

Scotland:

Borders and citizenship

- Managing the UK border is complex and relies on integrated systems across the UK. The UK Government controls who and what enters the UK to protect us from crime and terrorism and to safeguard our economic interests.
- Independence would create a new international border and the Scottish Government would have to decide how to manage the flow of people and goods across it.
- Scotland's freedom to determine its own border and migration policies would be affected by whether it was required, or was able, to join a borderless travel area – either the European Schengen area or the Common Travel Area with the UK and Ireland.
- Independence would create separate Scottish citizenship, with profound implications for individuals and families.

An independent Scotland would be faced with tough decisions on how to manage its borders

- **An independent Scotland would have to create its own infrastructure for controlling its borders.** This would be complex, expensive and would no longer benefit from the 20,000 people and over £2 billion the UK Government spends annually to manage the border, or the UK's international influence which helps stop people and goods which might harm the UK from entering the country.
- **Working across an international border would make it more complex and more expensive** to achieve the current levels of protection which benefit all citizens of the UK. Differences between the tax and regulatory regimes of the two states could be exploited by criminals through smuggling.

Membership of a borderless travel area would impact Scotland's ability to determine independently its migration and border policies

- **If an independent Scotland wished to join the European Union, it could be required to join the Schengen borderless travel zone.** This would impose limitations on the immigration policy of an independent Scotland as well as requiring checks on people at the border with the continuing UK.
- If Scotland was able to negotiate an opt-out from Schengen, it could seek to join the Common Travel Area (CTA) with the continuing UK and the Republic of Ireland. **However, this would have to be negotiated and would likely depend on Scotland agreeing to align certain visa and immigration policies with other CTA members.**
- The Scottish Government has suggested that an independent Scotland would seek to increase inward migration to address its economic and demographic needs. However, **an independent Scotland could not both join the CTA and have a separate and much more open immigration policy.** To be part of any borderless travel zone, the members must have compatible immigration policies.

Deciding who would be Scottish citizens would be complex and have profound implications, not only for those voting but for future generations

- The current Scottish Government has proposed that all British citizens living in Scotland, and people born in Scotland but living elsewhere, would automatically become Scottish citizens. This is **a very wide model of citizenship that could impose citizenship on people who may not want it.** The government of the continuing UK would need to **consider whether all British citizens living in Scotland could retain their British citizenship** upon independence.
- Under current rules, British citizens living outside the UK can pass their nationality on to their children, but not to subsequent generations. This means that **the grandchildren of British citizens living in Scotland would not have British citizenship.**