

# The PROSPECTUS for an INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND

Why is the UK Government so reluctant to get rid of what they say is a subsidised Scotland?  
Could they be hiding the truth?

Set out in the following pages is a Master Strategy for Scotland, implementable immediately on  
Independence:

*"In view of the fact that God limited the intelligence of mankind, it seems unfair that he did not also  
limit his stupidity"*  
(Observation on governance by Konrad Adenauer)

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**18 -11-18**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*“The best way to predict the Future is to create it” (Denis Gabor)*

\* Once upon a time ... Scotland (in 1707) had 20% of the population of the United Kingdom; that is now 8.4%

\* And the Scottish Highlands then held 25% of Scotland’s population; that sadly, is now 7%.

\* A country can only be Independent when it is self-governing and the elected Government is in sole control of the money supply, issued by the National Central Bank.

\* Scotland is a wealthy country comprising 50.07 per cent of all territories within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). An independent Scotland will be among the most prosperous, happiest and well-educated Nations in the world.

\* While the Scottish economy has performed relatively well in comparison with other UK regions and the UK as a whole, its long-term growth rate has lagged behind the similarly sized (by area and population) advanced economies around the Region and the World. We are referring to such as each of the similarly populated Scandinavian countries, New Zealand and Singapore.

\* The UK’s manufacturing base has declined by more than other comparable economies whilst its financial sector has become appreciably larger. Brexit, in whatever form it takes, will likely have a significant effect on the latter.

\* While there is no single economic template that works for these small average-sized, advanced economies, there are common features that provide lessons for Scotland.

\* Successful, advanced economies exhibit high levels of trust and a shared sense of purpose, which provides a basis for achieving consensus from among the people; business and other representatives of society collaborate with government to form policies that reflect local circumstances and local preferences. Implementation is rapid and decisive.

\* The Scottish economy has existing and future competitive advantages in niches of many of the global growth sectors. Oil and gas will continue to be important, increasingly as an exports-based sector. Other opportunities include offshore renewable energy, high quality food and drink, life sciences, insurance and fund management, education, tourism and the creative industries.

\* International competition will drive improvements to productivity, attracting local and international investment, creating jobs and economic growth.

\* Scotland’s public finances are stronger than those of the rUK’s, with Scotland’s share of UK tax revenues matching Scotland’s share of UK spending. The public sector in Scotland as a percentage of the total economy is average for an advanced economy. Three-quarters of jobs in Scotland are in the private sector.

\* Scotland also has the resource conditions required for growth, not least its well-educated and skilled workforce. A more strategic, planned and thought through approach to infrastructure investment, job creation and skills training could deliver the conditions required for growth.

\* Scotland's economic potential is huge and a future with full employment, equal rights in employment, high wages, with sufficient housing to allow labour movement about the country can be achieved in a managed economy. The Atlee Government demonstrated this during 1955 to 1961 in addition to creating the NHS, etc.

\* Transition to Independence is a course over which 130 rich and poor Nations have taken since 1945. The Scottish government's record in public management is a good one; and there is no reason to doubt its ability to take Scotland into self-government. The Scottish state could be mistress of its own destiny.

\* In the final analysis this is the one and only justification we require for taking the administration of our own affairs into our own hands.

\* Over the past 310 years Scotland has been denied most of the institutions of state. As a self-governing independent country these will be recreated.

\* The way forward for Scotland towards a less oil-dependent economy is through robust macro-economic policies that will encourage both national and international investment and trade, focussing on exports.

\* Improvements in education and initiatives to increase innovation among especially the SMEs, would unlock the entrepreneur potential for which Scotland has been and is today well known. This innovative-driven economic model will create motivating jobs and unlimited opportunities for wealth spread among the people.

\* With 90% of the Scottish population believing that Brexit will have a significant or some impact on business and the economy, a priority for the Scottish Government will be in restoring the confidence of its markets – in the EU, across the Border and the rest of the World. Scotland will trade with rUK as at present, in the manner that the Republic of Ireland deals with Northern Ireland, Switzerland with the rest of Europe and so on.

\* The vehicle through which these objectives will be made would be through a Master Plan which we can call 'SCOTLAND 2045'.

1. to be a strong, resilient, thriving and stable Independent Nation with a democratic, tolerant, moderate and welcoming government;
2. by using our unique Northern European strategic location to set up a global entrepot connecting Europe to the huge markets of East Asia and the West American Coast;
3. and rich in natural resources, not solely oil and gas, Scotland could build up its economy through the initiatives and potential, of its people – who will be the architects of the Nation's future.

*"We are the Scots, and Scotland is our country".*

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*“If you don’t design your own life plan, chances are you’ll fall into someone else’s plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much”*  
(Jim Rohn)

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*“The reawakening of the Scottish National conscience is vital to the endurance of western Civilization”* (Compton McKenzie 1929)

## **CONSTITUTION and DEMOCRACY**

- \* A Constitution is the written fundamental law, at the apex of the legal and political systems, which is superior to ordinary Acts of Parliament.
- \* A written Provisional Constitution is an essential tool for building a newly Independent state and will require authorisation from the People prior to Independence Day.
- \* A codified written Provisional Constitution that sets out:
  - a. The Supreme Authority of the People
  - b. The Rights of the People
  - c. The Institutions and Authorities of Government
  - d. The Powers of the Judiciary
  - e. The Financial Authorities of the State.
- \* A Citizens' Assembly with authority to scrutinise government policies will be set up.
- \* The setting up of a Citizens' Council to formulate and then update the Programme for Government at regular intervals should be the subject of public debate.
- \* A system to recall (sack) elected representatives will be brought into law.
- \* All persons to be automatically enrolled on the electorate register on attaining the age of 16 years.
- \* The Single Transferable Vote (STV) form of proportional representation to be used for all levels of government.
- \* Hand-marked ballot forms, which cannot be hacked, or some such cyber attack free system will be used for voting.
- \* Only Scottish citizens will be permitted to vote.
- \* There will be no party-aligned politics at Regional Assemblies and Community Councils.
- \* Establish a National Office of Statistics Agency (NOSA), Independent of political parties, to provide factual based data on Scottish economic and social issues.
- \* Establish an Agency, independent of Government, within three months, to provide details of a realistic and sensitive cultural, historical and business case for Scotland in the Nordic Council (NC), European Union (EU), European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Economic Area (EEA) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- \* On Independence, Scotland will hold a referendum within eighteen (18) months to decide whether we trade with Europe as a member of the European Union (EU) or of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or as an associate of the European Economic Area (EEA).
- \* Scotland will also decide on its relationship with Arctic Circle Conference.
- \* The Scottish Youth Parliament and Scotland's Children's Parliament will continue to represent Scotland's young people with a vision of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of children and young people; working with local, national and global networks of children to advocate for the realization of their rights, their peers' rights and the human rights of all.

