

**“IN 500 DAYS SCOTS
WILL ANSWER THE MOST
IMPORTANT QUESTION WE
HAVE EVER BEEN ASKED.
TODAY BETTER TOGETHER
ASK 500 QUESTIONS.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASK
QUESTIONS.
IT’S TIME WE GOT SOME
ANSWERS.”**

In 500 days Scots will answer the most important question we will ever be asked.

Deciding whether we stay part of our 300 year old Union, or go it alone is a choice of unrivalled importance. The impact of the vote that we cast in September next year will be felt for generations to come.

We have achieved so much together as part of the UK. Scots have changed the world in a way that few other countries can reasonably expect to match. We have stood shoulder to shoulder in the fight against fascism. We have raised families together, started businesses together and stood up for each other through good times and bad.

If we are to give all of this up, there has to be a good reason to do so.

So far, those who want Scotland to leave the United Kingdom have relied on bluster and, sadly, outright deception in order to try convince Scots to give them their backing. This, simply, is not good enough.

This debate is too important to be based on anything other than cold, hard facts. Unfortunately, we find ourselves living in a country where legitimate questions are met with attack and assertion, rather than detail and debate.

Experts, businesses and trade unionists who raise their concerns about what independence means are shouted down. Anyone who raises any questions about the wisdom of leaving the UK is accused of scaremongering.

Over the next 500 days we will seek to change this. We will give voice to the millions of Scots who want to know exactly what separation would mean for their jobs, their pensions and their country.

Today we ask 500 questions. These questions have been submitted to us by individuals, organisations and businesses over the past few months. Taken alone, many of these might not feel like 'dealbreakers', but taken together they paint a picture of just some of the issues that the SNP must address before asking us to vote to leave the UK.

We shall continue to ask questions. It is time we got some answers.

I passionately believe that we are better and stronger together with our friends, families and workmates from across the UK. We take so much of what we have for granted. It is only when you start to ask questions of the nationalists that you realise just how much we have to lose by leaving.

Alistair Darling

Chair - Better Together

EUROPE

1. Given continued EU membership would only be possible with the approval of all member states and a separate Scotland would be required to join the EU as a new accession state, how long would that process take?
2. What would be the financial contribution of an independent Scotland to the EU budget?
3. When will the Scottish Government release the full legal advice regarding Scotland's position in the EU following independence?
4. Why did Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, tell the Scottish Parliament European and External Relations Committee that EU membership would be automatic for an independent Scotland and that no negotiations would be needed?
5. Do the Scottish Government now accept that an independent Scotland would have to negotiate EU membership which would necessitate negotiating a new opt-out from the European currency?
6. If negotiations on EU membership made clear that an independent Scotland would be required to join the European currency would the Scottish Government agree to those terms or forego membership of the EU?
7. Would Scots be given a say in a referendum on the new negotiated terms of membership of European Union
8. Does the Scottish Government recognise that an independent Scotland would not continue to enjoy a share of the UK European rebate which equates to around £135 for every Scottish household?
9. How would the Scottish Government fill the financial gap left by the loss of around £135 per Scottish household of the European rebate?
10. What assessment has the Scottish Government made on the timescale involved in applying for EU membership and completing the negotiations?
11. How does this predicted timescale compare to the process for previous accession states?
12. Would some form of eventual membership of the Eurozone be mandated as part of negotiation on EU membership for an independent Scotland?

13. If a commitment to eventual Euro membership was a condition of EU membership, would the Scottish Government sign such a treaty?
14. Joining the EU requires currency convergence and participation in the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERMII) how would an independent Scotland, that retained Sterling, seek to accomplish this when monetary policy would be the preserve of the Bank of England?
15. An independent Scotland applying for EU membership would not have the automatic opt-outs from the Schengen Agreement which it currently has as part of the UK, would the Scottish Government join the EU if it meant Scotland had less control over our borders and passport controls were implemented at the English border?
16. What will happen to contracts involving Scottish legal entities in the rest of the European Union?

DEFENCE, SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

17. If we vote for independence Scotland will face an unprecedented period of international negotiation and internal negotiation to separate the UK. Given there is currently no Scottish diplomatic service, and given the rest of the Scottish Government's day-to-day business would continue, who would carry out the negotiations?
18. What assessment has been made of the likelihood that existing Foreign and Commonwealth staff would join a separate Scottish diplomatic service?
19. How many embassies and consuls would an independent Scotland have around the globe?
20. The Deputy First Minister has said that an independent Scotland would have 100 embassies and consuls compared with 2070 the UK currently has. In what countries would an independent Scotland set up embassies and consuls?
21. How long would it take before those 100 embassies and consuls of an independent Scotland were operational?
22. What, if any, transition arrangement would be put in place in the period before the embassies and consuls of an independent Scotland were operational?
23. What is its estimated cost of a separate diplomatic presence around the globe?

24. How long would the application, negotiation and confirmation process take for an independent Scotland to become a member of NATO?
25. How long would the application, negotiation and confirmation process take for and independent Scotland to become a member of the United Nations?
26. How can Scotland be better represented in the international community after independence by giving up the permanent seat on the UN Security Council it currently has as part of the UK?
27. What assessment has the Scottish Government made on the process an independent Scotland would have to go through to become a member of the European Defence Agency? How long would this take?
28. Does the Scottish Government stand by the position outlined by Finance Secretary, John Swinney, in the leaked cabinet paper that a “much lower” defence budget must be assumed?
29. An independent Scotland would no longer be protected by the British Armed Forces, would new Scottish Armed forces units be created?
30. Would this include a Scottish Army?
31. Would this include a Scottish Navy?
32. Would this include a Scottish Marine force?
33. Would this include a Scottish Air Force?
34. Would this include Scottish Special Forces?
35. Would this include a Scottish Territorial Army?
36. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the costs involved and timescale of establishing fully operational Scottish Armed Forces?
37. What, if any, planning has it done on what transitional arrangements would be put in place before a separate Scottish Armed Forces were operational?
38. How many airbases, army bases and naval bases would an independent Scotland have and where will they be located?

