Business and Industry

*“Drive for show; putt for dough”*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

One of the Government's direct and prime responsibilities is maintaining a favorable environment for job creation. This means not only supporting existing businesses and industries but also establishing a climate for the setting up of new enterprises.

Incentives should follow international practice, making available low interest loans and grants, along with such as tax holidays.

A deliberate Government effort should continue to be made to attract and nurture specialized, innovative foreign businesses and manufacturing industries to Scotland.

With Scotland already at the forefront of several key technologies, the ability to more effectively leverage government support would enable products from these projects to have greater scope for growth in today's competitive global market place.



Investors would continue to be attracted by (largely) Government investment in well-serviced industrial and business parks, with each site in proximity to excellent road and rail, deep-water harbour and international airport connections, together with a skilled and educated management and work force. Within reasonable distance would be homes for all income groups, planned with modern social facilities, including education, health, retail, cultural and sports and leisure facilities so as to more effectively compete in the world.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

Through the setting up of Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and such like, Scotland could attract local, national and international investment as well as, in the case of SMEs, the Scottish Investment Bank, for which it would be largely set up.

The business perspective for an independent Scotland, could acknowledge that around the developing world, there is a desperate need for low- and semi-skilled jobs, and that from moral and commercial points of view, there is every incentive to raise the effectiveness of upgrading our work-force to cope with such as hi-tech and robot technologies.

CFO to CEO: *“What happens If we invest in developing our people, and then they leave?”*  
CEO to CFO: *“What happens if we don't ... and they stay?”*

# 10. Education and Culture

*“But if children’s normal interest is maintained or even aroused, they can do all kinds of things in ways we don’t understand” (Avron Naom Chomsky)*

*“Scotland values its centuries’ old reputation for its multi-faceted culture and excellent education.”*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

Education should be provided free from Primary 1 (P1) up to College or first University degree.

A minimum of two hours per week of Music, Drama and Art education would be funded and supported at all schools and academies in order to promote culture and personal development.



Support for awareness and participation in Scotland’s thriving cultural scene would be encouraged at all levels. Bankrolling this activity is seen as investing in establishing our National identity.

With 48% of its population holding a university, college or vocational qualification (against the EU’s average of 31%), with 5 universities in the World’s top 500 (exceeded by only Luxemburg), Scotland is well-positioned to face the World with confidence and a willingness to share our expertise.

Childcare support would continue, and be upgraded in line with the Nation’s economic growth.

The imperatives of understanding and supporting a sustainable environment for our World and protecting our natural ecology and wildlife, would be taught in all schools, colleges and universities.

Scottish history, culture, immigration and emigration, and the relationship of Scotland to its immediate neighbours, Europe and the world over the past 1500 years would be taught.

Support for the training for modern, fair, ethical apprenticeships, for all income groups.

Scotland’s high quality education standards would continue to expand its attraction for rUK, EU and other foreign students.

Continued encouragement would be given to the establishment of world-class film and television facilities within Scotland.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

Education could be through natural, individual development rather than on education by rote.

Education could be devolved to reformed regional and community government.

Personal finance and money management could be taught between P6 and S3.

Constitutional and political system and individual rights could be taught.

Mental Health counseling and an appreciation of the harmful influences from social media could be made available to all pupils, students and teaching staff.

Consideration could be given to supporting parenting skills.

Parents could be held accountable in law when their children attack school staff or property. The causes will continue to be studied.

*“If your plan is for one year, plant rice; if your plan is for ten years, plant trees; if your plan is for one hundred year, educate children.”* (Confucius)

## 11. Health and Welfare

*“The greatness of a Nation is the way it treats its poorest member”*

(Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi)

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

Understanding that Scotland has an aging population and relatively low-birth, the emphasis will be to provide all our citizens with the opportunity to live useful, happy and a long life in good health, through social integration and the provision of clean air.

The Government should provide for fully funded, fit-for-purpose health and welfare services under the proposed “SCOTLAND 2045” Master Plan.