## **GOVERNANCE, JUDICIARY and the CIVIL SERVICE**

*“You never change things by fighting reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the old model obsolete” (Buckmaster Fuller)*

- \* The territory of Scotland is the mainland north of the Scottish-English Border and its Islands plus the territorial water within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) prior to 1999, as recognised by international law.
- \* Legislate for a written Constitution, agreed by a referendum, within the first year of Independence.
- \* Legislate for and implement into being a three-level system of elected government within three years of Independence; replacing the present 32 Local Authorities with 18 Regional Assemblies subdivided into multiple Community (Burgh) Councils, all with defined autonomous powers.
- \* Scotland to aspire to reduce resource overshoot to zero, a maximizing of its citizens’ well being through its needs being met in a sustainable and healthy environment. This will be a tremendous challenge to the Nation, as it is for all nations in the World today. This would mean scaling back on waste, bringing huge ecological benefits and good health for our citizens.
- \* Encouragement in all sectors of the Government will be made to develop strong family and community relationships, and a more egalitarian society, where one’s wealth and circumstances lie comfortably with that of our neighbor. Good governance will deal with what matters – health, happiness, meaningful and challenging employment and equality.
- \* Scotland’s Civil and Public Service Servants will be solid, non-innovative, minimum risk-takers, but employed on performance-related terms. Salaries and employment terms to emphasise financial and fiscal management, national policy, social security, crisis and risk management, human resources, digital fluency, openness and integrity, capability and incisiveness skills and experience.
- \* The Independent Government would immediately set up a body to introduce substantial efficiencies into the civil service and its associated bodies, and report with recommendations within two years.
- \* Equal pay for all, doing the same job, irrespective of gender.
- \* Scotland’s complex, red-tape ridden planning rules will be studied by an expert panel of stakeholders over two years, with a remit to bring efficiencies, better control and transparency, with speedier conclusions to both the approval and implementation processes. The Appeals process to be treated similarly.
- \* All road and parking related fines to be ring-fenced to local government funds.
- \* The Legal profession will be required to examine their present fee structure, with a view to a reduction in the cost of using their services, and report positively within one year.
- \* The Legal Aid System to be reviewed and amended to provide a fit for purpose, cost effective system that will provide the service and the protection required by those in need of legal aid.
- \* Establish an Office for National Statistics as soon as practical, but notwithstanding, within one year.
- \* Establish a Scottish Customs and Revenue system within one year.

*“Remember to look up at the stars, not down at your feet.*

*Try to make sense of what you can see and wonder what makes the Universe exist”*  
(Prof. Stephen Hawkins)

## FINANCE

*“Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution”*

(Albert Einstein)

- \* The future of Scotland will be in the balancing of the books within a managed economy. This will depend on healthy growth, a strong pro-business strategy, encouraging SMEs selling ‘special products on global markets’ – as do the Scandinavian countries, New Zealand and Singapore.
- \* Development of regulations that make possible public control and oversight of finance so that they serve the people and the productive economy rather than the speculative interests of a minority;
- \* Only with the Government in control of the money supply, rather than commercial (private) banks, will the Government be in a position to put in place the required public investment that could develop the economy to what is termed full employment, as was the case and as achieved between 1955 and 1961.
- \* Establish the Pound Scots as the domestic Currency of Scotland on Independence Day, using international currencies for external trading, as do the majority of countries.
- \* In parallel to the Pound Scots, the Pound Sterling would remain an acceptable currency till otherwise legislated. The value of the Pound Scots to be pegged either to Sterling or to a basket of international currencies to minimize risk of attack by speculators. It is clear that notwithstanding the creation of the Pound Scots, some citizens and businesses may maintain accounts in sterling, as well as dollars euros and others.
- \* The National Central Bank of Scotland (NCBS), located in Edinburgh will be established within one year. It will issue all new money (as currency or credit) and tighten the regulations on commercial banks to reduce the risk of financial collapse and the present misuse of high street banks customer deposited funds.
- \* Legislation is required to ensure that high street commercial banks cannot use deposited funds for speculative financial trading.
- \* The Lender of Last Resort REMAINS the Taxpayer – as at present.
- \* Commercial banks will buy currency for their auto-tellers from the NCBS.
- \* Legislate to establish Local Small Mutual Banks (similar to Building Societies) to promote local investment [based on the pattern that has been highly successful across Germany] within two years.
- \* The current spread of Credit Unions, owned by its members, will be encouraged since they offer a secure alternative to borrowing from or saving with commercial banks.
- \* On Independence Scotland will ensure benefits from both the rUK and the EU markets will continue.

- \* Legislation is required to establish a Stock Market in Glasgow within two years.
- \* All foreign companies to pay taxes to the Scottish exchequer as required by law. Oil and gas companies should pay taxes on a similar basis to that paid in Norway, Denmark and New Zealand.
- \* Establish a Scottish Registered Company to provide Currency and legal stationary immediately.
- \* All levels of Government should be required to adopt a balanced budget policy with a maximum loan liability of three per cent.
- \* Establish a National [Sovereign] Wealth Fund (NWF) in the first year as an independent state. This fund could be ring-fenced for the development of the Nation's infrastructure.
- \* Regional Assemblies will be authorised with tax and rent raising powers.
- \* Historically, land rent was the main source of taxation, and it lasted for centuries.
- \* It is proposed that Council Tax, Non-domestic Rates and Income Tax be replaced with Annual Land Tax (Rent) within one year of Independence.
- \* Land is as yet virtually tax-free and the government could raise enough from a new land tax, which would fall primarily on the wealthy, including the tax dodgers, to increase the total tax take while reducing, and even abolishing some taxes, additional to the above.
- \* It is proposed that Inheritance Tax be replaced with a one percent annual Asset Tax within the first term as above; progressively reduce VAT from 20 to 5 per cent over five years, progressively reduce Corporation Tax as Land Rent revenues grow and eliminate all taxes that cost more than 50 per cent of collected revenues.
- \* Regional Assemblies will ring-fence all tourist related taxes for local regional use, with the central Government funding nationwide tourist campaigns.
- \* All investment in new plant and machinery for companies, less handling costs, would be zero-rated when the plant and machinery is manufactured in Scotland.
- \* All new government infrastructure projects (contractor labour and materials) to be funded at zero interest through the National Central Bank of Scotland.
- \* The default position for all new government infrastructure projects is to prioritise awards to local regional companies. All foreign companies should be required to joint venture with appropriately qualified local companies, unless it is in the National interest to do otherwise.
- \* In principal, percentage salary and wage increases in the public sector would apply equally to all in public employment, including elected representatives.

