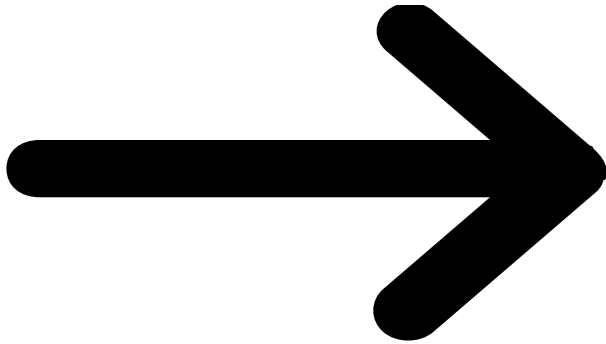


Corbyn a “clear and present danger to the Union”

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The Scottish Conservatives are warning that Jeremy Corbyn represents a “clear and present danger to the Union” as the Labour leader visits Scotland today.

In a document today exposing Mr Corbyn’s views on the Union, the Scottish Conservatives are highlighting how:

- * Mr Corbyn thinks an immediate second referendum on independence is “absolutely fine”
- * He didn’t even bother campaigning in the 2014 independence referendum because he was “doing stuff” in London.
- * He has talked up a pact with the SNP and Nicola Sturgeon – who he thinks is “brilliant” and “very effective”.
- * He has refused to call himself a Unionist – because it reminds him too much of the Conservative party
- * He thinks that working together successfully with other pro-UK parties to win the 2014 referendum and save the Union was a “fundamental mistake” because it damaged Labour’s brand.

It comes as Mr Corbyn prepares to travel to Aviemore tomorrow for the STUC conference. Nicola Sturgeon is also due to speak to the conference.

Scottish Conservative deputy leader Jackson Carlaw said:

“The bottom line is simple – Jeremy Corbyn is a clear and present danger to the Union.

"This is a man who didn't even campaign in Scotland to fight for the Union in 2014 because he was 'doing stuff' in London.

"It's the same man who, since becoming leader, has talked up a pact with the SNP and just last month, said he was 'absolutely fine' with a second referendum.

"It all points to one clear fact: Mr Corbyn would sell pro-UK Scots down the river in a heart beat.

"Nicola Sturgeon is trying to use this election to push ever harder for a second referendum on independence. Under Jeremy Corbyn, Labour would simply roll over and let her do so.

"Therefore, the only effective way to stop the SNP in their tracks is to join the growing number of people in Scotland who will be voting for Ruth Davidson and the Scottish Conservatives."

CORBYN'S RECORD ON SCOTLAND AND THE UK

- **Jeremy Corbyn has said that he is not a unionist – because that's what the Conservatives are.** 'Mr Corbyn, asked if he would describe himself as a Unionist, said: "No. I would describe myself as a Socialist"... The backbencher made clear he did not describe himself as a Unionist because the Tories were known as the "Conservative and Unionist Party"' (*Herald Scotland*, 18 August 2015, [link](#)).
- **He said that he is 'absolutely fine' with the SNP holding a second referendum.** Asked about Nicola Sturgeon's demands for a second referendum, Corbyn said, 'If a referendum is held then it is absolutely fine, it should be held' (*The Guardian*, 11 March 2017, [link](#)).
- **He said that campaigning for the union was Labour's 'fundamental mistake'.** 'I think our fundamental mistake in Scotland was the Better Together campaign when we joined up with the Tories instead of promoting our own Labour values of what we would want for a more radical Scotland in the future' (*Newsnight Labour Leadership Hustings*, 17 June 2015, [link](#)).
- **He said that he did not campaign once in the independence referendum because he was 'doing stuff' in London**(*Herald Scotland*, 18 August 2015, [link](#)).
- **He has said that he thinks Nicola Sturgeon is 'brilliant', 'very effective' and they got on 'very well'.** 'I have shared platforms with Nicola Sturgeon in Glasgow, opposing the Iraq War and opposing military interventions around the world. I absolutely agreed with her and she spoke brilliantly and we got along very well on that. I think where she has been very effective is on mobilising large numbers of people in Scotland' (*Newsnight Labour Leadership Hustings*, 17 June 2015, [link](#)).

