

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

MEMO+ is an occasional series of briefing papers on topics of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland. It is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities](#) in partnership with [BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities](#), and is supported by the [Scottish Government](#).

“Scotland’s Future” Scottish Government White Paper on Independence: Energy and Resources

On 18 September 2014 there will be a referendum in which voters will be asked the question, "Should Scotland be an independent country?", and the Scottish Government has produced a White Paper to explain its proposals for the way in which an independent Scotland would be governed.

A White Paper is a document produced by the Government that sets out details of their proposed future policy on a particular subject. It is not a consultation and does not set out alternatives, but only gives details of the Government’s intentions. This White Paper does not, therefore, provide an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of Scotland becoming an independent country, and it does not discuss what should happen if Scotland remains in the UK.

This MEMO+ is one of a series that summarises the main points of the White Paper. Other issues cover Scottish Government proposals for:

White Paper: General Info	Education & Employment	Immigration & Asylum
Culture & Communications	Environment & Agriculture	International Relations
Defence & Security	Equality & Human Rights	Justice
Economy & Finance	Health & Wellbeing	Third Sector & Civic Society

Would an independent Scotland be self-sufficient in energy?

At present, Scotland not only produces enough electricity for its own needs, but also exports electricity to the rest of the UK.

If Scotland were to become an independent country, the Scottish Government proposes that an independent Scotland would continue to participate in the UK-wide market for electricity and gas, in order to ensure a secure electricity supply to consumers. They propose that there would continue to be joined-up supply networks between Scotland and the rest of the UK, under the control of a single Transmission Operator.

The White Paper also proposes that, if Scotland were to become an independent country, the Scottish Government would:

- set up a single regulator in Scotland to oversee all matters relating to energy, communications, transport, and water;
- provide financial and tax incentives for exploration, production, and decommissioning of oil and gas production platforms.

Fuel poverty

The Scottish Government proposes that, if Scotland were to become an independent country, it would retain current targets for eradicating fuel poverty. In order to achieve these, it proposes to transfer responsibility for schemes such as the Warm Homes Discount and Energy Company Obligation from energy companies to the Scottish Government, and to meet the cost of these from central resources. If energy companies were to pass on this saving, the Scottish Government believes that customers would save around 5% each year on bills.

Renewable energies

Scotland has access to substantial amounts of renewable energy, for example from wind farms on land and around the coast, and has a target of delivering the equivalent of 100% of electricity demand and 11% of non-electrical heat demand from renewables by 2020.

The Scottish Government proposes that if Scotland becomes an independent country, it would introduce a leasing system for offshore and foreshore renewable energy sites, which they believe would both increase investment and production, and benefit local communities.

Non-renewable energies (oil and gas)

The Scottish Government believes that the UK Government has not managed North Sea oil and gas reserves effectively. The White Paper therefore proposes that if Scotland becomes independent, a Scottish Energy Fund will be set up to manage the yearly income from oil and gas, and invest the proceeds to provide long-term benefit. This would only be possible when the national debt is falling, and budget deficit is below the level of long-term economic growth, which is predicted to be around 2017-18.

[Click here](#) and [here](#) for more details about Scottish Government proposals for Energy and Resources.

Useful Links

- **White Paper: Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland**
 - Full Document <http://82.113.138.107/00439021.pdf>
 - Summary <http://82.113.138.107/00439013.pdf>
- **Scottish Government Q&A about Energy and Resources**
<http://www.scotreferendum.com/topic/environment-energy-and-resources/>
- **Maximising the Return from Oil and Gas in an Independent Scotland**
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00428074.pdf>

- **Scottish Government referendum website**
<http://www.scotreferendum.com/>
- **UK Government Scotland Office referendum website**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/scotland>
- **Yes Scotland** (Campaign for Scottish Independence)
<http://www.yesscotland.net/>
- **Better Together** (Campaign for Scotland to remain part of the UK)
<http://www.bettertogether.net/>
- **BBC Scottish independence: Referendum library**
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-21618252>



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>