39. How many and what type of aircraft would a separate Scottish air force have?
40. How many and what type of surface vessels would a separate Scottish Navy have?
41. How many and what type of submarines would a separate Scottish Navy have?
42. How many defence contracts will a separate Scotland have with Scottish shipyards over the next 10 years?
43. What consultation have Scottish Government Ministers had with Shipyard workers and their representatives on the impact of independence on their jobs?
44. Would Scottish military personnel be able to choose between serving in a separate Scottish or UK armed forces?
45. If so, what are the contingency plans to replace the professional expertise of military personnel should the majority chose to continue serving in the UK Armed Forces?
46. What assessment has the Scottish Government done on the process through which current UK defence equipment could be allocated to Scotland?
47. What assessment has the Scottish Government done on the extent to which the loss of UK government defence contracts, after independence, will impact the jobs of related to the defence procurement?
48. Would an independent Scotland seek to rely on the UK's Secret Intelligence Service (MI6)?
49. Would a new Scottish Intelligence agency be established?
50. If Scotland was to establish a new intelligence service after independence what assessment has the Scottish Government made on which intelligence sharing protocols would be required?
51. With which nations would intelligence sharing protocols be sought? What strategy does the Scottish Government have for achieving this?
52. Would an independent Scotland establish a security service?
53. How much would this cost and what is the estimated timescale for a new security service to be operational?

54. Would an independent Scotland establish a signal intelligence service, similar to the UK's GCHQ, to monitor and protect against cyber threats?
55. How much would this cost and what is the estimated timescale for recruiting and training qualified personnel to make this operational?
56. What contingency plans will the Scottish Government put in place to cover the period after separation from the UK to the establishing of a functional Scottish security service to ensure safety of the Scottish population?
57. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the effect of independence on the prospects of and employment in Scottish defence related industries which supply equipment to the UK or other NATO allies?
58. How would an independent Scotland protect and defend Scottish interests and trade routes overseas?
59. What would be the approach to public procurement of an independent Scotland's defence department?
60. What implications if any are there for the cost of purchasing new command and control systems and military hardware as a result of the loss of economies of scale gained from UK-wide purchasing?
61. Would an independent Scotland have the military helicopter capacity to evacuate North Sea oil platforms in the event of a major incident?

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

62. How would Scotland be better represented in the international community after independence if it was no longer a member of the G7, G8 or G20 as it currently is within the UK?
63. What assessment has the Scottish Government made on the process through which an independent Scotland could join the World Trade Organisation?
64. What assessment has been made on how long joining the WTO would take?

65. What assessment has the Scottish Government done on the impact on whisky producers and other manufacturers if they have to pay import duties to sell their products in other countries during the period in which an Independent Scotland would have to negotiate accession to the World Trade Organisation?
66. What assessment has the Scottish Government made on the process through which an independent Scotland could join the International Monetary Fund? And how long would this take?
67. What assessment has the Scottish Government made on the process through which an independent Scotland could join the World Bank? And how long would this take?
68. What level of consular support abroad is envisaged for Scottish business and leisure travellers, after independence and how would this be provided?
69. What assessment has the Scottish Government made on the process through which an independent Scotland could join the European Investment Bank? And how long would this take?
70. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the Food and Agriculture Organisation?
71. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the International Atomic Energy Agency
72. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the International Civil Aviation Organisation
73. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the International Labour Organisation?
74. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of UNESCO?
75. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation?
76. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the World Food Programme?

77. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the World Health Organisation?
78. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the World Meteorological Organisation?
79. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the World Tourism Organisation?
80. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the Commonwealth?
81. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the OECD?
82. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the International Olympic Committee?
83. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of Interpol?
84. What is the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving a separate Scotland's membership of the International Maritime Organisation?

REGULATION

85. Is the Scottish Government of the view that EU legislation means each Member State must have its own financial regulator?
86. If so, what would be the proposed legislative timetable for establishing any new financial regulator(s)?
87. Would the regulator's future approach seek to mirror that in England and the remaining part of the UK, or would it diverge over time and to what extent?
88. What would be the governance arrangements for the financial services regulator(s), and what degree of independence from government would it have?
89. What would be the set up and on-going running costs of establishing the regulator(s), and has any attempt been made to assess the gaps in skills, expertise and knowledge that would need to be overcome in order to staff it effectively?

90. What body would oversee macro-prudential regulation of the financial system in Scotland?
91. Would the Prudential Regulation Authority, as a subsidiary of the Bank of England which will have responsibility for micro-prudential regulation of financial institutions that manage significant risks on their balance sheets, have responsibility in Scotland?
92. Would the Financial Conduct Authority, which will supervise all firms to ensure market integrity, consumer protection and effective competition in a way that advances the interests of all users and participants, have responsibility for an independent Scotland?
93. Would an independent Scotland adopt all existing UK financial services rules and regulations at the outset or would it set out to make its own rules?
94. Has any assessment been made as to how might any new rules on financial regulation impact on the competitiveness of Scottish business?
95. Currently the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is the regulator for the whole of the rail network in the UK. Would this responsibility become transnational or would Scotland have its own regulator?
96. If this was the case, would responsibility for regulation strictly end at the border, meaning two organisations could be responsible for one line and one Train Operating Company (TOC)?
97. Would a separate competition or anti-trust Authority be established?

TAXATION & SPENDING

98. What level of debt would an independent Scotland have at the outset?
99. What proportion of the UK costs of bailing out Scottish banks such as RBS and Bank of Scotland would an independent Scotland assume?
100. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the cost of borrowing that an independent Scotland would face?
101. Has the Scottish Government sought advice from ratings agencies on the likely credit rating of an independent Scotland?
102. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the likely impact on the cost of mortgage and credit card borrowing from Scottish independence?

103. What would be the impact on international reputation and credit-worthiness if the Scottish Government, as suggested by SNP Ministers, defaulted on its share of UK debt.
104. Will all income tax levels in a separate Scotland remain the same as other parts of the United Kingdom?
105. What changes would an independent Scotland make to personal taxation bands?
106. Would an independent Scotland introduce a 50p tax rate as hinted by Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon?
107. Would an independent Scotland introduce a 10p tax rate?
108. What work has been undertaken to understand the impact a cut in Corporation Tax would have on the Scottish economy?
109. In particular has any work been carried out that looks at any link between a cut in Corporation Tax and employment rates?
110. Would a Local Income Tax be introduced in a separate Scotland? If so, when?
111. The Institute of Chartered Accounts in Scotland believe that establishing a separate tax system could take two decades. How long does the Scottish Government expect this to take?
112. What would be the transitional arrangements be until a separate tax system is set up?
113. What estimates have been made of the costs to business and individual tax payers of the transition to a new tax system?
114. What detailed estimate has been made of the cost of establishing and then annually running a separate tax system?
115. Does the Scottish Government stand by the position outlined by Finance Secretary, John Swinney, in the leaked cabinet paper that the annual cost of tax administration in an independent Scotland could be as much as £625 million (more than double our share of HMRC cost)?
116. What will happen to the more than 100 double taxation treaties which the UK is party to?
117. What work has been undertaken to assess whether income tax would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?