With this plan, and fit-for-purpose funding, the Scottish Health Service (SHS) would review its overall management, staffing and capacity structure, to provide an efficient, professional, caring and sustainable service.

The National Living Wage would be mandatory (and linked to a genuine and realistic cost-of-living rate). Offering fair and equitable terms of working conditions makes both business and common sense.



There would be continued support for joining the SHS Organ Donor Registration programme.

Benefits for disabled, vulnerable individuals and veterans would be adequate to ensure a humane and caring quality of life.

A number of SHS staff will leave after their contracted commitments, for private practice or go overseas. The former would be seen as a valuable adjunct to the service provided by the SHS; the latter as, from the Nation's point of view, a recognition that immigration is not a one-way business.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

All medical persons, trained in Scotland could be required, following graduation, to work in Scotland for five years after graduation or repay proportionate costs of training.

A Post-Qualification Work Visa scheme, which enables foreign students to remain in Scotland after graduation could be enabled.

The Scottish Government could consider providing a Citizens Basic Salary to replace a proportion of the present benefits system.

The present collaborative and considerate model for social care could be further developed, including effective support and assistance to individual carers in all areas.

The remuneration and support for Nurses, Care and Support front line staff could be assessed annually to ensure fairness to each and ensure that these vocations remain attractive in the job market.

The employment of immigrant staff in these categories is a win-win situation, as the Nation would likely always have need of additional, caring health staff. Those that return to their countries would go with added, much needed skills, and with goodwill towards Scotland.

A more cost-effective system for funding of care homes for elderly folks could be initiated.

Until there is an adequate stock of social housing, all cities and towns could be required to provide hostels with adequate capacity for homeless persons. The psychological and health needs of the homeless could be given especial attention in efforts to find solutions to this serious problem. [see Chapter 14].

## **12. Tourism, Sport and Leisure**

*"In Scotland there is a tradition, backed by law, of free access to land. Statutory rights of access to most land and water bodies were established through the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and guidance on exercising those rights responsibly is given in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Cyclists, horse riders, canoeists and walkers have rights."*

### ***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

Considering that tourism, both from within the country and from the rest of the UK as well as from overseas will be one of the mainstays of the Independent Scotland economy. Plans to double the income and tourist numbers within the first five years would be the aspiration.

Planning to cope with such numbers should start with immediate effect. This would involve not just Holyrood, but all levels of government as well as the private sector.

State schools are under-represented in top sports. Sport would not be an ‘optional extra’; all schools would implement a minimum, half-day period per week for physical activities.

### ***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

A modest ‘Tourist tax’ could be applied to such as hotel, car rental and such as cruise liners and would be allocated through the local communities most affected by this business.

The Government could increase funding for sports centres, enough to ensure that within 10 years, 90% of the Nation’s citizens have access to safe and appropriate sports and leisure facilities.

World-class developments, in such as around discontinued mining sites, and as planned in the Cairngorm National Park to provide sports and leisure opportunities for both citizens and visitors alike, could be carried out with environmental sensitivity catered for in each project.

‘Hutting’ as in Norway, would be seriously encouraged through land-use legislation [see Chapter 14]



“*No grit: no pearl*”. (Amanda Waggener)

*“Ofsted reports that schools with high sporting standards have similarly high expectations in the classroom as both help to cultivate an environment in which pupils excel. The Scottish Government should encourage the inclusions of competitive school sports into the curriculum of education establishments and sports associations should actively support school pupils”.*

## **13. Retirement and Pensions**

*“Life expectancy has increased almost everywhere, and for almost every social and ethnic group. This is both a triumph for society and a fundamental challenge to the way that cultures organize themselves”*

*“An image claiming that French, German and Spanish maximum pensions are double to treble those in the UK has been shared 11,000 times at time of writing” (MENU – the UK’s independent, fact-finding charity).*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

A prime objective for the Independent Scottish Government should be to have pensions one of the best in the developed World, **rather than as at present, one of the worst.**

As a starting point the Scottish Government would guarantee current pensions with normal cost-of-living indexation, and the prospect of an early review to bring the general level of Scottish pensions to that enjoyed in the rest of the European Union.

