

# SNP ready to 'pour negativity' on UK ahead of General Election

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20 Apr 2017



The SNP will use the upcoming General Election campaign to “pour negativity” on the rest of the UK, Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson has said.

At First Minister’s Questions today, she highlighted a number of instances where SNP MSPs had produced “negative trash” on the role of Britain both at home and abroad.

It comes after Ruth spoke at an event alongside Bill Gates highlighting the contribution made by UK foreign aid across the world.

And today, she challenged Nicola Sturgeon to acknowledge these contributions, instead of siding with her SNP colleagues who described life in the UK as “hell on earth”.

Backbencher Joan McAlpine also wrote in her *Daily Record* column that the election of a Conservative government would be “eternal damnation in a bottomless pit”.

In contrast, Mr Gates – one of the world’s most successful businessmen and significant charitable forces – said of the UK’s aid effort: “You are the reason that malaria deaths are down in entire villages and life-saving vaccines are now reaching kids in the most remote parts of the world.”

However, the First Minister refused to criticise Ms McAlpine’s remarks, and instead resorted to criticism of Westminster.

**Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said:**

“We are about to fight a General Election campaign where we know what the SNP’s message will be.

“It’s that living in the UK, under a Conservative government, would supposedly be ‘hell on earth’.

“And even given the work Britain does around the world, as highlighted by Bill Gates in London this week, Nicola Sturgeon still seems to think this is a fair description of life in this country.

“She fails to acknowledge the work our government is doing around the world –

helping girls get an education, in supporting women work their way out of poverty, in ending early and forced marriage.

“It’s pathetic that she and the rest of the SNP would rather denigrate us.

“In the weeks ahead the Scottish Conservatives will set out our vision of a UK that’s a force for good in the world. And we will stand up for Scotland’s place in that United Kingdom.

“In contrast, Nicola Sturgeon’s first intervention has been to say she wants to put Jeremy Corbyn into Number 10.”

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## **MEPs call on Trump to dump the Paris climate deal**

Twenty Members of the European parliament from six EU member-states have written an open letter to President Donald J. Trump calling for early implementation of his campaign pledge to pull the USA out of the Paris Climate Treaty. In their letter, they say that a US withdrawal from the Paris accord “would effectively neuter it, to the benefit of us all”. They applaud the new and more positive approach which President Trump is taking to climate and energy issues, and say they “are pressing for similar policies on this (European) side of the Atlantic”.

They also raise their concerns about the EPA’s “endangerment” finding with regard to CO<sub>2</sub>, and urge the President to revisit the issue. They argue that the finding “has no sound basis in science, but provides a pretext for damaging and extreme environmental policies”.

Commenting on the letter, UKIP’s Energy Spokesman Roger Helmer, who set up the initiative, said “It is clear that the EU’s extreme green policies are doing huge damage to EU industry and EU competitiveness, and are driving energy-intensive industries out of the EU entirely, taking their jobs and their investments with them. At the same time these policies have a trivial effect on the climate. Billions spent on “green” investments amount to little more than gesture politics and virtue-signalling from politicians spending other people’s money”.

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## **News story: Civil news: faster payment**

# claims and documentary evidence

Remember to upload all of the documentary evidence requested by the Client and Cost management System (CCMS) when you make your claim.

The requirements for this documentation are uniform across both CCMS and the old paper-based claiming system.

## **Common issues – documents**

1.Court orders needing to be uploaded: 20% of all secondary requests are because the LAA requires a court order to confirm the claim.

Where advocacy is claimed under the Family Advocacy Scheme (FAS), court orders for advocacy should be uploaded to CCMS for:

- contested interim hearing with a court bundle
- 'Issues Resolution Hearing' that concludes proceedings
- 3 or more advocates' meetings

Court orders for disbursements should also be uploaded for any claim for drug testing or where there is an unusual division of a disbursement between the parties.