118. What work has been undertaken to assess whether VAT would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
119. What work has been undertaken to assess whether National Insurance contributions would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
120. What work has been undertaken to assess whether Corporation Tax would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
121. What work has been undertaken to assess whether fuel duties would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
122. What work has been undertaken to assess whether tobacco duties would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
123. What work has been undertaken to assess whether alcohol duties would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
124. What work has been undertaken to assess whether Capital Gains Tax would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
125. What work has been undertaken to assess whether Insurance Premium Tax be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
126. What work has been undertaken to assess whether betting and gambling duties would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
127. What work has been undertaken to assess whether the Climate Change Levy would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
128. What work has been undertaken to assess whether Inheritance Tax would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
129. What work has been undertaken to assess whether Vehicle Excise Duty would be higher or lower in an independent Scotland?
130. What are the Scottish Government's estimates of the initial and on-going direct and indirect costs to the public and private sectors of separate PAYE and personal and business tax assessment and collection systems in an independent Scotland?
131. What would be an independent Scotland's approach to fiscal policy, and what would be the implications for taxation of business?
132. What would be the governance arrangements for the Scottish Treasury and the revenue collection authority, and has any attempt been made to assess the gaps in skills, expertise and knowledge that would need to be overcome in order to staff these bodies effectively?

133. How would corporate profits earned out with Scotland be treated for tax purposes?
134. Would tax relief be available on pension contributions, long term savings products, ISAs and SIPPs, and to what extent?
135. Would Gift Aid apply and would the regime and rates be different to those currently in place across the UK?
136. What will be the taxation position of Scots with equity investments listed on the London Stock Exchange, and for foreign investors in companies registered in Scotland?
137. A number of current UK tax incentives, including many capital allowances, only exist because they pre-date the introduction of EU State Aid rules which now proscribe which new allowances are allowed; would an independent Scotland be able –indeed would it seek- to retain such allowances?
138. Will there be a need for a Double Taxation Treaty between rUK and Scotland?
139. With regard to double taxation relief and withholding taxes, would an independent Scotland have access to existing UK bilateral double tax treaties with other countries or will new treaties have to be negotiated?
140. If the latter which nations would an independent Scotland seek to prioritise for negotiations?
141. Can the population of Scotland produce sufficient tax revenue to sustain a separate Scottish economy?
142. What work has been undertaken to decide whether or not the Capital Gains Tax Enterprise Management Incentive would apply in a separate Scotland?
143. What work has been undertaken to assess whether the Capital Gains Tax Entrepreneurs' Relief scheme would apply in a separate Scotland?
144. What work has been undertaken to assess Corporation Tax rates for businesses of differing sizes.
145. What work has been undertaken to assess the Corporation Tax rates for the oil and gas sector
146. What work has been undertaken to assess the Vehicle Excise Duty rates for different types of vehicles?
147. What work has been undertaken to assess Vehicle Excise Duty exemptions – e.g. for classic vehicles?

148. What work has been undertaken to assess Vehicle Excise Duties exemptions for disabled people?
149. What will be the tax allowance on business mileage?
150. What will be the rates for Company Car taxation?
151. What will be the exemptions applied for Company Car taxation?
152. What will be the Capital allowances for Ultra Low emission vehicles?
153. What will be the Capital allowances for energy saving machinery and equipment?
154. What will be the Capital allowances for railway assets and ships?
155. What will be the Capital Allowances for mineral extraction?
156. Will Air Passenger Duty continue to be collected in a separate Scotland?
157. What will be the Air Passenger Duty Rate for differing types of flights i.e. long/short haul?
158. Will Highland / Island airports be exempted from Air Passenger Duty?
159. Will there be differential rates of Air Passenger Duty within Scotland?
160. What will be Air Passenger Duty /taxation regime for private planes?
161. What work has been undertaken to assess who will pay Inheritance Tax in a separate Scotland?
162. What work has been undertaken to assess the impact on Inheritance Tax for spouses and partners domiciled outside of Scotland?
163. Will the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme be continued in a separate Scotland? If so, what work has been undertaken as to how it will work?
164. Will the Real Estate Investment Trusts continue in a separate Scotland? If so, what work has been undertaken as to how it will work?
165. Will Research & Development tax credits continue in a separate Scotland? If so, what work has been undertaken as to how it will work?
166. What work has been undertaken to establish the cost of a TV Licence in a separate Scotland?

- 167. What work has been undertaken to establish which tax reliefs would be available to Community Amateur Sports Clubs?
- 168. What work has been undertaken to establish which tax reliefs would be available to video games companies / film companies and other creative industries?
- 169. What work has been undertaken to establish which age related allowances would be available for Income Tax
- 170. What work has been undertaken to establish how a Non Domicile Taxation regime would work in a separate Scotland?
- 171. What work has been undertaken to establish which International agreements will be required on Tax Compliance?

BUSINESS

- 172. What overall assessment has been made of the compliance and adaptation costs of business as a result of the establishment of a new state?
- 173. What work has been undertaken to establish the impact of separation on Scottish companies who sell most of their goods and services to the rest of the UK?
- 174. What work has been undertaken to establish the non-domestic poundage rate, and the methods of valuing commercial and industrial properties?
- 175. Would non-domestic rates be applied to offshore oil and gas and renewables installations and infrastructure, ending the current annual exemption from business rates?
- 176. Would an independent Scotland seek to retain a suite of export credit finance, guarantees, insurance and letters of credit along the lines of that which is currently available to Scottish firms through UK Export Finance?
- 177. Would a distinct Scottish version of the Export Guarantees Advisory Council be established? If so, what work has been undertaken to establish how it might work?
- 178. Would there be a distinct import and export licensing regime for controlled goods, and would there be a distinct Scottish version of the Export Control Organisation to provide guidance and advice to businesses?
- 179. If so, what work has been undertaken to establish how they might work?
- 180. What work has been undertaken to establish how anti- corruption and bribery legislation would operate in a separate Scotland?