Increased Pension provision is required to sustain a decent, healthy and happy lifestyle on retirement. A Scottish Government Pensions Policy would ensure that adequate contributions are made into regulated pension funds.



‘Foreign Pensions’ legislation needed to protect pension contracts, payable by foreign-based companies to Scottish citizens, established prior to Independence. Pensions would be guaranteed under Trade Treaties between Scotland, rUK and other countries.

The Scottish Government would require enacting reciprocal treaties for international juridical double taxation comparable to the UK’s double taxation treaties (24); based on the principles outlined in the OECD – Model Tax Convention on Income and Capital.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

As an alternative to the present UK system, an Independent Scottish Government could institute a pension scheme to be known as Personal Provident Savings Reserve (PPSR), into which every salary and wage earner and most probably every employer, will contribute a contracted proportion. This would earn market-place interest. The Payee would collect his investment on retirement. **Unlike at present, these funds would remain the Payee’s money.**

Whilst banked in the PPSB, the Government would have access to these funds for investment in national infrastructure projects and social service provision.

The payee could, dependent on the national economy at the time, be able to use part of these funds for home mortgage payments and the purchase of government bonds and shares.

On retirement, the Government would provide advice on protecting these funds during the Payee’s retirement, acknowledging the personal circumstances at the time.

With termination of employment, all employees could be given a minimum of one month’s notice plus a final payment that includes a proportion in lieu of holiday pay and pension liability.

***“Old people are just young people who have been living a very long time”.***

## 14. Settlements and Community

*In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:*

The present Government plans to build 50,000 affordable homes by 2021 at a cost of £3 Billion should continue as scheduled. This is a 67% increase in affordable housing. 70% will be for social rent. The programme will be reviewed at 5-year intervals with the aim of providing every citizen a home within 10 years.



*In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:*

*“Germany, Norway, China, USA and others are all mass-producing modular “Carbon Neutral” homes in controlled environment factories, and we must do the same.”*

The Scottish Government could, within a 25-year programme, plan for quality housing within well-considered, green, community-friendly environments for all. Emphasis could be made in the development of communities, convenient use of public transport, cycle and pedestrian pathways, urban afforestation, common ‘green’ space, energy-efficiency development, transport connectivity and improved air quality, [10]

Housing developers could be required to produce one low-income home for every middle- and every upper-income residence built. Housing developments would not be given final Completion Certificates until the low-income obligation has been met.

Government incentives and, where deemed in the public interest, intervention to provide lower cost land to encourage individual homebuilders, could be given priority.

The Government could make available suitable and adequate land area, for housing at a price reflecting its existing use. The land area to be made available per year could be based on the number of low income (social housing) required to clear the backlog within 7 years [9].

A serious effort could be made by the industry, with support from Government, to industrialise through such techniques as prefabrication and the use of robots. Building costs would be much reduced through timesaving, fabrication in climate-controlled factories and minimising building material wastage.

The Planning Act could be amended such that rights of appeal include community councils’ right to appeal against breaches of the local development plan.

Housing, both new-build and retrofitted could be required to conform to ECO PASSIVE House, or similar accreditation, through improved fabrication techniques. All rented housing could be required to meet a specified minimum structural and environmental quality.

All new housing could incorporate photo-voltaic (PV) electricity-generating roof panels and rainwater collection systems and solar panels for water heating where appropriate.

Technology, particularly in the case of domestic heating systems, will change dramatically over the next few decades. Approximately 1 million homes in Scotland will be overhauling

their heating systems by 2035 to tackle global warming. This, at the moment, will mean the installation of hybrid heating systems consisting of an electrical heat pump working alongside a gas boiler. Demand could be reduced with energy-efficient delivery. District heat networks could be created in the denser urban areas.