## ECONOMY

“You have got to ‘earn your lunch’ and ‘climb a mountain’ –  
what have you done today?  
(Helen Russel after Henrik Kosen)

- \* The 1707 Treaty of Union between Scotland and England would have no legality or substance on the Independence of Scotland.
- \* Establish a Trade Treaty between Scotland and England that includes an open border agreement. This will take as long as it takes, but it is in both countries’ interests, and a borderless free-trade agreement ought to be in place within three years.
- \* Establish an Arctic Zone Trade Treaty between Scotland and Greenland, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Norway that includes a Fisheries Policy.
- \* Scotland to adopt an oil and gas exploration and extraction policy similar to Norway’s. This would enable all revenues derived from such activities to be invested in Scotland’s National Wealth fund (described above).
- \* A simplified system of taxation laws promoting a reduction in payee costs to be instituted. This would include a one-page tax return form for individuals.
- \* All companies trading in Scottish Territory to have a registered office in Scotland and directly employed personnel pay taxes to Scotland.
- \* New start businesses would have zero direct tax liabilities on profits for first two years, or other such incentives as are in the National interest.
- \* The Nation will plan to increase productivity. Swiss and Norwegians produce 100% more per week than we do at present, earning 50% to over 100% more earnings. The present low productivity is a function of government investment inactivity over many years. This will require an acknowledgement that increased investment in R+D, in the installation of such as robots; retraining and upgrading staff will be necessary.
- \* Tax incentives for Scottish-based companies manufacturing component parts for electric (EV), hydrogen and future, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technology powered vehicles, and such as drones and other transportation, including automatic, pilotless vehicles (AV) would be covered by new legislation.
- \* Funding for research and development (R + D) centres based in Scotland to follow ‘best practice’ in Europe.
- \* Tax incentives to Scottish-based yards for the decommissioning of redundant oil and gas platforms would be provided.
- \* Tax incentives to establish an aircraft recycling industry will be set up.
- \* Tax incentives for companies setting up apprenticeships will be provided.
- \* Following the liquidation of a company “A Letter of Comfort” (contract law) will be required from the liquidator ascribing degrees of responsibility

- \* Scottish limited partnerships, a form of **limited partnership** registered under **Scots law** in accordance with the **UK Partnership Act 1890** (*have features that give them advantages as investment vehicles and have been criticised for having inadequate anti-money laundering rules*) should be removed from the statute books within one year of independence.
- \* Establish a coordinated and planned Agricultural Policy to sustain working farmers and crofters and provide more opportunities for new resident entrants.
- \* Establish Free Trade Zones (FTZs) at designated land, sea and air entry locations.
- \* Until ownership is transferred charge the rUK government a ground rent for military bases, munitions dumps, exercise areas and such like throughout Scotland, based on the proposed new Land Tax, where such “Rights to Use” will be clearly defined.
- \* Charge the rUK government a ground rent and a negotiated fee for the presence of nuclear powered submarines and the storage of illegal Weapons of Mass Destruction on Scottish Territory – until they are all removed. This specific charge to be covered under the new proposed Land Tax Law.
- \* Postal rates for letters and parcels to be standardised and be non-discriminatory throughout the territory of Scotland.
- \* Scotland is a trading nation with a proportion of goods imported and exported transported by commercial vessels. The Scottish Merchant Navy will be the maritime register for Scottish registered commercial shipping and will comprise a range of technically advanced vessel types and their crews. The fleet will comprise general cargo, ferry, offshore supply, tankers, container and fishing vessels. A Scottish Maritime and Coastguard Agency will be established.
- \* Shipbuilding in Scotland will remain a key industry with the main yards located on the Clyde. The revitalised Ferguson shipyard is now expanding as it secures orders for specialised new technology vessels and pushing towards renewables. Following Independence the future of UK naval shipbuilding will be uncertain but there will be a need to build Scottish Coastguard and Defence Force Naval vessels for many years. Elsewhere in Scotland, such as Macduff, and Buckie there are viable fishing vessel, design, construction, repair and maintenance facilities to service and modernise the fishing industry. Independence will enable the Government to support future shipbuilding opportunities for specialised vessels such as Offshore Support and Supply Vessels..

*“Big enough.*

*Rich enough.*

*Smart enough.”*

## PLANNING and INFRASTRUCTURE

*“The best way to predict the future is create it” (Denis Gabor)*

\* The infrastructure over the whole country, but especially in the Highlands and Islands, would be an important section of a National Master Plan for ‘SCOTLAND 2045’. Transportation provisions will form an important element in this plan. Reversing the current urbanisation and urban sprawl trends the depopulation of the countryside, catering for increased population through much needed immigration, all will be an important part of urgent, new planning legislation.. The planned increase of the tourist numbers would be incorporated into the Master plan. This would include the creation of “Edge cities” (see below), and a major review of the Nation’s infrastructure – road, rail, air transport, ferries, service and utilities’ provision. Implementation could be carried out in five-year phases, beginning on Independence, schematically over the first 50 years, but with detail of the first 25.

\* Edge Cities could be centered both on existing settlements (such as Oban) and on green field sites. Government involvement in the foundation of these sites would be largely, but not exclusively, into providing infrastructure and jobs. The private sector, largely, could provide the residential, retail and industrial buildings. Education, health and social units could as at present, remain essentially in the province of national and local government.

\* A Strategic Vision - Due to its geopolitical dynamic, Scotland is uniquely well placed to set itself up as ‘The Singapore of the North’. With the development of such as Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands as a container port seen as economically in a better position than any other port in Europe (with the exemption of Hunterston on the Clyde for such as the Iberian market). From the point of view of natural/ physical strengths (deep water, sheltered and inexpensive land, economic (cost savings, market growth, grant assistance, etc), operational (easy and fast access, reduced transit time, ready supply of labour, etc). environmental and safety reasons, Scapa Flow – integrated through hi-speed connections to Hunterston –would be a major infrastructural investment for the Scottish Government and the EU, and conceivably, rUK. With the opening up of the Arctic to the massive and growing markets in Asia and the West Coast of America, the synergy that will be created with Europe, East Coast America and beyond will create a major economic element to Scotland’s economy. A study of such as Singapore’s development from an international entrepôt to not just the second port in the world (after Shanghai) but a world giant in tourism, hi-tech industry, finance, education and health and with the best governance gives us the picture of what we can make for ourselves on the Orkney Islands. This has taken Singapore 50 years, though the success was evident in the prosperity of the population within 10 years of their Independence. Scotland could follow this strategy.

