

An Open Letter to First Minister John Swinney

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First Minister,

Let's put aside the grand constitutional debates and the endless rhetoric about a second independence referendum for a moment. We don't have time to chase political mirages anymore. I am writing to you as a Scottish man, a worker, and a citizen who looks at the reality of our streets, our hospitals, and our schools with deep concern.

Scotland is a nation with immense potential, rich resources, and a proud history. Yet, right now, we are trapped in a state of political stagnation. While Holyrood argues with Westminster over powers and protocols, the daily life of ordinary Scots is becoming visibly harder. The promises of a fairer, wealthier Scotland are starting to ring hollow against the backdrop of our current reality.

As the leader of our devolved government, your primary job is not to wave a flag; it is to make Scotland work. And right now, as a taxpayer, I have very concrete, pragmatic questions for you and your administration:

The Crisis in Our Public Services: Our NHS is under unprecedented strain. Waiting times in emergency rooms are dangerous, and getting a basic GP appointment has become a battle. When will we see structural reform instead of just temporary financial band-aids?

The Post-Brexit Economy: We were dragged out of the European Union against our collective will, and our industries—from fishing to tourism—are paying the price. But what is Holyrood doing practically to mitigate this? We need aggressive economic strategies to boost local businesses and attract investment, not just complaints about London.

Education and Future Generations: Scotland's education system was once envied globally. Today, our international rankings are slipping, and schools are underfunded. How do you plan to restore the standard of Scottish education so our children can actually compete in the modern world?

First Minister, I don't need ideological reassurance or speeches about the "Scottish dream." I am a practical man. I know that progress requires hard choices, clear management, and absolute accountability. We are ready to work hard, but we need to see that you are managing our domestic affairs with competence, not just using Holyrood as a stage for constitutional grievances.

And yet, I am writing this to you because you are a political veteran. You have decades of experience, you know the machinery of government inside out, and you have a reputation for being a safe, steady pair of hands. You have the actual capacity to stabilize this ship and focus entirely on public services.

I want to believe in your steady leadership, and I do believe you have the experience to cut through the noise. Stop the political theater. Prove to us that your government can deliver real, tangible results for the people living here today. Give us a Scotland that is competently governed, economically resilient, and prepared for the future.

I expect clear actions, and I stand ready to support them.

With respect and resolve,

Nick Gemini

P.S. A Personal Audit of the Leader

It is one thing to speak eloquently from a podium, and quite another to meet the hard demands of citizens. To understand how effectively John Swinney is handling his duties at this critical turning point in history, I have risked rating him on a strict five-point scale (from 1 to 5) based on four key criteria:

Political Experience and Wisdom: 4 (Decades in government, excellent knowledge of the system)

Connection with the People (Empathy): 3 (He understands the issues, but often sounds like a career bureaucrat)

Decisiveness and Toughness: 3 (Struggles to break free from the shadow of his predecessors and take bold new steps)

Actual Preparedness of the Country: 3 (Public services are declining, and economic growth is sluggish)

Final Verdict: 3.25 / Caught in the Middle.

John Swinney is a highly competent administrator and a reliable political veteran. However, he has inherited a deeply fatigued government and a divided nation. He is caught in the middle: trying to keep the dream of independence alive for his part

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