As in Norway, where one in ten families have a ‘hytte’, the Land Act could facilitate the building of private rural huts ('hutting') to promote leisure time with family and friends.

Appeals by the Developer and/or other interested parties concerning Housing, could be referred to the Royal Institute of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) for arbitration.

*“The Stone Age didna run oot a oomph ‘cos it ran oot a stanes ... ”*  
[used to contend that the World’s oil and gas supply was limitless]

## 15. Air, Sea and Land Transport

### *In an Independent Scotland the following would have to happen:*

Scotland should adopt a fossil fuel-free approach to all road vehicles within 10 years, a similar policy will apply for train, airplane and shipping as technology progresses, with an expectation of full implementation within 20 years.

Major bus routes within cities, in the first instance, will be serviced within a maximum of 10 years, with e-busses powered by batteries that will be recycled without toxins. Solar power will be part of the package.

The cost of electrically driven vehicles is expected to drop substantially within the next decade and this would provide new business opportunities for Scottish entrepreneurs.

### *In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:*

Scotland's ferry services, whether nationalised, held in private hand or in partnership, could be expanded to serve the growing Scandinavian and North European markets with commencement of new services within two years. It is certain that less pollutant means of propulsion than used presently, could be installed.

The Government, with or without private sector investment, could set up a non-subsidised Caledonia National Airline to serve initially our rUK and European neighbours. The development of business and tourist links with the Nordic Council group of countries, with commencement within 5 years. This should not be seen as contrary to the aspirations of existing Scottish and other airlines.

Scotland's rail service can only integrate with those of rUK's. As a relatively inexpensive and eventually, when 100% electrified, the least pollutant form of transportation, the system could be expanded, with the latest trains, increasing speeds on arterial lines to international standards. The question of private ownership versus part or total nationalisation could be settled by referenda.

Rail, bus and air travel times could be more effectively networked as a matter of strategic importance, and could be made effective within one year.

All road and parking related fines could be ring-fenced to local government funds.

The Free Bus Pass scheme could have an initial payment to cover the cost of issuing the pass.

Students and those of a pensionable age could be given substantial discounts on rail fares within the first five years of public ownership.

*“Oge onye eche mmadu” (Ibo proverb) ‘We need to hurry so as not to lag behind’.*

# **16. Security and Defence**

*“If a lion bares his teeth, don’t assume he is smiling” (an Arab proverb, Al-Mutanabbi)*

*“For the fiscal year ending 2017 the defence allocation for Scotland by population (UK 42.63 x 8.4%) was £3.58 billion – equivalent to 2.36% of the Scottish GDP”.*

*“Expenditure for a fit-for-purpose Scottish Defence Force could be 1.5 % of the GDP. The proposed expenditure is comparable with Denmark’s 1.18% and Portugal’s 1.5% (in 2017 terms)”.*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

With 96 million European citizens killed directly and indirectly due to war in the last century alone being seen as an obscenity, Scotland appreciates the peace that it has enjoyed with Europe over the last 70 years and should take a non-belligerent stance when it comes to the security of the nation, its people and the peoples of the World we live in.

A single, integrated Security & Intelligence Agency (SIA) would be required to coordinate all domestic and international security issues under a National Defence and Security Strategy, responsible to a nominated member of the Scottish Government [13].

A Defence and Security Strategy Policy, including terrorist, organised crime and cybercrime threat assessment would be required within the first year.

Police Scotland would be the primary agency for domestic security, responsible to the Government.

A conventionally armed Scottish Defence Force (SDF) would be responsible to the Scottish Government and would be supplied and supported by Scottish-based companies wherever practical.

The mission of the SDF would be the defence of Scottish territories and support of United Nations declared Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief operations.

A Scottish Maritime and Coastguard Agency would be established within the first year of Independence.