\* The ‘Scotland 2045’ plan would include the investment in and completion of a high-speed rail network from the Orkneys to the Scottish border within ten years following independence. This would connect Scotland’s Northern Power House in the Orkney Islands, and all places between, directly to the Continent.

\* Another integral component of the Master Plan will be the connectivity of remaining Island communities to the Mainland and from Ireland by bridge, tunnel and causeway. Consideration to be given to follow the Norwegian and Faroe Islands’ policy of connecting principal islands by in their case largely, underground road tunnels. Islands within the plan would include such as Arran, Bute, Islay and Jura, Mull, Harris and the Orkneys. This element of the master plan would take 40 years.

Japan, Denmark, Norway and the Faroe Islands all have or are in the process of connecting all their major islands to provide connectivity and national identity for their citizens. Connectivity between the Shetland Islands and the Orkney Islands and the Scottish mainland could be improved given the latest technology; jet propelled, multi-hulled hydrofoils, using the latest carbon fibre nanocomposite

materials, capable of cutting through 12 metre (40 ft.) waves, would be one solution.

\* Solving the problems of urban traffic congestion, safety and pollution will be a priority. Whilst encouraging the development of such as EV (electric vehicles) and AV (automatic pilotless) modes of transport for both private and public use, the adaptation of the ‘Uber’ model of convenient home-to-office taxi service thereby reducing need for garaging, car parks and municipal parking buildings, investing in cycle ways and ‘walk able’ cities, discouraging urbanisation and the amoebic growth (urban sprawl) of our larger cities could all be addressed enthusiastically and prioritized in all future planning exercises.

\* With Independence, Scotland will have the opportunity and the imperative to put together an overall strategy for the development of the land, sea and air elements of our new country. Decisions on everything from new roads, bridges, train lines, military establishments, education and health facilities, even football stadia need to be taken in the overall context of a Master Plan finally agreed by Government. All stakeholders, public, corporate and private, could be invited to join in the process of assembling existing data and submitting comments and ideas.

\* A Master Plan for the whole country, albeit schematic, incorporating all existing regional, city and other existing master plans, will be prepared, to be available for study within 6 months of Independence. The Scottish Government should carry this out. This would be known as ‘Scotland: Master Plan Compilation [year].’. A brief would be prepared for the way forward.

\* Internationally recognised Planning Consultants to be appointed to prepare a ‘Draft Master Plan for Scotland’ within a further 6 months. Scottish Planning Consultants, if none selected at this stage, would be appointed to the Planning Consultant’s Team on the basis of merit in the bidding process. Meetings with stakeholders would be held over the first 5 months, leaving one month for document preparation and presentation to the Scottish Government and their advisors.

\* On Government approval, the Consultant Team would prepare a ‘Final National Master Plan for Scotland’. One year would be given for this exercise, giving the general public and stakeholders access to the thought processes throughout this exercise, leaving the Team two months for the final presentation.

\* All National, Regional and Community Master Plans will be subject to peer review and revision every 5 years.

\* It is clear that the planning design process, as it stands, tends not to allow for early involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making of the design and imperatives; Community and other interested parties’ contribution made early obviates much of the problems discovered towards the end of the design process. This too often results in lengthy delays in the approval process itself due to appeals, objections, requests for amendments and developers submitting plans in direct contravention of approved plans. Time delays and disproportionate cost over-runs are the result, costs which are handed over to the end-user. Developers will not be permitted to circumvent the approved master plan. Requirements such as social housing numbers, retail, education, health and other social facilities will be consistent and clear from the outset. Given the above, appeals on strictly planning issues (i.e. not such as for buildings, utilities provision) may be accepted from either or both the Developer and such as the Community, with cost of damages and fees appraised by Assessors appointed by the Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland (RTPI).

## ENERGY and PUBLIC UTILITIES

- \* Electrical energy will more than double by 2050 to meet 45% of world energy demand, and to meet this more than 66% of this will be generated by solar and wind.... and it will be cheaper. (Greg Russell)
- \* “A combination of more energy efficiency, more renewables and more carbon capture and storage (CCS) will be needed to meet the ambitions of the Paris agreement”. (Remi Eriksen)
- \* Generate a 25-year National Energy Programme (NEP) to manage long-term energy security for Scotland. The National Energy Board (NEB) will prepare an energy export strategy within 6 months of establishment.
- \* The Scottish National electricity grid system to be operated as a non-profit nationalised agency and developed as a strategic resource. Transmission grid charges to be limited to actual connection costs.
- \* Consumer consumption charges will be non-discriminatory, due to geographical location for instance, except that specifically across the Island and remote West Coast Communities, fuel and electric prices will be discounted to 10% below national average prices.
- \* The NEP to set out mandatory energy conservation requirements for new buildings and homes.
- \* Government to provide financial incentives to encourage further investment and research in alternative energy sources, including biomass, mini-hydro, hydrogen fuel, geothermal, tidal power and other available and future technologies.
- \* Scotland’s water resources, providing drinking water and wastewater treatment will as at present, remain publically owned. The Scottish Water Authority will prepare a budget annually, covering income and expenditure estimates including depreciation and maintenance, plus proposal for extension and improvement of the service, and income generated from exported water.
- \* Government will provide financial incentives for investing in more innovative handling capacity for both biodegradable and recyclable waste with particular emphasis on the capture of all types of plastic.
- \* The future of Scotland’s oil and gas industry, both off- and on-shore, is based unfortunately on conflicting data. The message is subject to geological information and world demands for the products, but unreliable due in the main to interpretation, both commercial and political. It is clear that the question is not whether there are supplies through to 2050 (there are), but whether economically Scotland can disregard its moral responsibilities to reduce the production of fossil fuel pollution, or keep much of it underground and step up energy installations, or to find an alternative less polluting use. Scotland could proceed along the latter course. To continue with oil and gas extraction, the construction of CCS installations would be required.
- \* Expecting a doubling of data use, a Government telecom company will set up 5G internet over the whole of Scotland in 5 years’ time. This will increase the average speed of the mobile internet to 100 megabit/ second. This is similar to S Korea’s and twice Singapore’s installation at this time.

*“You can’t fatten the pig on market day”*

(John Howard, Australian politician)

## **LAND**

- \* Title to all sea, land and air estate will be restricted to Scottish citizens. Non-citizens, those on work or education visas, would need to acquire a “Right to Use” title, on which all due rent and taxes will be paid.
- \* All sea, land and air ownership details to be registered by the end of the first year following independence or be reassigned as Common Good Estate.
- \* Scottish Land Act to be amended such that the price of land for sale reflects the current use of the land or as described in a Government –approved Master Plan.
- \* Planning Act to be amended to require planning permission for switching of agricultural land to woodland (through afforestation and reforestation).
- \* Ownership of land cultivated under Limited Partnerships to be transferred to tenants.
- \* Tenancy agreements for farms and crofts can only be terminated with the agreement of the tenants.
- \* Ownership of farms and crofts held under tenancy for seven years or more to be transferred to tenants.