Corbyn has said he would do a deal with the SNP to prop up a future Labour government

- **Jeremy Corbyn previously confirmed he would work with the SNP in a future government.** 'If there isn't a Labour majority but a minority and we've got to work with other parties – probably on the basis of a day-to-day arrangement or ... a supply arrangement – then do that...Now, obviously you have to work with other parties to get things through, and I would be prepared to do that.' (*Daily Mail*, 6 August 2015, [link](#)).
- **Labour's last Shadow Scottish Secretary, Dave Anderson said he would not rule out a coalition with the SNP.** 'what I am not prepared to do on behalf of the Labour Party nationally is to rule that out completely. If that is the price that we have to pay to prevent another rabid right-wing Tory government then, I tell you what it is, we have got to at least think about it and discuss it.' (*STV*, 11 August 2016, [link](#)).
- **Corbyn ally Clive Lewis has said that you have to be 'realistic' about Scottish Labour's prospects and they have to look at 'working with the SNP'.** 'I'm simply saying that we want to see a Labour government in Westminster and that means asking some hard questions about how we're going to achieve that..... If that means working with the SNP then we have to look at that.' (*New Statesman*, 23 October 2016, [link](#)).
- **Ian Murray said that Corbyn is 'all over the place' on a Labour/SNP coalition and talks about a progressive alliance 'all the time'.** 'I'm not quite sure what the policy is. Jeremy seems to be all over the place on it..... Jeremy talks about a progressive alliance all the time and the only reason he rowed back from it was because when Dave Anderson talked about it in Scotland during the leadership election Jeremy knew that it was harming him pretty badly' (*Herald Scotland*, 24 September 2016, [link](#)).
- **Ian Murray said that Corbyn's leadership would lead to an 'alliance with the SNP'.** 'The choice is now clear for Scottish Labour members and supporters...With Owen Smith: No deal with a party that wants to break up the UK. With Jeremy Corbyn: Alliance with the SNP. Clear choice for members in Scotland' (*Politics Home*, 12 August 2016, [link](#)).
- **Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry stated that Labour and the SNP are working together.** 'I'm not talking about a pact but I'm certainly happy to talk to them because I think it is vital for the UK interest that we get the best deal possible in terms of leaving the European Union but having a good ongoing relationship with the European Union' (*Herald Scotland*, 28 September 2016, [link](#)).
- **Andrew Harrop, General Secretary of the Fabian Society, has said that Labour would have to do a deal with the SNP to get into power.** 'As things stand Labour is on track to win fewer than 200 seats, whether the next election comes this year or in 2020. "Even if Labour recovers it has almost no chance of securing a majority in a general election, because it needs over three million more votes than the Conservatives to win. Labour's aim for now should be to move forwards not back and win enough MPs to be able to form a governing partnership with other parties' (*The Scotsman*, 3 January 2017, [link](#)).
- **Clive Lewis helped write a pamphlet calling for a 'progressive alliance' with the SNP.** Compass published a paper by Jeremy Gilbert, who lists Lewis as 'helping with the text' of the document which says 'We have already seen what happens when a Labour leadership rules out all possibility of co-operation with the SNP in government, as Miliband did

in 2015...all the Labour Party has to do is to be honest – we would prefer voters to elect Scottish Labour MPs and will assist Scottish Labour in putting forward a distinctive programme, but if they elect SNP MPs instead then we will work with them... It's not rocket science' (*The Progressive Alliance: why Labour needs it*, Compass, March 2017, [link](#)) **Jeremy Corbyn's closest allies and supporters back a second referendum – or independence**

- **Paul Mason, a key supporter of Jeremy Corbyn, said Scottish Labour should back another independence referendum.** 'The interim solution is for Scottish Labour to adopt the position argued by its deputy leader, Alex Rowley: embrace "home rule" – a rejigged devo-max proposal – and support a second independence referendum. Then throw open the doors to radical left-wing supporters of independence.' (*New Statesman*, 17 October 2016, [link](#)).
- **John McDonnell's chief economic adviser James Meadway featured in a video encouraging Scots to vote for independence.** He contributed to a video entitled 'Scottish Independence: support from London' in which he said that independence would 'break the stranglehold of Westminster and the City of London' and 'Go on Scotland, you can do it' (*Herald Scotland*, 29 July 2016, [link](#)).
- **Corbyn's grassroots support campaign Momentum supports an independent Scotland and sent members to the Radical Independence Campaign conference.** Charlie Clarke, a Momentum organiser, at the conference said 'Scottish independence has a voice in Momentum and I hope it has the space to grow' (*CommonSpace*, 1 October 2016, [link](#)).
- **Les Huckfield, former Labour minister and ally of Jeremy Corbyn, called on Scottish Labour to back independence.** 'We have an ongoing dialogue about the fact that it would be far better if the Labour party as a whole backed Scottish independence, but obviously as a start it would be good if Scottish Labour did so' (*The National*, 3 November 2016, [link](#)).

Press release: RACE DRIVEN to support driverless cars

RACE – UKAEA's state of the art robotics technology centre at Culham Science Centre – is to consolidate its position as a test site for driverless cars as a number of major investments in this area were announced today.

These projects will play a key role in putting the first driverless cars on public roads in the coming years. Most notable is the DRIVEN consortium* led by award-winning driverless car developers Oxbotica and including RACE. DRIVEN has received over £8m in funding from the Government's CCAV (Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles) £13m investment in this area. This

will go towards developing and operating a fleet of vehicles to operate on public roads, with complete autonomy, within the next two and half years. The project will culminate with these vehicles travelling autonomously from London to Oxford (with safety drivers on board as a precaution) – as a public demonstration of the viability of this technology.