The transportation through the territory of Scotland of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction, or parts thereof, as well as nuclear waste or any other nuclear material designed or produced for weapons purposes would be prohibited and deemed a criminal offense.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

The conventionally armed Defence Force and related industries could support in excess of 20,000 jobs in Scotland

The Coastguard Service could be a separate Naval division with operation similar to that of Norway.

Scotland could hold “Partnership for Peace” status with NATO. This could be a decision taken through a referendum.

Scotland would not knowingly but could actively ensure that war material in any form will not be permitted for foreign export, except clearly, necessarily and transparently for self-defence.

The Trade Agreement negotiated between Scotland and rUK could include a programmed transfer of ownership of all MOD-owned bases, exercise areas and property located in Scottish territory.

*“A Country looking to and living in the past will never see the future coming”*

## 17. Foreign Policy

*“Al jār gabl al dār” (“Choose your neighbour before your house” – an Arab proverb)*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

Scotland would assume a neutral political stance internationally, respecting the right of all Nations and their citizens to live in peace and harmony internally and among their neighbours.

Scotland’s Defence Force would act in the defence and support of the Scottish Nation and its people.

A Scottish Diplomatic service is already undertaking and would continue the process of being established to represent Scotland’s interests internationally, support Scottish citizens abroad and to promote Scottish business interests.

The Government would continue to provide Foreign Aid funding for Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief, presently internationally set at 2% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



Foreign students would be encouraged to study in Scotland, which would result through education of much-needed skills in their own country. This will, in a win-win situation develop future beneficial international relations and business opportunities.

***In Independent Scotland the following could apply:***

The Global Scot concept could be further developed – these (largely) expatriate Scots have an unequalled knowledge and understanding of local ways of doing business overseas, and provide excellent contacts for investment and trade promotion. They would work comfortably with Scottish Embassy staff where they exist.

The 6,000 square miles of waters annexed from the Nation of Scotland by the Westminster Government in 1999 would be returned to Scotland on the basis of ‘*ex aequo et bono*’ (according to the right and good legal point of view), thereby restoring the Scottish/English North Sea marine border to the previous internationally agreed demarcation.

## 18. Immigration and Emigration

*“Migration from and immigration into Scotland has long been a traditional way of life for the Scots. The countries we move to have welcomed us and in return we extend a welcoming attitude to those who come in”.*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

A Scottish immigration and migration policy would be adopted, taking on board Scotland's low birth rate and shortage of skilled and unskilled persons.

The Policy would include:

- \* Full **Scottish Citizenship** rights would be given to all native-born, as well as those who could claim such rights through at least having one Scots-born grandparent.
- \* Only Citizens would be given the right to vote in all Elections and Referenda.
- \* Non-citizens with over five (5) years' residence in Scotland may apply for Citizenship and full rights, which would not unreasonably be withheld.

A system of visas for all immigrants (excepting those with proven Scottish ancestry) would be put into legislation. The following would cover most contingencies:

- **Temporary Transit/Tourist/Business Visas (TTV)** for periods of 24 hours to six months will be issued as appropriate to transit passengers, tourists, seasonal workers and particular specialists in medicine and industry, on entry. Charges would be made to cover administration costs.
  - An **immigrant sponsorship system** to meet skills' shortages or professional vacancies in Scotland would be formalized.
  - Inexpensive Student Visa (SV) system, of up to five year duration visas would be issued to foreign students: a further 5 year period for post-study work experience will be available.
  - Permanent Resident Visas (PR) would be made available to those deemed essential to the economy and well-being of the Nation: these will have validity of five years at a time, renewable on the Government's initiative. Visa costs would be commensurate.
- \* Scotland would continue to treat the case of individual refugees from such as famine, natural and human disaster and awful governments on a sympathetic, humane and a case-by-case basis. Assimilation of immigrants and refugees would be given priority as a matter of mutual social integration.
- \* In the National interest, tax incentives would be available for employers and a non-oppressive immigration visa system set-up to attract talented, skilled immigrants to meet requirements across the Nation.