2.Incomplete or missing advocates' attendance forms: the requirements for a completed FAS form for advocacy have not changed where there is a:

- 'Hearing Unit 2' or higher – i.e. the hearing time is greater than 61 minutes or is a final hearing.
- claim for any bolt-on or bundle

3.Incomplete or missing disbursement vouchers: any disbursement more than £20 (including VAT) still requires a completed and broken down disbursement voucher.

Where a voucher is not available, such as for court fees, a ledger is an acceptable alternative.

4.Incomplete or missing billing details: when claiming at hourly rates, any work entered as 'other' should be provided with an explanatory note uploaded to CCMS explaining the work.

5.Missing case narratives: all cases must still be accompanied with a case narrative. This can also be used to explain any unusual claim being made – such as travel under the 'local travel' rules.

## Other common claim issues

1. Counsel costs under FAS: if counsel is claiming under the FAS make sure that the costs claimed by counsel match the allocated cost limit.
2. Counsel costs at hourly rates: if counsel is claiming by way of hourly rates, make sure their bill is submitted at the same time as yours.
3. Expert's breakdown: make sure expert claims contain sufficient detail of the work carried out.
4. Incomplete financial issues: any statutory charge or 'inter-party' cost issues should be closed using the 'case outcome' task.

Further information

[CCMS training Quick Guides](#) – for guidance on submitting bills in CCMS

[CIV Claim1](#) – documentary evidence checklists

[CIV CLAIM1A](#) – more useful documentary evidence checklists

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## **News story: Sara Weller CBE appointed as the department's lead non-executive**

Sara Weller is a Non-Executive Director at Lloyds Banking Group and United Utilities plc. She also chairs the Planning Inspectorate, an executive agency of the Department for Communities and Local Government, and is on the Governing Council at Cambridge University and the board of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Sara brings an extensive business background to the role. She was Managing Director of Argos from 2004 to 2011 and previously held senior executive roles at J Sainsbury plc, Abbey National and Mars. She holds a First class Masters in Chemistry from the University of Oxford.

Welcoming the appointment, Secretary of State of the Department for Work and Pensions, Damian Green said:

Sara Weller has an excellent track record in business and a wealth of top tier board experience which I have no doubt she will bring to the role.

I'd like to thank Dame Clara for her dedication and hard work over the past 6 years. Her work has helped to improve the department's governance as it delivers an ambitious programme of work, welfare, and pensions reforms.

Sara Weller said:

The work that DWP does touches customers at almost every stage of life.

As the department moves from reform to a process of embedding change, I look forward to bringing my expertise in business and strategy to the country's biggest public service department.

The role of the board is to advise the department on performance, including agreeing key performance indicators. It also oversees operational issues, such as the operational and delivery implications of policy proposals, and the effective management of the department.

It exercises its role through influence and advice, and both supports and challenges the executive.

Members also scrutinise the progress and implementation of the business plan, and are involved in recruiting, appraising and ensuring appropriate succession planning of senior executives.

The board meets regularly with other non-executives across government to ensure departments learn from the successes and failures of comparable organisations.

All board members, including the lead, are appointed for a 3-year period.

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## [Greens: Labour must commit to ratification referendum](#)



20 April 2017

The Green Party is calling for Labour to commit to a ratification referendum. At an election event earlier the leader of the Labour Party refused to rule out such a poll [1].

Caroline Lucas, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

“Labour should immediately commit to holding a ratification referendum. If they truly trust the British people – and want to give them a real say over the future direction of this country – then they must commit to a democratic vote on any final deal. With the Tories already hurtling us towards an extreme Brexit the Labour Party should also make clear whether or not they support Britain's continued membership of the single market or if they, like

the Government, are willing to sacrifice this country's prosperity at the altar of stopping freedom of movement.

"The Green Party is clear on our opposition to an extreme Brexit. We will campaign to remain a member of the single market and for continued freedom of movement and the protection of our environment."

**Notes:**

1. <https://twitter.com/SamCoatesTimes/status/855002311856459777>

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