*“They made a desolation, and call it peace” (Tacitus)*

## AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY and FISHING

\* Scotland is seen internationally as a country rich in natural products, "... with whisky, agricultural produce and fish – and of course oil and gas". Though important, in truth 'Services' contribute much more to the Scottish economy. But nevertheless big decisions will have to be taken to protect and nurture our agriculture, forestry and fishing industries immediately on Independence. Whilst our friendly neighbour up North, the Faroes, with its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 247,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and calls itself the 'Big Ocean Country', Scotland with almost twice the ocean area at 420,863 km<sup>2</sup> could call itself the 'Vast Ocean Country'!

\* Generate 25-year plans for Rural Affairs, Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform within one year of Independence. All would be included within an overall Master Plan for Scotland.

\* Scotland has the resources to feed double our current population.

\* A 10-year programme, following such as New Zealand's, to convert from a subsidised agricultural environment to an unsubsidised one will be in place within 10 years.

\* Work with the European Union to maintain the intent of EU regulation No 1151/2012 to protect Scottish quality agricultural products and foodstuffs.

\* Land owners and tenants would be required to restore the health of the biome under their care, with particular attention being paid to the restoration of wetlands, peat, tree and scrubland, and water bodies to provide a natural environment sustaining flora and fauna wildlife, recharging the aquifer and thus reducing the risk of costly flooding downstream.

\* With 90% of the World's fish stocks now fully-exploited, over-exploited or depleted, Scotland would act responsibly in this business sector. Small-scale fisheries employ 90% of workers and (responsible for) 30% of all catches worldwide. (Information from Peter Thomson, WEF)

\* Scotland's water resources, providing drinking water and wastewater treatment will as at present, remain publically owned. The Scottish Water Authority would prepare a budget annually, covering income and expenditure estimates including depreciation and maintenance, plus proposal for extension and improvement of the service, and income generated from exported water.

\* Thus, all resources in and from the seas as well as from fresh water sources within Scotland's EEZ, would be managed as strategic, sustainable and renewable assets through an enforcement panel consisting of representatives of all stakeholders.

\* Reintroduce a three-mile from the shore ban on commercial fishing in order to protect young breeding stock and their habitats. Inshore fishing, including for such as shellfish, would be permitted.

*"Today's rain is tomorrow's whisky" (old Scottish proverb)*



## INDUSTRY

\* One of the Government's direct and prime responsibilities apart from providing the Nation's infrastructure is the setting of a favorable environment for job creation. This will mean not only supporting existing businesses and industries but also setting out a climate for the setting up of new businesses and industries. Incentives, initially must be based on trust (the Nation's ethical status in the World), then following international practice, making available low interest loans and grants, along with tax holidays. The amount and duration of these tax concessions will depend on the value the Government puts on the investment – in terms of employment, introduction of new technology, export potential, R+D, HRD and so on.

\* A deliberate Government effort will continue to be made to attract and nurture specialized and innovative businesses and industries to Scotland. The products from these projects tend to have greater scope for growth in today's competitive global market place. They are able to leverage government support more effectively. Scotland will commit to position itself at the forefront of the world's most advanced technology with greater efficiency and commitment. This is seen as critical.

\* For comment on the Nation's low productivity, see under Economy. Page 11.

\* Through the setting up of Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and such like, Scotland will attract local, national and international investment as well as, in the case of SMEs, the Scottish Investment Bank, for which it was largely set up.

\* Investors will be attracted by the (largely) Government investment in well-serviced industrial and business parks, but in each site's proximity to excellent road and rail, deep-water harbour and international airport connections, a skilled and educated management and work force. Within reasonable distance would be homes for all income groups, planned with modern social facilities, including education, health, retail, cultural and sports and leisure facilities.

\* The business perspective for an independent Scotland, should acknowledge that around the developing world, there are desperate need for low- and semi-skilled jobs, and that from moral and commercial points of view, there is every incentive to raise the effectiveness of upgrading our work-force to cope with such as hi-tech and robot technologies.

## EDUCATION and CULTURE

*“But if children’s normal interest is maintained or even aroused, they can do all kinds of things in ways we don’t understand” (Naom Chomsky)*

- \* Scotland values its centuries’ old reputation for its multi-faceted culture and excellent education.
- \* Support for awareness and participation in Scotland’s thriving cultural scene will be encouraged at all levels. Bankrolling this activity is seen as investing in establishing our National identity.
- \* With almost half (48%) of its population with a university, college or vocational qualification (against the EU’s average for instance of 31%), with 5 universities in the World’s top 500 (a figure exceeded by only one country, Luxemburg), Scotland is well positioned to face the World with confidence and a willingness to share our expertise.
- \* Education management to be devolved to reformed regional and community government.
- \* Childcare support will continue, and be upgraded in line with the Nation’s economic growth.
- \* Education to be provided free from Primary 1 (P1) up to College or first University degree.
- \* Education to be focused on natural individual development rather than by education by rote. Tests and targets on progress as children develop at differing pace will be moderated.
- \* Two hours per week of Music, Drama and Art education should be funded and supported at all schools and academies in order to promote culture and personal development. Children could be introduced to a musical instrument during their primary school years.
- \* Education in constitutional literacy, democracies and civics in all schools and places of education should be prescribed. Understanding of the political system and individual rights should be promoted. The understanding of personal finance and money management should be taught between P6 and S3.
- \* The imperatives of understanding and supporting a sustainable environment for our World and protecting our natural ecology and wildlife should be taught in all schools, colleges and universities.
- \* Scottish history, culture, immigration and emigration, and the relationship of Scotland to its immediate neighbours, Europe and the world over the past 1500 years will be taught.
- \* Mental Health counseling should be available to all pupils, students and teaching staff.
- \* Parents could be held accountable in law when their children attack school staff or property. The causes of individual and group indiscipline within and around educational establishments will continue to be studied. Consideration to be given to providing parenting skills’ tuition.
- \* The training to support modern apprenticeships to be supported for all income groups, including AI, IT, hi-tech applications such as robots etc.
- \* Scotland will expand its attraction for rUK, EU and other foreign students to all its levels of education and research available in the country.