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

Holders of Permanent Resident visas could be allowed to vote only in regional and local elections, but otherwise will have no restrictions imposed upon them, with all laws pertaining to Citizens applicable to them and their families.

***“Migration, managed in a balanced manner, would make an important contribution to the Nation’s economic, social, educational and cultural development”.***

***“If you don’t design your own life plan, chances are you’ll fall into someone else’s plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much” (Jim Rohn)***

## **19. Environment and Climate Change**

***“A true conservationist is (a person) who knows that the World is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children” (John James Audubon)***

***“Climate change. The science is clear; the facts are incontrovertible, and it is unconscionable to us that our children and grandchildren should have to bear the terrifying brunt of an unprecedented disaster of our own making” (letter signed by 100 internationally-recognised scientists, 2018)”.***

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

Scotland should accept its obligations under the Paris Agreement and would continue to work to achieve its nationally determined contributions (NDCs) on agreed date lines.

Scotland’s natural landscape has been severely damaged for centuries. Timber was needed for the British Empire Navy; the land stripped of much of its human and wildlife. Little has been left of the 9,000 year old Caledonian Forest. Pylon structures and wind turbines attract fierce criticism, as does annual hill-burning, shooting animals for sport, afforestation, curtailing views and agricultural processes that cause severe soil erosion and unhealthy river bodies.

Scotland imports 80% of its timber needs. The government Draft Climate Change Plan (Jan’17) provides for planting at the rate of 15,000-hectares/ year by 2024. The increasing demand for commercial timber will have to be served.

Forests cover 17% of Scotland; this will rise to 21% by 2032 and 25% by 2050.

*(England has 8% forest coverage, France 31%, Finland 73%).*

Scotland’s afforestation targets would be increased as suitable land becomes available.

One fifth of Scotland’s land mass is moorland managed intensely to create a habitat for

selected wildlife to be shot for entertainment [11]. Stakeholders, including such as the Revive Coalition of eco-friendly charities, would be charged with creating better ‘wild space’, this time for humans and wildlife flora and fauna.

Scotland would work towards a circular economy dealing with solid waste, both biodegradable and recyclable. Turning waste into a resource will be the basis of reducing the existing landfill and general waste of materials into a benefit for the economy. “Recycle, Recover and Dispose”.

With the reintroduction of both human and wildlife again to those ‘empty’ parts of our countryside, a repopulation and environmental regeneration strategy would be required and all stakeholders could be invited to participate.



***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

Plans to take back ownership of the uplands of Scotland could be undertaken to change the present barren landscape to one that will employ thousands more, help repopulate these lands and create huge additional tourist interest, thereby adding appreciably to the local as well as the national economy, as has been achieved in Norway.

The Government could provide tax incentives to increase the natural forested and scrub habitat area throughout the country including its mountain slopes. This would create a richer and more diverse habitat, increased carbon sequestration and storage, healthier rivers and lochs.

As native forest plantings will attract more wildlife than commercial forests, afforestation and reforestation could generate more secure jobs and a stronger diverse economy – both rural and national. In this way, Scotland provides new environments for wildlife. Planting indigenous trees, right up to a 600m (2,000') tree line as in Norway is not being done at present, but surely achievable.

Infrastructure for EV, AV and such as hydrogen-fueled transport throughout the country could be provided along with the uptake of these vehicles. Subsidies for pollution-free vehicles could continue for some time, though costs will drop to present-day levels in the short to medium term.

Establish fossil-fueled vehicle-free zones in the centre of all cities and towns within 5 years.

The Scottish Government could promote and financially support carbon capture and storage (CCS) schemes and pumped hydroelectric energy storage (PHES).

*“Study nature, love nature, stays close to nature. It will never fail you”.*  
(Frank Lloyd Wright, architect extraordinaire)

## 20. Law and Order

*“A man is born free, yet everywhere he is caged”*

(Jean Jacques Rousseau, paraphrased)

*“Policing is changing, coupled with stringent budgets there are new as well as more traditional needs on the service. Most significantly, the equipment and Information access now available has made the maintenance of law and order a very different business over the past few years”.*

***In an Independent Scotland, the following would have to happen:***

*“Predictive policing – the analysis of data to be proactive rather than reactive in crime – would be increasingly used to identify future crime spots” (New Scientist).*



Cybercrime, terrorism, and human slavery are modern-day, largely international crimes that would require new expertise.

