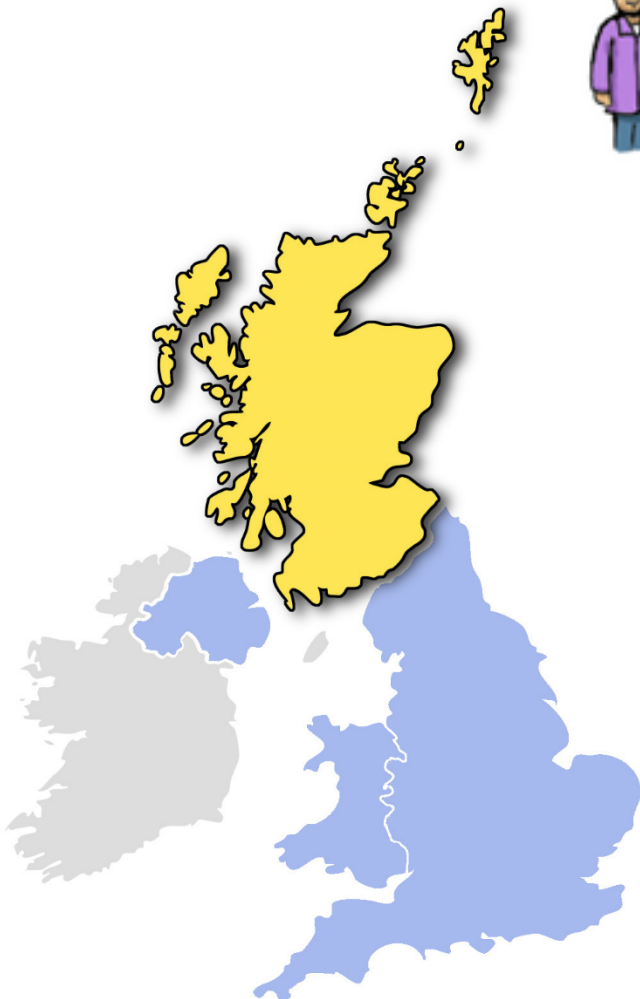
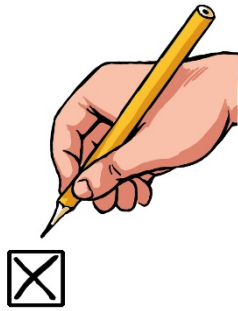


# Independence in the Modern World. Wealthier, Happier, Fairer: Why not Scotland?

## Easy Read Summary





In an election in May 2021, Scotland voted for a new Scottish Parliament. Most of the MSPs in the new Parliament want Scotland to be an independent country.



People should be informed about their choice in a referendum. We will have a set of papers to inform people of the issues.



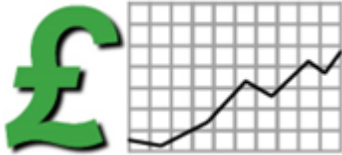
This is the first of those papers. It looks at the UK and compares it to other countries in Europe. The countries we compare with are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland.



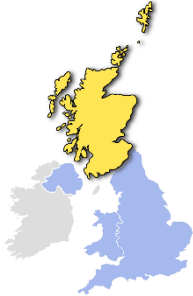
The paper is based on information from respected organisations. The information shows that:



- These countries are wealthier than the UK.
- Income inequality is lower in these countries.
- Poverty rates are lower in these countries.
- There are fewer children living in poverty in these countries.
- Most of these countries are happier than the UK.



These countries are wealthier, happier and fairer.



An independent Scotland cannot be changed overnight to match these European countries.



But an independent Scotland could be successful. This would be due to the decisions it would make and the talent of the people who live here.



An independent Scotland would have full powers. We can then build a country which matches these other countries.



There will be different views about how to do this in an independent Scotland.

Scotland has lots of advantages that can be used to make things better. These include:



- Lots of clean energy.
- A successful food and drink sector.
- Great universities.
- A beautiful environment.
- Strong action on climate change.



Scotland can learn from other countries. We can use the powers of independence to improve.



Similar countries can be successful. Scotland can also be successful if independent.



This is an Easy Read summary. The full report has more information. If you want to know more, please go to [www.gov.scot/NewScotland](http://www.gov.scot/NewScotland)