

## **Some of the Issues in the Scottish Independence Referendum due in 2014**

### **For Scottish Independence**

The principle of self-determination: the people who live in Scotland, who are the most invested in the future of Scotland, will be making decisions for Scotland themselves.

The Additional Member System employed for elections to the Scottish Parliament is arguably more democratic than the electoral system used for the House of Commons, so the Scottish electorate would be empowered.

Control over defence and foreign policy means Scotland can choose, for example, to no longer have nuclear weapons in its seas or no longer be part of NATO

Access to North Sea oil and "vast offshore renewable energy" revenue means greater funding for the Scottish Government. In the 1970s, a slogan used for the oil argument was It's Scotland's oil.

It could instigate a "cultural dawn" for Scotland. This has been emphasised by creative pro-independence groups like National Collective.

### **For maintaining the Union**

There are strong historical and contemporary ties between Scotland and the rest of the UK from the Reformation and Union of Crowns, to Scottish involvement in the growth and development of the British Empire and contribution of the Scottish Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution.

Contemporary popular culture is also shared to some extent, primarily through the prevalence of the English language.

Almost half of the Scottish population have relatives in England, almost a million Scoto-English live and work in England and 400,000 Anglo-Scots now live in Scotland.

There are significant economic links with the Scottish military-industrial complex as well as close links within the financial sector.

Those in favour of maintaining the Union believe Scotland is economically stronger as a part of the UK economy and that Scotland is better able to prosper in a globalised economy with the international influence and perceived stability derived from being part of a larger

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state.

Some believe that Scotland's levels of public spending would be difficult to sustain after independence without raising taxes, pointing to a future decline in North Sea oil revenue.

There may be uncertainty that could be brought in the immediate aftermath of independence, particularly by highlighting disagreement as to how Scotland would be treated in relation to the European Union, and whether the UK would accept a currency union with an independent Scotland.

The yes vote campaign is called

“Yes Scotland”

<http://yesscotland.net>

The no vote campaign is called

“Better Together”

<http://bettertogether.net/>