181. What work has been undertaken to establish the implications of separation on existing support mechanisms such as the Green Investment Bank?
182. What work has been undertaken to establish the implications of separation on existing support mechanisms such as Enterprise Finance Guarantee?
183. What work has been undertaken to establish the implications of separation on existing support mechanisms such as the Business Growth Fund?
184. What work has been undertaken to establish a separate Corporate Governance Code and standards?
185. What supervisory, regulatory and tax regimes would be put in place governing takeovers, mergers and acquisitions, in order to protect shareholders and investors?
186. What corporate governance regulatory body(s) and regimes would be put in place for company directors?
187. What corporate governance regulatory body(s) and regimes would be put in place for accountants?
188. What corporate governance regulatory body(s) and regimes would be put in place for auditors?
189. What corporate governance regulatory body(s) and regimes would be put in place for actuaries?
190. What work has been undertaken to establish a Scottish Financial Reporting Council?
191. Would a Scottish Financial Reporting Council have monitoring, investigative and disciplinary functions?
192. What work has been undertaken to establish what these functions might entail?
193. Would an independent Scotland have its own distinct approach, or would firms be expected to adhere to the existing UK Corporate Governance Code and standards?
194. What work has been undertaken to establish what the relationship between a new, Scottish Companies House would have with the government in a separate Scotland?
195. What work has been undertaken to establish a replacement to the UK Takeover Panel?
196. What work has been undertaken to establish a Competition Commission for Scotland?

197. What assessment has been made of the impact on Scottish brands in the rUK market if there is a Scottish vote to leave the UK.

PENSIONS, WELFARE, ETC

198. What work has been undertaken to establish the impact of separation on the pensions of the 16,000 Scots who have their pension paid by the UK Pensions Protection Fund (PPF)?
199. What progress has been made in determining the “affordability” of state pensions outlined by Finance Secretary, John Swinney, in the leaked cabinet paper?
200. What work has been undertaken to establish whether or not a separate Scotland would establish a Pensions Protection Fund.
201. Given that national insurance records are held centrally in Newcastle for the whole of the UK, what work has been undertaken to estimate the cost of setting up a new Scottish records system?
202. What work has been undertaken to establish the regime that would ensure the transparency of costs and charges in a separate Scottish private pensions market?
203. What discussions have taken place between the Scottish Government European countries or the European Commission regarding an exemption for Scotland on EU insolvency rules?
204. What work has been undertaken by the Scottish Government to establish whether or not Scots working in rUK will be able to accrue pensions’ rights and National Insurance credits for a separate Scottish pension?
205. What work has been undertaken by the Scottish Government to establish which Government would be responsible for the state pension entitlements of Scots built up prior to separation?
206. What work has been undertaken to establish a Scottish replacement for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme?
207. What discussions have the Scottish Government had with the Pensions Protection Fund in regards to the impact of separation?
208. What discussions have taken place with Scottish companies about the business tax levy necessary to fund a separate Scottish pension protection system?

209. What discussions have taken place with Defined Benefit Occupational pension schemes in Scotland regarding the requirement under EU law that all company schemes operating in more than one member state are fully funded?
210. What work has been undertaken to establish how much would it cost Scottish pensioners and companies to fill any funding black hole caused by EU regulations on cross border pension schemes?
211. What work has been undertaken to establish the impact on the pensions of Scots already part of UK workplace auto-enrolment pension schemes?
212. What work has been undertaken to establish whether or not Scotland will operate a scheme similar to the National Employment Savings Trust?
213. If a Scottish National Employment Savings Trust was established, would firms be compelled to join?
214. What work has been undertaken to determine at what level will the state pension will be set at?
215. Would state pension provision mirror that elsewhere in the UK, and would similar rules apply for eligibility and retirement ages?
216. Would the Scottish Government introduce a single tier state pension after independence?
217. What work has been undertaken to establish whether or not the Scottish Government would operate a pensions credit means testing system?
218. What long term planning has the Scottish Government undertaken for state pension provision given that the Scottish pensioner population is rising at a higher rate than the rest of the UK?
219. What work has been undertaken to establish who will regulate a separate Scottish pensions market?
220. What action the Scottish Government proposes to take around transparency of costs and charges in a separate Scottish private pensions market?
221. Liabilities of £86 billion have already been identified as relating to Scotland in public sector pensions, will the Scottish Government take responsibility after 2014?
222. And what impact would this have on tax and spending decisions?
223. Which authority would be responsible for regulating pension schemes offered to customers in an independent Scotland?

224. What kind of regulatory framework and consumer protection authority and regime would be established in an independent Scotland?
225. Would there be a separate Scottish financial ombudsman service, and how would it be funded?
226. If new pension regulatory regimes were established in a separate Scotland, what work has been undertaken to determine which regime applied to a pensions scheme operating in both Scotland and the rest of the UK?
227. What work has been undertaken to establish who would take on responsibility of the provision of pensions for university staff and others currently organised on a UK basis?
228. What work has been undertaken to establish the impact on Scotland's Higher Education funding if a separate Scotland has to assume responsibility for university staff pensions?
229. Would pensioners continue to receive the Winter Fuel Allowance in a separate Scotland? If yes, what work has been undertaken to establish the level of payment?
230. Would the Cold Weather Payment continue in a separate Scotland? If yes, what work has been undertaken to establish the level of payment?
231. What work has been undertaken to establish at what age the state pension would be paid in a separate Scotland?
232. Will pensioners be eligible for Pension Credit in an independent Scotland? How much will it be?
233. Will Working Tax Credits continue to be paid in a separate Scotland? If yes, what work has been undertaken in order to guarantee that there would be no disruption to payment post separation?
234. Will Job Seekers Allowance continue to be paid in a separate Scotland? If yes, what work has been undertaken in order to guarantee that there would be no disruption to payment post separation?
235. Will Child Tax Credits continue to be paid in a separate Scotland? If yes, what work has been undertaken in order to guarantee that there would be no disruption to payment post separation?
236. Will Child Benefit continue to be paid in a separate Scotland? If yes, what work has been undertaken in order to guarantee that there would be no disruption to payment post separation?

237. Will Housing Benefit continue to be paid in a separate Scotland? If yes, what work has been undertaken in order to guarantee that there would be no disruption to payment post separation?
238. Will Disability benefits continue to be paid in a separate Scotland? If yes, what work has been undertaken in order to guarantee that there would be no disruption to payment post separation?
239. What work has been undertaken to determine how many qualifying years of National Insurance contributions will someone need for a state pension?
240. Following independence, if Scottish migrants working temporarily in England were made redundant would they be able to claim benefits as they can at the moment within the UK?
241. What rate will benefits be paid at in an independent Scotland?
242. Will an independent Scotland pay more generous cash benefit payments than are currently paid in the United Kingdom? If so, what is the cost estimate of this?