RACE will play a key role in the project. Oxbotica's main field test activities are conducted from their base in the RACE building, and they make use of the 10 kilometres of roads, junctions, roundabouts (even traffic lights and pedestrian crossings) within the closed Culham site; a perfect 'test track' for these vehicles to test their ability to monitor and react to other vehicles, cyclists and people in realistic circumstances, whatever the weather. This latest funding comes amid strong support for the whole robotics and artificial intelligence community. 'Cutting edge artificial intelligence and robotics systems that will operate in extreme and hazardous environments' will benefit from a £270m Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund announced in the 2017 Spring Budget, and a recent House of Lords Science and Technology Committee report recommended the route ahead to harness the huge potential of connected and autonomous vehicles.

RACE Director Rob Buckingham said:

RACE has been working with Oxbotica for some time now. The DRIVEN team brings together the right combination of interests and enthusiasm to change the conversation in this exciting field from mostly speculation to real world detail. DRIVEN will show how autonomous vehicles will change the world, both for the public and industrial users.

DRIVEN is important because it will answer questions around cyber security and insurance as well as the underlying technology. RACE has a key supporting role: enabling testing on the Culham Science Centre site before we venture on the public roads. DRIVEN reinforces our aspiration to enable connected and autonomous vehicles to be widely adopted. Starting in Oxfordshire we are already thinking about how autonomous vehicles fit within a modern transport plans for both Oxford and Didcot Garden Town. DRIVEN is a very important step on this journey.

*The DRIVEN consortium is led by Oxbotica Ltd.; the other partners in the project are the Oxford Robotics Institute, insurer XL Catlin, Nominet, Telefonica, the Transport Research Laboratory, UKAEAs RACE facility, Oxfordshire County Council, Transport for London and Westbourne Communications.

For more information please contact Nick Holloway, UKAEA Media Manager, on 01235 466232 or email nick.holloway@ukaea.uk

While the Conservatives shirk responsibility, Labour will deal with the dirty air damaging the lives of millions of British people – Hayman

Sue Hayman MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, ahead of the High Court consideration of the government's request to further delay publication of their air quality plan, said:

"If the government fails to publish its plan to deal with the chronic levels of air pollution today then Labour will, within the first 30 days of our administration.

"Labour will bring forward a new Clean Air Act, setting out how we would tackle air pollution that NHS experts say contributes to 40,000 premature deaths every year.

"With nearly 40 million people in the UK living in areas with illegal levels of air pollution, it is simply not acceptable for ministers to hide behind the general election to delay publishing plans to improve air quality.

"Purdah rules exist to stop one party using the machinery of government for their electoral advantage, not to be used as an excuse to delay acting on vital public health matters. We trust that the court will recognise this.

"While the Conservatives shirk responsibility, Labour will deal with the dirty air damaging the lives of millions of British people."

EU student funding guarantee for Welsh universities announced

EU nationals who are currently in receipt of student loans from Student Finance Wales and those EU nationals who intend to begin studying in the academic year 2018/19 will be eligible for support from loans and grants.

EU students should consult their university's student finance office, or the Student Finance Wales website, for information about the support available.

Kirsty Williams said,

"Wales has an internationally renowned higher education sector and it is vital that we continue to attract bright students from around the world to study and research at our universities.

"This decision not only provides welcome certainty for our universities and colleges regarding future funding, but also assures prospective EU students they will not have the terms of their funding changed if the UK leaves the EU during their studies.

"Our universities are central to our social and economic future, which value and celebrate their links with Europe, and thrive through the diversity of the people who come to them.

"We are determined to protect Wales' reputation as a friendly and tolerant place to study and carry out world-class research. Whatever the long-term implication of the referendum result, we remain an outward looking and welcoming nation where we are committed to sharing knowledge across national borders."

Statement to Parliament: Sky / Fox Merger

Update Regarding Proposed Merger of 21st Century Fox and Sky: Written statement – HCWS610

On Thursday 16 March I intervened in the proposed acquisition of Sky by 21 Century Fox on the media public interest grounds of media plurality and commitment to broadcasting standards by issuing a European Intervention Notice (EIN).

The EIN triggered the requirement for Ofcom to assess and report to me on the public interest grounds specified and for the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to report to me on jurisdiction. I required Ofcom and the CMA to provide their reports to me in response to the EIN by Tuesday 16 May. Once I receive these reports, my decision-making role in this process would resume.

Given the proximity of this decision to the forthcoming general election and

following discussions with the parties, Ofcom, the CMA and the Cabinet Office Propriety and Ethics team I wrote to Ofcom and the CMA on Friday 21 April to extend the period by which these reports should be submitted to Tuesday 20 June.