*“If your plan is for one year, plant rice; if your plan is for ten years, plant trees;*

*if your plan is for one hundred years, educate children.” (Confucius)*

## **HEALTH & WELFARE**

- \* With an aging population and relatively low-birth rate, emphasis will be to give all our citizens the opportunity to live useful, happy and a long life in good health through social integration, minimizing smoking and boozing, drugs, taking exercise, reducing obesity and the provision of clean air.
- \* With a 25 Year Plan in mind, Scotland’s National Health Service (SNHS) will review its overall management, staffing and capacity structure, to provide a professional, caring and fundable service
- \* All medical persons, trained in Scotland would be required, following graduation, to work in Scotland for five years after graduation or repay proportionate costs of training.
- \* A post Qualification Work Visa scheme, which enables foreign students to remain in Scotland after graduation, will be enabled.
- \* A more collaborative and considerate model for social care would be reviewed and integrated in the SNHS 25 Year Plan. Support and assistance to individual carers to be made available in all areas.
- \* The remuneration and support for Nurses, Care and Support front line staff will be assessed annually to ensure fairness to each and ensure that these vocations remain attractive in the job market.
- \* The employment of immigrant staff in the these categories is seen as a win win situation, where the Nation may always have need of additional, foreign, caring health staff. Those that return to their countries would go with added, much needed skills, and with goodwill towards Scotland.
- \* Support the SNHS Organ Donor programme by joining its Register.
- \* Allowance to be made for the number of SNHS staff that will leave, after their SNHS commitments, for private practice or go overseas. The former would be seen as a valuable adjunct to the service provided by the SNHS; the latter as, from the Nation’s point of view, a recognition that immigration is not a one-way business.
- \* Provide a fit-for-purpose welfare and benefits system.
- \* Instigate a more cost effective system for funding of elderly care homes.
- \* The National Living Wage to be mandatory (and linked to a genuine and realistic cost of living rate). Offering fair and equitable terms and conditions makes both business and common sense.
- \* Consideration by the Scottish Government to be given to a Citizens Basic Salary to replace a proportion of the present benefits available.
- \* Benefits for disabled and vulnerable individuals to be adequate to ensure a humane and caring quality life with particular emphasis to be placed on the care of veterans.
- \* Until there is an adequate stock of social housing, all cities and towns will be required to provide dormitory areas providing dry shelter for homeless persons. The psychological and health needs of the homeless will be given especial attention.

*“The greatness of a Nation is the way it treats its poorest member”*

(Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi)

## **SPORT and LEISURE**

\* All schools will implement a minimum mandatory period of three hours per week for physical activities.

\* Government to increase funding for sports centres, enough to ensure within 10 years, 90% of the Nation's citizens have access to safe and appropriate sports and leisure facilities.

\* *Ofsted* reports that schools with high sporting standards have similarly high expectations in the classroom as both help to cultivate an environment in which pupils excel. The Scottish Government will encourage the inclusion of competitive school sports into the curriculum of education establishments and sports associations should actively support school pupils.

\* In Scotland there is a tradition of free access to land. Statutory rights of access to most land and water bodies were established through the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and guidance on exercising those rights responsibly is given in the Scottish Outdoor Access code. The rights apply to cyclists, horse riders and canoeists as well as walkers.

\* Scotland's natural landscape has taken a battering for centuries. Whether timber was needed for the Empire's navy, for homes and fuel, or the land stripped of both its resident human population and such as the 9,000 year old Caledonian Forest to accommodate the "Sport of Kings", with the encroachment of cities and expansion of agriculture into the hills, little has been left of its 'nature' now after many centuries of human encroachment. Yesterday pylons and wirescape marred the landscape; today the ubiquitous wind turbine is attracting fierce criticism. Impressive investment is spent on the flooding of downstream human settlements, whilst much of the cause lies upstream in watersheds that have been stripped of vegetation that previously absorbed one way or other vast quantities of rainwater at little cost. Commercial forest plantations, whilst impressive, provide little habitat for native wildlife.

The annual burning of hill slopes and mountain sides, the feeding-up of game birds, the lead shot used to kill them, the tens of thousands of hares slaughtered each year, the poisoning, shooting and trapping of protected wildlife, especially our predator birds, all in the interest of this so-called sport of killing game birds and deer is being studied seriously with a view to appraising its alleged value compared to this destruction of our habitat and wildlife. Gamekeepers predictably have voiced concerns at the possibility of losing their jobs, and mountaineers believe that reforestation and afforestation efforts will ruin the views. Whilst the Government is studying this matter, it is our contention that the slaughtering of animals and the destruction of our habitats in the name of sport, cannot continue, in this manner at least. New, mainly native (i.e. essentially non-commercial) forest planting should be carried out, protecting and even enhancing views.

World-class developments, in such as around discontinued open-cast mining sites, and as are planned on Cairngorm to provide sports and leisure opportunities for both citizens and visitors alike, should be carried out with environmental sensitivity catered for in each project.

*"No grit; no pearl"* (Amanda Waggener)

## PENSIONS

- \* Pension provision is presently below that required to sustain an adequate lifestyle for a significant proportion of employees following retirement. Government must therefore legislate to ensure that adequate contributions are made into regulated pension funds. Pension funds are a positive source of Government investment funding for such as infrastructure projects.
- \* An Independent Scottish Government will institute a pension scheme for all, to be known as Personal Provident Savings Reserve (PPSR), into which every salary and wage earner will contribute. This will earn interest comparable to the current marketplace. The Payee can collect his investment on retirement. These funds, at all times will be the Payee's money.
- \* Whilst banked in the PPSR, the Government would have access to these funds for investment in infrastructure projects and social service provision.
- \* The Payee from time to time, may, dependent on the National economy at the time, be permitted to use a part of these funds for such as his/her personal home mortgage payments or purchase of government bonds and shares.
- \* On retirement, the Government would provide advice on protecting these funds during the Payee's retirement, acknowledging the personal circumstances at the time. The Government will be the sole guarantor for these funds.
- \* All employees, whether zero hours, part-time or full employed to have a personal pension fund into which both employee and employer pay an agreed proportion.
- \* All pension contracts established prior to Independence to be guaranteed under the Trade Treaty between Scotland and rUK and other countries.
- \* When employment is terminated all employees to be given a minimum of one month's notice plus a final payment that includes a proportion in lieu of holiday pay and pension liability.