ENERGY

243. On what basis would geographic share of natural resources be allocated to separate Scotland?
244. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the impact Scottish independence would have on Scotland's off-shore wind power rights?
245. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the impact Scottish independence would have on the basing of the Green Investment Bank in Edinburgh?
246. What assessment has the Scottish Government of the impact Scottish independence would have on the cost of petrol?
247. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of what level fuel duty will be in a separate Scotland?
248. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of how the Crown Estate would be divided in between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom in a separate Scotland?
249. Will a separate Scotland establish a separate energy regulator to operate a separate energy market?
250. How would a separate Scottish Government fund Scotland's current levels of public spending in the current era of declining and volatile oil and gas production?

251. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of who would be responsible for meeting the estimated £35bn cost of oil and gas decommissioning in the North Sea?
252. What discussions has the Scottish Government had with the UK Government on oil and gas decommissioning?
253. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of who would be responsible for meeting the cost of decommissioning Scotland's nuclear power stations?
254. Nuclear power currently generates over one third of Scotland's electricity, significantly more than in the rest of the UK. Given the Scottish Government's opposition to new nuclear power, what will fill this gap and provide the baseload power Scotland needs to keep the lights on?
255. Will a separate Scottish Government provide capital support for the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and if so how much?
256. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of what will replace the current system of subsidy for renewable investment in Scotland, whereby consumers across the whole of Britain support investment?
257. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of how much more will be added to the bills of consumers in Scotland to make up the shortfall in support for renewables without payment from consumers elsewhere in Britain?
258. What discussions has the Scottish Government had with the UK Government to discuss the implications of separation on renewable investment in Scotland?
259. How would a separate Scotland operate the Renewable Heat Incentive?
260. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of which costs would accrue to Scottish consumers to fund the continuation of feed in tariffs for small scale generation without payment from the rest of Britain?
261. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of how a separate Scotland would operate the Energy Company Obligation for fuel poor households ?
262. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of how the Green Deal would be funded in a separate Scotland?
263. Will Scotland have a separate electricity transmission network?
264. If so who will operate this and what are the cost implications?

265. What will the transmission charging regime be in a separate Scotland? Does the Scottish Government still support a “socialised” system of charging, which the regulator Ofgem recently estimated would add £7bn to the bills of consumers?
266. What would be the impact of separation on competition in the retail energy market?
267. The Energy Bill currently making its way through the UK Parliament will create a new regime, Contracts for Difference (CfDs), for attracting low carbon investment. Will a separate Scottish administration continue with this regime? If not, what regime will replace this?
268. The Energy Bill also proposes a capacity mechanism to attract investment to meet the UK's energy security needs. It is proposed that the first auction will run in 2014 with a view to new capacity going online by 2018. Will such a scheme operate in a separate Scotland?
269. A number of Scottish institutions receive funding from UK based agencies including from DECC, Energy Technologies Institute, Technology Strategy Board and UK research councils. Will this funding be matched in a separate Scotland?
270. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of what the offshore health and safety regime will look like in a separate Scotland?
271. Which body will form the offshore health and safety regulatory body in a separate Scotland?
272. Will existing North Sea tax relief commitments be met in a separate Scotland?
273. If so, at what cost?
274. What will replace the Hydro Benefit Scheme which protects consumers from the high cost of distributing electricity in the north of Scotland and is funded by consumers across the whole of Britain?
275. What will replace the Civil Nuclear Constabulary which protects nuclear power stations across the UK?
276. What will replace the Civil Nuclear Police Authority?
277. What will replace the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board?
278. What will replace the Nuclear Development Forum?
279. What will replace the Nuclear Skills Alliance?
280. What will replace the Office for Nuclear Regulation?

- 281. What will replace the Community Energy Contact Group?
- 282. What will replace the UK Committee on Climate Change to advise a separate Scottish administration on climate change obligations?
- 283. What will replace the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority?
- 284. What will replace Enhanced Capital Allowances for energy plant and machinery?
- 285. What will replace the Combined Heat and Power Quality Assurance Programme?
- 286. What will replace the Offshore Environment Unit (OEU), which is responsible for developing the environmental regulatory framework for offshore oil and gas exploration and production, offshore gas unloading and storage and offshore carbon dioxide storage on the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS), and for administering and ensuring compliance with the regulatory regime?
- 287. What will replace the Offshore Environmental Inspectorate Team?
- 288. What will replace PILOT, which promotes dialogue between government and the oil and gas industry?
- 289. What will replace UK Promote, an initiative to attract new companies to explore and develop the UK Continental Shelf?
- 290. How would a separate Scottish energy regulator, be constituted and resourced?
- 291. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of how the EU's renewable energy targets would be apportioned following if a separate Scotland becomes a member state of the EU?

HEALTH

- 292. What would replace the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency?
- 293. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of what abortion law will be in a separate Scotland?
- 294. What plans are in place to transfer function of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence which apply to Scotland and what costings have been done for this?
- 295. Will patients from England have to pay for treatment in a Scottish NHS or will Scottish patients have to pay for treatment in a foreign country?
- 296. Will the Scottish Government continue to fund five Scottish medical schools once the fees from English students are no longer available in a separate Scotland?

- 297. Will an independent Scotland establish its own General Medical Council?
- 298. Will an independent Scotland establish its own General Dental Council?
- 299. Will an independent Scotland establish its own General Nursing and Midwifery Council?
- 300. Will an independent Scotland establish its own General Pharmacists Council?
- 301. Will an independent Scotland establish its own Health Professionals council?
- 302. What would be the cost of establishing all these Councils?
- 303. What assessment has been made as to the impact of any loss of professional expertise from these councils in the event of independence?
- 304. What discussions have the Scottish Government had with the Medical Defence Unions about the impact of separation?
- 305. How many UK laws pertaining to the regulation of health professionals will have to be passed by an independent Scotland to ensure the current level of public safety is maintained?
- 306. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the regulation of Human Fertilisation and Embryology in a separate Scotland?
- 307. What will replace the Medical Devices Authority (MRHA) and what will be the cost of this?
- 308. What will replace the Vaccination and Immunisation advisory committee and what will the cost be?
- 309. What assessment has been made on the impact of the operation of transplants, blood donation and other specialist NHS services which currently operate hassle free and cost free throughout the UK?

JUSTICE

- 310. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the role of the UK Supreme Court in the appeals process in a separate Scotland?
- 311. What would be the final court of appeal in a separate Scotland before a case joined the queue at Strasbourg?

312. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the legal obligations applying to the UK under international law that a separate Scotland would inherit? For example will a separate Scotland inherit the obligation of payment of compensation to those affected by nuclear testing and if so what share would it inherit?
313. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of a separate Scotland's ability to negotiate mutual assistance arrangements for police and fire support from other police and fire services within the UK?
314. Who would be responsible for policing cross-border trains and planes if a separate Scotland no longer funded the British Transport Police?
315. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of whether courts in a separate Scotland should be able to deport offenders from other parts of the UK at the end of their sentence? And vice versa?

RURAL, FARMING & ENVIRONMENT

316. What guarantees can the Scottish Government give that a separate Scotland would receive the same income from European Structural Funds, which runs into tens of millions of pounds, as it currently does?
317. How many votes would a separate Scotland have at the Council of Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries if it becomes a separate member of the EU?
318. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the speed of EU direct payments, given that at present for new member states direct payments to farmers are phased in gradually?
319. In a separate Scotland, would Scottish fishing fleets still be able to declare their catch in England?
320. In a separate Scotland, how would the fishing quota be split within the UK?
321. What impact would independence have on the ability of Scottish producers to market Scottish produce to a UK market?
322. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of whether a separate Scotland would be able to be part of the Common Agriculture Policy and Common Fisheries Policy and if it accepts it would be required to accept the *acquis communautaire* in this respect?

CULTURE & MEDIA

323. Would the BBC remain as the main public broadcaster in a separate Scotland?
324. How would the BBC be divided in a separate Scotland?

325. What license fees and charges would apply?
326. Currently many viewers in countries outside the UK have to pay a fee to watch programmes on the BBC iPlayer. What would be the cost of this to Scots?
327. Would there be advertising on any separate Scottish public broadcaster?
328. Who would regulate the media in a separate Scotland?
329. Would a separate Scotland still receive all BBC programmes or would there be a reduced license fee if Scotland only received BBC Scotland programming?
330. Would pensioners continue to receive a free TV licence in a separate Scotland?
331. Would Scots still pay their share to the BBC through the licence fee on top of one for a separate Scottish Public Broadcaster?
332. What would replace OFCOM in a separate Scotland and what would the annual cost be?
333. What would be the regulatory apparatus and regulatory approach to the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors following independence?
334. If Scotland is to have its own distinct regulator, what assessment has been made to assess the gaps in skills, expertise and knowledge that would need to be overcome in order to staff it effectively?
335. Would Scotland have its own Broadcasting Code for television and radio broadcasters?
336. What will replace the Advertising Standards Authority?
337. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of whether a separate Scotland would have a distinct independent regulatory and enforcement body for advertising across all media?
338. If Scotland is to have its own distinct advertising regulator, what assessment has the Scottish Government made of the gaps in skills, expertise and knowledge that would need to be overcome in order to staff it effectively?
339. How would a distinct Scottish regulator be funded?
340. Should Dundee or Aberdeen win UK City of culture, how would a vote for independence impact this status?

SPORT

- 341. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of whether a Scottish athlete who currently, or intends to, compete for team GB at the Olympic Games will be able to do so in the future should they wish to?
- 342. How many Scots athletes would be disenfranchised by not being part of Team GB?
- 343. Would a separate Scotland enter teams into the Olympics and Paralympics?
- 344. If so, in what year would the first team be entered?
- 345. What assessment has been made of the impact on elite sport given that all Scottish medallists at the last Olympic games used rUK located and/or UK-funded facilities.
- 346.** What will replace the British Universities and Colleges Sport?
- 347. How will the withdrawal from the UK effect the funding provided to racecourses and the racing industry by the Horserace Betting Levy Board?
- 348. Would an independent Scotland have to establish a separate Anti-Doping Agency?

POSTAL SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

- 349. What would be a Scotland's relationship with the Royal Mail be in a separate Scotland?
- 350. How much would a first class stamp cost in a separate Scotland?
- 351. How much will it cost for a business to send a parcel to a customer in England, compared to today's prices?
- 352. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of what the Royal Mail and Post Office network would look like in a separate Scotland?
- 353. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of how a Royal Mail and Post Office network will be funded?
- 354. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of whether the current level of postal workers who valiantly serve our communities remain the same?
- 355. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of how a separate Scotland would pay for its share of the Royal Mail Pension Fund deficit?
- 356. Will a separate Scotland have a Universal Service Obligation (USO) which guarantees:

- 357. At least one delivery of letters every Monday to Saturday to every address in the UK?
- 358. At least one collection of letters every Monday to Saturday from every access point in the UK that is used to receive letters and postal packets for onward transmission?
- 359. Postal services at an affordable, uniform tariff across the UK?
- 360. A registered items service at an affordable public tariff?
- 361. An insured items service at an affordable public tariff?
- 362. A free-of-charge postal service to blind or partially sighted people?
- 363. And Free carriage of legislative petitions and addresses?

- 364. British Telecom currently has a Universal Service Obligation which requires it to provide a telephone line to households across the UK. What plans have the Scottish Government prepared to continue this, if any?

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

- 365. What will the minimum wage be in a separate Scotland?
- 366. How will it be set and enforced?
- 367. Can the Scottish Government guarantee that in a separate state the minimum wage in Scotland will not be lower than in England?
- 368. What will replace HM Court and Tribunal Service for employment tribunals in a separate Scotland?
- 369. Would the Supreme Court continue to be the final court of appeal in employment law cases in Scotland, as is currently the case?
- 370. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of whether divergent welfare, social protection and pension arrangements in Scotland from elsewhere in the UK make the labour market more or less flexible?
- 371. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of what maternity, paternity rights, and flexible parental leave will look like in a separate Scotland?
- 372. What will replace the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) in a separate Scotland?
- 373. What will replace the Health and Safety Executive in a separate Scotland?
- 374. What will replace the Low Pay Commission in a separate Scotland?

CONSUMER RIGHTS, RED TAPE, ETC

- 375. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of how cross-border trading standards cases will be investigated and enforced?
- 376. Will Scots be able to keep my Premium Bonds if Scotland becomes independent?
- 377.** What would happen to those areas of Scotland currently covered by mobile telephone masts located in England? How would you ensure people using these masts don't face international call roaming charges?
- 378. Will there be a separate DVLA?
- 379. What will be the cost of establishing this and running the agency?
- 380. Will Scots have to reapply for driving licences?
- 381. Will there be a separate Driving Standards Agency?
- 382. What will be the cost of establishing this and running the agency?
- 383. What work has been carried out to assess the impact on broadband infrastructure investment in a separate Scotland?
- 384. What work has been carried out to assess the attractiveness of a separate Scotland to Internet Service Providers?
- 385. What work has been carried out to assess any impact of separation on pricing structures offered by Internet Service Providers?
- 386. What work has been carried out to assess the impact of separation on investment in satellite broadband technologies?
- 387. What work has been carried out to assess the impact of separation on current UK internet domain name registration processes?
- 388. What work has been carried out to assess the impact of separation on the cost to business of replacing the .co.uk internet suffix?
- 389. What work has been carried out to assess the impact of separation on the JANET academic and research network?

