

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

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**DAVID TORRANCE MSP SAYS SCOTLAND MUST HAVE CHOICE OVER FUTURE
HARD BREXIT MEANS OPTION OF INDEPENDENCE MUST BE OFFERED**



SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy Constituency, David Torrance MSP, has said that it is absolutely correct and appropriate for the people of Scotland to be offered a choice, once the options become clear, between a Tory hard Brexit and becoming an independent country, after the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed plans to seek parliamentary approval to begin discussions with the UK government to bring forward an independence vote.

Ahead of the UK government's triggering of Article 50 and the beginning of the process of leaving the EU, the First Minister said that the Westminster government has been guilty of complete intransigence in the face of Scottish Government attempts to find a compromise – and has continually acted against the best interests of Scotland, not least by ruling out membership of the single market without consulting the Scottish Government.

David Torrance MSP has said that it has become clear that the UK government has no intention of respecting Scotland's 62% vote to remain in the EU.

Commenting, David Torrance MSP said:

“Throughout the entire Brexit process to date, the Scottish Government has been consistent in its pursuit of a compromise with the UK government, putting forward substantial

proposals for Scotland to remain in the single market – yet the UK government has rejected these and is pursuing an ever harder line.

“It is within this context, with the UK government intent on pursuing a damaging hard Brexit and set to trigger Article 50 without communicating with the devolved governments, that it has become ever clearer that the people of Scotland must be offered a choice over our future.

“The SNP will always stand up for Scotland’s interests and we are intent on protecting Scotland’s place in the single market. The people of Scotland deserve to choose, once the terms of Brexit are clear and before it is too late to decide our own path, honouring the manifesto pledge that we were elected on last year.

“Scotland now stands at a crossroads, and we cannot drift along for two years hoping for the best. We face the real prospect of right-wing Tory governments until at least 2030 and being dragged out of the EU and Single Market with all the damage to our economy and society that will cause.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

The full speech from the First Minister can be found here:

https://www.snp.org/nicola_sturgeon_speech_scotland_s_referendum

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