*“Old people are just young people who have been living a very long time”*



## HOUSING

- \* The present Government plan to build 50,000 affordable homes by 2021 at a cost of £3 Bn will continue on schedule. This is a 67% increase in affordable housing. 70% will be for social rent. The programme to be reviewed at 5-year intervals to provide every citizen a home within 10 years.
- \* The Scottish Government will, during a 25-year programme, plan for quality housing within well-considered, green, community-friendly environments for all. This will mean different things to different income groups. Emphasis would be made in the convenient use of public transport, cycle and pedestrian pathways, urban afforestation, 'blue' and 'green' space, energy efficiency community development, connectivity between urban settlements, improve air quality, encourage community gardening, rainwater harvesting, all to improve the quality of life.
- \* Developers will be required to produce one low-income home for every middle and upper income residence built. Aware that these income groups may find living "cheek by jowl" uncomfortable, the planner's responsibility would be to sensitively cater for the natural connection between these groups. Housing developments will not be given final Planning Approval until the low-income obligations have been met.
- \* Government incentives and, where deemed in the public interest, intervention to provide lower cost land to encourage homebuilders will be given priority.
- \* Central and Regional Government to make available suitable and adequate land hectareage, all within the constraints of an approved Master Plan, at a price reflecting its existing use. The hectareage to be made available would be for the number of low income (social housing) to be determined each year, with the objective of clearing the backlog requirement within 7 years. This will require a serious effort by the industry and support from Government to industrialise their industry and build homes under controlled climate conditions. Germany, China, USA and others are all mass-producing modular "Carbon Neutral" homes in controlled environment factories, and we must to do the same.
- \* All new housing to incorporate adequate (average 3-4Kw) photo-voltaic (PV) electricity-generating roof panels and rainwater collection systems. Additionally solar panels for water heating to be recommended where appropriate.
- \* Planning Act to be amended such that rights of appeal include community councils' right to appeal against breaches of the local development plan.
- \* The Land Act to be amended to enable the building of private rural huts as used across Norway.
- \* Housing, both new-build and retro-fit, will be required to conform to PASSIVE House, or similar accreditation, through effectual energy use, efficient thermal envelope, serious research into increased and careful orientation prefabrication. All rented housing to be of a specified minimum structural and environmental quality.
- \* Appeals by the Developer and/or other interested parties concerning Housing, will be referred to the Royal Institute of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) for arbitration under the usual rules.

*"The Stone Age didna run oot a oomph 'cos it ran oot a stanes ... "*

[a daft saying when it was used to contend that the World's oil and gas supply was limitless  
... but perhaps apposite for the housing industry?]

## TRANSPORT

- \* Major bus routes within cities, in the first instance, will be serviced with immediate effect, and wholly within a maximum of 10 years, with e-busses powered by batteries that will be recycled without toxins. Solar power **plus energy picked up from the street surface** ? will be part of the energy package.
- \* Scotland will adopt a fossil-fuel-free approach to all road vehicles within 10 years, A similar policy will apply for train, airplane and shipping as technology progresses, with an expectation of full implementation within 20 years.
- \* The cost of electrically driven vehicles will drop substantially within the next decade. The pressure on fossil fuel producers, suppliers and the motor industry, already expensively machined up for petrol and diesel driven vehicles will increase, threatening the new technologies, but, whilst being aware of the undoubted power of 'big business', in the interests of the Nation's and the World's health, Scotland will pursue its sustainable energy strategy.
- \* Scotland's ferry services, whether nationalised, held in private hand or in partnership, will be expanded to serve the growing Scandinavian and North European markets with commencement of new services within two years. Less pollutant means of propulsion than used presently, will be installed. Internal ferry services are discussed under Planning and Infrastructure (page 13)
- \* The Government, with or without private sector investment, will set up a non-subsidised Caledonia National Airline to serve initially our rUK and European neighbours. The development of business and tourist links with the Nordic Council group of countries. Commencement within 5 years.
- \* Scotland's rail service can only integrate with those of rUK's. As a relatively inexpensive and eventually when 100% electrified, the least pollutant form of transportation, the system will be expanded, with the latest trains, increasing speeds on arterial lines to international standards. The question of private ownership versus nationalisation will be settled from time-to-time by referenda.
- \* Rail, bus and air travel times to be more effectively networked as a matter of strategic importance, and to be made effective within one year.
- \* All road and parking related fines to be ring-fenced to local government funds.
- \* The Free Bus Pass scheme to be changed to include an initial payment that covers the cost of issuing the pass.
- \* Students and those over 65s to be given 30% discounts on rail fares within the first five years of nationalisation.
- \* See under PLANNING and INFRASTRUCTURE for other comments on transport planning.

*“Oge onye eche mmadu”* (Ibo proverb)

Literally, 'WE need to hurry so as not to lag behind'.

## SECURITY and DEFENCE

*“If a lion bares his teeth, don’t assume he is smiling”*

(an Arab proverb, Al-Mutanabbi)

- \* A single, integrated Security & Intelligence Agency (SIA) will be required to coordinate all domestic and international security issues under a National Defence and Security Strategy, responsible to a nominated member of the Scottish Government.
- \* A Defence and Security Strategy Policy, including terrorist, organised crime and cybercrime threat assessment will be required within the first year.
- \* Believing that the 96 million deaths due directly and indirectly due to war, just taking Europe as an example, as being obscene, Scotland would take a non-belligerent stance when it comes to the security of the nation, its people and the peoples of the World we live in.
- \* Police Scotland will be the primary agency for domestic security, again responsible to the Scottish Government.
- \* The Scottish Defence Force (SDF) when established will be responsible to the Scottish Government and would be supplied and supported by Scottish-based companies wherever practical. The Defence Force and related industries would support in excess of 20,000 jobs in Scotland
- \* The mission of the Scottish Defence Force will be the defence of Scottish territories and support of United Nations declared Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief operations.
- \* The Defence operational budget will be set at 1.5% of the national budget, initially for the first five years.
- \* The Coastguard Service would be a separate Naval division operation.
- \* Scotland will hold “Partnership for Peace” status with NATO.
- \* Scotland would not knowingly but will actively ensure that war material in any form be permitted for foreign export, except clearly, necessarily and transparently in self-defence.
- \* The transportation through the territory of Scotland of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction, or parts thereof, as well as nuclear waste or any other nuclear material designed or produced for weapons purposes shall be prohibited and deemed a criminal offense
- \* The Trade Agreement negotiated between Scotland and rUK would include the immediate transfer of ownership of all MOD-owned bases, exercise areas and property located in Scottish territory.