390. What work has been carried out to assess the impact on separation of IPTV provision and services in a separate Scotland?

TRANSPORT

391. What will replace the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)?
392. If Scotland is to have its own distinct aviation regulator, what assessment has been made to assess the gaps in skills, expertise and knowledge that would need to be overcome in order to staff it effectively?
393. How would a separate aviation regulator be funded?
394. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the implications of separation on air traffic control?
395. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the implications of separation on 'duty free' at airports?
396. What will replace the Office of the Rail Regulator?
397. Network Rail has a substantial debt or regulatory asset base, currently some £28 billion in the red. Will a separate Scottish Government take up a proportion of this debt and interest that can be attributed to the network in Scotland?
398. What impact has the Scottish Government made of the impact of separation on future Network Rail investment both in Scotland and elsewhere given that the infrastructure operator borrows against its asset base?
399. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the impact of separation on cross border subsidy for loss making lines such as Scotland to Preston West Coast Mainline?
400. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the impact of separation on cross-border sleeper services which are currently subsidised by both UK and Scottish governments?
401. In an independent Scotland who would be responsible for the running and franchising of the West and East Coast Mainlines, and other cross-border train services?
402. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the impact would separation have on plans for high-speed rail between London and Scotland and what would the cost be to a separate Scotland?

403. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the impact of separation on air links between Scotland and England given that these can be protected under EU laws currently as they are within the same state, but would not be after separation?

404. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the impact of separation on air links between Scotland and England

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND COPYRIGHT

405. What will the regulatory and enforcement regime for intellectual property rights, copyright, designs, patents and trademarks be?

406. Which agencies or agency will oversee this regime?

407. How would the functions of the Intellectual Property Office be discharged in an independent Scotland, if at all?

408. What will be the duration of copyright for literary, broadcast, typographical and other creative or artistic works?

409. What assessment has been made of what implications there would be as a result of Scottish independence for territorial publishing rights?

410. What sort of data protection registration and enforcement regime would apply for companies and consumers?

411. What sort of fee structure would apply to fund this system?

412. Would there be a distinct Scotland - only regime to which firms must register?

UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

413. What assessment has been made on whether Scottish universities could still be members of the UK Russell Group?

414. If Scotland became independent would higher education institutions still be able to charge students from the rest of the UK tuition fees to the same extent or at all?

415. If not how would universities be expected to plug the financial shortfall?

416. If Scotland no longer benefits from UK Research councils, what effect will independence have on Scottish research?

417. Does the Scottish Government expect to maintain the current levels of funding for Scottish research after independence?

418. If the Scottish Government intends to maintain the current level of funding after independence for Scottish Researchers what will the additional cost be?
419. Given that following independence Eire only remained in the MRC for around four years and thereafter funding for any projects from the Wellcome foundation were on a much lower basis than the rest of the UK what has the Scottish Government done to ensure continued access to UK charities such as Wellcome or will these all be expected to operate separately in Scotland?
420. What assessment has been made of the possible financial impact of this?
421. Given the increasing tendency of universities to bid for UK funds on a collaborative basis how will the Scottish Government ensure that Scottish Universities will continue to be able to bid collaboratively with English, Welsh and Northern Irish Universities for the larger funds required for major research?
422. Will the Research councils of an independent Scotland continue to work through the Research Council of the rest of The UK in respect of their international offices in Brussels, China, the US and India or will we seek to establish our own outreach and at what cost?
423. How would the functions of the Technology Strategy Board, as the UK's national innovation agency, be discharged in an independent Scotland, if at all?
424. What about the functions of interest to business that fall within the ambit of the Energy Technologies Institute?
425. What about the functions of interest to business that fall within the ambit of the UK Space Agency?
426. What will be the implications for Research & Development tax credits, and the Patent Box relief available on profits earned on patented inventions?
427. What, if any plans have been developed for these to continue in an independent Scotland?
428. Will staff from overseas working in Scottish Higher and Further Education need to reapply for work permits?
429. What impact would there be on the immigration status of overseas students studying in Scotland after Scotland left the United Kingdom?

PASSPORTS, BORDERS, CRIME & CITIZENSHIP

- 430. Will a passport be required to travel to the rest of the UK?
- 431. Would you have to pay for a separate Scottish passport and how much would it cost?
- 432. Should people with a passport soon to expire renew it given that they potentially face paying for a 10 year passport they may only be able to use for a couple of years?
- 433. How much would setting up a Scottish passport service cost?
- 434. If you live in Gretna your nearest large supermarket is in Carlisle— how would the introduction of an international border affect people’s everyday lives in this area?
- 435. Where would the Scottish Government plan to set its maritime border with the rest of the UK?
- 436. Does the Scottish Government expect Scotland to be a member of the Common Travel Area?
- 437. How long does the Scottish Government expect negotiations for entry to the Common Travel Area to take?
- 438. If the Scottish Government was, through EU membership, forced to be a part of Schengen would Scotland still be able to be in the Common Travel Area? Has any assessment been made of this?
- 439. What would be the impact on the national security of an independent Scotland resulting from inability to secure the opt-out on the Schengen Agreement as part of the negotiations on EU membership?
- 440. What border controls does the Scottish Government plan to have in an Independent Scotland?
- 441. Who would operate border controls at land, sea and air borders in a separate Scotland?
- 442. Would a separate Scottish border control agency be set up?
- 443. How much would a separate Scottish border control agency cost to set up and operate each year?
- 444. What would immigration policy be in a separate Scotland?
- 445. Will Scotland have the same immigration policy as England?