There is growing confidence in the concept that imprisonment is not always the answer to effectively reduce criminality in our society. Alternative solutions, concentrating on rehabilitation, could be further studied and implemented.

Strategies such as the violence reduction unit (VRU) practiced in Glasgow, where community police working with health professionals, law enforcement, and social services, has drastically reduced knife-crime in Scotland. Such strategies should be expanded across Scotland

***In an Independent Scotland, the following could apply:***

To counter the growing problem of organised crime and the use of illegal drugs, consideration could be given to legalise, regulate and tax recreational drugs, starting with cannabis and using consumption rooms. Though it is understood that public concerns have to be first addressed.

The Government could increase its investment in helping and treating drug addicts, where deaths due to addiction have increased nearly 500% over the last 20 years.

Other criminal activities have been with us for long enough; whether these get the funding will depend on the public attention they deserve. Incidents such as involving traffic infringements, those of a sexual nature, dishonesty and fire-raising have shown insignificant increases annually.

Other issues could be given especial attention. Homelessness, the sheer boredom and appalling wage conditions of many of today's jobs, the chaotic nature of living in many of our cities – all will immediately need a substantial increase in funding and human resources, this could avoid people dying from drug misuse.

Alcoholic abuse is a major problem for our Nation, and the results of the recent price increase will be studied for effectiveness. Like the hard drug abusers, the causes for ill health arising out of the misuse of alcohol are generally similar, and the care and treatment will be much the same.

*“For every rich man, there must be at least 500 poor ...it is only under the shelter of the civil magistrate that the owner of that valuable property ... can sleep a single night in security”* (Adam Smith)

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<https://scot.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ede07827ec4f2ca8d693b0c09&id=37bb530e16&e=c37cb4c5e8>
25. General guidance on the operation of the UK's double taxation agreement can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/international-manual/infm150000>

## Biographic Notes

**Robert Ingram** was born in Aberdeenshire and completed his education at Robert Gordon's College before commencing a career in the Merchant Navy. He then moved over to the Offshore Industry where he specialised in planning, safety, emergency response and operational management. Following retirement, he spent 14 years as a volunteer care worker and 9 years as a community councilor. A staunch supporter of self-governance for Scotland his political activities include being a founding member of the Scottish Democratic Alliance, the Scottish Land Reform Group and the Centre for Scottish Constitutional Studies. Currently he is the chair of a charity titled "Constitution for Scotland" that has been established to promote a public debate for a Scottish Constitution. He lives in Aberdeenshire with his wife and their border terrier.

**Ronald R Morrison** is now retired from a career embracing accountancy civil engineering construction and manufacturing there was also time to serve on the finance and taxation committee of the SNP in the early 1960s. He is co-author of "Moving On" - still the only comprehensive text on a Scottish currency.

**Gordon Grant Benton**, born in the Federated Malay States, was educated in the North East of Scotland, graduated as architect (1956, Aberdeen). He has had a distinguished architectural and master planning career in East Africa, Iran, South and South East Asia, China, S Korea and the UK. Over six decades, he has won professional awards and citations in Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. He was awarded the OBE for services to communities in Indonesia and Dr of Tech h.c. from RGU. Despite his profession taking him overseas for much of his career, where local politics were, of course, off limits, he has been an enthusiastic Scottish nationalist from summer and winter climbing days in the Highlands the '40s. He has been Chieftain of St Andrew Societies in the Sultanate of Brunei, Singapore and Indonesia. He is now living with his wife in Aberdeenshire, planning sustainable, environmentally sensitive new town settlements, presently in Indonesia and New Zealand.

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