*“A Country looking to, and living in the past will never see the future coming”*

## FOREIGN POLICY

*“Al jāṛ gabl al dār”*

(“Choose your neighbor before your house” – an Arab proverb)

- \* Scotland will assume a neutral political stance internationally, respecting the right of all Nations and their citizens to live in peace and harmony internally and among their neighbours. Scotland’s Defence Force will act in the defence and support of the Scottish Nation and its people.
- \* A Scottish Diplomatic service is already in the process of being established to represent Scotland’s interests internationally, support Scottish citizens abroad and to promote Scottish business interests. The Global Scot concept will be further developed – these (largely) expatriate Scots have an unequalled knowledge and understanding of local ways of doing business overseas, and provide excellent contacts for investment and trade promotion
- \* The Government will provide Foreign Aid funding for Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief, presently internationally set at 2% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- \* Foreign students will be encouraged to study in Scotland, which would result through education of much-needed skills in their own country. This will, in a win-win situation develop future beneficial international relations and business opportunities.
- \* The 6,000 square miles of waters annexed from the Nation of Scotland by the Westminster Government in 1999 to be returned to Scotland on the basis of ‘*ex aequo et bono*’ (according to the right and good’ or ‘from equity and conscience’) legal point of view, thereby restoring the Scottish/English North Sea marine border to the previous internationally agreed demarcation.

## IMMIGRATION and EMIGRATION

\* Migration, managed in a balanced manner, will make an important contribution to the Nation's economic, social, educational and cultural development. Attracting talented migrants will be a first priority, which will mean tax incentives for employers and a non-oppressive immigration visa system.

\* A system of visas will be organised for all immigrants, excepting those with proven Scottish ancestry, through to a Scots-born grandparent but no further, who would be accredited visa-free long-term Scottish Citizenship on request.

\* Temporary Transit/Tourist/Business Visas (TV) for periods of 24 hours to three months will be issued to Transit passengers, tourists, seasonal workers and particular specialists in medicine and industry, on entry. Through a simple Student Visa (SV) immigration system, which will, not only permit holders to stay over for the length of their studies, but work throughout and for a period of five years post-graduate. Sympathetic consideration will be given to immediate families who apply to join the student.

\* Three to five year visas would be issued to foreign students: a further 5 year period for post-study work experience will be available.

\* Permanent Resident Visas (PR) to be made available to those deemed essential to the economy or otherwise to the Nation: these will have validity of five years at a time, renewable on the Government's initiative.

\* **Holders of TV and PR visas would not be permitted to vote in any election or referenda held in the country.** Holders of PRs will otherwise have no restrictions imposed upon them, such as in purchasing a residence, exiting and entering the country. Otherwise all laws pertaining to Citizens would be applicable to them and their families. Holders of PRs would be eligible to apply for citizenship after five consecutive years residence in the country, which should not be unreasonably withheld.

\* Immigrants, as defined above, are accepted when sponsored to meet skills' shortages or professional vacancies in Scotland.

\* Immigrants should be able to converse in one of Scotland's official languages within three unsponsored years.

\* Emigration by Scots is seen as a century's old tradition, and whilst a reduction in numbers is expected following Independence, one that will continue. The extent of the Scots' diaspora is truly global and number between 25 and 40 million. In many ways this is seen as a two-way trade – of skills, student and academic talent, business and investment development, experience garnering and world understanding. Scotland will continue to be a Global Nation!

\* Scotland would continue to treat the case of individual refugees from such as famine, natural and human disaster, awful governments on a sympathetic, humane and a case-by-case basis. Assimilation of refugees would be given priority as a matter of mutual social integration. The entry of immediate family relatives of refugees would be given consideration on a considerate basis.

## ENVIRONMENT

*“A true conservationist is (a person) who knows that the World is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children” (John James Audoban)*

- \* The amount of living matter on Earth has fallen by half since the beginning of human civilization. The drop in land plant biomass is partly due to deforestation, change in land use, grazing and forest management. Sustainable environment strategies for Scotland should be based on the best world-accredited, current and future environmental research and findings.
- \* “The World is no longer divided by ideologies of Land Rights, but those who accept ecological limits and those who don’t”.
- \* “The science is clear; the facts are incontrovertible, and it is unconscionable to us that our children and grandchildren should have to bear the terrifying brunt of an unprecedented disaster of our own making” (letter signed by 100 internationally-recognised scientists, 2018)
- \* Scotland acknowledges its obligations under the Paris Agreement and will continue to work to achieve its nationally determined contributions (NDCs) on agreed date lines. It accepts the nearly unanimous world scientific opinion on the serious threats of global warming.
- \* Scotland’s National Parks to be established as wholly State-owned within 3 years..
- \* One fifth of Scotland’s land mass are moors managed intensely to create a habitat for selected wildlife to be shot for entertainment. Stakeholders, including such as the Revive Coalition of eco-friendly charities, will be charged with creating better ‘wild space’, this time for humans and wildlife. Plans to take back ownership of the uplands of Scotland will be taken to change the present barren landscape to one allowing, with the necessary training and skills, Nature to take back its magnificent wilderness. This will employ thousands more, help repopulate these lands and create huge additional tourist interest and thereby adding appreciably to the local as well as the national economy.
- \* Scotland imports 80% of its timber needs. The government Draft Climate Change Plan (Jan’17) provides for planting at the rate of 15,000 ha per year by 2024. Currently, forests cover 17% of the country; this will rise to 21% by 2032 and 25% by 2050 (England has 8% forest coverage, France 31%, Finland 73%). Scotland’s percentage targets to be increased as suitable land becomes available.
- \* The Government will provide tax incentives to increase the natural forested and scrub habitat area throughout the country including its mountain slopes. This would create a richer and more diverse habitat, increased carbon sequestration and storage, healthier rivers and lochs. Gamekeepers’ and hill walkers’ concerns can be addressed. Afforestation and reforestation would generate more secure jobs and a stronger economy – both rural and national. In this way, Scotland provides new environments for wildlife. Planting indigenous trees, right up to a 600m (2,000 ft) tree line as in Norway, This is not being done at present, but surely achievable. As native forest plantings will attract more wildlife than commercial forests, emphasis could be made to restore such as the old Caledonian Forest.
- \* Infrastructure for EV, AV and such as Hydrogen fueled transport throughout the country will be provided ahead of the uptake of these vehicles. Subsidies for pollution-free vehicles will continue for some time, though costs will drop to present-day levels in the short to medium term.
- \* Establish fossil-fueled vehicle free zones in the centre of all cities and towns by 2023.
- \* The Scottish Government to promote and financially support carbon capture and storage (CCS)

schemes.

\* Scotland will work towards a circular economy dealing with solid waste, both biodegradable and recyclable. Turning waste into a resource will be the basis of reducing the existing landfill and general waste of materials into a benefit for the economy. “Recycle, Recover and Dispose”. Education in the reduction, for instance, in the use of plastics will continue. Workshops and craft studios will be set up alongside main refuse collection areas to encourage the skillful and artistic reuse of waste material.

*“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you”.*

(Frank Lloyd Wright, architect extraordinaire)

NOTES & COMMENTS