



A huge thank you goes to Gordon MacIntyre-Kemp founder and Chief Executive of Business for Scotland for allowing us to use the article "**Project Fear re-launched to justify backtracking on vow**" on page 2.

Bully Jim put firmly in his place by Labour HQ. Jim Murphy is making lots of promises on behalf of Labour Scotland Branch, promises that he **cannot deliver** as many are devolved to the Scottish Parliament which he has no control of, or without permission of his boss Ed Miliband.

On the Scottish leaders debate (7 April) Jim Murphy stated that no further cuts would be needed after 2015/16 and again on BBC (12 April) Sunday Politics show Jim Murphy stated "*We do not have to make further cuts to achieve our spending rules*" Bold stuff from a branch manager, can he make Labour policy without head office permission?, Jim seems to believe so, after all he did tell us on 14 December 2014 that he does not need Ed Miliband permission

For those who never watched the seven way leaders debate (2 April) and as a reminder to those who did, Ed Miliband clearly stated that Labour will have to make cuts, **no ifs, no buts, cuts will be made** under a Labour Government. A statement made 5 days before Jim Murphy's first mention of his good news bombshell of no further cuts, an election winner if there ever was one or was it?.

Jump ahead just one day to the launch of the Labour election manifesto and Ed Miliband delivers a passionate speech to his supporters, but admits **there will be cuts**. Enter Ed Balls, Labour Shadow Chancellor, to give Jim Murphy a slap in the face. On BBC Radio 4 (13 April) he said "*There **will be cuts** outside non-protected areas across all these budgets, which will apply in England and in Scotland*". That's not the end of it, Chuka Umanna, Labours Shadow Business Secretary, on the Daily Politics show (13 April) said "*The leader of the "Scottish" Labour Party **will not be in charge** of the UK budget. The leader of our country (UK) and next Prime Minister Ed Miliband will be in charge of the UK budget, and he has just answered the question when it was put to him. Will there be any cuts over the course of this Parliament, not just in the first financial year, but in the following financial years? He was **absolutely clear**, there will be a need for further **consolidation and cuts** throughout the rest of the Parliament*".

In response to Ed Miliband, Ed Balls and Chuka Umanna's statements Scotlands First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "*The truth is out about Labours spending cuts. **Jim Murphy's false claims** in the TV debates have been **rubbished by his own Party** bosses at Westminster, who have hung him out to dry. "Labour would impose **swingeing spending cuts** on Scotland and the rest of the UK, carrying on with **austerity** where the Tories left off...It sweeps away Jim Murphy's pretence, and leaves him devoid of **any credibility** in this campaign."*

Not good news for Labours branch manager, yet again he has been found out as either a fabricator of the facts or a fantasist who sees himself as the actual Labour Party heid hauncho. I have searched Facebook, Twitter, BBC, ITV and numerous newspapers sites but as yet (14 April) I cannot find any response from Jim regarding his put down by Labour HQ.

Even Scotland Tonight couldn't get Murphy or a representative to explain the cuts confusion, a very rare event indeed, Mr Murphy refusing the chance to be on the TV.



We asked @JimForScotland or any other Labour representative to come on #scotland to explain the cuts confusion, but they declined #GE2015
9:53 pm - 13 Apr 15 via TweetDeck

Do we believe this will stop Jim Murphy's all out attack on the SNP and on Scotlands ability to decide for itself, no is the simple answer. He will (or has) given the incident sufficient time for us to forget it ever happened and jump on the Scotland is too wee, too poor, too stupid rhetoric once again, until that is debunked (it has been several time over) and he needs to find another angle of attack

We have a choice on May 7, do we vote for the status quo and do as Scotland normally does or do we vote for change and a voice at the top table? Do we want to be represented at Westminster by a branch office who can boast of no substantial record as MP's, other than agreeing with Tory policy that is, and are lead by a megalomaniacal power hungry Blairite? Do we want to elect any MP from a Party who's leader cannot be civil and respectful to his fellow Politicians, who has no respect for Women (see Sunday Politics Show BBC 12 April) openly lies and fabricates?

If you haven't already done so, please make sure you are registered to vote.

The deadline to register to vote in the 2015 General Election is **April 20th**. Tens of thousands of previously registered voters are no longer registered, please make sure you are not one of them and are eligible to cast your vote on May 7, don't miss your chance to participate in (possibly) the most important General Election Scotland has ever seen.

If you have access to the internet visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> if you don't have internet access call your local Electoral Registration Office generally your Local Councils HQ. If you need help with either of these I am sure if you ask the person delivering your Freedom of Information Bulletin they will gladly help.

You can help spread the truth by photocopying or printing the bulletin and sharing with friends, family and neighbours.
Together we can give Scotland a stronger voice within the UK, together we can achieve anything.

Project Fear re-launched to justify backtracking on vow. Westminster **never wanted** to give Scotland **any more powers** – they fought tooth and nail to keep Devo-max **off** the ballot paper because they knew it would either win or split the No vote, allowing Yes to win out right. They only **promised more powers** when their own polling suggested they were in **danger of losing**, and they have been backtracking ever since.

