

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: Defence and Security

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	Energy & Resources	Immigration & Asylum
Culture & Communications	Environment & Agriculture	International Relations
Economy & Finance	Equality & Human Rights	Justice
Education & Employment	Health & Wellbeing	Third Sector & Civic Society

Defence Capability

The Scottish Government believes that defence decisions made by the UK Government have not been appropriate to Scotland’s needs. In particular, a large number of nuclear weapons are based in Scotland, including the Trident submarine force, which, it believes, is “an affront to basic decency with its indiscriminate and inhumane destructive power.” The White Paper proposes that if Scotland were to become an independent country, it should become a member of NATO in its own right, rather than, as at present, as part of the UK, and that it should be a “partner for peace”, with a military that is large enough to play a role in international peace-keeping and peace-making operations, as well as protecting Scotland’s borders, and deterring attacks.

The Scottish Government's proposed priorities for defence if Scotland were to become an independent country would be:

- maintaining a defence budget of around £2.5 billion;
- negotiating a speedy but safe withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Scotland;
- developing maritime capabilities to protect the coast and coastal waters;
- building a total of 15,000 regular and 5,000 reserve personnel across the army, navy, and air force by 10 years after independence;
- redesigning infrastructure, including the transition of Faslane to a conventional navy base and joint headquarters of all of the Scottish defence forces.

The Size of the Armed Forces

The Scottish Government believes that, if Scotland were to become independent, it would inherit some of the defence infrastructure that currently belongs to the UK as a whole, including, for example, army bases and equipment currently based in Scotland. The Scottish Government proposes that, if Scotland were to become independent, the Scottish armed forces would consist of:

- Navy: one squadron, including two frigates, four anti-mine ships, two offshore patrol ships, four to six patrol boats, a command ship, and a number of support ships;
- Army: one all-arms brigade, including two light armoured reconnaissance units, light artillery units, and communications units, one engineer unit, aviation unit, transport unit, logistics unit, medical unit, and HQ. The units of the Scottish Army would continue the names, identities and traditions of Scotland's regiments, including those lost in the reorganization of the British Army in 2006;
- Air Force: a Quick Reaction alert squadron with at least 12 Typhoon jets, a tactical air transport squadron with around six Hercules C130J aircraft, and a helicopter squadron.

[Click here](#) to read detailed proposals about the size and capabilities of the armed services in an independent Scotland.

If Scotland were to become independent, people who were serving in the British armed forces at the time would be able to choose whether or not to transfer to the Scottish armed forces. Those that did so would receive a guarantee that they would not face compulsory redundancy during their service contract.

The White Paper also proposes that veterans would continue to receive all services and benefits to which they are currently entitled, including full service pensions.

Security and Intelligence

The White Paper proposes that, if Scotland were to become an independent country, there would be a single Scottish security and intelligence agency that would build on the existing strategy [Secure and Resilient](#). This agency would liaise with Police Scotland, and other agencies in Scotland and internationally, to investigate threats and gather, assess and analyse intelligence information. In partnership with universities and businesses, the agency would particularly specialise in internet security, both to protect Scotland from attack, and to strengthen the economy.

The agency would be directly accountable to the Scottish Parliament, which would be able to scrutinise and challenge all areas of its work, including covert work.

[Click here](#) and [here](#) for more details about Scottish Government proposals for Defence, and [here](#) and [here](#) for more details about their proposals for Security.

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 Defence and Security**
<http://www.scotreferendum.com/topic/defence-and-security/>
- **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/>