

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

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**SCOTLAND MUST CHOOSE ITS OWN FUTURE IF ALL ATTEMPTS TO COMPROMISE REJECTED
KIRKCALDY MSP DEMANDS RIGHT FOR ALTERNATIVE FUTURE FOR CONSTITUENTS**



The Prime Minister has now made it clear the United Kingdom is heading for an economically disastrous and contentious hard Brexit which Scotland did not vote for.

Nearly seven months since the referendum, the Scottish Government is still the only administration to publish a detailed plan on how to deal with Brexit and the economic, social, democratic and cultural risks associated with it.

Scotland voted overwhelming to remain in the European Union, and the Scottish Government is doing all it can to make sure the Tories cannot ignore and act against Scotland's interests.

Commenting, SNP MSP David Torrance, said:

“Theresa May has confirmed that she plans to take the UK towards an economically dangerous hard Brexit. The Prime Minister has chosen to pander to the obsessions of the hard-right of her Tory party, rather than act in the best interests of the country.

“Tuesday’s speech has made it clear she’s looking at replacing our membership of the single market with a low wage, de-regulated economy that would see a race to the bottom - leaving everyone worse off as a result.

“If the Tories get away with dragging Scotland out of the EU and the Single Market – without a mandate – then they’ll think they can get away with anything. That is unacceptable.

“The Scottish Government has published serious compromise proposals that would keep Scotland in the Single Market. The Tories at Westminster must now show they are taking these plans seriously.

“The Tory government must not be able to take Scotland out of the EU and the single market, regardless of the impact on our economy, jobs, living standards and our reputation as an open, tolerant country, without Scotland having the ability to choose between that and a better future.

“If the Tories do try to do this, then Scotland – and the people of Kirkcaldy Constituency - must have the right to choose an alternative.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

In the 2016 European Union Referendum, Scotland voted to Remain in the EU by 62%.

Fife voted to Remain by 58.6%.

The Scottish Government compromise proposals were published on December 20th 2016 as “Scotland’s Place in Europe”. The full document can be found here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/12/9234/0>

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