They know that more powers, specifically **the vow** of substantial new devolution is very popular and they know they can't attack it or be seen to obviously backtrack. So they have chosen the **deceitful tactic** of targeting one of the foundation stones of more powers full fiscal autonomy, because they see it as vulnerable to political spin, since people don't really understand what it means. They are clearly about to throw the mother of all **scaremongering** campaigns against full fiscal autonomy, but we have been here before.

We will hear fears of a big deficit with full fiscal autonomy, that differing tax rates will mean confusion and a race to the bottom. We will hear from Westminster's friends in big business who will talk about uncertainty affecting investment; they will claim it will cause a huge black-hole and threaten pensions, to **place older people in fear** of losing their paltry incomes. And why not? **It worked** during the Independence referendum and they calculate that it will work again. You might think it's a suicidal tactic, after all, talking Scotland down and referendum **scaremongering** sunk them in the polls. But a **Labour insider boasted to me that the more powers argument is keeping the SNP vote high, and if they destroy the case for more powers then they destroy the surge.**

Project fear is alive and well, Westminster's new 'No to more powers' campaign has Jim Murphy as its new cheerleader and will come in three stages. **Stage one** was when the London media jumped on YouGov research, claiming the vow didn't make a difference. This was the groundwork for a retreat from more powers. You can see their rationale – ***“we offered a vow but it didn't make the difference therefore we don't have to implement it.”*** **Stage two** is to undermine the more powers rationale with scare stories and then, avoid the fury backing out of the promise would create, by **scaring** enough people into thinking it was actually a bad idea so they'd get away with it. **Stage three** will be for Westminster to pass a massively watered down more powers offer so they can **pretend the vow as delivered**, despite the fact that nothing of any substance will have been devolved and certainly not the job creating, economy growing powers the people want and deserve.

Yes we couldn't believe it either! The obvious problem is the SNP would call this a material change to the constitutional promises and that would mean they would be duty bound to call for a new referendum in their 2016 Holyrood manifesto. They would likely be able to command a majority under such circumstances and so we would go again. Cameron has the solution, saying yesterday he ***“would not sanction a second referendum on Scottish independence, insisting that the issue had been ‘settled for a lifetime”.*** Unsurprisingly this has now been backed up by Miliband who today essentially said that he **wouldn't** let Scotland down by **giving us more powers**. Clearly the unionist parties intend to still show a unified face to Scotland. There are several problems with this approach. First of all, banning the right to call another referendum will backfire more severely than project fear on the votes for the unionist parties in Scotland, (***David Cameron doesn't care***). A precedent has been set, we now know the process for achieving independence; if a party with a referendum in its Holyrood manifesto can command a majority **they have the right** to call one. If **Westminster outlaws** future referendums on independence having **failed to deliver the promises** that won the last one, then that amounts to nothing less than a **full scale assault on democracy**.

Secondly, the whole premise is **based on a lie**, the Vow did matter – the YouGov poll stated the **vow** was the **main motivation** for **voting NO for 3.4%** of No voters. That means the vow created the single largest weekly movement in the campaign, stopping the YES momentum dead in the last week, and suggests that without it **the result would have been even closer**. But more importantly the “main reason” definition hides the fact it was a contributory factor for many, many more whose main reason lay elsewhere but were still undecided. We will never know exactly what difference the vow made, but, without it, it's reasonable to assume a Yes vote increase of between 3 and 7% which would bring the result within a few points of the internal polling of both campaigns from the previous week.

Same old **scares** but some will fall for it -again In Wednesday's Leaders Debate Jim Murphy claimed full fiscal autonomy would result in a **£7.6billion** black hole in Scotland's finances, based on calculations done by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The problem is that his claim is just a load of **scaremongering** nonsense. More powers isn't just about who pays the bills, it's about the Scottish Government getting **control** over powers to create jobs, to **create** a fairer and more **equal** society that will make more people economically active, to **invest** in productivity improving measures that will **grow** our economy, to implement bespoke tax and **regeneration** policies that will **increase revenues** and, in the medium to long term, make the bills **easier** to pay. It would also take negotiation on service charges and a **fairer** cut of defence costs, as well as debt interest payments that would reflect Scotland's traditional fiscal contribution to the UK. That would **save** Scotland from **billions** a year being ripped from our national accounts and labelled a deficit. The best time to negotiate these is when Scotland holds the **balance of power**.

In short, if we have a black-hole sized deficit now **under Westminster's control** then that is **Westminster fault!** Must we give Westminster more time with all the economic powers retained so it can **do more damage to Scotland's economy?** The Westminster parties **don't want Scotland to have more powers** because if we made it work that would mean in a future referendum they wouldn't be able to create uncertainty and fear, as voters would see the nation was pretty much independent already. A staged movement towards more powers including full fiscal autonomy, an evolution rather than revolution, is what the people of Scotland have a right to expect. It's what was **promised during** the **2014** democratic process and it had a major impact upon that process.

Everyone involved in the YES movement, no matter what party you back at election time, must start campaigning now to **have the powers we were promised delivered** – or it's all been for nothing.

Do you think Scotland **should be granted the powers it was promised**, Yes or No?

Gordon MacIntyre-Kemp
Chief Executive of Business for Scotland