446. If Scotland has a more relaxed immigration policy, as the SNP Government have previously called for, would people travelling from Scotland to England expect to pass through border control at Berwick upon Tweed?
447. Would a separate Scotland adopt the same policy on asylum seekers as the UK?
448. If not, what new policy would be involved?
449. Would an independent Scotland seek to establish a body similar to the existing Migration Advisory Committee to advise it on the economic and business needs of immigration policy?
450. Would a cap be placed on immigration numbers?
451. What regime would be established to determine the availability of work permits for skilled and non-skilled migrants, students, and intra-company transfers, and what if any fee structure would exist in terms of charging for work permits?
452. How would citizenship be defined in a separate Scotland? What will the rules be?
453. Would there be a process of application? How would this work? How much would it cost to administer and apply?
454. Would birth in Scotland guarantee Scottish citizenship? What will the rules be?
455. Will there be automatic rights of citizenship that come from being an English resident in Scotland?
456. What nationality would people born in Scotland take in a separate Scotland? (i.e. would they retain British citizenship?)
457. Could Scots retain a British passport?
458. Would an individual born in Scotland and married to someone from England have dual nationality in a separate Scotland?
459. What would be the nationality of a child born in Scotland to English parents? Could a child born in a separate Scotland apply for a British passport if one or more parents were born in England, Wales or Northern Ireland?
460. Would Scots who do not wish to change their or their children's citizenship be able to remain UK citizens and passport holders?
461. What country would Scottish expats be citizens of post separation?

462. Would someone born in England but lives in Scotland be considered a Scottish citizen? Or, would they have to apply?
463. What degree of connection with Scotland will be demanded for a person to be defined as a Scottish citizens? Which residents of England, Wales and Northern Ireland would be eligible to carry a Scottish passport – first, second or third generation or just anyone; would all Scots always be allowed to carry both UK and Scottish passports?
464. Would citizens of a separate Scotland be subject to the same immigration privileges abroad including in British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies as United Kingdom citizens?
465. Is prior UK citizenship an underlying condition to be included in the initial body of Scottish citizens, or can either EU citizens or third country nationals resident (or born) in Scotland acquire Scottish citizenship (eg by long residence) despite the fact that they may have chosen not to take UK citizenship?
466. What will Scotland's international dialling code be? What discussions have taken place with the International Telecommunications Union?
467. What assessment has the Scottish Government made into how much more it would cost to make international telephone calls to friends, families and customers in the rest of the United Kingdom after independence?

CRIME

468. What arrangements will the Scottish Government put in place to ensure co-operation between the Scottish Police forces and the Rest of UK Police forces?
469. What arrangements will the Scottish Government put in place to ensure co-operation between the Scottish Intelligence and Security agencies and the Rest of UK Intelligence and Security agencies?
470. If Scotland becomes independent then we will no longer be party to the UK's agreement with the US which enables shared intelligence. Is the SNP content with that situation and do they accept the implications that arise of a widening gap between the UK/ US and Scotland in security matters?
471. Would a separate Scotland negotiate separate extradition treaties with countries such as the USA, India, Pakistan and China, and would these countries be interested in a different extradition arrangement with a separate Scotland? What assessment has been made of this?
472. How does the Scottish Government foresee an independent Scotland's relationship with the UK's National Crime Agency?

473. Considering the transnational impact of organised crime, does the Scottish Government have any plans for cross-border cooperation on this issue and how will that compare to the current UK-wide system?
474. What are the Scottish Government's plans for Scottish representation in foreign embassies and consuls, particularly in relation to the provision of staff tasked with intelligence/counter crime responsibilities?
475. The Metropolitan Police currently provide for range of counter terrorism responsibilities covering the UK. Would an independent Scotland replicate this and what would the financial cost be?
476. There is currently an absence of trained professionals in areas such as counter terrorism and specialist policing in Scotland. Does the Scottish Government have an immediate plan to remedy this shortage in the event of a 'yes' vote?
477. Historically intelligence and law enforcement agencies throughout the world are reluctant to engage fully with new nations and agencies. How does the Scottish Government plan to ensure that an independent Scotland is given equal standing to that which the UK currently has?
478. What assessment has the Scottish Government made of the external crime and security threats to Scotland ahead of the decision on whether to leave the UK?

GOVERNMENT & CONSTITUTION

479. What assessment has been made of the total cost of establishing a new state?
480. What assessment has been made of the length of time the establishment of the structures of a new state will take?
481. How many more staff will a Scottish Government employ after independence?
482. Who would have voting rights in a separate Scotland?
483. Who would be eligible to stand for election in a separate Scotland?
484. If Scotland voted for separation, would Scots be eligible to vote in 2015 UK General Elections?
485. What plans are there for the establishment of a separate Electoral Commission in Scotland?
486. How many MSPs would sit in an independent Scottish Parliament?
487. What would their salaries and expenses be?

- 488. How many Ministers would there be in an independent Scottish Parliament?
- 489. What would their salaries and expenses be?
- 490. What would the electoral system be for an independent Scottish Parliament?
- 491. Would there be an upper chamber in an independent Scotland?
- 492. Would an independent Scotland be a constitutional monarchy or would the Scottish Government hold a referendum on a new system of government?
- 493. If Scotland were to remain a constitutional monarchy as it currently is with the UK would the rUK monarch be the Scottish head of state?
- 494. What happens if the Scottish Parliament has a different view on the line of succession for the Monarchy?
- 495. The actual terms of independence have still to be negotiated. Can the SNP envisage terms so bad that they would reject them?
- 496. Would workers have the right to still be members of trades unions which wanted to organise across Scotland, and the UK, even if they were separate states?

THE THIRD SECTOR, CHARITIES & GOOD CAUSES

- 497. What, if any, plans are there for a separate Scottish lottery?
- 498. The UK National Lottery has delivered grants worth £2.3billion for good causes in Scotland, what impact will separation have on the projects which benefit from this funding?
- 499. What will be the age be for voting in all local and national elections should Scotland become independent?
- 500. What plans are there for a separate charity Law in Scotland?
- 501. Have the Scottish Government assessed the level of financial support required to deliver Gift Aid?
- 502. What structures will be in place to provide gift aid to charities across the country?
- 503. The UK has a number of Trusts which provide financial and practical support to local charities across the UK. Has the Scottish Government made an assessment of the impact on the distribution of money from these funds as a result of leaving the United Kingdom?

504. Charities that are funded by both the UK and Scottish Government are worried that should Scotland separate the UK funding will be removed. What assessment has been made of the impact on the operation of the Scottish branches of UK charities?
505. What sort of charity tax regime would a separate Scotland use?
506. Charities benefit from access to EU structural funds, if Scotland separates from the rest of the UK what assessment has the Scottish Government made of the impact of independence?
507. What assessment has been made of legal or procedural changes which charities will have to make when what are currently domestic fundraising and operations become cross-border international operations.